isabelle tsakok

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| Citizenship | | |
| United States of America  Republic of Mauritius  Education | | |
|  | PhD Economics, Harvard University, 1976  MA in Asian Studies, Harvard University, 1973  MSc Econ, London School of Economics and Political Science, 1971  BA Phil/Econ, London School of Economics and Political Science, 1970 |
| Languages | | |
|  | English (Fluent)  French (Fluent)  Chinese (Advanced Mandarin or Putonghua; mother tongue Hakka dialect)  Spanish (Intermediate) |
| area of specialty | | |
|  | Economist with special emphasis on policy, marketing and trade, poverty reduction, and on the institutional environment for agriculture, agribusiness, rural development, and food security in open, market-oriented, and transition economies. |
| Experience | | |
|  | Policy- and Action-Oriented Reports. World Bank   * Tunisia Country Program Evaluation FY 2005-12: background paper on agriculture for the Independent Evaluation Group. 2013. * Knowledge-based country programs: An Evaluation of World Bank Group Experience – Background paper on the case of the People’s Republic of China FY 2006-11 for the Independent Evaluation Group. July 2012. * Global Food Crisis Response: Background paper on World Bank’s Analytical and Advisory Services for the Independent Evaluation Group. May 2012.   United Nations Economic Commission for Africa: *Lead Consultant*   * Rethinking Africa’s Agricultural and Rural Transformation in the New Global Context: Challenges, Opportunities and Strategic Policy Options, 2012-16.   Senior Economist   * Reaching the Rural Poor in the Latin America and Caribbean Region: Rural Development Strategy for the Latin America and Caribbean Region. July 2002. Report used as a guide to operational work in the region at the World Bank.  1. Kingdom of Morocco: Rural Development Strategy. 1997. Report incorporated in the Government of Morocco’s official agriculture and rural strategy. 1999. Kingdom of Morocco: Agro-industrial Development—Constraints and Opportunities. 1994. Report used to develop operations for the development of specific commodities (English and French Versions). 2. Mexico Land Policy. 2001; Nicaragua: Agriculture Sector Policy Note. 2002; Venezuela: Public Sector Policies and Their Impact. 2002; Uganda: Strategic Export Promotion. 2002. These reports were discussed with the relevant governments (except in the case of Venezuela). |
|  | Policy Adjustment Operations World Bank  Senior Economist   1. Kingdom of Morocco: Agriculture Sector Adjustment Loan II (Supervision). 1990/91. Liberalization of marketing and trade in strategic commodities. Kingdom of Morocco: Agricultural Sector Investment Loan. 1991. Report developed price liberalization and policy conditionalities for Government and Bank support. 2. Ghana Structural Adjustment Loan (Reform of cocoa pricing policy, and COCOBOD, the cocoa parastatal). 1986/87. 3. Nigeria Trade and Investment Policy Loan (Reform of policy on marketing and trade of major agricultural inputs and outputs). 1987/88. |
|  | Project Preparation and Appraisal World Bank  Senior Economist and Consultant   1. Morocco Support for the Government’s *Plan Maroc Vert (2008)* – World Bank Identification Mission, March/April 2009. 2. Morocco Emergency Drought Recovery Project (Appraisal) 1995/96. 3. Nigeria Tree Crops Project (Appraisal) 1987/88. 4. Ghana Agricultural Services Rehabilitation Project (Appraisal) 1986/87. Project completed. Enabled substantial rehabilitation of agricultural extension services. |
|  | Training seminars and Conference presentations at the World Bank and elsewhere   1. How can the palm oil industry be future-proofed: Key lessons from successful agricultural transformation worldwide. Future-Proofed Palm Oil Summit, Confexhub, virtual, Dec. 14-17, 2020. 2. Agricultural Transformation, Inclusive Growth, and Palm oil in Malaysia: Challenges of Sustainability from a Developmental Perspective. Module 1, Virtual International Palm Oil Sustainability Conference (IPOSC), Sept. 14-22, 2020. 3. Agricultural Transformation and Inclusive Growth: Malaysia’s Experience in Comparative Perspective. Putrajaya, November 20, 2019. 4. Graduate seminar course entitled Transformation Through Sustained Agricultural and Rural Development: Policies and Institutions. The School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), Columbia University, New York City. 2014-2017. 5. Training course on Food Security and Policy at the OCP Policy Centre, Rabat, Morocco. May-June 2017; Jan. 2018; Jan. 2019. 6. Agricultural Price Policy Analysis at the School of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development, Renmin University, Beijing, the People’s Republic of China. Fall 2005; Summer 2010. 7. National and Sub-National Rural Strategies: Workshop on formulation, dissemination, and implementation. 2004-2005. 8. Global Learning Network Series on rural development strategy in Latin America and the Caribbean Region. 2004. 9. Training courses on economics for support staff at the World Bank. 1980-86. 10. Training courses on agricultural price, marketing and trade policy for economists at the World Bank. 1981-85, 1991-92. |
