



Development Strategy and Governance

Although global poverty has declined by nearly half in the last two decades thanks to rapid economic development in parts of Asia, it has increased in other developing regions. Today more than one billion people still live on less than one US dollar per day. The number of people suffering from hunger has grown by 18 million since the mid-1990s.



Both the international community and national governments have increased their efforts to combat poverty and hunger. This is evident from their commitment to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, including the goal of halving the proportion of poor and hungry people by 2015. While many nations have developed economic growth and poverty-reduction strategies, past failures accentuate the need for new insight into developing successful strategies. A “development strategy” is defined here as the evidence-based setting of priorities for policy actions by relevant development actors (state, private sector, and civil society) on specific time paths. A good strategy should also be backed by resource allocation: mobilizing resources and getting the investment priorities and sequencing right are critical. Good governance is also a necessary precondition for successfully implementing a good strategy.

Within this context, IFPRI’s Development Strategy and Governance Division (DSGD) focuses on:

- undertaking research and outreach on strategic pro-poor growth, investment, and governance reforms intended to achieve faster poverty and hunger reduction in developing countries;
- strengthening the capacity of developing countries to formulate and implement development strategies, public investment priorities, and governance reforms favorable to the poor; and
- improving the access of local policy analysts and researchers to knowledge and information, analytical tools, and data.

The successful implementation of the research strategy of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), of which IFPRI is a member, depends on the effectiveness of national development strategies. IFPRI’s role in that regard is critical, as it helps to foster national contexts that will maximize the impact of pro-poor agricultural research. In addition, IFPRI’s research on development strategies and governance contributes to CGIAR Research Program 2 (CRP2): Policies, Institutions and Markets to Strengthen Food Security and Incomes for the Rural Poor.



RESEARCH AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS

DSGD contributes to the CGIAR’s four system-level outcomes: (1) reduce rural poverty; (2) increase food security; (3) improve nutrition and health; and (4) achieve more sustainable management of natural resources. Through its research and strategic analysis and knowledge support programs, the division contributes broadly to the CGIAR’s research agenda and contributes directly to two of the CGIAR’s CRP2 main research themes:

- Effective Policies and Strategic Investments (Theme 1), and
- Inclusive Governance and Institutions (Theme 2).

1. Country Development Strategy

This program aims to improve and inform development strategies for faster agricultural and rural growth and poverty reduction in developing countries. This research includes economy-wide analysis of the effects of differing interventions on agricultural growth, supporting African governments implementing the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP). The program also conducts research on food security, climate change and rural poverty in several Middle East and North African (MENA) countries.

2. Pro-poor Public Investment

This research provides policy options regarding financing mechanisms, investment priorities and sequencing for pro-poor growth, and the institutional arrangements and governance structures within which limited resources can be mobilized and used most effectively. The main objectives of the research are to

- analyze the priorities for public investment,
- evaluate the options for financing the investments required for economic growth and poverty reduction, and
- analyze the political and institutional contexts within which public investment decisions are made.

This research contributes directly to CRP2 theme 1: Effective Policies and Strategic Investments.

3. Rural-Urban Linkages

Migration and increases in road accessibility, information technologies, and production flows in developing countries have all contributed to new spatial and sectoral patterns in developing countries. This program implements applied research to better understand the linkages between urban and rural economies, a key aspect of the economic transformation in developing countries. This research involves analysis of how governments and other stakeholders in developing countries can enhance the flow of labor, capital, and goods to benefit both the rural and urban poor.

4. Building Resilience to Emergencies

Developing countries are more frequently confronted with the kinds of emergencies that cause severe and long lasting damage, with severe effects on food security, poverty and social protection. DSG research in this program focuses on rebuilding and strengthening capacity to formulate national strategies, policies and programs to recover from emergencies, reduce poverty, and promote economic growth in the long run.

5. Governance for Agriculture and Rural Development

Good governance is widely acknowledged to be an important factor in eradicating poverty and promoting development. The overall objective of this program is to provide policy-relevant knowledge on strategies to improve governance, focusing on the dimensions that are most relevant for agricultural and rural development. Specifically, the program conducts research on the delivery of public services to the rural poor, the governance of land and natural resources, decentralization and local governance, and the political decisionmaking process in the formulation of agricultural policies and development strategies. This research contributes directly to CRP2 theme 2: Inclusive Governance and Institutions.

6. Country Strategy Support Programs (CSSPs)

The CSSPs are country-based intensive and sustained programs of research, capacity building, and policy communication. The programs aim to enhance national capacity for policy and strategy research and to promote evidence-based policymaking through improved information for policy dialogue. Case study results from CSSPs also serve as international public goods for application to other countries. Programs currently exist in Bangladesh (led by IFPRI's Poverty, Health, and Nutrition Division), China, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Uganda.

7. Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (ReSAKSS)

ReSAKSS is an Africa-wide network that supports the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and other regional agricultural development initiatives. ReSAKSS nodes in East, Southern, and West Africa, as well as Africa-wide, provide high-quality analyses to improve policymaking, track progress, document success, and derive lessons for the implementation of the CAADP agenda. More information can be found on www.resakss.org.

For additional information:

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