Policies, technologies, and institutions
for food security and nutrition in African LDCs

Shenggen Fan
Director General | International Food Policy Research Institute
Hunger, poverty, and undernutrition persist in Africa

Prevalence of undernourishment (%)

Source: FAO 2015

Prevalence of poverty (US $1.25/day, 2005 PPP), (%)

Source: PovCalNet 2015

Prevalence of micronutrient deficiencies

Source: HarvestPlus 2011

Africa

Child iron deficiency

68%

Pregnant women anemia

60%

Source: HarvestPlus 2011
Agricultural spending and growth remain volatile

Government agric. expenditure (% of total expenditure, 1980-2013)

Agriculture, value added in SSA (% of annual growth, 1980-2013)

Source: ReSAKSS 2015

Source: World Bank 2015
Transform smallholder agriculture

- Support smallholders to **move up or move out**

- **Enhancing smallholder profitability**
  - Invest in smallholder-friendly agric. R&D e.g. high-yield, high-nutrient, resource-efficient, climate-smart technologies
  - Promote land rights and efficient land rental markets
  - Support efficient and inclusive food value chains e.g. insurance, credit, extension, cooperatives
  - Close gender gaps and develop young farmers
  - Scale up productive cross-sector social safety nets e.g. Ethiopia’s PSNP
Support efficient allocation of resources

- Eliminate inefficient subsidies that encourage overuse of natural resources and inputs
- Redirect staple food subsidies toward production of high-nutrient foods

Develop rural infrastructure

- Improving roads, rail, & electricity can reduce # of hungry by 57m and avoid malnourishment of 4m children in 15 years (Rosegrant et al. 2015)
- Access to WASH is strongly linked to child stunting reduction (Smith & Haddad 2014)

Improve access to ICTs

- Providing commodity price information to farmers = higher prices, income, and consumption (Torero 2014)
Strengthen research and policymaking capacities

- Improve capacities for strategy formulation, policy design, and implementation
- Create incentives and opportunities to attract and retain best talents
- Increase support for policy research
- Invest in monitoring and evaluation systems
- Foster partnerships between national agric. research systems and int’l ones, incl. CGIAR