As the debate on the global food crisis continues to simmer around the world, the need to find new solutions to boost agricultural productivity has come into focus. In India, where agricultural growth has remained stagnant at less than 2 percent since the 1990s, calls for a second green revolution have become louder. India has indeed ample scope to increase its yields of several major crops substantially. Its rice yields, for example, are about half those in Vietnam and Indonesia, and one-third of China’s. This scenario may change if innovative farming being practiced in several districts of Tamil Nadu is adopted on a larger scale.

Like much of India, agriculture is vital for the livelihoods of the rural people in the southern state of Tamil Nadu. More than half of the state’s population live in rural areas, and most of them depend on agriculture.
intensive agriculture could further reduce rural poverty through higher yields to small producers, higher real wages to agricultural laborers, and increased income and employment opportunities.

While Tamil Nadu has recorded agricultural growth higher than the national average, policymakers and farmers alike in the state are pushing to lift farm productivity by promoting better technology and innovative farming practices.

```
While agriculture growth. After all, Tamil Nadu is one of India's driest states and agriculture requires vast amounts of water for irrigation. In fact, agriculture consumes 75 percent of the state's water, a resource that is becoming scarcer because of climate change and increasing industrialization.

One of the project's main achievements is the emergence of SRI, short for System of Rice Intensification, a set of new farming practices developed to increase the productivity of land, water, and other farm input. With limited scope to expand the area under cultivation, SRI is a promising alternative to the conventional way of flooded rice cultivation and is already addressing problems of water scarcity, high energy usage, and environmental degradation. SRI is a combination of five important management techniques. It encompasses transplanting of 14-day young seedlings at wider spacing with only one seedling per hill, water management that keeps the soil moist but not continuously flooded – alternate wetting and drying, mechanical weeding through a rotary weeder, and higher use of organic compost as fertilizer.

“We are using younger seedlings of 14 days old as compared to 25-30 days old as in the case of conventional plantings,” said V.K. Ravichandran, Professor of Agronomy at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University. “The young vigor of the seedlings is exploited in this SRI technique,” he added.
```
**SRI system gaining popularity**

The SRI system sharply cuts the use of water by 32 percent, a crucial factor in a place like India. In India, rice alone accounts for 80 percent of water usage for agriculture.

Farmers that have started using the SRI practice are already reaping the benefits. Singadavardan, a farmer in the state’s Villupuram district said the SRI system requires far fewer seeds, which saves him money. “In the normal way of planting, I would use about 30 kg of seeds per acre, but with this method, I’ve used only 3 kg per acre. On top of that, the labor also becomes cheaper,” he said.

SRI, which was first developed in Madagascar some 25 years ago by a French Jesuit priest, is now gaining momentum in the state. During 2006-07, the first year of SRI rice cultivation in Tamil Nadu, only 4600 hectares were cultivated with this method. Today, almost 450,000 hectares or about 20 percent of the state’s rice cultivation area are under SRI.

If Indian farmers use SRI on just 25 percent of the conventionally-farmed area, estimates are they could grow additional 5 million tons of rice — enough to feed about four million families a year.

Tamil Nadu’s agriculture minister recently said that “if the agriculturists come forward to adopt this technology totally, which has been revolutionizing the paddy farming today, the entire rice needs of Tamil Nadu can be met.”

Gopalakrishnan, a farmer, says SRI is indeed catching on. “I have told people about this and they are also starting to cultivate in this method,” he said. Reports by thousands of farmers and practitioners around the world show that the SRI plants develop strong roots and stalks, and more tillers, with higher yields and even better rice quality. Rice plants under SRI methods have shown to better resist drought, water logging and wind damages. SRI produces yields that are 40 to 80 percent higher than conventional rice cultivation.

“With the old system of planting rice I used to get 20 to 25 bags of rice per acre. Now I get 35 bags per acre,” said Uma, a farmer.

In the long term, hopes are that increased rice yields will boost nutrition, improve health, and drive the local economy.

Visit our website [www.worldbank.org.in](http://www.worldbank.org.in) for more on this story.

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**Revive agriculture for growth**

**India’s Agricultural Spending**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>% of agricultural GDP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1975-79</td>
<td>7.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980-84</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985-89</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990-94</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995-99</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-02</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Public good investment
- Subsidies

**Revival of Agriculture is Key for India’s Development**

- **Rice Cultivation Area** (million hectares)
  - 1999-2000: 43.16
  - 2000-01: 44.71
  - 2001-02: 44.9
  - 2002-03: 41.18
  - 2003-04: 42.59
  - 2004-05: 43.69
  - 2005-06: 43.69

- **Agriculture as % of GDP**
  - 1999-2000: 19.0
  - 2000-01: 18.8
  - 2001-02: 18.6
  - 2002-03: 19.0
  - 2003-04: 19.0
  - 2004-05: 18.8
  - 2005-06: 18.6

Source: Chand and Kumar 2004, Economic and Political Weekly 39(52):5611-6
What should the Indian Government do to meet the people’s aspirations by 2022?

While it is important to sustain high growth, growth by itself is not enough. It is imperative to bring into the fold the millions of Indians whose lives have not been touched by the country’s recent strides, says Rachid Benmessaoud, World Bank’s Acting Country Director in India and Dipak Dasgupta, a Lead Economist at the World Bank’s India Office.

What do the people of India want their country to be on its 75th anniversary in 2022? An acknowledged economic powerhouse and a country at peace. A place where all citizens – no matter who they are or where they live – have equal opportunity to fulfill their aspirations and improve the quality of their lives. And a vast sub-continent where mass poverty as we have known it has been finally eradicated. Are all these possible by 2022? Yes.

India’s impressive achievements in recent years, the confidence of its younger generation, and the potential of its institutions suggest that the next fifteen years may well be India’s to gain...or to lose. India, like China, has the potential to compete with world leaders in any sphere. In fact, despite the noise and din of democracy - and sometimes because of it - India’s potential to achieve its ambitions remains strong. Where, then, should efforts be concentrated?

Foster rapid and inclusive growth

It is most important to sustain high and inclusive growth. Think of the difference that growth rates can make. If growth were to accelerate to close to 10 percent per annum till 2022 and if it were broad-based, India’s GDP could quadruple to nearly $4 trillion (under some expected exchange rates and constant price assumptions). This would raise average Indian incomes to a little under $4,000 - comparable to Malaysia’s today and twice as high as China’s now. India could then banish the spectre of mass poverty and make the basics of good
India needs more trade in goods and services, and measures that enable greater global integration. Despite recent growth, India's share of global exports of merchandise goods is still small – 1.1 percent for all goods, and 1.5 percent for agricultural goods in 2006. Even in the export of services where India has a much-acclaimed edge, its share in the world market is only around 1.3 percent.

Increased foreign direct investment (FDI) will also be crucial to expand India's share in global trade, especially in manufactured goods and services. India can do much more to attract global firms and trade, as the costs of doing business in India are much too high and well-known. Bureaucratic delays, discretionary approvals, regulatory bottlenecks, complex labor laws, state control over prices, a legal system with a huge backlog, and pervasive corruption, have deterred greater FDI in India.

Considerable headway is now being made, with FDI in plant and machinery in India increasing exponentially – from $74 million in 1991 to $15 billion in 2007. Last year, India also attracted massive levels of portfolio flows, some $45 billion.

Paradoxically though – although much is made of foreign investment in the popular press - the entry of more foreign financing per se is not nearly as important for the country as it is made out to be. India already has a high savings rate. And, foreign portfolio financing has a particular downside: that is, global capital flows are notoriously fickle, and ‘hot money’ can enter and leave the country in swarms, exacerbating the volatility of the financial world.

Where, then, can foreign investment truly benefit the country? There are three important areas where this needs to be encouraged. First, FDI in state-of-the-art technology, markets and products can give the country the edge it needs to become a global manufacturing hub – similar to the edge it is already acquiring in the services sector. Second, foreign firms can introduce much-needed investment in essential infrastructure such as ports, roads, telecommunications, and power, along with world-class construction standards. And third, new skills can be sourced strategically

**Generate more and better jobs**

For growth to be inclusive, it is also vital to ensure a massive expansion of good jobs, outside the traditional low-productivity occupations and the informal sector. To generate better-paying jobs, good labor regulations must be strengthened, and the strong vested interests that exist in many sectors, including in agriculture and manufacturing, be boldly countered. By not standing up to these interests, India is losing millions of good, labor-intensive jobs each year. In addition, investment in all young people will give them the diverse vocational, technical and professional skills to reach their full potential, contributing massively to the nation’s growth. How else can India meet the overarching aspirations of its growing cohort of young adults?

