

Feeding the World: the role of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Prabhu Pingali
Deputy Director
Agriculture Development

BILL & MELINDA
GATES *foundation*

Our Core Belief

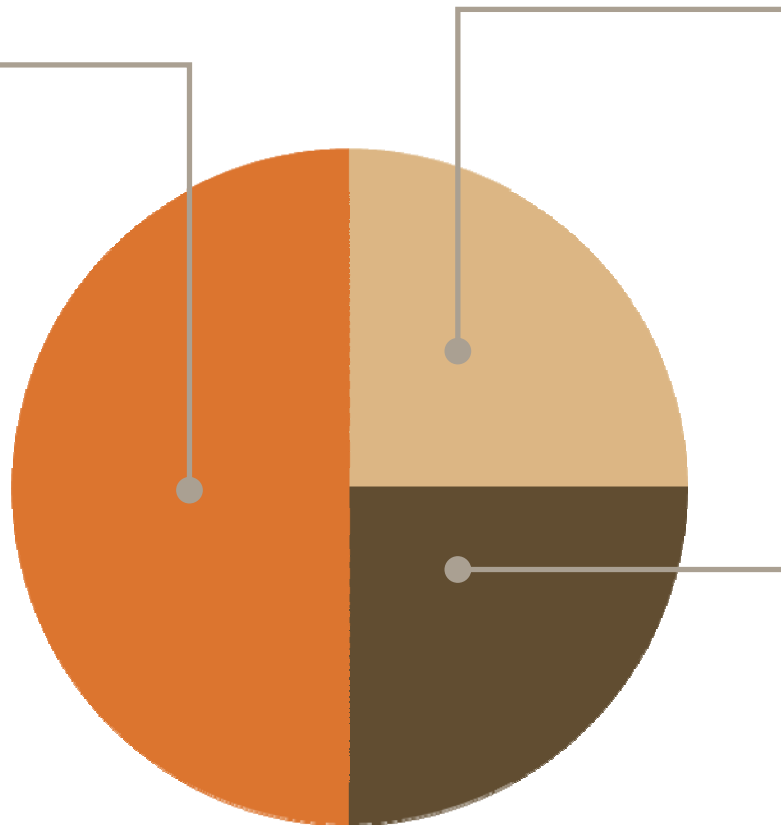
All lives have equal value



Our Grantmaking Areas

50%
Global Health
Program

Discover, develop,
and deliver life saving
health solutions to
people that need
them most



25%
Global Development
Program

Increasing opportunities for
people in developing
countries to lift themselves
out of hunger and poverty

25%
United States
Program

Greater opportunity for all
Americans through the
attainment of secondary and
postsecondary education

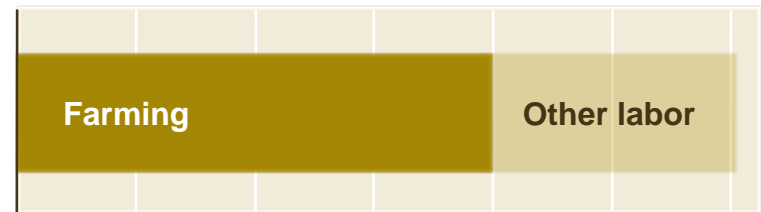
\$2.8 billion in grants in 2008; ~\$20 billion since inception

Why Agricultural Development?

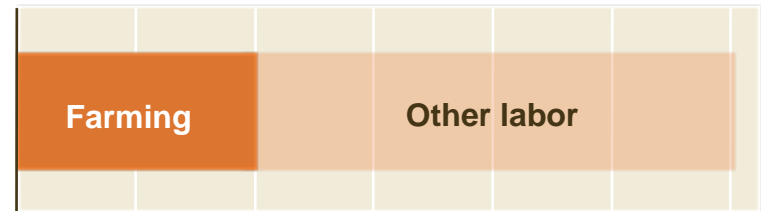
Agriculture is key to reducing hunger and poverty

- Most people living on \$1 a day rely on agriculture for food and income
- In Sub-Saharan Africa, farming accounts for 2/3 of employment and 1/3 of GDP
- In South Asia, the rural poverty rate is still approximately 40%

Employment in Sub-Saharan Africa



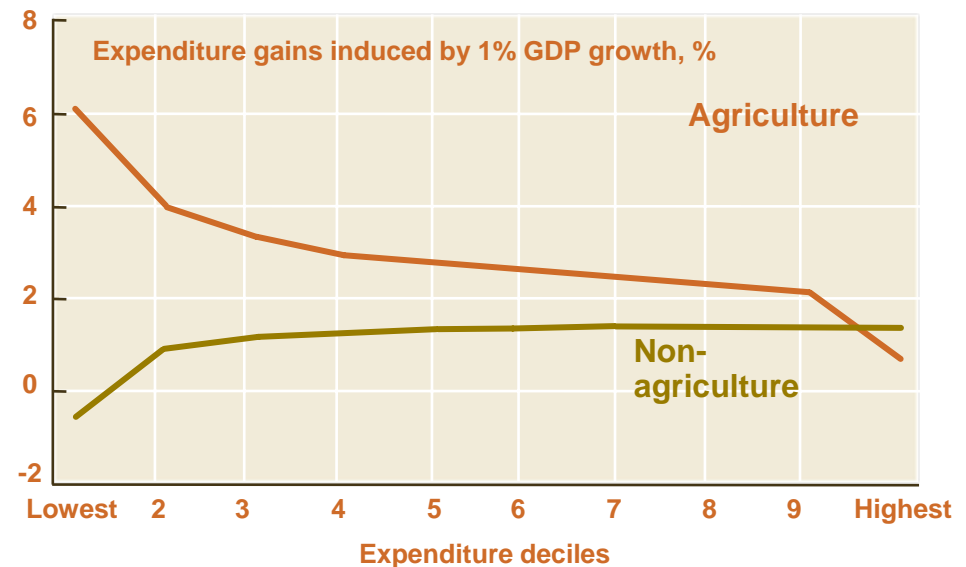
GDP in Sub-Saharan Africa



The Transformative Power of Agriculture

- Agriculture growth is 2–4 times more effective for the poor than non-agricultural growth
- Almost no country has managed a rapid rise out of hunger and poverty without increasing its agricultural productivity
- Reducing hunger and poverty on a large scale starts with improving agricultural development

