DEBUNKING 6 MYTHS ABOUT THE FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

MYTH 1: "IMPORTS ARE CENTRAL TO NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY.

Correct: Imports account for only 10% of total food consumption in these 5 African countries. The rest is produced domestically.

Policy implications: Focus on keeping the "bones" of the food supply chain flowing within Africa instead of relying on imports.

IN A NUTSHELL:

The movement of inputs and outputs in the food supply chain is critical for national food security. Policies should focus on keeping the "bones" of the food supply chain flowing within Africa instead of relying on imports.

MYTH 2: "RURAL AREAS DOMINATE THE NATIONAL FOOD ECONOMY AND RURAL HOUSEHOLDS PURCHASE LITTLE FOOD."

Proper: In these 5 African countries, falls to their urban share in population (based on a study of Ethiopia, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda).

Policy implications: More focus on preserving informal small traders and food systems by busting policy myths.

IN A NUTSHELL:

This infrastructure is key for ensuring proper distribution of food and keeping informal small traders working. Policies should pay more attention to rural areas and their food systems.

MYTH 3: "SMALL FARMERS ARE STILL TRADITIONAL AND POORLY ENGAGED IN THE COMMERCIALIZED MARKET."

Proper: African farmers are selling significant amounts of their crops in the market, with 90% of SSA farmers classified as urban.

Policy implications: More focus on keeping the "bones" of the food supply chain flowing within Africa instead of relying on imports.

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MYTH 4: Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in food supply chains are stuck in a missing middle.

Proper: SMEs are a missing middle.

Policy implications: More focus on preserving informal small traders and food systems by busting policy myths.

IN A NUTSHELL:

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MYTH 5: Wholesale and retail services are not critical to food security.

Proper: Whole and retail services are critical to food security.

Policy implications: More focus on keeping the "bones" of the food supply chain flowing within Africa instead of relying on imports.

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MYTH 6: "POLICY MATTERS AND EVIDENCE MATTERS FOR FOOD SYSTEM DESIGN."

Proper: Policy and evidence matters for food system design.

Policy implications: More focus on keeping the "bones" of the food supply chain flowing within Africa instead of relying on imports.

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POLICY MATTERS AND EVIDENCE MATTERS FOR FOOD SYSTEM DESIGN

Food security is threatened by an uncoordinated way of keeping food flows. Developmental food systems need to be designed based on evidence and policies that are aligned with the needs of people in the community.

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