**Exploit globalization to advantage**

What else can India do to become a player of consequence on the world stage, in keeping with its enormous size? Two key things: First, exploit the engines of global trade. Second, invite the best investment and technological know-how from the rest of the world.
to bring vital know-how for India to compete with world leaders. In fact, is not the headway made by Indian companies in the global arena in recent years proof enough that there is little reason to fear new competition from foreign investment?

**Deliver better services and governance**

But in the end, these measures will not have their desired impact unless the country simultaneously improves the provision of basic public services to the people. Vast public resources – by some estimates close to a third of the country’s national income – are spent each year on the delivery of often poor public services. From the police, to the courts, to basic education, hospitals, power and other infrastructure – the country needs to find better ways of providing them. This is going to be even more critical in the years to come, as faster growth generates more resources by way of taxes. How well this money is spent will be crucial in deciding whether India will achieve its aspirations by 2022 or not.

Importantly, decisions on the spending of public money need to be taken in a much more transparent manner. The government needs to prioritize those things that are crucial and especially those which the private sector cannot or will not do – such as building rural roads and schools. And it needs to end those programs that are wasteful or serve to benefit only a few. Public schemes need to be appraised on both effectiveness (whether services being reliably and affordably delivered to the intended beneficiaries?) and accountability (are transparent mechanisms in place to ensure responsiveness to beneficiaries?)

Global best practice can help set performance benchmarks for evaluating public services – from how schools and health centers are run, to how cities are managed. If public services are to deliver to all, they cannot be run as entitlement programs for employees or hand-outs for a few.

Indeed, as the clock ticks by, much lies at stake for the lives of over a billion Indians. Reaching the people’s aspirations by 2022 is certainly within reach. There is no hidden magic; only some basic rules and incentives. India has the capacity to deliver. Will there be the consensus and will?

*This article was originally published in the Business Outlook on 11 August 2008*
Even while Orissa continues to be the second poorest state in the country, it is today emerging from a period of economic stagnation and deep financial stress. Such signs of change have sparked both hopes as well as anxieties. The anxieties need to be managed well in order that the hopes can be realized, say V.J. Ravishankar, a Lead Economist, World Bank, India and the lead author of an upcoming report ‘Orissa in Transition’.

Orissa, one of the poorest states of India, is today poised to make a significant economic turnaround. Its economy has clearly shifted gear and is now on a higher growth trajectory. While no one can deny the debilitating burden of still having 45 percent of its people living in poverty, the long-beleaguered state is today emerging from a period of economic stagnation and deep financial stress. The gross state domestic product (GSDP) has grown at 8.5 percent on average during the Tenth Plan period (2002-07), compared to India’s growth of 7.8 percent. No longer is Orissa the most indebted state of India, a dubious distinction it enjoyed for a long time. Prudent fiscal policies have helped reduce the state’s outstanding debt from 343 percent of state revenue in 2001-2002 to 201 percent in 2007-2008. The annual interest burden has come down from over 35 percent of revenue to less than 25 percent. If optimism be the order of the day, the people of Orissa have a right to it.

The turnaround has been triggered by a number of factors. Policy reforms at the Central and state level have spurred the arrival of industry, the state government’s strong resolve has helped to complete long pending infrastructure projects despite a resource crunch, and its consultative approach has enabled it to take measures not only to enhance its own revenue but also to reduce fat in establishment expenditures.

Having put its fiscal house in order, Orissa is attracting sizeable investments. Orissa has for the last three years been consistently
ranked number one among Indian states in terms of private investment projects under implementation, according to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), a feat that was unimaginable five or six years ago. Today, there are around 470 projects under different stages of implementation, which add up to US$ 125 billion, or about seven times the state GDP. The majority of these projects are expected to be completed before 2013, implying that investments could climb further over the next five years.

In the past, Orissa used to attract investments for pure extraction of minerals, which would be sent elsewhere for further processing. Now it is attracting not just mining companies but large manufacturing companies, in steel and electricity, aluminum and other metal industries. There are also some, albeit very early, signs of economic diversification. In the services sector for instance, Indian IT companies are entering Orissa as traditionally favored destinations become increasingly saturated. Industrial growth during 2002-07 averaged as high as 15.1 percent, far ahead of all-India rate of 9.2 percent. The services sector grew at 5.6 percent, much slower than India but still better than Orissa’s own past; within which trade and transport grew faster than the rest of the country. Agriculture traditionally

beset by drought and floods grew at only 2 percent per year, as bad as the rest of India. The potential multiplier effects of ongoing investments can be huge on employment and incomes, making it wholly within the realm of possibility for the state to touch double-digit growth – provided of course that it harnesses the benefits well and ensures their equitable distribution among its people.

As a result of its recent economic turnaround, Orissa’s per-capita income, which progressively fell behind the rest of the country during the past five decades, has begun to catch up. Average spending level in rural Orissa is still low, but it is moving up more rapidly than ever before. The latest National Sample Survey data show that rural families in the southern region of the state – one of the poorest parts of the country without the mineral deposits of the north – are now–spending up to 25 percent more on basic necessities like food, clothing, and schooling for their children, compared to just five years ago.

**Orissa’s challenges**

Such signs of change have sparked both hopes as well as anxieties. Optimists hope that Orissa will catch up and cross the All-
India average in per-capita income by 2020. The anxiety is largely about whether hitherto disadvantaged groups, including the Scheduled Tribes, will benefit or be hurt by rapid industrial growth. The anxieties need to be managed well in order that the hopes can be realized. This is one of the key messages of the World Bank report titled *Orissa in Transition*, due to be published soon.

The Report, while highlighting the change, also points out that Orissa is still the second poorest state in the country with one of the lowest levels of urbanization. The scheduled tribes (STs) – who make up a sizeable 22 percent of the state’s population and 40 percent of the poor – continue to lag far behind the others. Most of these people live in villages or habitations whose geographical isolation underlines their poverty. Rural electrification is among the lowest in the country; some 18,000 villages and 5 million households have yet to get electricity; learning levels in schools are low and; the burden of ill health is high. The NSS data show that regional disparities have narrowed a bit but the interior is still significantly behind the coastal districts. The story on gender disparity is also similar.

Other infrastructure too is far from adequate. Capacity constraints in rail are increasing congestion on roads, and limited port capacity is diverting cargo from Paradip in Orissa to Haldia in West Bengal, and Vishakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. The state has yet to capitalize on its large coastline facing South East Asia.

However, the state government has more money now than five years ago to invest in roads, irrigation, education and health. Much needs to be done to ensure that this money is spent efficiently and achieves the purposes it was intended for. The recently-completed Detailed Implementation Review (DIR) of the World Bank funded Orissa Health Systems Development Project revealed some weaknesses in the use of public funds for healthcare. The state government responded to this with concern and is taking significant actions to remove the weaknesses in the systems. The open and consultative approach the state government is forging to accompany its new policies holds out hope of a culture of greater transparency and accountability taking root, leading to better human development outcomes.

Despite these challenges, the magnitude of the transition underway needs to be appreciated. According to the CMIE’s projections, even the direct impact of ongoing investments would lead to a doubling of the industrial work force in Orissa over the next five years.

Given recent economic acceleration and fiscal improvements, the time is now ripe for the state to consolidate the gains of the past and devote public resources to building infrastructure, and reducing further the gaps between people – between rural and urban, between the interior and the coast, and between the scheduled tribes and the rest of the population. Policies concerning land and other natural resources will need to be modernized to unleash the full potential of agriculture, fisheries and forestry on which an overwhelming 85 percent of the state’s people depend. As Orissa strives to build for the future, it can take productive lessons not only from others but also from its own recent successes in turning around its finances and shifting gear to a higher growth path.

*This article was originally published in the Telegraph on 14 August 2008*
This is a short summary of the Implementation Completion Report (ICR) of a recently-closed World Bank project. The full text of the ICR is available on the Bank’s website. To access this document, go to www.worldbank.org/reference/ and then opt for the Documents & Reports section.

Telecommunications Sector Reform Technical Assistance Project

Context:
When this project was initiated in the year 2000, the performance of the telecom sector was not up to its potential. Although the sector had attained a growth rate of around 20 percent per annum, it was nowhere near meeting the rising demand for services. There was a high level of unmet demand for basic telephone service and inadequate availability of services in rural areas.

A reform process started with the issuance of the National Telecom Policy (NTP) 1994, which called for issuing operator licenses to the private sector and setting up an independent regulator. Subsequently, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) was set up in 1997. A revised NTP, issued in 1999, set out an ambitious and very progressive program for the sector.

