



## DETERMINANTS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY GROWTH IN SUB-SAHARA AFRICA: 1961-2003

### [DETERMINANTES DE LA PRODUCTIVIDAD AGRÍCOLA EN EL AFRICA SUBSAHARIANA: 1961-2003]

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#### SUMMARY

This study examined changes in agricultural productivity in Sub-Sahara Africa countries in the context of diverse institutional arrangements using Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA). From a time series which consists of information on agricultural production and means of production were obtained from FAO AGROSTAT and rainfall data from Steve O'Connell data base. The information was for a 43-year period (1961-2003); DEA method was used to measure Malmquist index of total factor productivity. A decomposition of TFP measures revealed that the observed increase in the TFP in the sub-Sahara Africa agriculture is due to technological change rather than efficiency change which is the main constrained of achieving higher level of TFP during the reference period. The study further examined the effect of land quality, malaria, education and selected governance indicators such as, control of corruption and government effectiveness on productivity growth. All the variables included in the model are significant with the exception of government effectiveness.

**Keywords:** Data Envelopment Analysis, Efficiency, Productivity, Sub-Saharan Africa

#### RESUMEN

El trabajo examinó los cambios en la productividad agrícola de países del África subsahariana en el contexto de diversos arreglos institucionales empleando una metodología de programación lineal (DEA). Se empleó series de tiempo de información agrícola y medios de producción obtenidos de FAO AGROSTAT y datos de precipitación pluvial de la base de datos de Steve O'Connell. La información obtenida comprendió un período de 43 años (1961-2003). El análisis DEA fue empleado para obtener el índice Malmquist de productividad (TFP). Al desagregar el TFP fue posible observar que el incremento en TFP en el África subsahariana es debido a cambio tecnológico más a que a un cambio en la eficiencia, la cual se volvió la principal limitante para obtener mayores TFP en el período de referencia. El estudio examinó también el efecto sobre el crecimiento de la productividad de la calidad de la tierra, malaria, educación y algunos indicadores gubernamentales como son; control de la corrupción, efectividad de gobierno. Todas las variables incluidas en el modelo fueron significativas con la excepción de la efectividad de gobierno.

**Palabras clave:** Eficiencia; productividad; Africa.

#### INTRODUCTION

Like many developing economies, agriculture is the dominant sector of the Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries for growth, poverty alleviation, contribution to GDP, employment and incomes. The growth and development of this crucial sector is essential for the overall process of socioeconomic development in the region. For agricultural sector to achieve these objectives, various governments and institutions have sought strategies that would lead to higher levels of production and a key factor for a sustained increase of agricultural production is improvement of

productivity, which is carried out through technological change and efficiency change. Hence, increasing agricultural productivity in Sub-Sahara Africa countries has received a wide spread attention in the literature e.g Fulginiti et al. (2004) on economic development and poverty alleviation. Since agricultural growth is linked to farm profit, there had been considerable research that examined the performance of this crucial sector in the region (e.g. Moock, 1973 and Lipton, 1988).

As observed by Nkamleu (2003), many African farmers are still using low yielding agricultural technologies, which lead to low productivity. Also, it

is always argued that, relevant question for agricultural policy makers, is whether the agricultural sector can be made more efficient, by achieving more output with the current input level, or achieving the current output with less input usage than is currently observed. An important step in answering this question is to identify the behavior of productivity and its components.

The concept of efficiency is at the core of economic theory. The theory of production economics is concerned with optimization and this implies efficiency. The crucial role of efficiency in increasing agricultural output has been widely recognized by researchers and policy makers alike. It is no surprise; therefore, that considerable effort has been devoted to the analysis of the farm level efficiency in developing countries. An underlying premise behind much of this work is that if farmers are not making efficient use of the existing technology, their efforts designed to improve efficiency would be more cost effective than introducing new technologies as a means of increasing agricultural outputs (Bravo-ureta and Everson, 1994). The issue of determining the pattern and the efficiency of resource use in traditional farming arises in the context of formulating development strategies designed not only to raise the productivity of resources already committed to the farming but also to ensure that the newly created resources in the agricultural development efforts are allocated to areas and for enterprises in which their productivities are higher (Awoyemi, *et al.*, 2003).

