

AFRICA KNOWLEDGE FEST – February 22, 2017

Expo Walk-Through

Meet the Authors – Three-minute Presentations

MC: Cesar Calderon, Lead Economist, Africa Chief Economist Office, World Bank

1. Africa's Cities: Opening Doors to the World – Presenter Somik V. Lall

Cities in Sub-Saharan Africa are experiencing rapid population growth. Yet their economic growth has not kept pace. Why? One factor might be low capital investment, due in part to Africa's relative poverty: Other regions have reached similar stages of urbanization at higher per capita GDP. This study, however, identifies a deeper reason: African cities are closed to the world. Compared with other developing cities, cities in Africa produce few goods and services for trade on regional and international markets.

To grow economically as they are growing in size, Africa's cities must open their doors to the world. They need to specialize in manufacturing, along with other regionally and globally tradable goods and services. And to attract global investment in tradables production, cities must develop scale economies, which are associated with successful urban economic development in other regions.

Author: Somik V. Lall

2. Reaping Richer Returns: Public Spending Priorities for African Agriculture Productivity Growth –

Presenter: Aparajita Goyal

A vibrant, sustainable, and resilient agriculture sector is vital for Sub-Saharan Africa's economic future. While productivity of African agriculture has grown, it still lags behind comparable rates in Asia and Latin America, and has not delivered the development dividends needed to significantly reduce poverty and boost shared prosperity in the region. A critical element that can accelerate change and unleash growth is to catalyze a shift toward more effective, efficient, and climate-resilient public spending in agriculture. Smarter use of public funds has been instrumental in laying the foundations for agricultural productivity growth around the world, providing important lessons for African policy makers and development partners. Investments in high return core public goods, combined with better policies and institutions drive agricultural productivity. Reaping Richer Returns: Public Spending Priorities for African Agriculture Productivity Growth provides options for reform with a view to enhancing investment for boosting productivity of African agriculture and eventually development impact.

Authors: *Goyal, Aparajita; Nash, John*

3. Mining in Africa: Are Local Communities Better Off? – Presenter: Punam Chuhan-Pole

The objective of this study is to gain a better understanding of the socioeconomic impact of resource extraction on local communities in Africa. Specifically, the study explores the effect of mining on the composition of employment, wages, and access to infrastructure (water, electricity), child health outcomes, and agricultural production in communities where resource extraction takes place. The study also examines the extent of resource revenues received by governments in mining areas, and assesses whether the size and composition of fiscal spending on these communities are affected by mining.

Authors: Punam Chuhan-Pole, Andrew L. Dabalen, and Bryan Christopher Land

4- Confronting Drought in Africa's Drylands: Opportunities for Enhancing Resilience – Presenter:

Michael Morris

This book focuses on the medium-term prospects (over the next two decades) for increasing the resilience to drought and other shocks of people living in dryland areas of East and West Africa. The questions concerning vulnerability and resilience addressed in this book must be understood against the

backdrop of an extremely dynamic environment. Dryland regions of Africa are already undergoing sweeping changes that are affecting the livelihoods of millions of households. Because the ongoing transformation of the drylands is being propelled by demographic drivers that have a great deal of momentum, the key question for policy makers is how best to manage the demographic, social, and economic changes that are coming.

Authors: *Cervigni, Raffaello; Morris, Michael.*

5. Poverty in a Raising Africa – Presenter: Andrew Dabalen

This report is the first of a two-part volume on poverty in Africa. It documents the data challenges and revisits the core broad facts about poverty in Africa; the second report will explore ways to accelerate its reduction. The report takes a broad, multidimensional view of poverty, assessing progress over the past two decades along both monetary and nonmonetary dimensions. The dearth of comparable, good-quality household consumption surveys makes assessing monetary poverty especially challenging. The report explores how adjustments for data issues affect poverty trends.

Authors: *Beegle, Kathleen; Christiaensen, Luc; Dabalen, Andrew; Gaddis, Isis*