Overcoming Market Constraints on Pro-Poor Agricultural Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa (abstract)

By: Colin Poulton, Jonathan Kydd and Andrew Dorward
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In sub-Saharan Africa, there is fairly broad agreement that increased investment in key public goods such as roads and communications infrastructure, agricultural research and water control will be required if revitalised agricultural development is to take place. However, it has proved more difficult to reach agreement on what needs to be done to improve the performance of agricultural markets. In this article we set out an agenda for investment and policy reform in this area, providing a brief theoretical examination of the co-ordination problems involved before examining in turn demand and supply constraints affecting smallholder farmers, and policies for price stabilisation and the co-ordination of support services. We also argue that increased attention needs to be paid to governance issues.

Descriptors: Sub-Saharan Africa, agricultural development, investment, agricultural markets

Contact: Overseas Development Institute,
111 Westminster Bridge Road,
London, SE1 7JD, UK
Tel: +4420 7922 0300
Fax: 4420 7922 0399
Email: dpr@odi.org.uk