In order to collectively raise productivity, global and regional productivity growth in agriculture has been the focus of intense research in the past few decades. Economists (e.g. Block, 1995) have examined the sources of productivity growth over time and the productivity differences among countries and regions over this period. Productivity growth in the agricultural sector is considered important in the Sub-Saharan region of Africa if agricultural sector output is to improve at a rate equal to or greater than the population growth rate to meet the demand for food and raw materials. Also, productivity performance in the agricultural sector is critical to improvement in the economic well being of these countries. Unlike previous studies that have measured and compared intercountry agricultural productivity which have been motivated by a variety of issues including identifying the primary sources of productivity growth and comparing the structural and productivity differences among the countries. This study however goes further to examine the influence of selected governance indicator on productivity growth in SSA.

The main policy emphases were to upgrade production systems and increasing agricultural commercialization. The model was heavily dependent on transfers of high levels of development assistance and highly expensive,

it is therefore imperative to examine the growth witnessed in the sector after various reforms. Since output from agriculture can be broadly classified into two main groups: Crop and Livestock, the non-parametric DEA approach provides an attractive option. Therefore, this study used Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA) technique to calculate Malmquist TFP index numbers, hence, aims to provide understanding of agricultural productivity growth in sub-Sahara Africa.

This study addressed several questions such as: What is the status of agricultural productivity in SSA? Was the green revolution accompanied by declining productivity growth? Has SSA agricultural productivity declined sharply as perceived? Are there major differences in sub-regional productivity growth? And finally, what are the factors that determine the productivity growth? The broad objective of the study is to examine the performances of each country in Sub-Saharan African countries agricultural productivity.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

DEA is linear-programming methodology, which uses data on input and output quantities of a Decision Making Units (DMU) such as individual firms of a specific sectors to construct a piece-wise linear surface over data points. In this study, the countries were used as the DMU. The DEA method is closely related to Farrell's original approach (1957) and it is widely being regarded in the literature as an extension of that approach. This approach was initiated by Charnes *et al.*; (1978) and related work by Fare, Grosskopf and Lovell 1985). The frontier surface is constructed by the solution of a sequence of linear programming problems. The degree of technical inefficiency of each country, which represents the distance between the observed data point and the frontier, is produced as a by-product of the frontier construction method. The DEA method is a non-parametric approach in which the envelopment of decision-making units (DMU) can be estimated through linear programming methods to identify the "best practice" for each DMU. The efficient units are located on the frontier and the inefficient ones are enveloped by it.

DEA can either be input or output oriented depending on the objectives. The input-oriented method, defines the frontier by seeking the maximum possible proportional reduction in input usage while the output is held constant for each country. The output-oriented method seeks the maximum proportional increase in output production with input level held fixed. These two methods, that is, input-output oriented methods provide the same technical efficiency score when a constant return to scale (CRS) technology applies but are unequal when variable returns to scale (VRS) is

assumed (Coelli and Rao, 2001). In this study, the output-oriented method will be used by assuming that in agriculture, it is common to assume output maximization from a given sets of inputs. The interpretation of CRS assumption has attracted a lot of critical discussion e.g. Ray and Desli, 1997, Lovell, 2001, but also monotonicity and convexity are debatable e.g. Cherchye, *et al.*, 2000.

