

Social and Environmental Trade-Offs in African Agriculture

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Briefing

[Understanding the winners and losers of agricultural expansion in Ghana](#)

Nugun P Jellason, Joanne E Davies, Barbara Adolph, Dora Neina

Ghana's population is forecast to double by 2050, resulting in an increased need for food provision. Much of this will be achieved through agricultural expansion. But what are the impacts? Who benefits or loses – and why? How will agricultural expansion ultimately affect food security?

This [policy brief](#) examines the impact of agricultural expansion based on the perceptions of different types of farmer based in the Western and Upper West regions of Ghana.



Workshop reports

[Scenarios of agricultural development in Ethiopia and Ghana](#)

In 2018, a series of participatory scenario development workshops were held as part of the Sentinel project to produce scenarios of agricultural development, looking ahead to 2050. Participants discussed possible threats and opportunities that agricultural development in [Ethiopia](#) and [Ghana](#) could face, considering current policies and environmental and social aspects. This exercise aimed to help refine the Sentinel project's research questions and provide insights to policy makers about how well their plans work, what needs changing and provide recommendations for improvement.



Briefing

[Unpicking the socioecological drivers and impacts of agricultural expansion in Ethiopia](#)

Tagel Gebrehiwot, Hailemariam Teklewold, Adam Devenish, Nugun P Jellason, Adrienne Martin, Robel Seifemichael, Barbara Adolph

In Ethiopia, a rapidly growing population, widespread poverty, unemployment, low agricultural productivity and a lack of alternative income sources mean that rural people often expand agricultural land into forested areas, leading to loss of ecosystem services. There is an urgent need for policymakers to strike a balance between increasing food production to meet rising food demand and reduce poverty while meeting conservation objectives. This includes addressing low agricultural productivity and increasing support for research, technological development, extension services and capacity building. This policy brief is based on fieldwork findings from reconnaissance surveys in Ethiopia conducted in July 2019 as part of the Sentinel project. The surveys involved a rapid assessment of the socioeconomic and environmental impacts of agriculture across seven communities in Ethiopia.



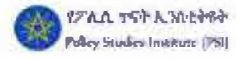
Blog

[Sentinel qualitative research commences in Ghana through online training](#)

Nugun P Jellason

In May 2021, the qualitative research to examine the Sentinel project’s key research questions kicked off across the three project countries of Ethiopia, Ghana and Zambia. However logistical delays put the research in Ghana on hold. On 19 July 2021, the Ghana training officially started online with a team of eight research consultants led by researchers from the University of Ghana’s Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER) to carry out work in two sites.

Sentinel is an interdisciplinary research project seeking to address the challenge of achieving 'zero hunger' in sub-Saharan Africa, while at the same time reducing inequalities and conserving ecosystems.



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