Why Agriculture?

75% of world’s the poor live in rural areas and the majority depend on agriculture for their livelihoods.

Agricultural growth builds self sufficiency for individuals and communities.

Agricultural productivity growth is the most direct and efficient lever to reduce rural poverty.
Who Are Smallholder Farmers?

- Most are women
- Most live on less than $1 per day
- Most farm plots less than one hectare (~two football fields)
- Most grow a diversity of crops and raise livestock
Differing systems

Average U.S. farmer

- Tens or hundreds of acres of land
- Tractors, GPS, precision equipment
- Readily available seeds, fertilizer, irrigation, and information
- Access to global markets
- Public safety nets

African small farmer

- A few acres of land
- Limited access to mechanization
- Reuse old seeds, limited fertilizers, rainfall only, scarce information
- Lack of access to markets
- If production fails, no safety net
Context

Important lessons from the Green Revolution

Agriculture spending = 16% of Official Development Assistance

Launch of our Agricultural Development strategy

Food price crisis renewed global interest in Ag

Introduction of our new strategy honed on key crops, livestock, and regions where most poor farmers live.
Our Goal

Enable millions of poor farming families in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia to reduce hunger and poverty through **sustainable productivity growth**.
Our Contribution

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is the 2nd-3rd largest donor of grant or concessional financing to SSA agriculture.¹

We’re on par with the U.S., France, the EU, African Development Bank and IFAD.

¹. Excluding debt relief, emergency and food aid.
Our Role

- Comparative advantage
- Voice, people, resources
- Partnership
Our Strategy: A Two-Pronged Approach

1. Continental Investments
   Investments in public goods to increase productivity

2. Focused Geography Investment
   …paired with targeted country level delivery systems and policies to realize productivity goals

Global public goods with highest potential to impact productivity in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia

Deeper engagement in the regions of Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia where most farmers live will help increase productivity, creating a ripple effect of self sufficiency across communities
How we’re organized

**Staple value chains**

- **Identify unmet demand and priority opportunities** (e.g. characterize consumer demand)
- **Research & develop new technologies** (e.g. drought tolerant maize, flood resistant rice)
- **Support local adaptation** (e.g. build capacity of NARS, conduct agronomic research)
- **Improve policy enabling environment** (e.g. seed certification policies, national biotechnology regulations)
- **Strengthen input delivery systems** (e.g. agro-dealer network strengthening)
- **Support knowledge exchange with and between farmers** (e.g. mobile based extension platforms)
- **Strengthen post-harvest systems and ensure stable output markets** (e.g. post-harvest value capture)

**Livestock value chains**

- Undertaken by Agricultural Policies

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**R&D** *(Global)*

**Agricultural Policies** *(Regional/local)*

**Access and Market Systems** *(Local)*

Specific activities to be defined at country-level
# Priorities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority products (staple crops)</th>
<th>Sub-Saharan Africa</th>
<th>South Asia</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maize</td>
<td></td>
<td>1. Rice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cassava</td>
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<td>2. Wheat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
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<td>3. Maize</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sorghum</td>
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<td>4. Beans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Millet</td>
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<td>5. Chick peas</td>
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<td>Yams</td>
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<td>Sweet potatoes</td>
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<td>Cow peas</td>
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<td>Groundnuts</td>
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<td>Beans</td>
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## Priority products (livestock)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-Saharan Africa</th>
<th>South Asia</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Cattle</td>
<td>1. Dairy</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Goats</td>
<td>2. Chicken</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Chickens</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Pigs</td>
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Thank You