Fare *et al.*, (1994) used Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA) methods to estimate and decompose the Malmquist productivity index. Four linear programs (LPs) must be solved for each DMU in this study (Country) to obtain the distances defined in equation (iii) and they are:

$$(i) \quad [d_o^t(x_t, y_t)]^{-1} = \text{Max}_{\phi, \lambda} \phi, \\ \text{s.t} \quad -\phi y_{it} + Y_t \lambda \geq 0 \\ x_{i,t} - X_t \lambda \geq 0 \\ \lambda \geq 0$$

$$(ii) \quad [d_o^{t+1}(x_{t+1}, y_{t+1})]^{-1} = \text{Max}_{\phi, \lambda} \phi, \\ \text{st} \quad -\phi y_{i,t+1} + Y_{t+1} \lambda \geq 0 \\ x_{i,t+1} - X_{t+1} \lambda \geq 0 \\ \lambda \geq 0$$

$$(iii) \quad [d_o^t(x_{t+1}, y_{t+1})]^{-1} = \text{Max}_{\phi, \lambda} \phi, \\ -\phi y_{i,t+1} + Y_t \lambda \geq 0 \\ \text{st} \quad x_{i,t+1} - X_t \lambda \geq 0 \\ \lambda \geq 0$$

$$(iv) \quad [d_o^{t+1}(x_t, y_t)]^{-1} = \text{Max}_{\phi, \lambda} \phi, \\ \text{st} \quad -\phi y_{i,t} + Y_{t+1} \lambda \geq 0 \\ x_{i,t} - X_{t+1} \lambda \geq 0 \\ \lambda \geq 0$$

Where  $\lambda$  is a N X 1 vector of a constant and  $\phi$  is a scalar with  $\phi \geq 1$

Over time best practice are natural and to include frontier shifts, that is, technical change, the Malmquist productivity index is a well established measure.

**Malmquist productivity index**

The Malmquist productivity index, as proposed by Caves, Christensen and Diewert (1982), allows one to describe multi-input, multi-output production without involving explicit price data and behavioral assumptions. The Malmquist Productivity Index identifies Total Factor Productivity (TFP) growth with respect to two time periods through a quantitative ratio

of distance functions (Malmquist, 1953). Distance functions can be classified into input distance functions and output distance functions. Input distance functions look for a minimal proportional contraction of an input vector, given an output vector, while output distance functions look for maximal proportional expansion of an output vector, given an input vector. By using distance functions, the Malmquist Productivity Index can measure TFP growth without cost data, only with quantity data from multi-input and multi-output representations of technology. In this study, we use output distance functions. According to Hjalmarson and Veiderpass (1992), The Malmquist (quantity) index was originally introduced in a consumer theory context as a ratio between two deflation or proportional scaling factor deflating two quantity vectors onto the boundary of a utility possibility set. This deflation or distance function approach was later applied to the measurement of productivity in Caves, Christensen and Diewert (1992) in a general production function framework and in a non-parametric setting by Fare, Grosskopf, Lindgren and Roos (1992). The productivity change, that is TFP change (TFPCH) using technology of period  $t$  as reference is as follows:

$$M_o^t(x_t, y_t, x_{t+1}, y_{t+1}) = \left[ \frac{d_o^t(x_{t+1}, y_{t+1})}{d_o^t(x_t, y_t)} \right] \dots \dots \dots (v)$$

Similarly, we can measure Malmquist productivity index with period t+1 as references as follows:

$$M_o^{t+1}(x_t, y_t, x_{t+1}, y_{t+1}) = \left[ \frac{d_o^{t+1}(x_{t+1}, y_{t+1})}{d_o^{t+1}(x_t, y_t)} \right] \dots \dots \dots (vi)$$

in order to avoid choosing arbitrary period as reference, Fare *et al.*, (1994) specifies the Malmquist productivity index as the geometric mean of the above two indices

$$M_o(x_t, y_t, x_{t+1}, y_{t+1}) = \left[ \frac{d_o^t(x_{t+1}, y_{t+1})}{d_o^t(x_t, y_t)} \frac{d_o^{t+1}(x_{t+1}, y_{t+1})}{d_o^{t+1}(x_t, y_t)} \right]^{1/2} (vii)$$

equation (vi) can be decomposed into the following two components namely efficiency change index (EFFCH) which measures the catching up components measuring efficiency change in relation to the frontier at different time. The second component is the geometric average of both components and measures technical change (TECHCH) which measure the technology shift between period  $t$  and  $t+1$ . The first component in TECHCH measures the position of unit  $t+1$  with respect to the technologies in both periods. The second component also estimates this for unit  $t$ . If the TECHCH is greater (or less) than one, then technological progress (or regress) exists.