|  | Policy Papers and Policy Briefs for the Policy Center for the New South   * Brazil Agriculture-Response and resilience of food security under dual shocks in 2020: Oil price collapse and COVID-19 pandemic. March 03, 2021. PB-07/21. * Genetically Modified Organisms: Promising or Problematic for Food Security? A Review of Major Developments in Selected Industrialized Countries. Part I. With Fatima Ezzahra Mengoub. Jan. 2021. PB-21/02. * COVID-19: Food Security and the Foundations of Hope. May 21, 2020. Opinion. * Selective Review of Food Security Policy Worldwide: What can be learned from International Experiences in Order to Shape Food Security Policy in Africa? Parts I and II. With Fatima Ezzahra Mengoub. June 2020, PP 20-18, and Nov. 2020, PP 20-33. * Towards a Fertilizer Policy for Smallholder Agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa: The Critical Importance of Taking a Holistic Approach. Oct. 2019, PB-19-35. * Fertilizer Policy: The Critical Importance of Land and Water. Oct 2019, PB-19-32. * From Asian Green Revolution 1.0 to Sustainable Green Revolution 2.0—Towards a Fertilizer Policy for Smallholder Agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa. With Tharcisse Guedegbe. Sept 2019, PP-19/16. * Successful Agricultural Transformation: Selected Challenges in the Emerging Global Environment. June 08, 2020, PB-20-55. * The Global Context: Major forces shaping our new world. May 21, 2018, PB-18/15. * Macro and Political Stability Essential Condition for Successful Agricultural Transformation. July 06, 2018, PB-18/22. * An Effective Technology Transfer System. July 23, 2018, PB-18/23. * The Pivotal Importance of Good Access to Markets for Farmers. September 17, 2018, PB-18/29 * An Incentivizing System of Ownership and of Usufruct Rights. October 03, 2018, PB-18-32.   Background Studies for the World Bank   1. Agricultural Transformation and Inclusive Growth—The Malaysian Experience. Nov 2019. The Malaysia Experience Development Series. 2. Malaysia: Agricultural Transformation and Inclusive Growth, in comparative perspective with the country experiences of France, Chile, and Indonesia. 2017-2018, 2019. 3. Kingdom of Morocco: Adaptation to Climate Change in Agriculture. December 2008 – 2009. 4. Kingdom of Morocco: Agriculture Sector Review—Towards an Agenda for Promoting Rural Growth and Wellbeing. December 2008 – 2009. 5. Kingdom of Morocco: Cereals Market Reform – *Farine Nationale de Blé Tendre* (FNBT) – Report on Preliminary Findings of World Bank Mission. 2005-2006. 6. National and Sub-National Rural Development Strategy: Conceptual Framework and Miscellaneous Training Materials. 2004-2005. 7. Iraq: Agricultural and Rural Policy issues including options for the FY 2004 agricultural subsidy budget. 8. Case Studies in Direct Income Support in Turkey and Mexico and case of no subsidies in New Zealand. 2003. 9. Mozambique: Agricultural Development Strategy – Stimulating Smallholder Agricultural Growth. 2005-2006. 10. Mozambique: A Road Map for Developing a Rural Strategy. 2003. 11. Tunisia: Rural Development and Poverty Reduction—Evaluation of World Bank Assistance from 1990-2003. 12. Natural Resource Management Portfolio in the Latin America and Caribbean Region: A Selective Review of the 1990-99 Portfolio. 2002. The World Bank, a Knowledge Dissemination Note of the Latin America and the Caribbean Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development. Used by Bank management and staff to learn from a synthesis of lessons from past operations in natural resource management. 13. Bangladesh Rural Development Strategy. 1998. 14. Mali: Rural Development Strategy Note: Key issues and areas requiring further analysis. 1996/97. 15. Tunisie: L’Agriculture à l’approche du 21 e siècle—identification de certains problèmes stratégiques. 1989. This paper which identifies strategic issues for Tunisian agriculture to address in this century was presented at a seminar organized by the Government to discuss the 8th Plan. It was used as an input in the preparation of the 8th Plan. 16. Kingdom of Morocco: Agricultural Taxation. 1989/90. Paper requested by the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Morocco. 17. Algeria: Agricultural Prices and Incentives Study. 1989/90. 18. Ghana and Guinea Bissau: Agricultural Expenditure Reviews. 1988/89. |

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| accomplishments | | |
|  | *Success in Agricultural Transformation: What it Means and What Makes it Happen.*  2011. Cambridge University Press. Book is being translated in Chinese for publication jointly by the Renmin University of China Press and Cambridge University Press.  Bruce L. Gardner (co-author) “Agriculture in Economic Development: Primary Engine of Growth or Chicken and Egg.” *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 89, (Number 5, 2007):1145-51  *Agricultural Price Policy: A Practitioner’s Guide to Partial-Equilibrium Analysis.* 1990. Cornell University Press. 1995. Chinese edition, translated by Guangdong Management Institute of the People’s Republic of China.  Risk Management in Liberalizing Economies: Issues of Access to Food and Agricultural Futures and Options Markets. 1993. Technical Report No. 12220, ECA, North Africa and the Middle East Region, World Bank. 1994. Workshop in Paris on these issues in collaboration with USAID, EU, and private business.  *EXACTION*, a Policy Simulation Game, in collaboration with Professor Graham Chapman (who has the copyrights). 1984. This is used in training seminars for development practitioners, and university students.  Papers on various aspects of agricultural price and trade policy presented in seminars. 1990. Khartoum, Sudan; 1991. Trinidad; 1994. Guangdong Management Institute, the People’s Republic of China.  “Finance Versus Investment in Public Goods and Services—Questions raised on what matters most to smallholders.” August 7-8, 2010. Presentation made at the International Forum on Reform and Development of China Rural Finance, organized by the Anhui University of Finance and Economics, Huangshan City. December 16, 2010: 27-31. Paper translated in Chinese and published in Economic Theory and Business Management.  “The Export of Manpower from Pakistan to the Middle East, 1975-1985.” 1984. *Pakistan’s Development Priorities—Choices for the Future*, edited by Shahid Javed Burki and Robert Laporte, Oxford University Press, Karachi.  “Inflation Control in the People’s Republic of China, 1949-1974.” 1979. *World Development*, Vol. 7, Pergamon Press Ltd. |