

Agriculture's Role in Making Poverty History

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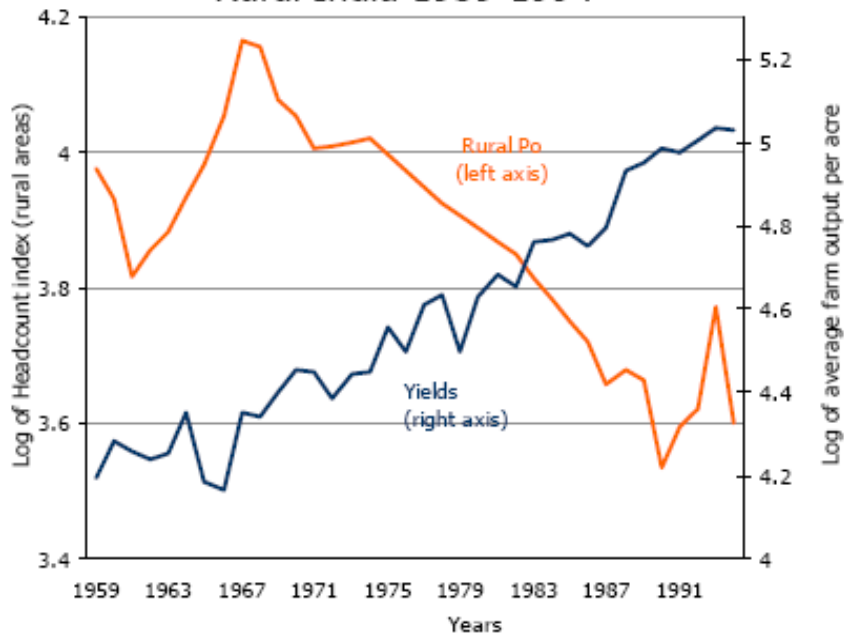
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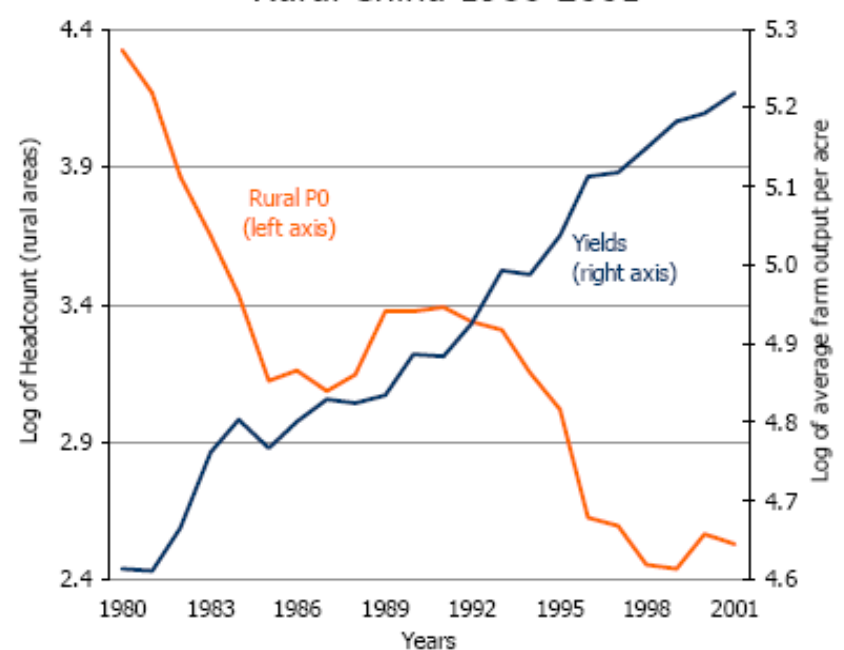
- Agriculture, Poverty & History
- The Changing Realities for Agriculture
- Policy Priorities