$$EFFCH = \frac{d_o^{t+1}(x_{t+1}, y_{t+1})}{d_o^t(x_t, y_t)} \dots \dots \dots (viii)$$

and

$$TECHCH = \left[ \frac{d_0^t(x_{t+1}, y_{t+1})}{d_0^{t+1}(x_{t+1}, y_{t+1})} \times \frac{d_o^t(x_t, y_t)}{d_o^{t+1}(x_t, y_t)} \right]^{1/2} \dots (ix)$$

**Data and Data Source**

The study was based on the data that were drawn from the FAO web site (AGROSTAT) and it covers a period of 43 years (1961-2003). The following are some of the main features of the data series that were used for the study. The data consists of information on agricultural production (Crop and Livestock index) and means of production such as total rural population and total agricultural area for each of the selected countries were drawn from FAO statistic database, while rainfall was obtained from Steve O’Connell’s website. To examined the determinants of TFP and impact of political economy on agricultural productivity, the study considered the following variables: Conflict (International Peace Research Institute, Oslo); corruption and government effectiveness (Governance Matter II); Land Quality (Peterson, 1987); Malaria and Education which was used as a proxy for quality of labor (Center of International Development, Harvard University).

**Measurement of Variable**

Output: Crop and Livestock index

- Input: (a) Total agricultural area (1000ha)
- (b) Total rural population (1000)
- (c) Rainfall (weighted)
- (d) Irrigation (1000ha)

The institutional quality index, that is, corruption and government effectiveness reflects the statistical compilation perception of the quality of governance. They are measured in units ranging from -2.5 to 2.5 with higher values indicate better governance outcomes (see Kaufman *et al*, 2001). For the purpose of this study, a threshold of positive value was used to allow for the use of a dummy variable (1, 0) for better governance or otherwise.

Since a significant amount of variation in TFP level may be explained by variations in the quality of land and since comparison of agricultural productivity among nations would not be meaningful unless differences in land quality is taken into account. Also for econometric purposes, the use of land variable unadjusted for quality could cause bias of estimates of coefficients. Land quality index of Peterson (1987) which is determined by the predicted value of agricultural land per acre in a country was divided by the average value of land per acre across all countries (see Peterson, 1987). Land quality index of Peterson (1987) is determined by the predicted value of

agricultural land per acre in a country divided by the average value of land per acre across all countries, which are 126 countries in Peterson’s study. The log of the value of agricultural land per acre is a weighted lines function of (a) non-irrigated crop land as a percent of all agricultural land (b) irrigated land as a percent of arable crop land, and (c) the log of the long-run average annual precipitation .

The effect of conflict was also examined and quantified as minor, intermediate and war depending on the number of deaths per year using a dummy variable. Minor armed conflict: at least 25 battle-related deaths per year and fewer than 1000 battle-related death during the course of conflict. Intermediate armed conflict: at least 25 battle-related deaths per year and an accumulated total of at least 1000 deaths. War: at least 1000 battle-related deaths per year.

The effect of malaria was also examined and calculated in equal-area cylindrical projection. (See Pampana, and Russell. 1955. *Malaria: A World Problem*)

Other variable included in the determinant model is life expectancy at birth and openness variable. Life expectancy at birth is measured in years. This is a broad indicator of the health of the population, which has been shown in earlier study to be a significant predictor of future economic growth. The openness variable measures the proportion of years within the interval 1965-1990 in which an economy is open to international trade by the criteria in Sachs and Warner (1995).

