

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [Unproductive Agriculture Is Holding Africa Back](#)

Article

Link: <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/04/01/opinion/subsaharan-africa-agriculture-farming.html>

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Tweet: Global agricultural TFP has risen 80% since 1961, but only 30% in Sub-Saharan Africa. @petercoy argues this is a major factor holding back economic development.

Summary: Africa south of the Sahara is producing more than six times as much food as it did in 1961. Sub-Saharan Africa badly trailing the world as a whole in improvements in total factor productivity of agriculture. While Africa is increasing its output of crops, livestock, and so on, it's managing to do so only by massively increasing its inputs. That means many more farmers and much more land under cultivation or pasture. It's better than if farm output hadn't increased at all, but it's not what the subcontinent needs to get ahead economically.

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Primary Topic: Growth

Topics: Demographics, GDP, Growth, Op-Ed/Blog Post, Workforce

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