Project development objectives:
The project’s main objective was to strengthen elements of the policy and the

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Telecommunications Sector Reform Technical Assistance Project</th>
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<tr>
<td>Approval Date: 29 August 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing Date: 31 March 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Project Cost: US$M 29.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Financing: US$M 29.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementing Agency: Government of India and the Department of Telecommunications (DOT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outcome: Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainability: Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Performance: Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borrower Performance: Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
regulatory environment to promote private investment and competition in India’s telecommunications sector.

Project components:

I. Department of Telecommunications (DOT)
   (i). Assist DOT for financing equipment, consultants’ services and training;
   (ii). Assist the Wireless Planning and Coordination Wing (WPC) for equipment and technical assistance to WPC in the field of spectrum management to enable WPC to meet the increased demand for spectrum use in India;
   (iii). Assist the Telecommunications Engineering Center (TEC) to enhance its capacity.

II. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)/Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT)
   (i). Assistance to TRAI included technical assistance to strengthen TRAI’s ability to regulate the sector. It included support for consultative studies and training. The consultative studies were to cover priority regulatory issues in regulatory infrastructure, sector liberalization, licensing and interconnection issues, development network and services, quality of service and customer satisfaction, and fostering fair competition;
   (ii). Assistance to TDSAT supported implementation of a program for strengthening the institutional capabilities of TDSAT in the areas of adjudication and dispute resolution.

Achievements:

Most of the objectives and performance targets of the project were met or surpassed. The success in sector reform cannot be solely attributed to the project. Nevertheless, TRAI does recognize that the project played an important role in working towards implementation of NTP99, specifically the support for regulatory policies that helped achieve outstanding performance improvements in the telecommunications sector.

As a result of the implementation of reform measures, the structure and performance of India’s telecommunications sector has been transformed and it has become one of the most competitive in the developing world. Large-scale private investment was made and there was a rapid increase in telephone lines, especially in mobile services, during the life of the project. For example, the number of mobile subscribers had increased 34-fold. Teledensity increased between 2003 and 2004 by about 2 percent, i.e., it increased in one year by more than all the teledensity increase that occurred between 1948 and 1998.

As a result of the implementation of reform measures, the structure and performance of India’s telecommunications sector has been transformed and it has become one of the most competitive in the developing world. Large-scale private investment was made and there was a rapid increase in telephone lines, especially in mobile services, during the life of the project. For example, the number of mobile subscribers had increased 34-fold. Teledensity increased between 2003 and 2004 by about 2 percent, i.e., it increased in one year by more than all the teledensity increase that occurred between 1948 and 1998.

Some of the other key sector reforms that were implemented during the project include:

- Multiple basic operators were permitted in place of the duopoly in each of the 21 “circles”;
- Both national and international long-distance service was opened to competition;
- The number of cellular operators in each circle increased from two to four in each of the 21 “circles”;
- DOT’s service provision functions were corporatized into the new Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited;
- Increase in private vs. government investment occurred as a result of both competition and privatization;
- Competition has opened the sector to the
new channels of investment while at the same time reduced the market shares of the incumbent operators, Manhangar Telephone Nigam Limited, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, and Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited. Furthermore, as a result of privatization, government ownership in Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited was reduced to 28 percent;

- The original license fee scheme which hindered investment was replaced by a combination of one-time license fees and revenue-sharing arrangements;
- Legislative amendments were enacted to clarify TRAI’s powers.

**Other significant achievements:**

**Increase in foreign direct investment (FDI):**
The total FDI during 2001 to 2004 was over five times that of 1993 to 1996.

**Pro-competitive interconnection regime:**
TRAI issued several regulations and directives during 1999 to 2003 to establish a pro-competitive interconnection regime.

**Inter-circle long distance competition:**
National long-distance (NLD) licenses for new entrants were awarded.

Despite its many achievements the physical implementation of the project was rated “modest” because of the persistent delays in procurement and implementation of the National Radio Spectrum Management and Monitoring System (NRSMMS).

There was significant and positive progress in the TRAI and TDSAT components.

**Sustainability quotient:**
Technical assistance and capacity building in all agencies, particularly with regard to TRAI and TDSAT (which had been established close to the time of project negotiations) have contributed to institutional build-up and ability of these agencies is evident from the significant improvements in their performance over the last five years. These agencies (as previously mentioned) are now well-established and well-regarded, both within government, industry, and at the international level.

**Lessons learnt:**

- Clear leadership, willingness to implement reforms at a senior level, and a broad consensus of priorities are prerequisites for smooth project implementation;
- Investing in capacity building is key to addressing sustainability: once expertise is developed institutions become empowered to drive and sustain reforms. Implementing improved policies, processes, and changes in institutions and people’s incentives and attitudes to focus on results and on outcome rather than process;
- PIUs need to be empowered with the appropriate staff, resources, and authority over the elements that directly affect implementation (people, processes, etc.). Addressing these from the start (e.g., the existence of full complement of staff in place with appropriate delegation powers) is a fundamental requirement for the success of this kind of operations;
- The provision of adequate technical assistance at the very beginning to build good project management and implementation capacity in the PIU, could have contributed greatly to the success and sustainability of the project; and
- In the telecommunications sector where technology advancement is a key driver of change, it is necessary to build flexibility into the project. In India, this allowed for project realignment when necessary, thus facilitating the redefinition of needs.
Recent Project Approvals

National Vector Borne Disease Control and Polio Eradication Support Project
31 July 2008

The World Bank has approved a credit of US$ 521 million for the National Vector Borne Disease Control and Polio Eradication Support Project. The Project, to be implemented in 93 of the most endemic districts in eight states, will help the Government of India improve malaria prevention and treatment for over 100 million people among the poorest of the poor. The project will support the government programs aimed to control malaria, eliminate kala azar, and eradicate polio through effective prevention, diagnosis, and treatment services in remote and backwards areas and increase polio vaccinations.

Orissa Rural Livelihoods Project
31 July 2008

The World Bank approved a US$82.4 million IDA credit for the Orissa Rural Livelihoods Project, designed to improve the lives of some 1.5 million rural poor by organizing them into vibrant and self-managed institutions of the poor.

The project seeks to empower rural people, especially women and disadvantaged groups, through their inclusion in self-help groups (SHGs). These groups are the primary mechanism for channeling microfinance to the poor in the state. The project will also support creating new SHGs and strengthening existing groups.

Recent Project Signings

India’s Elementary Education Program
14 August 2008

A World Bank credit agreement of US$ 600 million was signed between the GOI and the World Bank for the Second Elementary Education Project.

The signatories to the agreement were Mr. Madhusudan Prasad, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, who signed on behalf of the Government of India, and Mr. Rachid Benmessoud, Acting Country Director, India for the World Bank.

This credit will support the Government of India’s ongoing Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) to provide access to quality education for children aged 6 to 14 years. The project aims to promote equity by enabling hard-to-reach children to attend school. It will create better learning conditions for all children and provide capacity building and academic support to state and sub-state education structures. The project will also help monitor learning outcomes and support research and evaluation of quality initiatives.
The World Bank in collaboration with the Government of West Bengal and Planning Commission organized an experience-sharing workshop on Power Sector Reforms.

At the workshop, officials from West Bengal showcased the strategy and approach to power sector reforms in their state. The workshop also looked at initiatives in distribution reforms in some states which are working well and showcased how organizational transformation and skill development, along with required investments are critical in ensuring a financially and operationally sustainable power sector at the state level.

A new World Bank study titled “Review of Effectiveness of Rural Water Supply Schemes in India”, was launched in New Delhi on July 2, 2008 by the Member, Planning Commission, Mr. Kirit Parikh.

The Report is an attempt to better understand the effectiveness of the current rural water schemes in India, including flow of funds and expenditure incurred, performance of schemes, cost of supply, household coping strategies and costs, as well as household willingness to pay and affordability.

Please visit Documents and Reports at www.worldbank.org for full text version of the Report.

Dr. Gianni Zanini, Lead Economist, the World Bank, presented the World Trade Indicators (WTI) 2008. WTI 2008 is a new database and ranking tool brought out by the World Bank. It summarizes broad trends and patterns across countries, regions and country-groupings by various parameters. It allows benchmarking and comparison of countries and regions across trade-related indicators, and will help policy-makers and researchers analyze the key factors affecting their trade performance.

For full text version of the Report please visit www.worldbank.org.in


“India has the potential to sustain a high rate of growth for a longer period, but must remove infrastructure bottlenecks”, he said at the seminar.

