

# The Palgrave Handbook of Agricultural and Rural Development in Africa

“I would like to congratulate Evans Osabuohien for bringing together so many scholars, especially Africans within the continent and in the Diaspora, to share their insights on relevant issues that matter for the transformation of Africa’s agriculture. This transformation is truly a critical facet of Africa’s general economic development prospects.”

—Jann Lay, *Professor, German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA), Hamburg & University of Goettingen, Goettingen, Germany*

“This is a remarkable book that highlights important and timely agricultural issues affecting Africa’s rural poor. In addition to increasing the knowledge base, providing policy-relevant ‘food for thought’ and pushing forward development efforts, *The Palgrave Handbook of Agricultural and Rural Development in Africa* serves as a solid reference point for future scholars, researchers and policy makers interested in informing and executing disruptive innovations in rural spaces on the African continent.”

—Uche Ekhatom-Mobayode, *Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Pittsburgh at Bradford, USA*

“An exceptionally rich and comprehensive volume that provides an in-depth view of issues relating to agricultural and rural development in Africa and addresses pertinent policy questions. This is an important book, examining agricultural transformation from different perspectives across different countries on the continent to raise arising concerns, discuss impacts and provide helpful policies and recommendations. Astonishing scholarship, I hope this volume become a standard in the literature on development economics on Africa.”

—Samuel Amponsah, *President of the African Finance and Economic Association (AFEA), Institute for International Strategy, Tokyo International University, Japan*

“Unlike the previous publications on the subject, this book brings together the work of people who are concerned and knowledgeable about the dynamics of rural development and the channels through which transformation in agricultural land investments, production, processing, and other value chain activities boost productivity, income and employment for people living and working in rural areas in many African countries. By focusing on agricultural and rural development in Africa, this book has given the plights of poor farmers the special attention and efforts they deserve. Ultimately, the future success of initiatives to alleviate poverty, create employment and increase the livelihood of households in Africa is in the hands of Africans themselves and the competencies of its training institutes and research organizations. It provides a platform for African researchers to showcase their proficiencies in producing high quality research with robust and more widely applicable results.”

—Jacinta Nwachukwu, *Professor, Lancashire School of Business and Enterprise, University of Central Lancashire, UK*

“This book, which looks at agricultural and rural development in Africa, is timely and dovetails very well with the current African and international development agenda with respect to African Union Agenda 2063 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Furthermore, the theme of the book is perfectly aligned with the African

Development Bank's High-5 on *Feed Africa* as well as the 2003 Maputo and 2014 Malabo declarations on the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP). The book provides rich background information for policy makers, development partners, students, and researchers. Undeniably, there is something in the book for every person, especially those who have a great interest in agricultural research and rural development."

—Adeleke O. Salami, *Principal Macroeconomist, African Development Bank Group Abidjan, Cote D' Ivoire*

"*The Palgrave Handbook on Agricultural and Rural Development in Africa* addresses relevant and crucial development issues as they pertain to the agriculture sector in African countries. It takes a holistic approach and presents these issues from multidisciplinary and cross-country perspectives. It is with no doubt that this handbook is very timely, insightful and appeals to anyone interested in the development of the agricultural sector and rural economy in Africa and other developing regions."

—Evelyn F. Wamboye, *Associate Professor, Pennsylvania State University, DuBois, USA*

"During the last decades, agricultural and rural development have experienced several 'ups and downs' with respect to the attention of academics, policy and development cooperation. The agricultural sector itself, and its main actors, seems to be too weak to 'hype' itself the attention it deserves. Therefore, it is highly welcome that a large group of overwhelmingly African scholars has tackled the subject in this volume and presents a broad spectrum of views on many of the topics that move the sector. I am optimistic that it will contribute a great deal in maintaining and sustaining the attention!"

—Michael Brüntrup, *Senior Research Fellow, German Development Institute, Bonn, Germany*

"The Agricultural sector is vital to Africa's prosperity and development. This sector employs more than half of the labor force but produces only 15% of GDP, with considerable cross-country variation, indicating that current performance remains below potential. *The Palgrave Handbook of Agricultural and Rural Development in Africa* contains technically rich and policy-relevant chapters that shed light on the performance and challenges of Africa's agriculture sector, particularly, youth employment, agricultural productivity, agricultural value chain, access to financial services, agricultural cooperatives and food security in Africa. Therefore, this book offers an excellent contribution for better understanding of the current state and prospects of Africa's agricultural transformation and generates valuable insights for improved agricultural policymaking on the continent."

—Ramu Govindasamy, *Professor and Chair, Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, USA*

"The 2019 progress report on the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa highlights a stark warning: unless serious action is taken by African countries now, most of the SDGs are unlikely to be met in Africa by 2030. It is known that the greatest development challenges in Africa are in the rural areas where about 60% of the population live and where agriculture is by far the main economic activity. It is against this background that the timeliness and importance of this book must be judged. The plea by the authors for agricultural and rural transformation for Africa's development rings loud and clear throughout the book; may it be heeded!"

