



2022 Annual Research and Policy Conference: Agricultural Transformation and Food Security in Sudan

October 10, 2022

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On Monday, October 10th, 2022, the Sudan Strategy Support Program (Sudan SSP) held the inaugural full-day Research and Policy Conference dubbed [“Agricultural Transformation and Food Security in Sudan”](#) at the Corinthia Hotel in Khartoum, Sudan. This event was organized in partnership with local and international organizations working on the Food Security and Agricultural Transformation themes in Sudan. They include the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD), Mamoun Behairy Centre for Economic and Social Studies and Research in Africa (MBC), Sudanese Researcher Foundation (SRF) and the International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA). The conference brought together about 120 food security and nutrition experts from civil society, private sector, academia and international organizations and many other online participants who followed the proceedings on a livestream. The conference happened against a backdrop of the timely discussions on the risk of rising poverty and food insecurity to Sudanese people, the impacts of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, climate change, and global increase in fuel and commodity prices and the slow post COVID-19 recovery.

Besides showcasing Sudan SSP’s research, the conference was a platform for engagement between development stakeholders

The conference showcased some key research outputs and policy priorities emanating from the Sudan SSP work during the first year of implementation as well as from partner institutions and local researchers. Besides increasing the visibility of IFPRI’s work to the broader policy and development community, the

conference has also assisted in providing guidance to investment prioritization by development partners working on Sudan. Moreover, the conference has brought together representatives (including many youths and females) from initiatives led by civil society organizations (CSOs), private sector and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) involved in activities related to agriculture and food systems in Sudan and allowed them to engage with representatives from development partners and international institutions.

Opening remarks, opening presentations and discussion on identifying knowledge gaps related to food security in Sudan

At the very onset of the conference, high-level opening remarks by USAID Sudan's Mission Director [[video: Mervyn Farroe](#)], the Director General of AOAD [[video: Ibrahim El-Dukheri](#)], IFPRI's Development Strategy and Governance Division Director [[video: Paul Dorosh](#)], and The Sudanese Researcher Foundation spokesperson [[video: Arwa Yahya](#)] stressed the timely and significant need for collaboration to develop research and capacity building activities to spur agricultural transformation and foster food security in Sudan. After the high-level opening remarks, the memorandum of understanding between the IFPRI and AOAD was signed by Paul Dorosh, Director, Development Strategies and Governance Division, IFPRI and Ibrahim El-Dukheri, Director General, AOAD, representing the two institutions, respectively ([video](#)). The end of the opening session featured key informative and background presentations and a high panel level discussion focused on the Food Security in Sudan – the knowledge gaps and research priorities. The panel featured contributions from Abraham Abatneh [[video](#)], representing WFP, Elisabeth Rousset [[video](#)] representing the European Union, Murtada Kamal [[video](#)] representing the Union of Chambers of Agriculture and Animal Production and Mamoun Dawelbeit [[video](#)] representing CTC-Group.

The background presentations started by an overview of the research and capacity building priorities for the Sudan SSP [[Slides](#), [Video](#)]. The priority setting of Sudan SSP was developed through a collaborative approach during the launch of the Sudan SSP on [February 9th 2022](#). The session also highlighted challenges of the global food crises to food production and trade in developing countries [[presentation](#), [video](#)]. Additionally, the session provided an in-depth discussion on policies that would address food security challenges in developing countries [[presentation](#), [video](#)]. For the local context, two key presentations were made in this session – one on the architecture of the Sudanese agricultural sector [[presentation](#), [video](#)] and the other on the food security situation in Sudan [[presentation](#), [video](#)]. The opening session was moderated by Clemens Breisinger, Regional Program Leader, MENA and Senior Research Fellow, IFPRI.

Five sessions related to the research themes of Sudan SSP

Besides the opening session, the conference was organized into five other sessions: the state of food security and food security policies; the political economy of Sudan's agriculture & development domains; agricultural policies, investment planning and climate resilience; agricultural value chains and markets and closing panel that discussed some key take-away messages and the next steps for the Sudan SSP.

A Session on the State of Food Security and Food Security Policies

In the first non-opening session, three key presentations touching on the state of food security and food security policies were presented. They focused specifically on the status of food and security situations in the Arab World, with special focus on Sudan [[presentation](#), [video](#)], the food and nutrition security policies in Sudan [[presentation](#), [video](#)] and the evolving food security situation in Sudan [[video](#)]. After the

presentation of the key findings and the policy messages, a discussant (Asia Adlan of the Institute of Environmental Studies, University of Khartoum, [video](#)) summarized the three studies and provided comments and questions to the presenters. The moderator (Sarrah Kheir of Impact Hub in Khartoum) then facilitated a Questions and Answers (Q&A) session to further solicit inputs (questions and suggestions for further consideration) from the conference participants [video](#).

