



Theme: *Creating a nexus between research and policy for sustainable management of Africa's natural resources*



UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY
UNU-INRA
Institute for Natural
Resources in Africa

DATE: 5th – 7th December, 2011

VENUE: Faculty of Law Auditorium, University of Ghana, Legon, Accra

Session 7

Green economy

Chair: Dr. Raymond Babanawo (National Coordinator
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Key Issues Discussed

The discussion was based on the paper titled **“The Political Economy of Green Growth in Southern Africa”** by Prof. F Tarp of UNU-WIDER

» In his paper, he stresses on:

> **need** for development

> Global economy facing a series of crises which **interact** in ways not yet fully understood (the triple crisis)

> growing recognition of the importance of **extreme events**

> recent experiences heightening **uncertainty**

» Mitigation policy: steps at the **global** level to reduce emissions of GHGs and hence climate warming and uncertainty

» Adaptation strategy: steps at the **national** level to reduce vulnerability to climate shocks and sustain economic development



» Outline
» Main ideas
» Discussion & questions
» Conclusion Africa should not commit the same mistake as it did for the structural adjustment

Challenges

» *On a per capita basis most emissions come from OECD countries but most emission growth come from developing countries*

» *Research activities have been founded in green economy but the problem now is to move from experimental stage to real scale implementation. How do we translate the results of research to end users*

» *Challenge is to improve dialog between African Countries*

» *Finding low-carbon growth paths is a key challenge*

- > On a per capita basis most emissions currently come from the OECD countries
- > But most emission growth come from developing countries
- > Emissions rise then fall with income
- > Poor emit little
- > Industrializing countries use cheap and dirty energy
- > Rich can afford cleaner energy
- > *Economic development means that global energy use will definitely rise*
- > *A key emphasis must be on clean energy options for low-income countries*



Opportunities

»Where were we and where will we be? What is the solution technology to apply?
These questions should be looked at from the African perspective

»African countries should Invest on our local technology

» African countries should Invest in solar energy

»The definition Green Economy is sufficiently loose for African researchers and policy makers to adapt it to their own context

»Green growth is a win-win strategy

- > Involves short-term economic and political costs for long-term rewards
- > Requires countries to deviate from their comparative advantage and sometimes abandon the returns from past investments
- > May require adopting more expensive technologies that redirect scarce resources away from addressing other development priorities
- > Often the rural and urban poor, who are key electoral constituencies, lose out in the short-term



Implications for Science, Technology and Policy in Africa

» *Developing countries are asked to*

- > Reorient current strategies in order to achieve long-term benefits
- > Undergo large-scale structural transformation
- > Risk hurting the poor and vulnerable populations
- > *have trade-offs between green growth and existing development objectives*
- > *Make adjustment for complex political economy processes (short vs long term, winners vs losers)*

» *Experience of past structural adjustment initiatives cautions against ignoring trade-offs and political economy considerations*

- > *Implies an important role for foreign assistance in capacity building:*
- > Facilitate transfer of green technologies and skills
- > Protect losers from adjustment costs
- > Limit political resistance to reforms

» *Finance higher development costs and consider the implications of de-prioritizing other development goals*





Key Messages for UNU-INRA

»While green technologies may complement development, associated investment must be carefully appraised – not always optimal

»Green growth must be incorporated into – but should not replace – existing poverty focused development strategies

»Green economy approach assumes there must be a trade-off between economic development and sustainable environment

»Green economy is acceptable if it is able to achieve significant improvement of the standard living of people. There should be any generalization across countries

»What is most important for Africa is Capacity building issue in term of various technology to meet the requirement in Green economy

»Africa is not ready to get into GE if it is going to have a major negative consequence on the standard of living of its people

»Need for a formal discussion on GE and International collaboration

»Africa is not ready to get into GE if it is going to have a major negative consequence on the standard of living of its people



Key Messages for UNU-INRA

- »Appeal to political leader to put the topic of Green Economy on the table
- »Need to find way to improve quality live without jeopardizing the environment.
- »Establish platform where ideas can be exchanged.
- »Need for a formal discussion on Green Economy and International collaboration
- »A good management is the solution
- »Need to work with natural scientist to find the right technology.
- »How do we relate to policy makers? We need to keep on trying till we get successful
- »Solar energy distribution is the key problem in implementing this Green Economy
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- »Need to identify the green growth path proper for Africa.