Noting that inflationary risks and rising food and oil prices posed an even more serious challenge to the developing countries than the effects of the economic slowdown in the US, Dr. Dailami said the intensifying inflation was, to a large extent, a global problem.
New Additions to the Public Information Center

This is a select listing of recent World Bank publications, working papers, operational documents and other information resources that are now available at the New Delhi Office Public Information Center. Policy Research Working Papers, Project Appraisal Documents, Project Information Documents and other reports can be downloaded in pdf format from ‘Documents and Reports’ at www.worldbank.org

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Review of Effectiveness of Rural Water Supply Schemes in India

By Sustainable Development Unit (SASDU)
Available on-line
English Paperback
Published June 2008

The prime objective of this study is to review the effectiveness of rural water supply schemes in different states in India. A total of 10 states have been covered in the study: Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal. The study explores the extent to which expenditure on rural water supply has been effective in providing access to safe water to rural households in India. This has been assessed in terms of their reliability and adequacy, affordability, and sustainability. In addition, the study examines in detail the Capital and Operation and Maintenance (O&M) cost and the extent of cost recovery in rural water supply schemes.

The study looks at the extent to which expenditure on rural water supply under various government programs gets translated into water supply infrastructure and services. This is based on an analysis of the flow of funds, institutional costs, support organization/non-government organization (NGO) costs, and other costs associated with the programs, as well as an assessment of direct and indirect subsidies for rural water supply. Some of the questions this study seeks to address are: What are the coping strategies adopted and coping costs borne by rural households arising out of the inadequacies/limitations of the current services? How strong is the household demand for service improvement, as reflected in their willingness to pay for improved services? What are affordable payment levels for improved services?

Other related Policy Notes with this Analysis are:

- Willingness of households to pay for improved services and affordability- Policy Note – 44790
- Inefficiency of rural water supply schemes in India -
The overarching objective of this report is to promote the mainstreaming and integration of climate-related risks in India’s development policies and processes, where this is appropriate. The objectives and scope of work were developed in close consultation with the Ministry of Environment and Forests as the primary counterpart, a cross-section of concerned ministries and departments in the central government and in three selected states (Maharashtra, Orissa, and Andhra Pradesh), and scientific experts from academic, policy and research institutions. In the states, the department of water resources, Government of Orissa, and the department of rural development and water conservation, Government of Maharashtra, supported these assessments, reflecting a multi-sectoral interest in and demand for adaptation solutions. The focus of this report is on vulnerabilities in natural resources and rural livelihoods, which stand at the front line of climate change impacts. The approach was dictated by government priorities, which indicated the need to:

(a) assess climate risks to agriculture and livelihoods in areas facing elevated and increasing exposure to droughts and floods;
(b) generate better information on current coping and climate risk management strategies in response to droughts and floods;
(c) develop and demonstrate the use of a climate modeling framework that can be used to identify future climate risks; and
(d) use the information to assist in developing the key elements of a forward looking adaptation plan that can help improve climate resilience and adaptive capacity.

India Policy Research Working Papers

WPS4653
Minority status and labor market outcomes: Does India have minority enclaves?
By Maitreyi Bordia Das
This paper uses data from the 61st Round of the National Sample Survey to understand the employment outcomes of Dalit and Muslim men in India. It uses a conceptual framework developed for the US labor market that states that ethnic minorities skirt discrimination in the primary labor market to build successful self-employed ventures in the form of ethnic enclaves or ethnic labor markets. The paper uses entry into self-employment for educated minority groups as a proxy for minority enclaves. Based on multinomial logistic regression, the analysis finds that the minority enclave hypothesis does not hold for Dalits but it does overwhelmingly for Muslims. The interaction of Dalit and Muslim status with post-primary education in urban areas demonstrates that post-primary education confers almost a disadvantage for minority men: it does not seem to affect their allocation either to salaried work or to non-farm self-employment but does increase their likelihood of opting out of the labor force - and if they cannot afford to drop out, they join the casual labor market. Due to the complexity of these results and the fact that there are no earnings data for self-employment, it is difficult to say whether self-employment is a choice or compulsion and whether builders of minority enclaves fare better than those in the primary market.

SP0816
Labor regulation and employment in India’s retail stores
By Mohammad Amin
A new dataset of 1,948 retail stores in India shows that 27 percent of the stores find labor regulations as a problem for their business. Using these data, the author analyzes the effect of labor regulations on employment at the store level. The author found that flexible labor regulations have a strong positive effect on job creation. The authors’ estimates show that labor reforms are likely to increase employment by 22 percent of the current level for an average store. The author also addresses the issue of informality in India’s retail sector. The authors’ findings suggest that more
flexible labor laws can encourage firms to operate in the more efficient formal retail sector. According to the authors’ estimates, labor reforms can reduce the level of informality by as much as 33 percent.

InfoDev working paper no. 17
Complement or substitute? The effect of technology on student achievement in India
By Leigh L Linden

Using a pair of randomized evaluations, the author evaluates a computer assisted learning program designed to reinforce students understanding of material presented in class. The program was implemented in both an in school and out of school model allowing him to assess different strategies for integrating the technology into the existing schools. The effect of the program critically depends on the method of implementation. The program was a poor substitute for the teacher delivered curriculum and as a result, the in school model caused students to learn significantly less than they otherwise would have learned (~0.57 standard deviations). When implemented as a complement to the normal program in the out-of-school model, however, the program generated average gains of 0.28 standard deviations reflecting small positive (but statistically insignificant) gains by most students and large positive gains by the weakest and older students in the class (from 0.4 to 0.69 standard deviations). The results emphasize the importance of understanding how new technologies and teaching methods both interact with existing resources and differentially affect students with different needs and abilities.

Other Publications

Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI)

This year’s updated version of the Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI), compiled by Daniel Kaufmann and Massimo Mastruzzi of the World Bank Institute and Aart Kraay of the Development Research Group, shows many developing country governments making important gains in control of corruption, and some of them matching rich country performance in overall governance measures.

The WGI cover 212 countries and territories, drawing on 35 different data sources to capture the views of tens of thousands of survey respondents worldwide, as well as thousands of experts in the private, NGO, and public sectors. This year’s study is the seventh update of the WGI, a decade-long effort by the researchers to build and update the most comprehensive cross-country set of governance indicators currently available.

The WGI are used by policymakers and civil society groups worldwide as a tool to assess governance challenges and monitor reforms, and by scholars researching the causes and consequences of good governance. The newly released set of the six updated aggregate indicators, as well as data from the underlying sources, are at www.govindicators.org.

Better governance helps in the fight against poverty and improves living standards. Research over the past decade shows that improved governance raises development, and not the other way around. When governance is improved by one standard deviation, infant mortality declines by two-thirds and incomes rise about three-fold in the long run. Such an improvement in governance is within reach, since it is a fraction of the difference between the worst and best performers.

Good governance has also been found to significantly enhance the effectiveness of development assistance in general and of World Bank-funded projects in particular.

Governance Reform Under Real World Conditions: Citizens, Stakeholders, and Voice

Edited by Sina Odugbemi and Thomas Jacobson
Price: $ 40.00
English 548 pages
Published June 2008
ISBN: 0-8213-7456-7
SKU: 17456

Necessary and often first rate technocratic solutions alone have been ineffective in delivering real change or lasting results in governance reforms. This is primarily because reform programs are delivered in controlled environments, but under complex, diverse, sociopolitical and economic conditions, real-world conditions prevail.

In political societies, ownership of reform programs by the entire country cannot be assumed. Public opinion will not necessarily be benign, and coalitions of support may be scare or nonexistent, even when intended reforms really will benefit those who need them most.

While the development community has the technical tools to address governance challenges, experience shows that technical solutions are often insufficient. Difficulties arise when attempts are made to apply what are often excellent technical solutions. Human beings are not as amenable as are pure numbers, and they cannot be ignored. In the real world, reforms will not succeed, and they will certainly not be sustained, without the correct alignment of citizens, stakeholders, and voice.

Governance Reform under Real-World Conditions is a contribution to efforts to improve governance systems around the world, particularly in developing countries. The contributors, who are academics and development practitioners, provide a range of theoretical frameworks and innovative approaches and techniques for dealing with the most important non-technical or adaptive challenges that impede the success and sustainability of reform efforts.
Hospital Performance in Brazil: The Search for Excellence
By Gerard M. La Forgia and Bernard F. Couttolenc
Price: $ 40.00
English Paperback
453 pages
Published May 2008
ISBN: 0-8213-7358-7
SKU: 17358
Hospitals are a critical component of the health care provided to many Brazilians. Hospitals – which absorb nearly 70 percent of public spending on health – are also a critical component of the government’s budget, and are thus at the forefront of policy discussions. Why hospitals are important in Brazil is easy to understand. What makes hospitals deliver quality care efficiently – or not – is much harder to grasp.

Drawing on an eclectic array of research and evaluative studies selected from a mix of sources, Hospital Performance in Brazil: The Search for Excellence analyzes Brazilian hospital performance along several policy dimensions, including resource allocation and use, payment mechanisms, organizational and governance arrangements, management practices, and regulation and quality.