—Goolam Mohamedbhai, *Former Secretary-General, Association of African Universities; Former President, International Association of Universities; Professor and Former Vice-Chancellor, University of Mauritius, Mauritius*

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Editor

The Palgrave Handbook  
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## FOREWORD BY DR. BADAR ALAM IQBAL

It gives me the immense pleasure and honour to write a foreword on the book entitled *The Palgrave Handbook of Agricultural and Rural Development in Africa*, edited by Prof. Evans S. Osabuohien.

Agriculture and rural development is the *sin-quo-non* for every developing economy across the world. Africa is no exception. The editor has chosen a very critical issue of the African continent. Across the developing countries especially in Africa, there is a low level of agricultural transformation along with rural growth and development. This is largely due to inappropriate linkages between agriculture and agro-industries, which are the essential “**spring boards**” for accelerating rural growth and development.

It is an undisputed fact that a country cannot attain economic emancipation unless and until its agricultural sector and rural economies are properly and adequately developed. This could be possible when the country selects and applies proper technology and other modern practices in these sectors. Thus, the major issues, namely poverty, creation of jobs, and low purchasing power, are closely related to agricultural and rural development.

As the editor has rightly opined in the introductory chapter, that transformation suggests the course of change of paradigm, which is a pivotal element of development. In this way, it could be said that transformation goes in tandem with development. Furthermore, rural transformation entails both agricultural and non-agricultural activities, which presupposes that agricultural transformation is subsumed in rural transformation. Therefore, agricultural transformation, agricultural development, rural transformation, and rural development are used to express closely related meaning by various authors in the book.

This book has well-thought and—documented five sections with twenty-six chapters covering the different segments of agriculture and rural development in Africa. Every section is dealing with the major issues within the section that the sectors are facing. The views of the authors are well

supported by the citations. The citations are up to date and well inserted at the appropriate places to enhance the academic value of the book.

I do agree with the observations of the editor that “to achieve the desired agricultural transformation and development in Africa, more concerted efforts are required in formulating and implementing policies that will make financial resources available to the agricultural sector; reducing employment bottlenecks; access to agricultural-friendly technologies; adherence to principles guiding land acquisitions, among others. The aforementioned are germane to ensure that the desired agricultural and rural development in Africa are not only sustainable but people-centred”.

It is true that the basic purpose and function of agriculture and rural development is to boost the purchasing power of the people and their respective quality of life. These are the essential facets for transformation of traditional economy into modern economy. This could be possible when the required amount of investment is made out in the major segments of the rural economy of the African continent. There is a correct saying that “**rural Africa is the real Africa**” and economic, social, and political emancipation cannot see the light of the day unless and until there is accelerating pace of growth and development in “**rural Africa.**” Thus, the main challenge is the choice of the technology and its application in the agriculture and rural sectors.

The book provides a critical and valuable insight into the structure and function of the agriculture and rural economy in the African region and countries. It is both intensive and extensive. The book is “**light and fruit bearing**” in nature and contents. I must congratulate the editor and all the contributors for providing such a study, which will serve the better cause of agricultural and rural development on the African continent. It will also serve as an eye “**opener**” for planners and policymakers on the continent, who may take into consideration the issues raised and solutions provided, especially in the context of finance, food security, and the land management system. There must be an integrated approach for meeting the rising challenges which the African continent, in general, and the rural economy, in particular, face and which the book unveils to the readers.



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## FOREWORD BY SIMPLICE ASONGU

It is a consensus both in scholarly and policy circles that after two decades of economic growth resurgence, many lives in Africa have not improved. It is apparent from the attendant literature that many countries in the continent did not achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) target of halving extreme poverty by 2015. In summary, over the past two decades, while extreme poverty has decreased substantially in other regions of the world, close to half of the countries in Africa were substantially off-track from achieving the MDG extreme poverty target. Post-2015 policy reports and scholarship are also consistent on the view that unless paradigm shifts are taken on board, it is very unlikely that most countries in Africa would achieve most Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets by 2030.

In the light of the above, *The Palgrave Handbook on Agricultural and Rural Development in Africa* is a timely scholarly contribution that provides critical insights into the *Main Issues and Imperatives* that are worth engaging by scholars and policymakers in order to steer Africa towards the achievement of the SDGs. Whereas almost all dimensions of the SDGs are engaged in the book, two specific SDGs merit emphasis. SDG2 (*end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture*) and SDG 8 (*promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all*), which are central elements of the book, clearly articulate the imperative of addressing the challenge of agriculture and food security in the light of growing concerns about job creation, especially among the rural population. The narratives in the book are not exclusively limited to the livelihoods pertaining to primary production. This is essentially because, insights into the non-farm economy and value chains are also provided to articulate the interdependence of agriculture with other sectors of the economy in order to maximize targeted inclusive benefits for society.