**Model specification for determinant of agricultural productivity growth**

The first two objectives were achieved, that is the technical efficiency and the TFP by solving equation (iv)-(vi) and for the last objective, that is, the determinants of productivity growth an Ordinary Least Square (OLS) estimation techniques was used to examined the effect of the above selected variables on agricultural productivity growth.

$$Y = f(X_i, e) \dots \dots \dots (x)$$

- Where Y is the TFPCH index, that is, Malmquist Productivity Index and; i = 1, 2, .....8
- X<sub>1</sub> represents conflict
- X<sub>2</sub> represents corruption
- X<sub>3</sub> represents land quality
- X<sub>4</sub> represents malaria
- X<sub>5</sub> represents education
- X<sub>6</sub> represents government effectiveness
- X<sub>7</sub> represents life expectancy at birth
- X<sub>8</sub> represents openness

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Fare *et al.* (1984) made known that the output distance function is the equivalent of the inverse of Farrell's measure of output efficiency. This study used malmquist index to measure the productivity growth of agricultural sector for thirty–six countries in sub–Saharan African countries between 1961-2003. The method used constructed the best – practice frontier in agricultural production for the sampled countries and later compared according to regions which sub-Sahara African countries was broken into, that is, (West Africa; Southern Africa; East Africa; Horn of Africa; Central Africa; and Indian Ocean). Malmquist productivity indexes as well as efficiency change and technological change components for each country in the sample were calculated. Since this index is based on discrete time, each country has an index for every pair of years.

Table 1a presents mean Malmquist Indices by country for the period of study while Table 1b shows annual means. Table 1b reveals that Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya and Djibouti as the four countries with the highest TFP growth. Burkina Faso has about 4.3% average growth in TFP; this is due to 8% growth in technical efficiency and 3.6% growth in technological change. Though, Kenya, Djibouti and Cote d'Ivoire equally have TFP growth of 3.9%, for Kenya and Cote d'Ivoire, technological change accounted for 3.2 and 3.4% while efficiency marginally changed by 0.07 and 0.05% respectively. For Djibouti, technical progress solely accounted for the TFP growth. The findings further revealed that Lesotho, Sierra – Leone and Swaziland had negative TFP growth of 0.16, 0.13 and 0.03% respectively. A decline of 1.8; 3.9 and 1.8% in the technical efficiency were responsible for the decline TFP.

Recall that the value greater than one implies increasing productivity and less than one productivity decrease from period  $t$  to period  $t + l$ . The mean values of TFP change ranged from 0.937 to 1.05; 0.985 to 1.098; 0.948 to 1.105; 0.937 to 1.089 and 0.937 to 1.075 for the whole period and sub–periods 1 to 4 respectively. The average TFP growth over the whole period was 1.8% per annum according to mean TFP change (TFPCH). The mean values for the 1st and 2nd sub–periods are 1.027 and 1.015 respectively. This implies that overall TFP growth is improving in the two periods and the highest TFP growth was observed in 1980 when TFP change is 10.5%. This is most likely due to various reforms, programs and policies adopted by countries in sub–Sahara.

Table 1a. Malmquist index summary of country means

Country	Effch	Techch	Tfpch
Angola	0.999	1.019	1.018
Botswana	0.999	1.014	1.013
Burkina Faso	1.008	1.036	1.043
Burundi	0.984	1.031	1.015
Cameroon	0.990	1.030	1.020
Cape Verde	1.000	1.024	1.024
Chad	0.999	1.020	1.019
Côte d'Ivoire	1.005	1.034	1.039
Djibouti	1.000	1.039	1.039
Gabon	0.995	1.040	1.035
Gambia	1.000	1.002	1.001
Ghana	0.992	1.029	1.021
Guinea	0.988	1.035	1.022
Guinea Bissau	0.988	1.027	1.015
Kenya	1.007	1.032	1.039
Lesotho	0.982	1.002	0.984
Madagascar	0.983	1.034	1.016
Malawi	0.994	1.027	1.020
Mali	1.003	1.023	1.027
Mauritania	1.000	1.013	1.013
Mauritius	0.997	1.008	1.005
Mozambique	0.989	1.025	1.014
Namibia	0.996	1.016	1.011
Niger	1.006	1.011	1.017
Nigeria	1.004	1.027	1.031
Rwanda	0.998	1.022	1.020
Sao Tome	1.000	1.007	1.007
Senegal	0.985	1.028	1.012
Sierra Leone	0.961	1.027	0.987
Sudan	1.004	1.025	1.029
Swaziland	0.982	1.016	0.997
Tanzania	1.003	1.026	1.029
Togo	0.985	1.015	1.000
Uganda	0.981	1.022	1.003
Zambia	0.998	1.024	1.023
Zimbabwe	0.990	1.034	1.024
Mean	0.994	1.023	1.017

