

Mind the Gap

Exploring the Disparities between
Smallholder Farmer Practice and Potential

Michael R Carter

Professor, University of California, Davis, Giannini Foundation & NBER
Director, Feed the Future Assets & Market Access Innovation Lab

November 2, 2016



Food Security in the Large ... & the Small

In the large: 9 billion people will need to eat by 2050

In the small: “[Food insecurity] is the characteristic of some people not having enough food to eat. It is not the characteristic of there being not enough food to eat.”

Amartya Sen (1998 Nobel Prize in Economics)



Explaining & Closing the Gap

- At a kick-off session for Feed the Future v1.0, Thomas Lumpkin (then director of CIMMYT) guesstimated that the average smallholder was producing at only 30% of the level technologically possible
- So what explains the gap & how might we close it?
 - *Risk & Liquidity Constraints*
 - Chris Udry, Yale University
 - Lauren Hendricks, Grameen Foundation
 - *Knowledge & Decisionmaking Constraints*
 - Andrew Dillon, Michigan State
 - Emily Hllenbrand & Salome Mhango, Care International
 - *Profitability Constraints*
 - Chris Barrett, Cornell
 - Eric Solomonson, One Acre Fund

Goals & Agenda

- Goals
 - Take stock of what we know; what works
 - Identify an agenda for what we need to learn & do
- Morning
 - 3 overviews by our academic theme leaders (30 minutes + 15 minutes discussion each)
- Lunch (pick your afternoon session—see handouts briefly describing each)
- Afternoon
 - 3 Simultaneous Breakout sessions led by invited practitioners & academic partner (2 hours)
 - Wrap up session with comments from all theme leaders and audience

MIND THE GAP

EXPLORING THE DISPARITIES BETWEEN SMALLHOLDER FARMER PRACTICE AND POTENTIAL

**A one-day workshop presented by the Feed the Future
Innovation Lab for Assets and Market Access
November 3rd, 2016 in Washington, D.C.
The Ronald Reagan Building, Polaris Room**