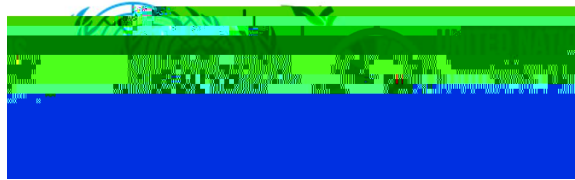


Transforming a country's agriculture sector can create jobs, raise incomes, reduce malnutrition, and kickstart the economy on a path to middle income growth. In fact, almost every developed nation began its economic ascent with an agricultural transformation. Recent examples include Brazil, China, and Vietnam, each of which at least doubled the value of its agriculture sector within 20 years of starting its transformation. Many other countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America are earlier on the path of transformation.

Indeed, as the seminal work of Peter Timmer has demonstrated, historically, improvements in agricultural productivity have been a pre-condition for structural and rural transformation, as this allowed agriculture to produce the surpluses needed to feed urban workers released from farm labour; supply raw materials to support agro industries; increase exports to pay for



For the agricultural and food systems, transformative opportunities generally lie in the middle part of