Traveling Technocratic Rationality: The Case of China’s Agricultural Technology Demonstration Centers (ATDC) in Four African Countries

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1. What is ATDC?

- **2006:** Forum of China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC)

- 23 established and more

- A innovative aid model for sustainability - business and aid: 21 undertaking units (17 enterprises-8 state-owned, 2 universities +institutes) from 19 provinces
1. What is ATDC?

experimentation, demonstration, extension, training, platform for going out
2. The Design of ATDC

- **Traveling Technocratic Rationality**: originated from China’s own agricultural development experiences: strong beliefs in S&T, entrenched in the history of CAAC, 授人以鱼不如授人以渔

- **Key elements:**
  - prioritize productivity/ growth enhancement, technological solution is the entry point
  - highlights the leading role of the state/government: state-building
  - adopts an approach of close state-business linkage: sustainability
3. The Daily Operation of ATDC

Knowledge Encounter:

- Polices and plans are always reshaped by different and unexpected factors: agency of different actors, their diverse logics, as well as particular forces and individual chemistries (Mitchell, 2002).

- Messy practices are inevitable. In understanding development as practice, we always have to inquiry the phenomenon of “disjuncture comes first”, or “the illusion of order” (Lewis & Mosse, 2006).

- All the factors shape the encounters that influence how technology is transferred or how trainings and demonstrations are received. Knowledge encounters (Scoones, Cabral & Tugendhat, 2013).
3. The Daily Operation of ATDC

- Different perceptions and actions
  - agriculture and technology
  - extension and demonstration
  - aid and development
4. Conclusion and Insights

- Though ATDC is technology-centered, it is inevitably political.

- It carries with it a whole set of ideas and perspectives about what agriculture is for and what development means; of what the role of the state should be in technological development. And extension; as well as of how business and development work together.

- …contestation, pathways and political agronomy?