

Upcoming COMESA-ACTESA Symposium on African Agriculture and Poverty Reduction

African representatives of government, regional economic agencies, local universities, and donor organizations will gather in Kigali, Rwanda on April 20-22, 2011 to attend a major Policy Symposium to consider strategies for linking African farmers to markets and reducing rural poverty. The Symposium is jointly sponsored by the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa (ACTESA) and will draw over 100 attendees from eastern and southern Africa, including Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe. The Symposium is jointly funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the World Bank, both of which are supporting the collaboration between COMESA, ACTESA, African universities, and MSU's Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics.

In addition to their role in the Policy Symposium, MSU AFRE-Food Security Group faculty Thomas Jayne and Steve Haggblade are teaming with representatives from the International Food Policy Research Institute to lead a two-day capacity building workshop before the Symposium on April 18 and 19.

A major purpose of the Symposium is to provide evidence and analysis to guide the design of policies and programs for reducing hunger and poverty in Africa through The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, an Africa-led initiative embraced by 53 African governments to revitalize African agriculture.

For more information regarding this event, please contact Thomas Jayne (jayne@msu.edu) or Steve Haggblade (blade@msu.edu).