It is important to examine the main cause of improved productivity. The level of TFP of the agricultural sector can be improved either by change in technical efficiency or a shift in production frontier (technological change). Table 2 shows the comparison between technical efficiency change and technological change for the regions considered in the study.

Table 1b. Malmquist index summary of annual means

Year	Effch	Techch	Tfpch
1962	0.996	1.025	1.021
1963	1.062	0.956	1.016
1964	0.942	1.156	1.089
1965	0.944	1.043	0.985
1966	1.087	0.907	0.986
1967	1.062	0.935	0.993
1968	0.872	1.223	1.067
1969	1.060	0.941	0.997
1970	1.066	1.030	1.098
1971	1.007	1.006	1.013
1972	0.952	1.066	1.015
1973	1.116	0.911	1.017
1974	0.995	0.952	0.948
1975	1.077	0.966	1.041
1976	0.935	1.104	1.033
1977	0.996	1.041	1.037
1978	1.050	0.909	0.954
1979	0.845	1.190	1.005
1980	0.695	1.591	1.105
1981	1.217	0.821	0.999
1982	1.057	0.988	1.044
1983	1.187	0.905	1.074
1984	0.622	1.518	0.944
1985	1.332	0.746	0.994
1986	0.988	1.059	1.046
1987	0.865	1.209	1.046
1988	0.890	1.053	0.937
1989	1.114	0.896	0.998
1990	1.026	1.061	1.089
1991	1.091	0.917	1.001
1992	1.207	0.891	1.075
1993	0.936	1.002	0.937
1994	1.010	0.983	0.992
1995	1.078	0.924	0.996
1996	0.829	1.268	1.051
1997	1.053	0.956	1.006
1998	0.878	1.172	1.029
1999	0.882	1.099	0.968
2000	1.161	0.904	1.050
2001	0.997	1.027	1.024
2002	0.969	1.095	1.061
2003	0.994	0.997	0.992
Mean	0.994	1.023	1.017

Note that Effch (efficiency change); Techch (technological change); Tfpch (total factor productivity change)

Table 2. Comparison between technical efficiency change and technological change

Regions	EFFCH > TECHCH	TECHCH > EFFCH
Central Africa		**
Horn of Africa		**
Southern Africa	**	
East Africa		**
Indian Ocean Island		**
West Africa		**

\*\* Indicates Yes

Since efficiency change and technological change are the components measure of TFP, these two mean (efficiency change and technological change) values were then compared to know the source of TFP growth in the sample period. On the average the efficiency change decreases by 0.06% while the technological change increased on the average by 2.3%. This suggests that the observed increase in the TFP in the sub-Saharan Africa agriculture is due to technological change rather than efficiency change which is the main constrained of achieving higher level of TFP during the reference period. It was further observed from the table that the technological change was responsible for the TFP growth in the entire region. Horn of Africa which comprises Djibouti and Sudan is the only region with both efficiency and technological change growth. This region experienced a TFP growth of 3.4%, followed by East Africa (2.3%); Central Africa (1.94%) and West Africa (1.8%). These other regions though showed technological progress without any significant improvement in the relative deviation from their corresponding frontier over the reference period. This implies that for West Africa, the region deteriorates by 0.06% in catching up with the frontier. The regional discrepancies in technical progress are obviously higher than the efficiency improvement; hence, regional TFP growth is largely determined by the technical progress.

