

CHINA CROSSROADS

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African Food Security and the Role of Asian Agricultural Investments: Firsthand Observations from Africa

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The world food system is witnessing a triple crisis: (1) the Ukraine War, (2) climate change, and (3) distortion in the international trade system. Africa's food security has taken a big hit. At the same time, Africa is witnessing a new wave of investment into its agricultural sector, especially from Asian countries, as the triple crisis motivates a transformation of the global food system. This talk will share first-hand observations of these trends and will challenge common biases regarding Africa and agriculture, especially among Asian investors.

[Cheng Cheng](#) is Asian Partnerships Lead at AGRA in Nairobi, Kenya. He previously served as Chief Economist at Made in Africa Initiative and Senior Advisor for the UNDP Asia-Pacific in Thailand. He has also worked as a Research Fellow at the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies at Renmin University. He has published dozens of articles in Chinese and international journals and has co-authored two books both on development economics and finance in Africa. He is also author of [Official Development Finance with Chinese Characteristics: A New Model for China Africa Cooperation](#) (2018) and a frequent commentator for several television networks. He holds a PhD in Political Science from Nanjing University and was a Visiting Scholar at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS).

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