

Gender Summit 5 Africa Theme

**Poverty alleviation and economic empowerment
through scientific research & innovation: Better
Knowledge From and For Africa**

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What is Poverty?

- **Human poverty:** deprivation on both material and social levels such as lack of proper diet, clothing, shelter, employment, participation in social institutions and education (**UNDP/World Bank(2008)**).

❖ **Heads of states of 33 African countries ; target 2015 (MDG 1)**

Africa's Natural Wealth

Some facts

OIL - Africa holds 9% of the world's proven oil reserves but is believed to have significant undiscovered reserves. As a result, countries like China, which receives now about one third of its oil imports from Africa and the US which aims for 25%, are seeking to increase its oil imports from the continent.

Source: Council on Foreign Relations, 2008

GOLD - South Africa holds 40% of gold world's reserves and is the third world producer (2009) with about 9% of the global production. The country remains one of the world's primary precious metals producers.

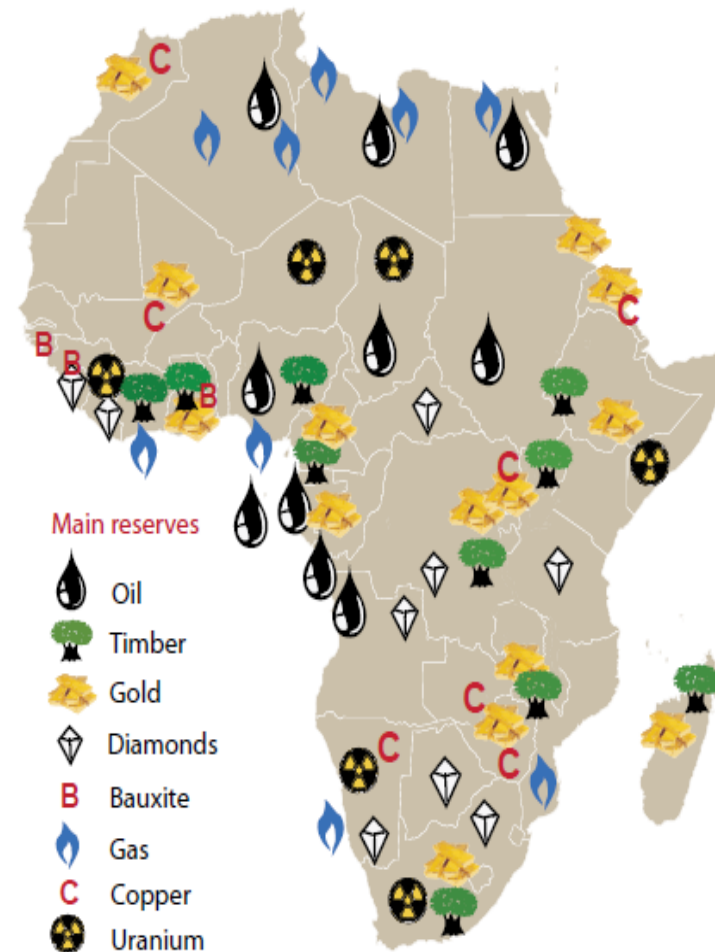
Source: Goldnews.bullionvault.com, 2010

DIAMONDS - Six out of the world's top ten diamond producer countries are in Africa and an estimated 65% of the world's diamonds come from the continent.

Source: Diamondfacts.org, 2010

GAS - Algeria is the eighth-largest natural gas reserves in the world and the second largest producer among OPEC countries. Energy exports are the backbone of the Algerian economy and domestic use of natural gas represents 60% of the total energy consumption.