### Determinants of productivity growth

Understanding factors that influence growth within and across the countries can be used to formulate policies that will enhance productivity. Several factors have been identified in the literature as the most important sources of productivity change in agriculture: research and development, extension services, education, infrastructure and government programmes but ignores institutional quality. This study however examined the effect of land quality, malaria, education and selected governance indicators such as, control of corruption and government effectiveness on productivity growth.

Table 3: OLS showing effects selected variables on TFP

Variable	Coefficient	t-ratio
Constant	1.054	97.35
Conflict	-3.3E-03**	-1.66
Corruption	-8.4E-03*	-2.50
Land quality	-1.74E-04*	-2.22
Malaria	-1.49E-02*	-2.30
Education	-4.91E-03*	-2.29
Government effectiveness	-9.74E-04	-0.29
Life expectancy at birth	3.85E-04	1.97
openness	6.71E-05	.44

R-square = 0.49

F = 2.28

\* and \*\* indicates significance at 5 and 10 % probability level

Statistical results provided by table 3 show that statistically, the model performed fairly well, with an R-squared of 0.49 suggesting we are capable of explaining close to half the variation in TFP and F of 2.28 suggests the overall significance of all the explanatory variables. All the variables included in the model are highly significant at 5 % probability level with the exception of government effectiveness, and trade openness, conflicts is however, significant at the 10 % level. They equally performed well in terms of expected relationship with TFP except education and land quality index which unexpectedly had an inverse relationship with TFP. Improper operation and agricultural practice coupled with the fact that there is an extensive grazing, low rainfall, small share of land in crops and small share of cropland that is irrigated might probably responsible for land quality index not transformed into productivity growth. The inverse relationship of education with the TFP suggests that agricultural sector is still unimproved and that a large majority of rural dwellers in SSA are yet to have access to basic education though exposed to informal agricultural training. To summarize the findings from the analysis, corruption, land quality, malaria and education have the highest level of significance (5 %) and malaria have the expected signs and are highly significant. These factors are highly prevalent in SSA especially in the 1980s and 1990s. Malaria prevalence is still very high and is responsible for over 50 percent of the child mortality which invariably have effect on the availability of family labor. Corruption is still very rampant as many SSA countries ranked high as compared to other continents. Likewise, the continent has been ridden with various forms of conflict. Life expectancy at birth is positively related to the productivity growth. This is expected because as the SSA country life expectancy improves through improvement in public health delivery and eradication

of diseases which will in turn have effect on productivity.

## CONCLUSIONS

This study presents some important findings on level and trends in SSA agricultural productivity and further examined the political economics of agricultural productivity in SSA between 1961 and 2003. The findings revealed that the TFP growth was observed for all the countries except Madagascar, Cote d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone and the sources of the growth was found to be technological progress rather than efficiency change. In terms of sub-region, the horn of Africa which comprises Djibouti and Sudan is the only region with both efficiency and technological change growth and has a positive annual productivity change of about 0.08% given the technology.

The effect of land quality, malaria, education and selected governance indicators such as, control of corruption and government effectiveness on productivity growth was examined. It was observed that all variables included in the model have significant impact on the TFP except government effectiveness and openness. If corruption, conflict and malaria incidence are properly addressed, the negative impact they have on growth would probably have been eliminated.

Given the fact that agriculture is a very important sector in SSA, the findings from this study revealed that activities of rural development has not really transformed into effective action, hence, policy implication of these findings are significant in that SSA and foreign aid agencies should channel their resources in such a way that an average rural dwellers will have access to unfettered and quality education to improve the existing man power and capacity building. Corruption should be tackled effectively especially as it regards money laundering by top government officials and genuine efforts should be taken in reducing or eradicating conflicts in the region.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to express my deep appreciation to AERC for the financial support to carry out this research and also grateful to the resource persons and Prof. Ann Veiderpass for various comments and suggestions that have helped the evolution of this study from its very beginning to this stage.

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*Submitted March 22, 2010 – Accepted November 30, 2010  
Revised received August 18, 2011*