Yield Gap Analysis for Cereals Production in Nigeria

Abdullahi Bala
Nigeria GYGA Country Agronomist
Federal University of Technology, Minna
Nigeria
Climate and Agroecology

- Nigeria lies along lat 4° 1’ to 13° 9’ N and long 2° 2’ to 14° 30’ E
- Six distinct agro-ecological zones transiting in south-north direction
- Climate has strong latitudinal zones
- Distinct wet and dry season for most parts
- Annual rainfall varies from 500 mm in the Sahel savanna zone to about 3000 mm in Mangrove Swamp zone
- Length of rainy season varies from 3 mths in Sahel to all-year round in the Mangrove zones
- Strong seasonality in rainfall and temperature northwards
- Montane climate around Jos Plateau and Cameroun Mountains
Irrigated Rice

- Produced in irrigated areas of Chad Basin and the flood plains of Rivers Niger and Benue and their tributaries
- Harvested area: 24,300 ha
- Average water limited yield: 9.1 t/ha (cv of 1.9%)
- Actual yield: 2.6 t/ha
- Yield gap: 6.4 t/ha
- Yield gap range: 2.0 – 8.0 t/ha

Constraints
- Inadequate use of inputs
- Inadequate weed control
- Pest infestation
- Poor water control
- Soil fertility – salinisation and nutrient deficiencies
Rainfed rice

- Cultivated on flood plains and inland valley bottoms
- Cultivated area: 2.4 Mha
- Potential yield: 7.4 t/ha with CV of 10%
- Actual yield: 2.1 t/ha
- Yield gap: 5.3 t/ha
- Yield gap range: 2-7 t/ha
- Constraints same as irrigated rice plus erratic rainfall and seasonal submergence of seedlings
Rainfed Maize

- Cultivated country-wide
- Cultivated area: 4.1 Mha
- Potential yield: 12.3 t/ha with CV of 12.3%
- Actual yield: 1.7 t/ha
- Yield gap: 8.8 t/ha
- Yield gap range: 7-14 t/ha
- Constraints: Erratic rainfall, poor soil fertility and productivity, low input use and *Striga* infestation
Rainfed Sorghum

- Cultivated in northern half of the country
- Cultivated area: 4.96 Mha
- Potential yield: 6.4 t/ha with CV of 12.6%
- Actual yield: 1.1 t/ha
- Yield gap: 5.3 t/ha
- Yield gap range: 1-7 t/ha
- Constraints: Erratic rainfall, poor soil fertility and productivity, low input use, low adoption of technology and *Striga* infestation
Rainfed Millet

- Cultivated in northern half of the country
- Cultivated area: 4.4 Mha
- Potential yield: 2.7 t/ha with CV of 9.6%
- Actual yield: 1.0 t/ha
- Yield gap: 1.6 t/ha
- Yield gap range: 1-3 t/ha
- Constraints: Erratic rainfall, poor soil fertility and productivity, low input use, low adoption of technology and *Striga* infestation
General Constraints

• Inadequate and erratic rainfall
• Decline in soil fertility and productivity
• Inadequate access to credit
• Inadequate investment on agricultural inputs
• Low coverage by extension agencies
• Low rate of technology adoption in rural areas
• Low rate of utilization of cultivable land
• Aged farm labour force
Potential Applications

• Information could provide the basis for further studies on causes of yield gaps
• Investment by the private sector can be targeted to areas with low yield gap
• Prioritisation of Government support: Input supply, research and extension (high gap); infrastructure (low gap)
• Identified gaps in data but also helps to make redundant data useful
Thanks for your kind attention!