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# Innovation for agriculture transformation: Lessons for the horticulture sector in Zambia

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# Outline

- ▶ Why innovation for agricultural transformation
- ▶ Lessons from Agricultural Transformation in Ethiopia
  - ▶ Political will, solid partnership framework and leadership/organizational design
  - ▶ Few lessons and scalability.
  - ▶ Implications for horticultural sector development and transformation in Zambia
- ▶ Collaboration and Partnerships
  - ▶ UNDP Development programming in Ethiopia
  - ▶ Areas for possible partnerships
  - ▶ Partnership frameworks
- ▶ Concluding remarks

# Why innovation for agricultural transformation

- ▶ Most agricultural products in Africa and SSA is produced by smallholders
- ▶ Low production and productivity
- ▶ Use traditional technologies
- ▶ Undeveloped and less integrated value chains
- ▶ High post harvest loss,
- ▶ low nutrition enhancement opportunities
- ▶ poor market linkages
- ▶ Production highly susceptible to risks and shocks
- ▶ Low competitiveness (yields rice fruits vegetables for Africa 2.1, 5.3, 5.5; rest of the world 3.9, 9.4, and 16.1 respectively)
- ▶ Innovation is key agricultural transformation, food security and poverty reduction

# Initiating the agricultural transformation program

- ▶ Agricultural transformation must be embedded in an enabling overall development transformation program
- ▶ Political will
- ▶ Diagnostic studies to underpin agricultural transformation strategy
- ▶ Fit for purpose institutional and organizational framework( i.e. ATA, ECX, ETO)
- ▶ Leadership: provide competent leadership and optimal skill mix
- ▶ Robust partnership framework (technical and financial)
- ▶ Specific focus on delivering transformational results (experiment, prototype, scale-up)
- ▶ Transformation must be time-bound.

# Agricultural Transformation Program

- ▶ In Ethiopia the specific focus has been:
- ▶ **Value chain development:** Teff, maize and wheat, but also sesame, oilseed, chickpeas, and plans to expand to include livestock;
- ▶ **Systems:** Seeds, Soils & fertility, cooperatives, extension systems etc.
- ▶ **Cross-cutting:** Technology, environment, gender, climate change, environment and financial sustainability)
- ▶ **Special projects** (Private-public partnerships, etc)

# Teff Technology Pack

- ▶ Teff technology pack comprises Row planting, reduced seed rate, improved seed
  - ▶ Traditional seed broadcasting use 30-50kg/ha
  - ▶ Transition farmers to Row planting using 2.5-5kg/ha
  - ▶ Started with two model farmers in 2011, increased to 1430 and 90 farmer farming centers in 2011, and 167,000 in 2012, and planned to reach over 1.3 million farmers in 2013
  - ▶ Results shows 60-70% increase in productivity compared to the national average!
  - ▶ This is phenomenal improvement, and transformational if scaled-up to all farmers
  - ▶ Use simple technologies that can make a huge difference immediately
  - ▶ Innovation has to be scaled-up in order to generate desirable impact.
  - ▶ supported by **UNDP, USAID and CANADA**. Collaboration is important.

# Lessons for horticultural sector development in Zambia

- ▶ Horticultural sector is just in its infancy but emerging
- ▶ There is no robust support program focused on developing the horticulture sector, despite Zambia's competitive advantage.
- ▶ Weakening public delivery mechanism, including research, training, and extension that's needs further support.
- ▶ Technology and innovation is currently under-invested
- ▶ Funding innovations is the best way to bring about transformation and develop competitiveness of the horticulture sector.
- ▶ **Innovation is simply the currency for development!**
- ▶ There is need to get back to the drawing board to develop an agricultural sector transformation program that can be leveraged to support the growth of the horticulture sub-growth:  
Focus: inputs + medium=output/yields, and the markets and value chains

# Final Remarks

- ▶ Horticultural innovation labs initiative is a great intervention achieving solid results.
- ▶ I learned a lot from the various project findings presented yesterday.
- ▶ Scale-up production and use of these technologies and innovations for impact
- ▶ Horticultural innovation Labs are not best placed to promote adoption and scaling-up on use of these innovation in there current design.
- ▶ They need to leverage partnerships with development agencies and with government for scaling up.
- ▶ There is need to foster greater collaboration and partnership to expand funding opportunities.
- ▶ There will be a need to gunner more financial resources and support packages to support smallholder farmers to adopt and use these technologies.
- ▶ I look forward to closely collaborative with this incredible initiative and with USAID.



# To conclude:

## An Overview of UNDP Programs in Ethiopia

- ▶ Three major focus areas
- ▶ Economic growth and Poverty Reduction
  - ▶ Agriculture development and transformation
  - ▶ Private sector development
  - ▶ Entrepreneurship etc
- ▶ Climate resilience and green growth
  - ▶ CRGE strategy and implementation support
  - ▶ Environment and natural resources, protected areas, forestry, bio-diversity etc
  - ▶ Energy and low carbon development
- ▶ Governance and capacity development ( ??)
- ▶ Partnership frameworks
- ▶ **Glad to collaborate !**

Thank You.