The lessons learned from the failed integrated rural development programs in the 1960s are taken into profound account. In essence, policy syndromes and *Main Issues* of the failed rural development dominant paradigms of donors in the immediate post-independence era as well as subsequent structural adjustment and sector-wide paradigms from international financial institutions are addressed in this timely book. Accordingly, policy measures and *Imperatives* proposed in this scholarship acknowledge past lessons surrounding donor-funded investments, which cannot be effective unless there are substantial policy environmental changes. Hence, inter alia, enhanced political will and institutional capacity are some imperatives for the suggested policy initiatives to be sustainably taken on board. The novel approaches to rural transformation and development covered in the book are built on proven and documented contemporary successes on what works for agricultural and rural development. These include: people-centred approaches that are tailored to finding local solutions pertaining to local opportunities and challenges; building a conducive environment for inclusive and responsible investment in the private sector; evidence-tailored solutions that are resilient, inclusive and sustainable; engaging investments and policy concerns with transparency and accountability and strong ownership by stakeholders at the national levels (especially civil society and farming organizations).

In summary, the new paradigms to rural development proposed herein considerably acknowledge the central role of the rural world which, contrary to assumptions pertaining to policy syndromes of failed paradigms, are very different and extremely diverse, complex, and dynamic from one country to another. Hence, the *Issues* raised and *Imperatives* documented in this book for agriculture and rural development carefully engage the fact that the connectedness between the modern economy and the rural population is changing dramatically and hence multifaceted and country-specific approaches are worthwhile.

A relevant common feature that is apparent among the authors of various chapters is that the analyzed findings are succinctly summarized in order to increase readability and accessibility on the part of scholars and policymakers who might need more technical knowhow to grasp the robust empirical analyses and corresponding policy suggestions. Therefore, the book is an easy-to-read and richly policy-relevant scholarship for both non-specialists and specialists.



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The editor wishes to most sincerely appreciate the helpful assistance provided by individuals and organizations, which made this research project become a reality right from the ideas formation, conceptualization, proposal stage, review to this beautiful scientific piece. The dedication of the contributing authors of the respective chapters as well as the reviewers is greatly acknowledged.

It is worthy of note that the concept of this research project concretized from my research activities as a Visiting Professor at Faculty of Management and Economics, Witten/Herdecke University (W/HU), Germany with funding from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH), Germany. Thus, I deeply appreciate the award from AvH for providing stipend for my stay and that of my family members in Germany, which enhanced my focus and concentration. The helpful assistance from my hosts at W/HU (Dr. Magdalene Silberberger and Prof. Joachim Zweynert) for creating compelling and serene ambience for productive research engagement is appreciated.

The provision of a good working environment by The German Development Institute during my short research stay in June 2019 after my Keynote Speech at the Jan Walliser Memorial Lecture, which facilitated the writing of the preliminary pages of the book, is equally acknowledged. Similarly, I appreciate Covenant University for granting me the permission to embark on research leave that enabled me to stay focused. My sincere appreciation also goes to my former hosts (Dr. Michael Bruentrup, German Development Institute, Bonn and Prof. Jann Lay, German Institute for Global and Area Studies-GIGA, Hamburg) who have remained veritable source of intellectual stimulation over the years.

The call for the book chapters had a wide coverage across the globe, which was facilitated by numerous networks that assisted in disseminating the information. These include: Dr. Kathleen G. Beegle (World Bank), United Nations Conference for Trade and Development Virtual Institute (UNCTAD Vi),

African Finance and Economic Association (AFEA) network, Council for the Development of Social Science in Africa (CODESRIA), Nigerian Economic Society (NES), African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), Young African Researchers in Agriculture (YARA), African Growth and Development Policy Modeling Consortium (AGRODEP), African Political Economy Association, African-German Network of Excellence in Science (AGNES), Swedish Institute, among others.

Furthermore, I remain grateful to faculty and staff of the Department of Economics and Development Studies, Centre for Economic Policy and Development Research (CEPDeR) as well as Regional Centre of Expertise, Ogun (RCE Ogun), Covenant University for valuable insights that helped the *incubation and hatching* of this laudable project. I wish to also acknowledge the inputs and suggestions received from participants and organizers (too numerous to itemize) at various seminars, conferences, and workshops across the world where the ideas, processes, and stages of the research project were discussed.

Finally, I am eternally grateful to the Most High God for the strength and wisdom as well as my family members for their unquantifiable supports that created healthy and fertile ground to nurture and sustain the ideas all through despite other issues contesting for my time and attention.

Ota, Nigeria  
2020

Evans S. Osabuohien Ph.D.

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