Building Capacity, Local Knowledge and Policy Support in Agriculture for Sustaining and Scaling up the Millennium Villages Project in Sauri, Kenya

Makiko Fujita
Difei (Vivian) Hu
Estefania Samper
Harriette Williams
Jenneth Macan Marker

School of International and Public Affairs
Columbia University
**Objectives of the Project**

**Objective 1:**
To conduct a brief review and analysis of the institutional and sustainability gaps in the MVP in the **agriculture sector** in Sauri.

**Objective 2:**
To document and conceptualize an approach to filling some of the specific gaps identified in these analyses.

**Objective 3:**
To develop and refine a new approach to addressing institutional and sustainability gaps, help adapt the resulting approach to the Sauri context.

**Objective 4:**
To conduct a strategy workshop in Sauri with some MVP staff and local and district government officials facilitated by the Maseno University/SIPA team.
Background on Sauri, Kenya

- First Millennium Research Village
- Conglomerate of 11 villages, 5000 people, western Kenya - 99% Luo; Dholuo, Kiswahili, English.
- Governed by a chief, assistant chief, village elders, Councilor.
- Agriculture is primary livelihood; 60-70% (Siaya District) live on $1 a day; 20% of children under five underweight; malaria prevalent
- Part access to electric grid, functioning rail line, no landline, limited water supply
- Since MVP - Community development, first bumper harvest, school feeding program
- On track to meet the MDGs
Methodology

• Key Informant Interviews
  o MVP, Sauri team
  o MDG Center, Nairobi
  o UNDP, Kenya
  o National and Local Government Officials

• Focus Group Discussions
  o Women’s Group
  o Agriculture Committee

• Household Visits (Interviews)
  o MV1
  o MV2

• Observations
  o Kibuye Market
  o Project sites
  o Village
Key points from the field study – January

Positive findings towards achieving sustainability and scalability:
- Common acknowledgement and appreciation of MVP intervention by communities and local government
- Success in several agriculture interventions (improved farming methods, increased yield, increased income from diversification etc.)

Challenges towards achieving sustainability and scalability:
- Limited partnership between MVP and other key stakeholders i.e: local government, private sector, local universities
- Aid dependency of Sauri communities, especially those who are closer to the project
- Structural constraints in community development (committees, groups)
- Limitation to the inclusion of certain groups in the communities
SIPA Team Strategy For Sustainability and Scalability: Workshop with Key Stakeholders to Develop Partnerships and Combined Strategies
Questions to be Decided Through Further Research and at the Workshop

- Does/can MVP align with the government’s development policy?
- What are the challenges to build a clear partnerships between MVP and other stakeholders?
- How can the MVP incorporate their model in the micro level into their development policy in the macro level?
- Will the workshop inviting local (and central) government and other agricultural stakeholders be a good channel to promote sustainability and scalability?
Thank you