

## Government of Ghana, Development Partners and Private Investments in Ghana's Agriculture Sector: Towards Poverty Reduction

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The agriculture sector in Ghana is dominated by smallholder farmers who make up the majority of the poor. This sector which employs about 65.2 percent of the rural labor force is therefore very important for poverty reduction, especially in rural Ghana. However, rural unemployment is increasing, while rural population is also increasing. The agriculture sector in Ghana faces a number of challenges. Policies and programs introduced by the Government of Ghana over the years have not yielded the expected outcomes. The Government of Ghana has not been able to adequately finance its own programs and its spending on the sector. Donor support has been essential in supporting the agriculture sector in Ghana. The Government of Japan, for instance, in Japan's Country Assistance Program for Ghana, prioritized the sector for Japan's support for Ghana's development. However, it has become clear that in recent times, Government of Ghana and donor efforts have encouraged export-oriented agriculture which emphasizes private sector investments in agriculture. This is aimed at promoting economic growth for poverty reduction. It has also been noted, however, that economic growth in Ghana does not necessarily lead to poverty reduction. Agriculture's value has been relatively stable in recent times and the value of agriculture export and particularly agriculture Non-Traditional Export, which is being promoted in that regard has increased significantly over the years. Despite the expectations that export-oriented private investment agriculture will promote economic growth which will be shared to reduce poverty, rural poverty rather has increased from 37.9 percent to 39.5 percent from 2013 to 2017. This could be as a result of reduced numbers of rural livestock and reduced crop harvests in the savannah (northern) ecological zone, which is reflected in rural people getting lesser food from their farms than before.

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# The Establishment of the International Criminal Court and the Reality of African Involvement

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The purpose of this paper is to show some of the ways in which the International Criminal Court (ICC) has been perceived in the regional context of Africa as opposed to the reality of the developments that have been described in a global setting in nature. It will also provide a basis for examining the relationship between the ICC and African countries by introducing the rationale behind those African countries involved in the ICC, not because they accepted the norms of the ICC, or that they had reasons to ratify the Rome Statute despite their very limited acceptance.

This paper focuses on the discussions in the international arena leading up to the establishment of the ICC. It unravels the background to the ratification of the Rome Statute by the African countries that joined the discussions, thereby revealing the fact that at the time of the ratification, African countries were not necessarily firmly established in their intention to support and cooperate with the activities of the ICC. This revealed that the normative aspect of establishing the ICC was not enough to grasp the subsequent relationship with Africa fully. The political dynamics within Kenya surrounding the ratification of the Rome Statute, which this paper focused on as a case study, shows that the ICC has been positioned in the arena of efforts by state elites to establish new relations with outside Africa in the context of the global development of the rule of law after the Cold War.

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