Figure 1: Historical Successes using Ag. for Rural Poverty Reduction

Headcount index and average farm yields
Rural India 1959-1994

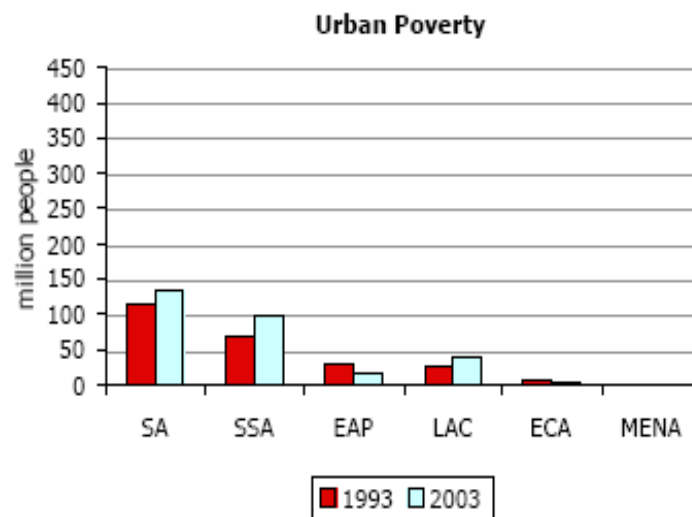
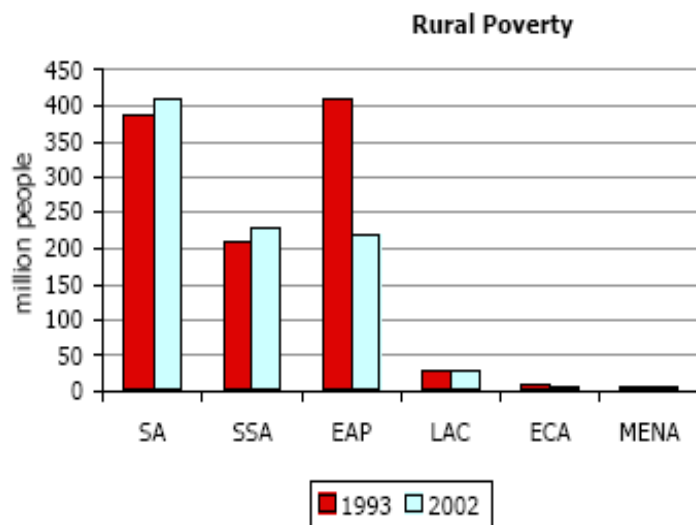


Headcount index and average farm yields
Rural China 1980-2001



Rural poverty fell sharply in India (green revolution) and China (household responsibility system and market liberalization) as yields rose

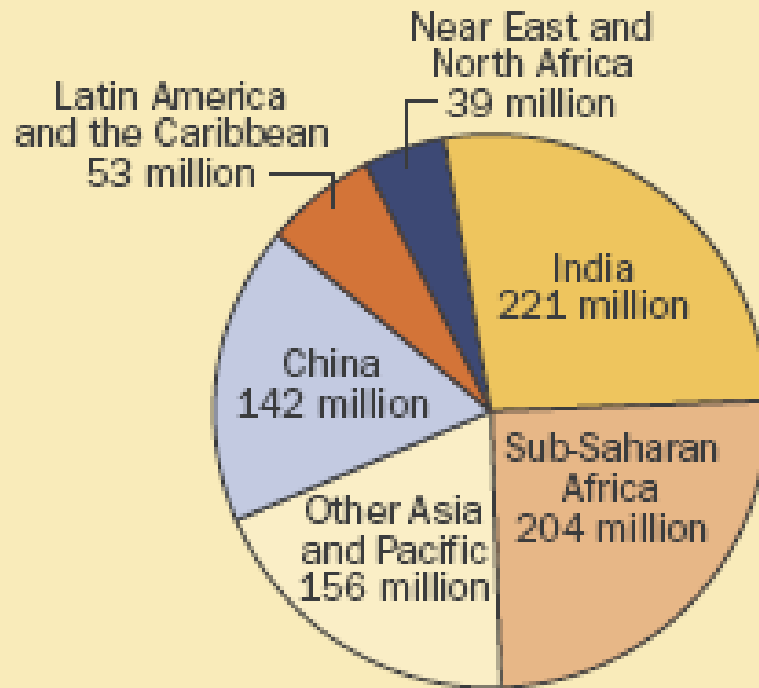
Figure 2: A Source of Livelihoods for many, but a Huge Reservoir of Poverty



■ 3 billion rural people, 2.5 billion agricultural population, 1.3 billion agricultural labor force, 800 million smallholder population