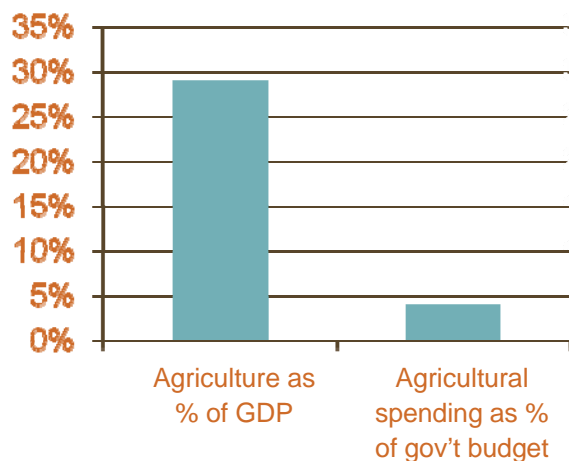
For the poor, agriculture has special poverty-reducing benefits.



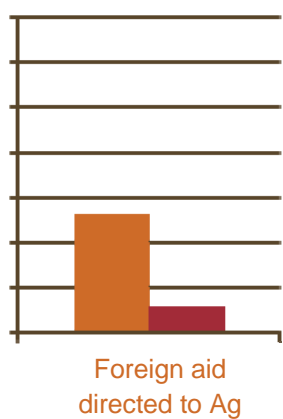
Agriculture's Impact Ignored

Despite its importance, agriculture has been neglected over the last several decades by both developing and donor countries—especially in Sub-Saharan Africa

Sub-Saharan African Gov'ts

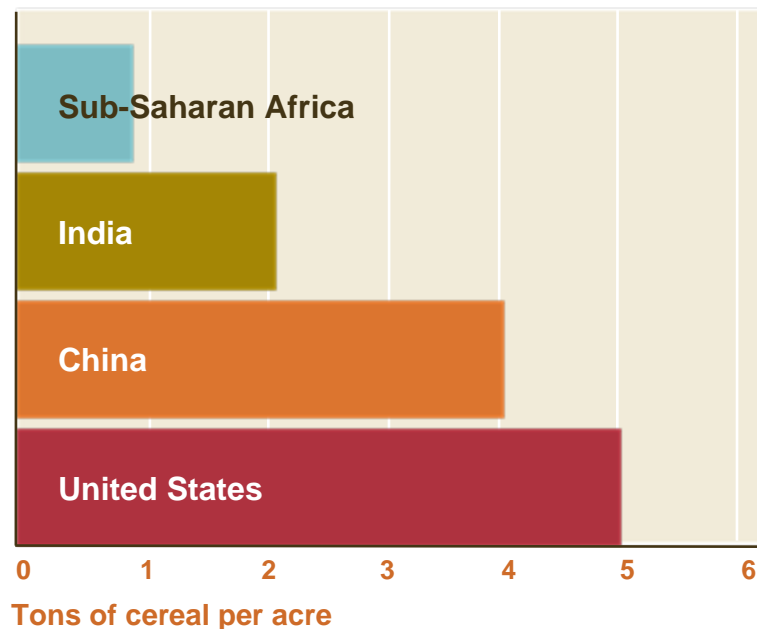


Donors



1985 2006

Average yield for a farmer in:



Our Agricultural Vision

Agricultural development is a powerful, sustainable answer to hunger and poverty.

Our goal is to provide hundreds of millions of small farmers with tools and opportunities to boost their yields, increase their incomes, and build better lives.



Our Approach

Our work is guided by a few core principles:

- **Put small farmers—most of whom are women—at the center of our efforts**
- **Focus on areas of greatest need**
- **Focus relentlessly on results**
- **Build strong partnerships**
- **Work across the full agricultural value chain**

Build Strong Partnerships

We're inspired by the work of others, and know we can't succeed on our own. We work with a wide range of partners:

- From public, private and nonprofit sectors
- From developing and developed countries

Our largest partner is the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), an African-led organization working to revitalize agriculture on the continent. Other partners include:



Support the Full Range of Farmers' Needs

We know there's no single, simple solution. We take a comprehensive approach, from seed to sale.

1. Science & Technology

2. Farmer Productivity

3. Market Access

- Research and development on crop improvement issues

- Quality seeds
- Irrigation
- Fertilizer
- Education and training

- Access to information
- Access to new and existing markets
- Structured demand



4. Policy & Statistics

- Data and statistics
- Research and analysis
- Advocacy and policy change
- Learning and improvement

A Drop in the Bucket

**Our resources, while significant, pale in comparison to the need.
Partnerships and advocacy are critical to success.**

**Global agricultural spending
for sub-Saharan Africa:**

~\$9B*

**Our agricultural grantmaking
commitments in 2008:**

\$445M

**~5% of total Ag spending in
SSA**

* Latest figures available are 2006.