Although a few Brazilian hospitals are world-class centers of excellence, many hospitals, including those who serve Brazil’s poorest people, are low performers. Yet the Brazilian hospital system is both dynamic and pluralistic, and herein lies its strength. As is shown throughout the book, the foundations for change – approaches, ideas, innovations, and initiatives for addressing the shortcoming of underperforming facilities – are already present throughout the country’s hospital system.

By World Bank
Price: $ 25.00
English Paperback
90 pages
Published June 2008
SKU: 17589
The effectiveness and efficiency of a country’s public sector is vital to the success of development activities, including those the World Bank supports. Sound financial management, an efficient civil service and administrative policy, efficient and fair collection of taxes, and transparent operations that are relatively free of corruption all contribute to good delivery of public services.

The Bank has devoted an increasing share of its lending and advisory support to the reform of central governments, so it is important to understand what is working, what needs improvement, and what is missing. IEG has examined lending and other kinds of Bank support in 1999-2006 for public sector reforms. Although a majority of countries that borrowed to support public sector reform experienced improved performance in some dimensions, there were shortcomings in important areas and in overall coordination.
- The frequency of improvement was higher among IBRD borrowers than among IDA borrowers.
- Performance usually improved for public financial management, tax administration, and transparency, but did not usually with respect to civil service.
- Direct measures to reduce corruption – such as anticorruption laws and commissions – rarely succeeded.

Environmental Health and Child Survival:
Epidemiology, Economics, Experiences
By World Bank
Price: $ 18.00
English Paperback
Published June 2008
SKU: 17236
Each year, millions of children in developing countries fall sick and die from diseases caused by polluted air, contaminated water and soil, and poor hygiene behavior. Repeated infections also contribute to malnutrition in children, and subsequently impacts future learning and productivity. It analyzes the linkages between malnutrition and environmental health, and assesses the burden of disease on young children.
people to accumulate assets through migration, housing investments, natural resources management, and informal businesses. An asset-based social policy can strengthen asset accumulation strategies as well as help the poor overcome the constraints of unfavorable institutional environments.

To a considerable extent, asset accumulation strategies depend on the agency exercised by people themselves through individual or collective action. At the same time, the status of policies and institutions can enable or hinder these strategies and affect livelihood outcomes. In synthesis, the case studies lead to the differentiation among three different types of policies:

- Policies that affect outcomes by directly influencing access to assets by the poor – such as land, housing, natural resources, or credit.
- Policies and public investments that change the nature of returns on assets – such as investments in rural roads, agricultural inputs, and market development.
- Policies that transform the value of assets held by the poor by virtue of administrative decisions that increase or reduce value – such as re-classification of land from arable or pasture to protected lands, land use regulations affecting resource use, or modification in regulations governing labor rights or migration.

The Little Data Book on Information and Communication Technology 2008

By World Bank
Price: $15.00
English Paperback
230 pages
Published June 2008
ISBN: 9780821374028
SKU: 17402

Now in its second edition, the Little Data Book on Information and Communication Technology 2008 presents at-a-glance tables for over 140 economies showing the most recent national data on key indicators of information and communications technology (ICT), including access, quality, affordability, efficiency, sustainability, and applications.

Little Data Book on Private Sector Development 2008

By World Bank
Price: $15.00
English Paperback
240 pages
Published June 2008
ISBN: 0-8213-7430-3
SKU: 17430

The Little Data Book on Private Sector Development 2008 is one of a series of pocket-sized books intended to provide a quick reference to development data on different topics. The Little Data Book on Private Sector Development 2008 provides data for more than 20 key indicators on business environment and private sector development in a single page for each of the World Bank member countries and other economies with populations of more than 30,000. These more than 200 country pages are supplemented by aggregate data for regional and income groupings.

Distortions to Agricultural Incentives in Europe’s Transition Economies

Edited by Kym Anderson and Johan Swinnen
Price: $39.95
English Paperback
400 pages
Published June 2008
SKU: 17419

The vast majority of the world’s poorest households depend on farming for their livelihood. During the 1960s and 1970s, most developing countries imposed pro-urban and anti-agricultural policies, while many high-income countries restricted agricultural imports and subsidized their farmers. Both sets of policies inhibited economic growth and poverty alleviation in developing countries. Although progress has been made over the past two decades to reduce those policy biases, many trade and welfare-reducing price distortions remain between agriculture and other sectors as well as within the agricultural sector of both rich and poor countries.

Comprehensive empirical studies of the disarray in world agricultural markets first appeared approximately 20 years ago. Since then the OECD has provided estimates each year of market distortions in high-income countries, but there has been no comparable estimates for the world’s developing countries. This volume is the first in a series that not only fills that void but extends the estimates in a consistent and comparable way back in time.

This book provides an overview of the evolution of distortions to agricultural incentives caused by price and trade policies in the economies of Eastern Europe and Central Asia that are transitioning away from central planning. The book includes country and sub-regional studies of the ten transition economies of Central and Eastern Europe. Together these countries comprise over 90 percent of the region’s population and GDP. Sectoral, trade, and exchange rate policies in the region have changed greatly since the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, but price distortions
remain. The new empirical indicators in these country studies provide a strong evidence-based foundation for evaluating policy options in the years ahead.

**Africa Development Indicators 2007: Spreading and Sustaining Growth in Africa**

By World Bank Africa Region

Price: $ 125.00

English Paperback

176 pages

Published June 2008

ISBN: 0-8213-7283-1


SKU: 17283

Africa Development Indicators 2007 provides the most comprehensive source of African economic and social data available in one volume. It puts together data from different sources, making it an essential tool for policy makers, researchers, and other people interested in Africa. This edition includes the Africa Development Indicators 2007 Single User CD-ROM and opening articles from leading economists reporting and analyzing key African economic and development issues.

**The Environment for Women's Entrepreneurship in the Middle East and North Africa**

By Nadereh Chamlo, Leora Klapper and Silvia Muzi

Price: $ 29.95

English Paperback

160 pages

Published June 2008

ISBN: 0-8213-7495-8


SKU: 17495

The commonly held perception is that businesses owned by women in the Middle East and North Africa are small and informal, that they’re less sophisticated, and that they’re huddled in low-value-added sectors. In fact, as The Environment for Women’s Entrepreneurship in the Middle East and North Africa shows, there is very little difference between male- and female-owned firms. Female-owned firms in the region are as well-established, productive, technologically savvy, and connected to global markets as male-owned firms.

Although there are many similar characteristics and performance levels between male- and female-owned firms in the region, the book notes that women’s entrepreneurship isn’t reaching its potential, despite an investment climate that is much less gendered than suspected. With a significant increase in women’s education level in 11 out of 18 countries in the region, women outnumber men in universities and the strong economic rights women have in Islam, women’s entrepreneurship can become a far greater engine for growth and diversification than expected in the past. This potential needs to be exploited vigorously. Reforming the investment climate to benefit all players is one important action. The second would be to remove or mitigate hurdles to their economic and social empowerment.

**Macro Federalism and Local Finance**

Edited by Anwar Shah

Price: $ 35.00

English Paperback

360 pages

Published June 2008


SKU: 16326

The book provides analytical tools to address issues arising from globalization, localization, and regional integration. It discusses tax harmonization issues associated with sub-national value added tax administration. It provides a framework for fiscal discipline in a federal system. Lessons from international experiences from policies to deal with lagging regions are drawn. The book empirically examines the effect of fiscal decentralization on the overall size of the public sector. Finally, it draws lessons from industrial countries’ experiences on local governance.

This new series represents a response to several independent evaluations in recent years that have argued that development practitioners and policy makers dealing with public sector reforms in developing countries and, indeed, anyone with a concern for effective public governance could benefit from a synthesis of newer perspectives on public sector reforms. This series distills current wisdom and presents tools of analysis for improving the efficiency, equity, and efficacy of the public sector. Leading public policy experts and practitioners have contributed to the series.


Edited by Luiz A. Pereira da Silva, Francois Bourguignon and Maurizio Bussolo

Price: $ 45.00

English 360 pages

Published June 2008

ISBN: 0-8213-5778-6


SKU: 15778

The Impact of Economic Policies on Poverty and Income Distribution, deals
with theoretical challenges and cutting-edge macro-micro linkage models. The authors compare the predictive and analytical power of various macro-micro linkage techniques using the traditional RHG approach as a benchmark to evaluate standard policies, such as a typical stabilization package and a typical structural reform policy.