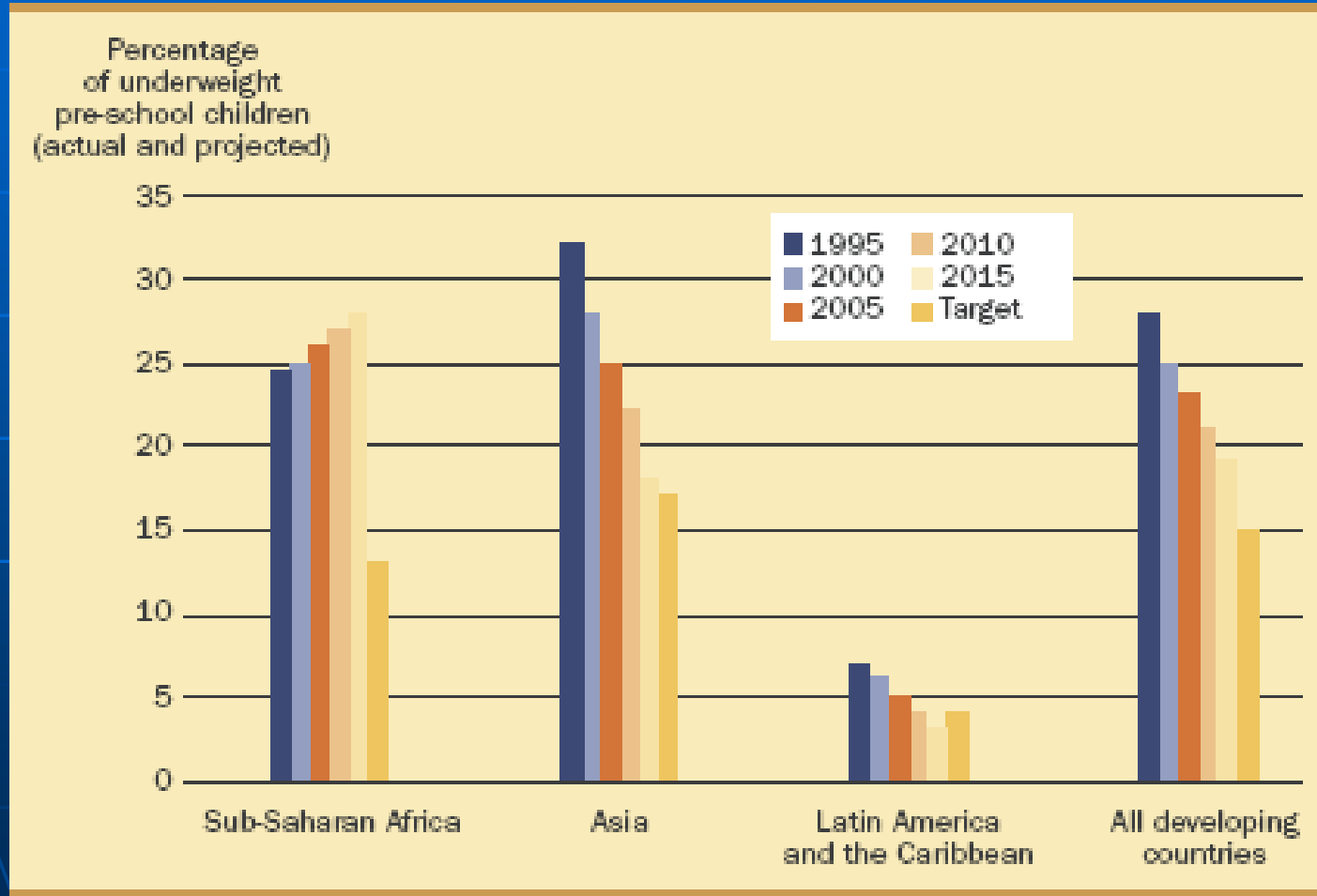
■ 2.1 billion rural poor (\$2/day), 900 million extreme rural poor (\$1/day)

Figure 3: Where are the Hungry?



Source: UN Hunger Task Force

Figure 2: Sub-Saharan Africa is losing the fight



Source: UN Hunger Task Force

The Changing Realities for Agriculture

- Commodity prices.
- Climate change / natural resources.
- Institutional capacity for agricultural development.
- Marketing chains.
- Health and HIV & AIDS.
- The changing policy context.

Commodity Prices

- How strong for how long?
- Biofuels.

Climate Change / Natural Resources

- Existing problems – soil fertility, water.
- Climate change, farming systems.

Institutional Capacity for Agricultural Development

- Where are you starting from?
- Where are the priorities?

Marketing Chains

- Growing role of supermarkets.
- Quality standards, traceability.

Health and HIV & AIDS

- Link health and productivity.
- HIV & AIDS and food security.

The Changing Policy Context

- African Union commitment: 10% of national budgets to be spent on agriculture.
- Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).
- World Bank Report 2008 '*Agriculture for Development*'.

Policy Priorities

- Providing the infrastructure for agricultural development.
- Priority given to agriculture & rural development.
- The connecting policies of health and education.
- The choices within the agricultural sector: small vs. large farms.
- The challenges for farm management specialists:

Challenges for Farm Management Specialists:

Message 3

Reducing agriculture's large **environmental footprint** is an inevitable requirement for success, **climate proofing** of the farming systems of the poor is urgent, and providing **environmental services** can be one of the development contributions of agriculture

Key for this are removing perverse **input subsidies**, better definition of **property rights**, wider use of conservation **technologies**, **devolution** to communities of control over common property resources, research and investments for farming system **resilience**, and developing markets for **environmental services**