Sources: BBC Country Profiles and Oil and Gas Journal, 2009



Data Source: APP, various sources

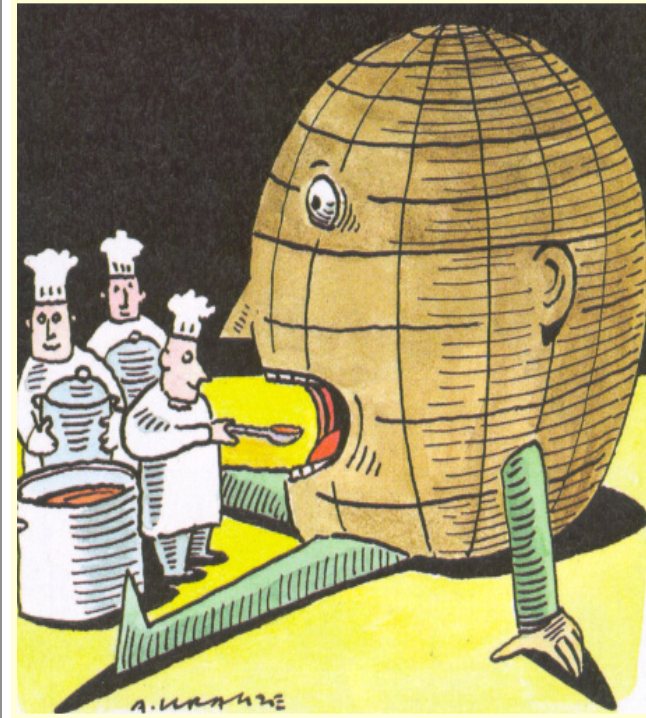
General causes of poverty in Africa

- **Unequal distribution of property rights – level the ground**
- **Undefined policies, Poor planning, implementation, M&E**
- **Population increase: World = 7 billion people; Africa 1 billion.**

Task for All

The world's population is growing at 200 people per minute and will reach 10 billion by 2083.

Big task is to produce double the amount of food in the next 50 years, than what we produced since the beginning of agriculture 10 000 years ago.



Source: New Scientist, 2006

Fundamental Questions to Answer

- **What Innovations are taking place to alleviate Poverty?**
- **What is the role of the state?**
- **What is the role of Gender Scholars? Scientists? Private sector? NGOs?**

Some Facts to consider

- **African women** are able to produce food and provide some employment through farming: 80% of farming in Africa is done by women and 60% of the world's poorest are women (ILO, 2008).
- Can increase yields on their farms by 20 to 30 per cent, lifting 100–150 million out of hunger;
- equal access to resources would raise total agricultural output in developing countries by 2,5 - 4 per cent, thereby contributing to both food security and economic growth;
- women constitute half of the agricultural labour force in least developed countries.
- countries with the highest levels of hunger also have very high levels of gender inequality (Malawi, Cameroon, Namibia, Rwanda and Zimbabwe) there are more than 120 women aged from 20 to 59 living in poor households for every 100 men.

UN Women, 2011. *Facts and figures on rural women.*

African Union declaration

- The African Union declared 2010-2020 as the “African Women’s Decade” with the theme of "a grassroots approach to gender equality and women's empowerment". A core focus is agriculture and food security, and the objectives set out are to increase women's access to land, farm inputs, credit and technology, while improving access to markets. AU member states have signed up to the programme's goals and are, they claim, to be driving the policies at home.

African Women and the African Economy

- The African Union has shown will power and commitment in ensuring the participation of women in the economy.
- The development of the AU Gender Policy as well as the adoption by African Heads of States of Article 4 (1) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union.
- Implementation of their own commitments to MDGs and in particular MDG 3 on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.
- The contribution, of African women to the economic activities is considerable, although much of it is informal and therefore not recorded.

Women and poverty alleviation in Africa

- 500+ African woman in agricultural research & good in knowledge transfer**
- are main collectors, users & managers of water.**
- work mostly in Agricultural sector (58.6% in NA).**
- play a lead role in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.**

Strengthening Africa's capacities

Empowering farmers: Food security

R&D Profile: STEM

Address gender imbalances in all sectors in Africa.

Training and Development: Full time and in-service training at all levels: research linked to development and production/value add/mkt.

Improve work environment and promote continuity in management (Gvt depts).

Make use of established institutes for expensive technologies (CGIAR).

Develop a number of economic dev strategies (infrastructure/financial incentives).

What can we say?

- We can do a better job
- New resources are required
- But new directions are possible – even within the constraints
- Data is not strategy...strategy is getting beyond the data to solutions
- Government can't do everything

Source: DST 2002

Thank you