## **Agricultural Growth is Typically Pro-Poor**

# Agricultural development directs the benefits of economic growth to the poor.

- 75% of world's poor live in rural areas
- Developing countries will remain predominantly rural until 2020
- The majority of poor will live rurally until 2040
- 86% of rural dwellers rely on agriculture for their livelihood
- 81% of worldwide poverty reduction from 1993-2002 can be attributed to improved conditions in rural areas
- 2.3 billion people worldwide live in households involved in agriculture

### **Location of World's Poor**



### **Rural Livelihood**



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## **Agriculture as an Engine for Growth**

#### In Sub-Saharan Africa, agriculture accounted for one-third of GDP growth from 1993-2005

- 82% of people in rural Sub-Saharan Africa live in countries with agriculture-based economies
- Relatively resource-rich, skills-poor countries have a competitive advantage in agriculture
- In agriculture-based economies, growth in agriculture benefits the entire economy

### Labor in Sub-Saharan Africa



# Gross domestic product ratios in Sub-Saharan Africa



## Agricultural Development Tends to Benefit the Poor More Than the Rich

- Agricultural growth is two to four times more effective in increasing expenditures for the poor than nonagricultural growth
- Agricultural growth is nearly three times more effective than nonagricultural growth in reducing the number living on \$1 a day in the poorest countries

#### Agriculture growth has a larger impact on household expenditures of the poor than non agricultural growth.



Expenditure gains from 1% GDP growth in each sector

Household Expenditure Levels

### **The Green Revolution**

Progress is possible.

From the 1960s to the 1980s, improvements in agricultural productivity in Asia and Latin America helped:

- Double food production
- Reduce poverty rates
- Save hundreds of millions of lives
- Lay a foundation for economic growth in countries like India and China



Nearly 20% reduction in poverty in just two decades.

### Urban and rural poverty in India

### Policy can Undermine Agriculture's Impact

- The share of public spending on agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa is relatively low
- Agriculture spending by donors has sharply decreased in the last 20 years
- Macro and trade policy has until recently undermined agricultural growth in many countries
- Where agriculture has been overlooked by both governments and donors, as in much of Africa, agricultural yields have lagged behind other regions

