

# International Fund for Africa

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Anteneh T. Roba, M.D.  
President of International  
Fund for Africa



INTERNATIONAL  
**FUND** *for*  
**AFRICA**

# Looming Threats to Africa and Its People

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Intensive Food Production  
and  
Land Leasing



# Intensive Food Production

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- Factory Farming
- Mono-crop production
- Use of GMO seeds and animals
- Use of chemical pesticides and petro-fertilizers



# Factory Farming

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A large highly mechanized farm on which large numbers of livestock are raised in inhumane conditions, indoors in conditions intended to maximize production at minimal cost.



# Factory Farming

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- Unethical (intense animal suffering)
- Exacerbates Global Warming: CO<sub>2</sub> and methane release
- Land degradation (land use for growing feed)
- Deforestation (logging, land clearing for grazing and growing feed leading to desertification)



# Factory Farming

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- Water shortages
- Loss of biodiversity
- Dislocation of small/medium scale farmers from their land.



# Factory Farming

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- Unsustainable:
  - FF GM animals are poorly adapted to local ecosystems.
  - Need high quality grains to feed that can be used to feed the locals and usually has to be imported.
- Less efficient:
  - Produce less food per acre.
  - Create fewer jobs.



# Factory Farming

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Countries in Africa with sophisticated factory farming setups are:

- South Africa
- Ghana
- Nigeria
- Kenya
- Botswana



# Factory Farming

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African Countries with less mechanized forms of factory farming:

- Zambia
- Ethiopia
- Mozambique



# Factory Farming

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African countries that have formed partnerships with foreign entities to promote factory farming in their countries

- South Africa (Kentucky Fried chicken)
- Ghana (Tysons Chicken)
- Zambia ( Tetrapak Sweden) school milk



# Factory Farming

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- Mozambique (USAID) poultry industry
- Nigeria (Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation) poultry industry
- Ethiopia (Holland–Africa Poultry Partners) “to lift the industry to a higher level”



# Mono-Crop Production

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- Attracts larger populations of pests.
- Drains nutrients from the earth.
- Intense tilling leaves soil weak and unable to support healthy plant growth.
- Requires intense applications of insecticides, herbicides, and fertilizer.
- Fertilizers disrupt the natural makeup of the soil and contribute further to nutrient depletion.



# GMO Seeds and Animals

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- Decreases soil health.
- Prevents some micronutrients from being absorbed into the body.
- Contaminates non-GMO fields.
- Ethical violation of species integrity.



# Chemical Pesticides and Petro-Fertilizers

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- Contaminate soil, water, turf, and other vegetation.
- May kill birds, fish, beneficial insects, and non-target plants.
- Plants and pests develop a tolerance, requiring even harsher chemicals in future applications.



# Intensive Food Production

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- Factory Farming
- Mono-crop production
- Use of GMO seeds and animals
- Use of chemical pesticides and petro-fertilizers

The argument for pushing the above-mentioned means of increasing food production is to help African farmers produce more food to deal with the hunger that is plaguing the continent and to alleviate poverty and lagging economic development.

**WHO ARE THE ACTORS PUSHING THE ARGUMENT?**

# Intensive Food Production

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- Increased support from Western countries, like the US and Europeans.
- Increased support from international development agencies, like the World Bank, IMF, and USAID.
- Foreign aid and Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs)  
(Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs))

# Intensive Food Production

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End result of implementing intense food production leads to:

- Destruction/poisoning of the environment
- Acceleration of global warming
- Exacerbation of poverty and hunger
- Loss of biodiversity
- Exacerbation of human and non-human suffering
- NeoColonialism

# Causes of Hunger/Poverty/Poor Economic Growth in Africa

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- Wars (internal and external)
- Unfair national and international agricultural policies
- Social inequalities
- Lack of justice
- Unfair policies of IMF and WB
- Economic Mismanagement
- Corruption



# Causes of Hunger/Poverty/Poor Economic Growth in Africa

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- Unfair International commodity speculation.
- Corporate control of food.
- Unequal distribution of food.



# Land-Leasing

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- Recent phenomenon.
- Called by some as land grab or a form of “Agrarian Colonialism”.
- Rich countries lease land in poor countries to secure food for their own population.



# Land-Leasing

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Proponents claim deals will

- Help move host nation societies from subsistence to commercial farming
- Generate needed funds for the host nations
- Improve the host nation's infrastructure.



# Land-Leasing

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Critics point out:

- Deals will exclude local farmers from their land.
- Amount paid to the host country is minuscule in most cases.
- Most leasers do not build the infrastructure of the host countries.



# Land-Leasing

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Crops are grown using large-scale quantities of fertilizers and pesticides:

- Damage the long-term sustainability of tropical soils unsuited for intensive cultivation.
- Reduce the diversity of plants/animals/insects.
- Cause water quality problems and shortages.

# Land-Leasing

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Crops are grown using large scale quantities of fertilizers and pesticides:

- Dumping of toxic waste in lakes and rivers
  - Harms humans and aquatic life
  - Bioaccumulation in the food chain and high toxicity
  - Environmental Racism
- Cash crops, like flowers (floriculture)\*, have devastating consequences on the environment as witnessed in Ethiopia and Kenya.

# Conclusion/Recommendations

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- Intensive food production and land leasing are not the solutions for solving hunger in Africa.
- Africa's solution rests within Africa.

# Conclusion/Recommendations

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Africa's small-scale farmers have a wealth of locally-relevant farming expertise:

- Supporting and improving on their successful practices, rather than abandoning them, is crucial.

# Conclusion/Recommendations

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In collaboration with donors and civil societies, African governments should:

- Produce foods in ecologically sustainable ways.
- Encourage domestic organic plant-based farming.

# Conclusion/Recommendations

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In collaboration with donors and civil societies, African governments should:

- Destock herds.
- Implement large scale ecosystem restoration projects.

# Conclusion/Recommendations

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In collaboration with donors and civil societies, African governments should:

- Reassess policies and practices that lead to
  - Land degradation;
  - Desertification; and
  - Deforestation.
- Launch educational programs to raise awareness on the effects of climate change on the continent.

# Conclusion/Recommendations

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- Avoid policies that promote exportation of food produced on the continent or further industrialization of food production.
- Ban the import of GMOs.
- Ban land leasing.

# Final Recommendation

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- Create just and democratic systems that protect the African people from unjust national and international laws.
- Africans should work towards changing the politico-economic paradigm that puts profit over people, animals, and the planet.

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M. Gandhi once said, “The world has enough to meet everyone’s need, but not everyone’s greed.”





Thank You