Cultivating more rice with less water and fewer seeds

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.

Below: The System of Rice Intensification (SRI) being used in some villages of Tamil Nadu has sharply cut the use of water by 32 percent.

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.

Right: Using SRI on just 25 percent of the conventionally farmed area could grow additional 5 million tons of rice.

Innovative farming

Through the World Bank supported project Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernization and Water-Bodies Restoration and Management (TN-IAMWARM), the state is taking actions to improve management of water and irrigated agriculture, which is critical for sustained

Below:
**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*

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

- 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 subcontinent 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.
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
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
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

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**Telecommunications Sector Reform Technical Assistance Project**

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<th>Approval Date:</th>
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<td>Borrower Performance</td>
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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.

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.
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.

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.

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.
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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**India Publications**

**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.
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.

**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](http://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 scarce 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.

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The World Bank in India • September 2008 17
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.

Environmental Health and Child Survival: Epidemiology, Economics, Experiences

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.

Assets, Livelihoods, and Social Policy

Given the lack of adequate universal social welfare for those unable to find jobs in the salaried formal sector, the livelihoods and well-being of most poor people depends heavily on their asset base. This includes their ability to access and accumulate assets, obtain decent returns from these assets, and use their asset base to manage risks.

This book discusses the diverse strategies adopted by...
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.

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.

**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,
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 subtropics. 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 Oswe, 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.

This study was prepared as part of the Secondary Education and Training in Africa (SEIA) initiative which aims to assist countries to develop sustainable strategies for expansion and quality improvements in secondary education and training. All SEIA products are available on its website: www.worldbank.org/afr/seia.

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.

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.

Information and Public Choice: From Media Markets to Policymaking

Edited by Roumeen Islam
Price: $35.00
English Paperback
248 pages
Published June 2008
ISBN: 0-8213-7515-6
SKU: 17515
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.

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.

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 Hoftijzer 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
Breaking the Cycle: A Strategy for Conflict-sensitive Rural Growth in Burundi

By Ilhem Baghdadli

Price: $ 28.00
English Paperback
152 pages
Published July 2008
SKU: 17561

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. The first challenge is to take stock of international best practices and Burundian history, and develop a sound agricultural base as the critical foundation for sustainable growth. Our work identifies policy reforms and investments with potential to boost food supply and strengthen export crop competitiveness, thereby expanding rural growth.

Independent Evaluation of IFC’s Development Results 2008: IFC’s Additionality in Supporting Private Sector Development

By International Finance Corporation

Price: $ 15.00
English Paperback
120 pages
Published July 2008
ISBN: 0-8213-7593-8
SKU: 17593

This years Independent Evaluation of IFC’s Development Results (IEDR) review the finding related to 174 IFC-supported investment operations that reached early operating maturity during 2005-07. It also includes preliminary results for IFC’s advisory services, based on a pilot review of 293 operations completed during 2004-06. As a second theme, the report provides a first look by IEG at IFC’s additionally (or unique contribution) in its investment and advisory services operations.

Agriculture and Development: Berlin Workshop Series 2008

Edited by Gudrun Kochendorfer-Lucius and Boris Pleskovic

Price: $ 30.00
English Paperback
292 pages
Published June 2008
ISBN: 0-8213-7127-4
SKU: 17127

Good Practices in Health Financing: Lessons from Reforms in Low and Middle-Income Countries

By Pablo Gottret, George Schieber and Hugh R. Waters

Price: $ 49.95
English Paperback
Published June 2008
ISBN: 0-8213-7511-3
SKU: 17511

For humanitarian reasons and the concern for households’ economic and health security, the health sector is at the center of global development policy. Developing countries and the international community are scaling up health systems to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and are improving financial protection by securing long-term support for these gains. Yet money alone cannot buy health gains or prevent impoverishment due to catastrophic medical bills; well structured, results-based financing reforms are needed.

Unfortunately, global evidence of “successful” health financing policies that can guide the reform effort is very limited and therefore the policy debate is often driven by ideological, one-size-fits-all solutions. Good Practices in Health Financing: Lessons from Reforms in Low- and Middle-Income Countries attempts to begin to fill the void by systematically assessing health financing reforms in nine low-and middle-income countries that have managed to expand their health financing systems to both improve health status and protect against catastrophic medical expenses.
The Growth Report: Strategies for Sustained Growth and Inclusive Development

By World Bank
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

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
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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.

India Project Documents

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)
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 juries 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.

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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Strategic Framework on Climate Change and Development (SFCCD) Multimedia Presentation and a short film on “Climate Change and Development”
SFCCD Multimedia Presentation (7 minutes)
http://streaming3.worldbank.org/asxgen/ext/media/climatechange-slideshow.wmv
Climate Change and Development – short film (4 minutes)