Co-creating regional futures within a global context

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Motivation: regional futures for policy guidance

- Decision makers want to consider the interacting uncertainties of development and climate change in an integrated fashion when planning for the future (Vermeulen et al., 2013)

- Scenarios are designed to assist in policy development, investment guidance, institutional change, testing interventions, and guidance for research directions (Vervoort et al., 2014)

- To be relevant for policy:
  - Drivers of change considered the most important and relevant at the regional level
  - Policy makers should be involved in the development of the scenarios to take ownership (Wilkinson and Eidinow, 2008)
  - Regional futures made consistent through quantification by models benefit from improved relevancy for global or more local contexts
Regional scenarios co-created with stakeholders and used for policy guidance and testing
Participatory, co-development of plausible futures for West Africa

- Bringing “the right people together” across sectors, disciplines, interests; relying on extensive regional network
  - Examine the opportunities and challenges for agricultural development and implications for food security, environment, and rural livelihoods in West Africa
- Building a range of scenarios tools to visualize/engage with different and plausible futures using expertise from all stakeholders
  - Develop narratives storylines though conceptual maps and backcasting, expressed through words and images
  - Identify relevant drivers of change for agriculture and food security and indicate future trends
  - Quantify scenarios using agricultural economic models with a detailed representation of agricultural systems and interacting impacts to compare the relative differences across a range of economic, social, and environmental indicators
Tools for engaging with futures: narratives, storylines, conceptual maps and images, trend indicators, and quantitative scenarios

Cartoon representation of the scenarios by artist André Daniel Tapsoba
Placing West Africa futures within global futures

- Coherence of regional trends within a global context
- Trade as adaptation to local/global policies
- Impacts of global change (climate and socioeconomic)
  - Adapt regional drivers of global scenarios using narratives and trend indicators to guide and shift regional assumptions
- Perspective of the plausible regional development through the lens of regional stakeholders provides feedback to the global trends

19 November 2020
Using scenarios for policy guidance and testing in West Africa

• Work directly with national stakeholders; Ghana and Burkina Faso
• Downscale scenarios to local level
• Connect local challenges to plausible regional futures
• Examine feasibility of policies and investments in context of multiple futures and adapt policies to work under uncertain futures
Thank you!