Innovation, Inclusion, and Integration: From Transition to Convergence in Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union

By Pradeep Mitra
Price: $ 25.00
English 144 pages
Published June 2008
SKU: 17538

This book synthesizes the findings of the flagship regional reports produced by the World Bank’s Europe and Central Asia Region. These have dealt with productivity growth, enhancement of job opportunities, trade and integration, migration and remittances, poverty and inequality, and the challenges posed by aging populations. This book explains the relationships among developments in each of these areas and explores the implications of these relationships for policy making in the region’s nations.

Sustainable Land Management Sourcebook

By World Bank
Price: $ 45.00
English Paperback
230 pages
Published June 2008
SKU: 17432

The Sustainable Land Management Sourcebook is a resource of good practice information on land and natural resource management issues that will be of operational relevance to practitioners in the tropics and sub-tropics. The Sourcebook covers a comprehensive range of topics on the technical issues of land and natural resource management.

Africa at a Turning Point?: Growth, Aid, and External Shocks

Edited by Delfin Sia Go and John Page
Price: $ 49.95
English 600 pages Published April 2008
ISBN: 0-8213-7277-7
SKU: 17277

Since the mid-1990s, sub-Saharan Africa has experienced an acceleration of economic growth that has produced rising incomes and faster human development. However, this growth contrasts with the continent’s experience between 1975 and 1995, when it largely missed out on two decades of economic progress. This disparity between Africa’s current experience and its history raises questions about the continent’s development. Is there a turnaround in Africa’s economy? Will growth persist?

Africa at a Turning Point? is a collection of essays that analyzes three interrelated aspects of Africa’s recent revival. The first set of essays examines Africa’s recent growth in the context of its history of growth accelerations and collapses. It seeks to answer such questions as, is Africa at a turning point? Are the economic fundamentals finally pointing toward more sustainable growth? The second set of essays looks at donor flows, which play a large role in Africa’s growth. These essays focus on such issues as the management and delivery of increased aid, and the history and volatility of donor flows to Africa. The third set of essays considers the recent impact of one persistent threat to sustained growth in Africa: commodity price shocks, particularly those resulting from fluctuations in oil prices.

Governing Mandatory Health Insurance: Learning from Experience

Edited by William D. Savedoff and Pablo Gottret
Price: $ 30.00
English Paperback
282 pages
Published June 2008
SKU: 17548

Although mandatory health insurance programs are being proposed or expanded in many developing countries, relatively little attention has been given to how these programs are governed. The available literature focuses almost exclusively on operational features that are important but will necessarily change over time – such as eligibility, benefit packages, and premiums. Governing Mandatory Health Insurance instead looks at the institutional and political forces that affect the behavior of such programs within their social and historical contexts and how five dimensions of governance – coherent decision-making structures, stakeholder participation, transparency and information, supervision and regulation, and consistency
and stability – can influence the long-term performance of health insurance programs in terms of coverage, financial protection, efficiency, and sustainability.

Governing Mandatory Health Insurance addresses these issues by drawing on the experiences of four countries – Chile, Costa Rica, Estonia, and the Netherlands. It shows how governance works in these countries and extracts lessons for developing countries with mandatory health insurance programs, focusing on the mechanisms for assuring solvency, financial protection, and health care services of good quality.

Performance-Based Contracting for Health Services in Developing Countries: A Toolkit

By Benjamin Loevinsohn
Price: $ 30.00
English Paperback
224 pages
Published June 2008
SKU: 17536

Despite the existence of effective interventions, there are many developing countries which are not on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for health. In many countries the delivery of health services is inadequate and one way of improving the situation is to contract with non-state providers. Contracting is a mechanism for a financing entity to procure a defined set of services from a non-state provider.

The toolkit also includes a review of 14 evaluated examples of contracting in developing countries which concludes that the current weight of evidence indicates that contracting improves the coverage and quality of services rapidly.


By Patrick Lumumba Osewe, Yvonne K. Nkrumah and Manuel Sackey
Price: $ 25.00
English Paperback
96 pages
Published June 2008
SKU: 17544

Providing access to affordable, good quality HIV/AIDS medicines remains a challenge in Sub-Saharan Africa. Although patent protection is by no means the only barrier to access, it has significant implications for accessibility. Experiences from a number of countries show that local production of HIV/AIDS medicines depends not on research and technology, but also on highly regulated patents and intensive capital investment. These factors pose major challenges to African countries that have ventured into this undertaking.

The Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) requires all World Trade Organization members to adopt certain minimum standards for the protection of intellectual property rights, including the rights of pharmaceutical product patent holders.

Improving Access to HIV/AIDS Medicines in Africa analyzes the extent to which countries in Sub-Saharan Africa have been able to use flexibilities in the agreement to improve access to affordable antiretroviral (ARV) medicines. It also examines the option of local manufacture of ARV medicines – based on the experiences of Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, and Zimbabwe – and it evaluates factors that favor or hinder sustainable local production. Finally, the book makes recommendations on how countries in the region can use the TRIPS flexibilities to improve access to life-saving medicines.

Integrity in Mobile Phone Financial Services: Measures for Mitigating the Risks from Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing

By Pierre-Laurent Chatain, Raul Hernandez-Coss, Kamil Borowik and Andrew Zerzan
Price: $ 20.00
English Paperback
96 pages
Published June 2008
ISBN: 0-8213-7556-3
SKU: 17556

Governments are challenged to make an innovation-friendly climate while simultaneously ensuring that business development remain sustainable. Criminal use of the technology – terrorist financing and money laundering – challenges long-run business viability via risk of massive investment flight and public distrust of new players entering the market.

Sustainable business models are those that base regulation on a careful risk-based analysis. This study identifies the perceived risks and compares them with the actual level of risk for each category of mobile phone financial services. The comparison reveals that the perceptions do not weigh up to the reality.

Based on fieldwork in seven locations where the technology has taken off, this paper finds that providers apply measures that are consistent with international standards to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.

It identifies the sometimes non-traditional means the industry uses that both mitigate the risks and are in line with good business practices.
The Challenge of Expanding Secondary Education and Training in Madagascar

By World Bank
Price: $ 20.00
English 122 pages
Published May 2008
SKU: 17503

This report, produced with the help of Madagascar’s national education team in 2006-2007, is designed to contribute to ongoing education reform discussions. It analyzes the constraints to system expansion and presents possible next steps for an appropriate course of action. This report aims to encourage discussion among policymakers, stakeholders and donors, and does not promote one approach over another. To promote a more competitive economy in Madagascar in the 21st century, the government expects to increase the average years of schooling from the current 4.5 years to about 9-10 years by 2015 for the relative age groups. This report discusses the ongoing reform and its impact and provides suggestions for implementation.

A Review of Health Sector Aid Financing to Somalia

Edited by Emanuele Capobianco and Veni Naidu
Price: $ 15.00
English Paperback
68 pages
Published May 2008
SKU: 17517

This study reviews aid flows to the health sector in Somalia over the period 2000-2006. In close collaboration with the Health Sector Committee of the Coordination of International Support to Somalis, the authors collected quantitative and qualitative data from twenty-six international agencies operating in Somalia, including bilateral and multilateral donors.

The paper reaches three main conclusions. First, aid financing to the health sector in Somalia has been constantly growing, reaching US$ 7-10 per capita in 2006. Although this is a considerable amount compared to other fragile states, it may still be insufficient to address the population’s needs and to meet the high operational costs to work in Somalia.

Secondly, contributions to the health sector could and should be more strategic. The focus on some vertical programs (e.g. HIV/AIDS and malaria) seems to have diverted attention away from other important programs (e.g. immunization and reproductive health) and from basic health system needs (infrastructure, human resources, etc.). The third conclusion is that more analytical work on health financing is needed to drive policy decisions in Somalia. Similarly to other fragile states, quality information on health sector financing is scanty, thus affecting the policy making process negatively.


By World Bank
Price: $ 30.00
English Paperback
90 pages
Published June 2008
ISBN: 0-8213-7552-0
SKU: 17552

This independent evaluation of the Doing Business Indicators assesses the methods and processes used to construct the indicators, their relevance to development outcomes, and their usefulness to policy makers and other stakeholders. It makes recommendations for improving the collection and presentation of data and for greater clarity in communicating what the indicators can and cannot capture.

