



WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE GREEN REVOLUTION IN AFRICA?

The Green Revolution (GR) agenda greatly influences African agricultural policy, programming and investment. This is evident from African Union regional policy right down to national government programmes and the advice their extension officers give to farmers.

Only a handful of people from an elite group benefit from the GR approach:

- Farmers are unable to access GR technologies, such as improved seed and agrochemicals, due to the high costs involved.

- Commercial markets – where they exist – are not able to absorb surpluses.
- Many farmers struggle to meet the volume, quality and standardisation requirements to sell into large-scale commercial markets.
- Product prices are very low, especially at harvest time, and farmers seldom make much profit from the sale of surplus products.
- Farming households hold back a portion of the crop for their own consumption, but often this is of inferior quality and leads to a decline in nutrition standards.