

3rd AFRICAN MICROFINANCE CONFERENCE

New Options for Rural and Urban Africa
Kampala, Uganda
20 - 23 August 2007



Highlights from Day 2

Theme:

New options for Rural and Urban Africa

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National MF Policies

- Need for consensus building amongst stakeholders is key; policy evolves as work progresses.
- Interest rates - policy required?
- Numerous challenges and opportunities exist in the formulation of a national strategy for financial inclusion.

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National MF Policies (con't...)

- Central Banks have a wide ranging capacity to regulate the industry.
- A wide terrain exists in this arena that goes beyond the traditional MF policy. Linkages.
- What is the scope of the policy we are discussing?
- Does regulation support or thwart innovation?

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Analyzing and Financing Value Chains

- Analysis assists in providing additional insight into the expansion of financial services in rural areas.
- Frustration in Africa - slow pace of expansion of financial services in spite of financial reforms.

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- Important tool for agricultural lending.
- A tool to examine opportunities and better understand challenges. Partnerships amongst value chain players key.
- One Network Bank, Philippines.
- Expansion into the agricultural sector requires innovation.
- Can FI's invest enough in educating itself to fully understand the value chain?

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Doing Rural Finance Better: Innovations

- Discussion of the challenges and opportunities in offering services to rural customers.
- Create sustainable, appropriate products (Quick Cash, MABS G-Cash)
- Expand national coverage; increase customer awareness (UML Savings Van)

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Innovation (cont...)

- Redesign of business processes - SACCO's.
- Effectively use technology to improve access and efficiency. Alternative delivery channels.
- High tech = High touch
- **What is the magic combination?**

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ASANTE!