National Assessments of Educational Achievement Vol 2: Developing Tests and Questionnaires for a National Assessment of Educational Achievement

By Prue Anderson, George Morgan
Price: $ 25.00
English Paperback
168 pages
Published June 2008
ISBN: 0-8213-7497-4
SKU: 17497

Developing Tests and Questionnaires for a National Assessment of Educational Achievement is the second in the National Assessments of Educational Achievement series. It is designed to help build capacity in carrying out technically adequate assessments of national levels of student achievement. It introduces readers to the activities involved in the development of achievement tests, and includes developing an assessment framework, writing multiple choice and constructed response type items, pretesting, producing test booklets, and handscoring items.
Differentiation and Articulation in Tertiary Education Systems: A Study of Twelve Countries

By George Subotzky, Njuguna Ng’ethe and George Afeti

Price: $ 15.00
English Paperback
198 pages
Published June 2008
ISBN: 0-8213-7546-6
SKU: 17546

This paper explores an area of tertiary education that is currently understudied – the extent and nature of differentiation and articulation in African tertiary education systems. The overall finding of the study is that a binary system is dominant, characterized by universities and polytechnics as distinct types of institutions. Differentiation is clearly evident in Africa, though mostly horizontal as opposed to vertical. Articulation, on the other hand, seems to be in its infancy, as some universities, in their admission requirements, do not recognize polytechnic qualifications, and mobility between similar institution types is rare. National policy, market forces, institutional reforms, industry, and regional initiatives drive differentiation. Resource constraints, isomorphism, governance and funding structures, and the absence of debate over size and shape act as inhibitors. Demand for access appears to be the only driver for articulation, while national policies, internal governance structures, and industry/labor market inhibit growth.

Western Balkan Integration and the EU: An Agenda for Trade and Growth

Edited by Sanjay Kathuria
Price: $ 30.00
English Paperback
224 pages
Published June 2008
ISBN: 0-8213-7472-9
SKU: 17472

Though Western Balkan countries have enjoyed respectable growth rates over the past five years, they now face a shifting international and domestic environment. Trade preferences are eroding, export competition is increasing, and the easier phase of post-transition growth is waning. In order to reduce still-high poverty rates and work toward EU accession, Western Balkan countries need to improve – and then sustain – their economic growth performance. Western Balkan Integration and the EU examines topics related to current account imbalances, export patterns, regional integration in goods and provision of services, labor costs, the investment climate, and foreign direct investment. It suggests that countries in the region could reap sustained growth payoffs and enhance EU access prospects by deepening regional integration, improving human capital, reducing telecommunication costs, and pre-empting energy shortages. Aimed at an audience of economic and social policy makers will feed into countries’ dialogues with development partners, particularly the European Commission.

Lessons for the Urban Century: Decentralized Urban Infrastructure Finance in the World Bank

By Patricia Clarke Annez, Gwenaelle Huet and George E. Peterson

Price: $ 20.00
English Paperback
124 pages
Published June 2008
SKU: 17524

The world’s urban population doubled between 1970 and 2008, growing from 1.5 billion to 3 billion people. Future world population growth will be concentrated in developing countries – the majority in medium-size and smaller cities and towns. International institutions and governments alike face the challenge of efficiently financing the massive investment in infrastructure required to support this urban growth. The Urban Infrastructure Fund (UIF) is a tool designed to meet this need. Responsibility for subproject oversight, credit assessment, financial management reform, and other critical tasks is delegated to the UIF.

The authors find that, on balance, UIFs have performed well. Paradoxically, their use has declined as demand for decentralized financing has escalated. The book considers the reasons for this decline and recommends its reversal. One of the virtues of UIFs has been their flexibility. They can be adapted to incorporate alternative types of performance incentives, they can finance subprojects through grants, credits, or a blend of the two to adapt to each country’s intergovernmental finance system and financial markets.
The ability of the media to affect outcomes in economic and political markets has been well documented. News reporting and advertising influence consumer behavior in goods and services markets by revealing (or selectively revealing) information about a product, acting as agenda setters to influence consumer demand, or enhancing competition in markets by alerting consumers to substitutes.

In political markets, they can affect behavior by informing voters about a politician’s views or actions, enlightening citizens to outcomes of public policy, or taking a stance on political, social, or economic issues. For businesses, households, and most others, the media is the main source of information on public policy choices and current social and economic conditions. As a result, what news the media chooses to gather, analyze and disseminate – and the slant they choose to put on what they report – is of consequence.

*Information and Public Choice* addresses the factors that affect the content and reach of news coverage as well as its impact on public policy. The book addresses both market constraints that affect media – particularly news content – and the impact that news reporting has on economic and political choices. The authors examine a range of issues, including bias or slant in media reporting, the impact of markets and nonmarket factors on news reporting, and the role of government regulation of the media sector in developing countries. The studies in this volume provide new evidence and a good summary of previous research on the power of the media.

**Making Work Pay in Nicaragua: Employment, Growth, and Poverty Reduction**

By Catalina Gutierrez
Price: $25.00
English Paperback
160 pages
Published June 2008
SKU: 17534

Poor people derive most of their income from work. However, there is insufficient understanding of the role of employment and earnings as a link between growth and poverty reduction, especially in low income countries. The *Making Work Pay* series analyzes the important roles of labor markets, employment, productivity, and labor income in facilitating shared growth and promoting poverty reduction.

This book provides a description of the trends in growth, poverty, and labor market outcomes in Nicaragua. It assesses the linkages among changes in output, employment, and labor productivity, and it links changes in the quality and quantity of employment to poverty reduction. The book also addresses other key issues, such as rural versus urban conditions, women and children in the labor market, and self-employment and household enterprises.

**Making Work Pay in Madagascar: Employment, Growth, and Poverty Reduction**

By Margo Hofstijzer and Pierella Paci
Price: $25.00
English Paperback
150 pages
Published June 2008
SKU: 17530

**Making Work Pay in Bangladesh: Employment, Growth, and Poverty Reduction**

By Marcin Sasin
Price: $25.00
English Paperback
150 pages
Published June 2008
ISBN: 0-8213-7532-6
SKU: 17532

*Development Communication Sourcebook: Broadening the Boundaries of Communication* by Paolo Mefalopulos
Price: $35.00
English 233 pages
Published June 2008
SKU: 17522

The Development Communication Sourcebook illustrates why the field of development communication is important and how its tools and methods enhance long-term and sustainable results. The book presents basic concepts and explains key challenges faced in daily practice. Each of the four modules is self-contained, with examples, toolboxes, and more.
Burundi, situated in the heart of the Great Lakes Region, is one of the poorest nations in the world. Beset by coups d’États, presidential assassinations and genocide, the country has been caught in a cycle of violence and under-development whereby brief periods of peace have been followed by further state repression and armed conflict.

The 2000 Arusha peace accords, the Pretoria agreement of late 2003, the peaceful elections of 2005, and the recent Dar es Salaam peace agreement with the Forces Nationales de Libération have ushered in a period of relative stability. This fragile political process, however, has not been matched by a parallel rebound in economic growth that has been observed in post-conflict African countries and is a precondition for long-lasting peace.

This work aims to identify areas in Burundi’s rural economy with the greatest immediate potential to stimulate growth and consolidate peace over the next years. The short-term focus will be on the rural economy. It is vital, however, that the Government of Burundi and its partners address other critical areas in the medium term to sustain growth. The industrial and service sectors are of particular significance, as they need to absorb a burgeoning, youthful and increasingly urbanized generation.

This work identifies policy reforms and investments with potential to boost food supply and strengthen export crop competitiveness, thereby expanding rural growth.
The Growth Report: Strategies for Sustained Growth and Inclusive Development

Price: $26.00
English Paperback
196 pages
Published July 2008
SKU: 17491

The result of two years work by 19 experienced policymakers and two Nobel prize-winning economists, the Growth Report is the most complete analysis to date of the ingredients which, if used in the right country-specific recipe, can deliver growth and help lift populations out of poverty.

Gender Equity in Junior and Senior Secondary Education in Sub-Saharan Africa

By World Bank
Price: $20.00
English Paperback
88 pages
Published July 2008
SKU: 17505

Evidence of gender inequity and inequality in terms of access, retention and performance in secondary education in Sub-Saharan Africa raises many questions. While transition rates from primary to secondary are higher for girls than boys, and the repetition rates are lower, girls still significantly trail behind boys in terms of secondary GER. This study documents and analyzes the extent and nature of gender disadvantage in junior and senior secondary education. It analyzes the causes of this disadvantage and identifies strategies that may be effective in reducing or eliminating it.

Beating the Odds: Sustaining Inclusion in Mozambique's Growing Economy

By World Bank
Price: $35.00
English Mixed media
308 pages
Published July 2008
SKU: 17565

The story of Mozambique is one of successful transformation. Since 1994, when it faced a decimated infrastructure, a weak economy, and fragile institutions, it has sustained high economic growth and has made tangible reductions in poverty.

