



Malawi

Impacts of the Green Revolution

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Malawi and the Green Revolution History

1950-1980: Adequate rain, no serious shortages

- 1949: First famine since 1926
- 1953: Riots and protests bring an end to “thangata” (sharecropping)
- 1964: Malawi gained independence from Great Britain
- 1980: Decrease in rainfall

Malawi and the Green Revolution History Cont.

1980-present: Food shortages and Green Revolution programs

- 1992: Famine occurs, but information is suppressed by the government
- 1994: President-for-life Hastings Banda removed from office
- 2000: First drought-tolerant maize seeds planted in Malawi
- 2005: Massive drought leads to farm subsidy programs
- 2006: Malawi produces enough maize for national requirements
- 2007: Malawi exports maize
- 2011: Reduced rainfall, gov't draws on reserves

Benefits

- Seed and fertilizer subsidies - from drought-stricken to net exporter of maize
- Less dependence on external food aid
- Legume seeds used to improve soil
- National production/economic increase



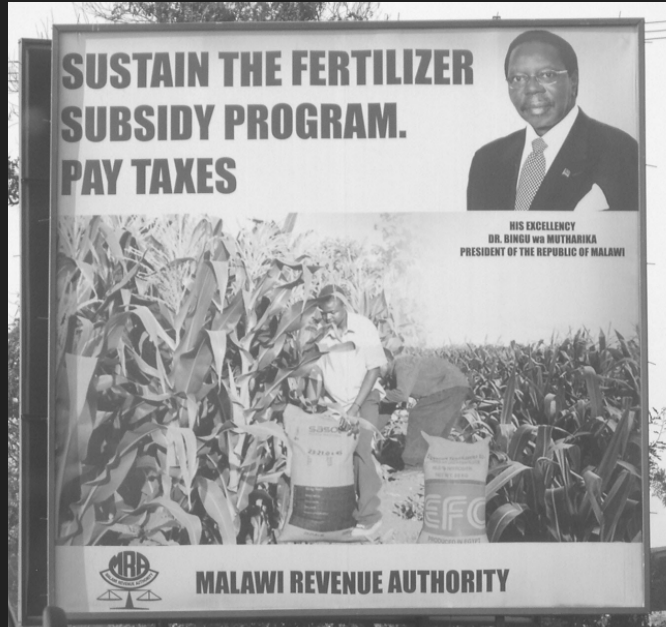
Malawi still Hungry, Negatives of Green Revolution

- Superficial data
- Does not target all farm owners
- Negative ecological effects
- Not sustainable environmentally
- Farmers in debt
- Widens the gap of the rich and the poor
- Ignoring the local regions
- Overspending
 - Misallocating spending



<http://graphics8.nytimes.com/images/2011/06/06/business/malawi/malawi-blog480.jpg>

Lessons for the Future



- Malawi's agricultural experiment is still a work in progress
- Governments must actively invests in their people (subsidies, maize reserves, etc)
- National success \neq people eating at the domestic level
- Positive agricultural development requires diversified social investments
- Greater long-term harms of deforestation

Resources

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