A Session on the Political Economy of Sudan's Agriculture & Development Domains

In the third session, the presented three presentations included the initial findings on the spatial characterization of Sudan development conditions (rural development domains) for Sudan [presentation, video](#), the initial analyses on the political economy of State-Owned Enterprises (SOES) in the agricultural sector in Sudan [video](#), and the mapping agricultural production and food supply in Khartoum State [presentation, video](#). Similarly, a discussant (Adam Yao, the deputy country representative of the Food and Agricultural Organization of United Nations, FAO) provided feedback to the presenters [video](#) and floor discussion of Q&A were conducted for this session. This session was moderated by Khalid Mohamed Ali of the European Chamber of Commerce in Sudan.

A Session on Agricultural Policies, Investment planning and Climate Resilience

The fourth session underscored the agricultural policies, investment planning and climate resilience research work in Sudan and in Ethiopia. Four studies are presented including studies on Sudan's Agri-Food System Diagnostic distinguishing primary from secondary agriculture [presentation, video](#), policies and investments for climate resilience in Sudan [presentation, video](#), the impact of Ethiopia's productive safety net program on poverty and food security [presentation, video](#), and the Blue Nile Cascade Dam Operation under the new norm of an operational Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) [presentation, video](#). This session was moderated by Walaa Faisal of AOAD, while feedbacks on the four presentation was presented by Mekki El Shibly of the Mamoun Behairy Centre for Economic and Social Studies and Research in Africa (MBC) [video](#).

A Session on Agricultural Value Chains and Markets

The fifth session was dedicated to studies touching on agricultural value chain development and markets in Sudan. Sudan SSP's partners from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the European Union (EU) presented some key findings from their work on agricultural value chain development strategy for Sudan [video](#), and the food security implications for smallholder farmers of the EU-funded Food Security Program [presentation, video](#), respectively. The third presentation of the session was a study of Sudan SSP's work on cereal (wheat and sorghum) market (dis)integration in Sudan [video](#). Likewise, feedback on the three presentations was provided by Babiker Jamel of Friend for Peace and Development Organization and the Q&A session concluded this session [video](#). The session was moderated by Azza Nuri of the DAL Group.

To conclude the day, a final panel made up of key experts in the area of food security and agricultural transformation provided the key take-away messages and suggestions for the next year of Sudan SSP. Important collaborative research and topics were presented.

The [event proceedings](#) and some of the completed [studies](#) are published on our website (sudan.ifpri.info).

LIST OF CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Overview of Sudan SSP – Research priority Agenda, Khalid Siddig [Slides](#), [Video](#)
- Global Food Crises and Challenges to Food Production and Trade in Developing Countries, Joseph Glauber [Slides](#), [Video](#)
- Global Food Crises: Policies to Address Food Security Challenges in Developing Countries, Paul Dorosh [Slides](#), [Video](#)
- The Architecture of The Sudanese Agricultural Sector, Alzaki Alhelo [Slides](#), [Video](#)
- Food Security Situation in Sudan, Nasreen Mohamed [Slides](#), [Video](#)
- Food and Security Situations in the Arab World, Salah Alawad [Slides](#), [Video](#)
- Food and Nutrition Security Policies in Sudan, Salah Abdelgadir [Slides](#), [Video](#)
- The Evolving Food Security Situation in Sudan, Shahinaz Abdelrahman [Video](#)
- Sudan's Development Domains, Oliver Kirui [Slides](#), [Video](#)
- Analyzing the Political Economy of State-Owned Enterprises (SOES) in the Agricultural Sector in Sudan, Brian d'Silva [Video](#)
- Mapping Agricultural Production and Food Supply in Khartoum State, Rashid Hassan [Slides](#), [Video](#)
- Sudan's Agri-Food System Diagnostic, Khalid Siddig [Slides](#), [Video](#)
- Policies and Investments for Climate Resilience, Nicostrato Perez [Slides](#), [Video](#)
- Impact of Ethiopia's productive safety net program on Poverty and food security, Alemayehu Taffesse [Slides](#), [Video](#)
- Blue Nile Cascade Dam Operation, Mohamed Basheer [Slides](#), [Video](#)
- Agricultural Value Chain Development in Sudan, Nadir Y. Hamdan [Video](#)
- The Smallholder Farmers & Food Security in Sudan: The EU Funded Sudan Food Security Program, Abdul Hamid Rhametalla [Slides](#), [Video](#)
- Cereal market (dis)integration in Sudan, Kibrom Abay [Video](#)

The Sudan Strategy Support Program (SSSP) is managed by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and is financially supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). This publication has been prepared as an output of the SSSP and has not been independently peer reviewed. Any opinions expressed here belong to the author(s) and are not necessarily representative of or endorsed by IFPRI.

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