The Malaysia-Indonesia Remittance Corridor: Making Formal Transfers the Best Option for Women and Undocumented Migrants

By World Bank
Price: $20.00
English Paperback
120 pages
Published July 2008
ISBN: 0-8213-7577-6
SKU: 17577

In Malaysia, Indonesian migrants are showing an increasingly clear preference for informal transfer mechanisms compared to their counterparts in other countries. A little less than half of all Indonesian migrants overseas – thought to be around 2 million – are working in Malaysia. An increasing number of migrants are women, and the corridor is also marked by a high number of undocumented migrants.

Despite the increasing flows of migrants, only about 10 percent of the estimated flow of remittances into Indonesia from Malaysia is transferred through the formal system. The extent of the preference for the informal sector is unique in this corridor. Indonesian migrants in other countries are using the formal sector far more than the migrants in Malaysia.

In addition, Indonesian women and undocumented migrants in Malaysia especially find formal sector transfers either hard to access or inappropriate for their needs.

To this end, the study assists policymakers' efforts to increase the impact of remittances on economic development and poverty reduction in Indonesia and to investigate options for attracting more migrants to use the formal financial sector.

Weather and Climate Services in Europe and Central Asia: A Regional Review

By World Bank
Price: $25.00
English Paperback
112 pages
Published July 2008
ISBN: 0-8213-7585-7
SKU: 17585

Worldwide the accuracy and value of weather and climate services are rising, bringing great economic benefits. However, many national hydro meteorological services in Europe and Central Asia are in decline. As a result, these potential gains are often missed. Much more could be done to mitigate weather disasters, support the productivity of smallholding and commercial agriculture, conserve energy, and promote safe aviation and transport by road and rail.
Although capacity deficiencies are serious, they could be remedied significantly by relatively modest-but sustained-investments.

*Weather and Climate Services in Europe and Central Asia* is part of the World Bank Working Paper series. These papers are published to communicate the results of the Bank’s ongoing research and to stimulate public discussion.

**The Impact of Private Sector Participation in Infrastructure: Lights, Shadows, and the Road Ahead**

By Luis Andres, Vivien Foster, Jose Luis Guasch and Thomas Haven

Price: $ 35.00

Paperback 376 pages

Published July 2008


SKU: 17409

Infrastructure plays a key role in fostering growth and productivity and has been linked to improved earnings, health, and education levels for the poor. Yet Latin America is currently faced with a dangerous combination of relatively low public and private infrastructure investment. Those investment levels must increase, and it can be done. If Latin American and Caribbean governments are to increase infrastructure investment in politically feasible ways, it is critical that they learn from experience and have an accurate idea of future impacts.

**Fourth Power System Development Project**

Date 07 August 2008

Project ID P101653

Report No. 44954 (Procurement Plan)

44955 (Procurement Plan - Progress Report)

**Himachal Pradesh Mid-Himalayan Watershed Development Project**

Date 07 August 2008

Project ID P093720

Report No. 44946 (Procurement Plan for the year 2007-2008)

**Himachal Pradesh Mid-Himalayan Watershed Development Project**

Date 07 August 2008

Project ID P093720

Report No. 44781 (Procurement Plan for the year 2008-2009)

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**Third Uttar Pradesh Sodic Lands Reclamation Project**

Date 31 July 2008

Project ID P112033

Report No. AC3775 (Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet)

AB3990 (Project Information Document)

**Second Madhya Pradesh District Poverty Initiatives Project (MP-DPIP II)**

Date 08 July 2008

Project ID P102331

Report No. AC3765 (Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet)

**Environmental Management Capacity Building Technical Assistance Project**

Date 23 June 2008

Project ID PO43728

Report No. 44250 (Project Performance Assessment Report)

**Rajasthan District Poverty Initiatives Project**

Date 20 June 2008

Project ID P010505

Report No. ICR781 (Implementation Completion and Results Report)

**Facilitating Infrastructure Financing Project**

Date 19 June 2007

Project ID P102771

Report No. IPP302 (Indigenous Peoples Plan)

E1915 (Environmental Assessment)

RP637 (Resettlement Plan)

**Gujarat State Highway Project**

Date 19 June 2008

Project ID P010566

Report No. ICR659 (Implementation Completion and Results Report)

**Third National HIV/AIDS Control Project**

Date 18 June 2007

Project ID P078538

Report No. 44565 (Procurement Plan for the year 2008-2009)

**Second Reproductive and Child Health Project**

Date 01 June 2008

Project ID P075060

Report No. 44670 (Procurement Plan for the year 2008-2009)

**Second Elementary Education Project (SSA II)**

Date 15 April 2007

Project ID P102547

Report No. 41114 (Project Appraisal Document)
This web site provides a resource base for conducting analysis of public expenditure in the agricultural sector (APEA). Developed by the Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) of the World Bank, as part of an on-going partnership with the Department for International Development (DFID) on Public Expenditure in Agriculture, the web site contains various resources on available tools and methods that may be used in analyzing public expenditure in the agriculture sector. It also pulls together many published studies that have analyzed expenditure in the agricultural sector.

Environmental Sustainability

IEG: Environmental Sustainability – An Evaluation of World Bank Group Support
http://go.worldbank.org/BD8MP7T5B0

Bank Group support for the environment has grown during the past 15 years and performance has improved. At the same time, environmental challenges have increased, and problems in the critical areas of pollution, congestion, loss of species, and climate change have worsened.

In view of the public goods nature of these concerns, the Bank Group has a special role to play with respect to environmental issues – and has indeed been a leader in the analysis and advocacy that helps countries focus on these challenges.

Development Marketplace Announces 100 New Ideas for Agriculture

The World Bank’s Development Marketplace (DM) has announced the selection of 100 innovative ideas to promote sustainable agriculture to compete for grant funding at the Marketplace to be held September 24-25 2008 at the World Bank headquarters in Washington, D.C. Since 1998, the Development Marketplace has awarded more than $46 million in grants to over 1,000 initiatives. This year’s theme was “Sustainable Agriculture for Development”. The marketplace received 1,768 proposals from 114 countries, and the 100 finalists hail from 42 countries. They will be invited to Washington, DC in September to participate in the Development Marketplace and to compete for one of the 25–30 grants to be awarded. The top nine countries for proposed projects are India, Kenya, the Philippines, Brazil, Ecuador, Ghana, Nepal, Tanzania and Vietnam. According to one of the evaluators, Sara Scherr (President of INGO Ecoagriculture), some of the innovative proposals submitted could offer solutions to the global food crisis.

Saptarshi Pal wins the International Essay Competition 2008

The winner of the World Bank International Essay Competition 2008 is Saptarshi Pal, a student of Jadavpur University, West Bengal. This year’s topic was What can you do to shape the city of your dreams? As one of the 8 finalists selected by an international panel of jurors from among 3,287 participants from 148 countries, Saptarshi was invited to present his essay during the ABCDE Conference in Cape Town, South Africa, on June 9. The Jury unanimously judged his essay and his presentation as best of all the competitors. Winners received their awards from Trevor Manuel, Minister of Finance, South Africa, during the Award Ceremony which was presided over by Danny Leipziger, Vice President of the World Bank’s Poverty Reduction Unit.

Saptarshi dreams of his city Kolkata “with fresh air, water and soil, without the unhygienic slums, with no child labor and one with adequate number of public schools for poor kids”. With a group of friends, he established Nature Club Councils around a dozen schools, to raise funds and awareness around environment issues in the city of Kolkata.

Podcasts

The World Bank has launched a podcast platform which focuses on current and vital development issues. The interviews are carried out by well-known public radio host, Georges Collinet. The latest podcast is on the recently launched book “Global Democracy”. For more go to www.worldbank.org/podcasts
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| WPS 4688 | Are skills rewarded in Sub-Saharan Africa? Determinants of wages and productivity in the manufacturing sector By Louise Fox and Ana Maria Oviedo |
| WPS 4687 | Patterns of international capital raisings By Juan Carlos Gozzi, Ross Levine and Sergio L. Schmukler |
| WPS 4686 | Timing and duration of exposure in evaluations of social programs By Elizabeth M. King and Jere R. Behrman |
| WPS 4685 | Kenya’s quest for growth stabilization and reforms – but political stability? By Luca Bandiera, Praveen Kumar and Brian Pinto |
| WPS 4684 | Referendum, response, and consequences for Sudan: The game between Juba and Khartoum By Ibrahim Elbadawi, Gary Milante and Costantino Pischedda |
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| WPS 4681 | Assessing interactions among education, social insurance, and labor market policies in a general equilibrium framework: An application to Morocco By Mohamed A. Marouani and David A. Robalino |
| WPS 4680 | Safeguards and antidumping in Latin American trade liberalization By J. Michael Finger and Julio J. Nogues |
| WPS 4679 | Exploring the links between HIV/AIDS, social capital and development By Antonio C. David and Carmen A. Li |
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