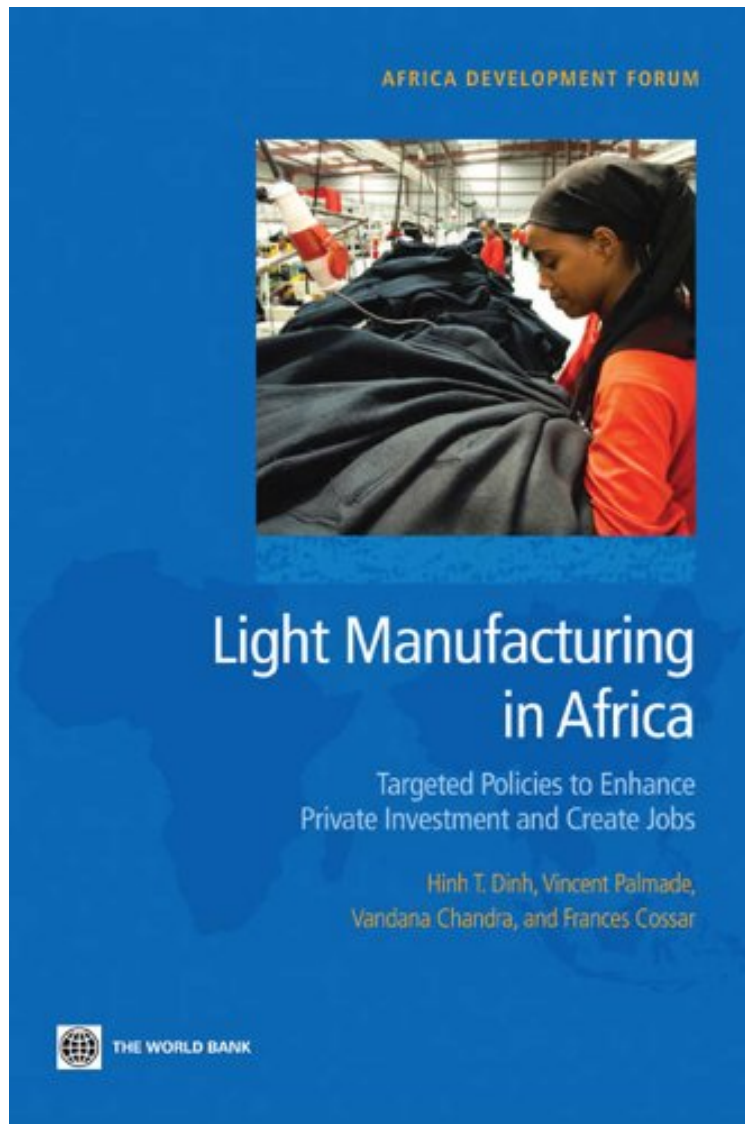


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Light Manufacturing in Africa

Hinh T. Dinh, Vincent Palmade, Vandana Chandra, Frances Cossar
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Hinh T. Dinh, Vincent Palmade, Vandana Chandra, Frances Cossar : Light Manufacturing in Africa before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Light Manufacturing in Africa:

This book examines how light manufacturing can offer a viable solution for Sub-Saharan Africa's need for structural transformation and productive job creation, given its potential competitiveness based on low wage costs and an abundance of natural resources that supply raw materials needed for industries. Based on five different analytical

tools and data sources, the book examines in detail the binding constraints in each of the subsectors relevant for Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA): apparel, leather goods, metal products, agribusiness, and wood products. Ethiopia is used as an example, with Vietnam as a comparator and China as a benchmark, and with insights from Tanzania and Zambia used to draw out lessons more broadly for SSA. The book recommends a program of focused policies to exploit Africa's latent comparative advantage in a particular group of light manufacturing industries—especially leather goods, garments, and agricultural processing. These industries hold the prospect of initiating rapid, substantial, and potentially self-propelling waves of rising output, employment, productivity, and exports that can push countries like Ethiopia on a path of structural change of the sort recently achieved in both China and Vietnam. The timing for these initiatives is very appropriate as China's comparative advantage in these areas is diminishing due to steep cost increases associated with rising wages and non-wage labor costs, escalating land prices, and mounting regulatory costs. Five features of this book distinguish it from previous studies. First, the detailed work on light manufacturing at the subsector and product levels in five countries provide in-depth cost comparisons between Asia and Africa that can be used as a framework for future studies. Second, the book uses a wide array of quantitative and qualitative techniques to identify key constraints to enterprises and to evaluate firm performance differences across countries. Third, the findings that firm constraints vary by country, sector, and firm size led to a focused approach to identifying constraints and combining market-based measures and select government intervention to remove them. Fourth, the solution to light manufacturing problems cuts across many sectors: solving the manufacturing inputs problem requires solving specific issues in agriculture, education, and infrastructure. African countries cannot afford to wait until all the problems across sectors are resolved. Fifth, the book draws on experiences and solutions from other developing countries to inform its recommendations. This book will be very valuable to African policy makers, professional economists, and anyone interested in the economic development, industrialization, and structural transformation of developing countries.

Light Manufacturing in Africa yields excellent new insights for African policy makers on how to grow industry and create productive jobs. The book combines sound economic analysis with careful and detailed micro and enterprise survey data to derive practical and sensible policy recommendations for the African context. In particular, the value chain analysis across countries on different continents provides a deep and clear empirical understanding of the relative costs, the priority constraints, and thus the policy interventions. This book is a must-read for anyone interested in African development and industrialization. --K.Y. AMOAKO, President, African Center for Economic Transformation, Accra, Ghana
Excellent. I do not recall reading a book that is more clearly argued on the issue of manufacturing competitiveness in developing countries. The study's great strength is that it combines very careful micro and enterprise level analysis with a deep understanding of the welfare economics that must underpin government intervention. The discussion of fiscal cost and of the political economy of government intervention breaks new ground and gets to the heart of the implementation issue. --URI DADUSH, Senior Associate and Director of the International Economics Program, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
Light Manufacturing in Africa presents an innovative approach to industrialization and job creation in Africa by identifying the binding constraints in specific subsectors and suggesting policies to remove them and to enhance private investment and create productive jobs. Using Ethiopia as an exemplar, the book relies on a range of qualitative and quantitative tools to carefully assess the country's low wage advantage and production costs, and recommends policy interventions that the government might pursue to foster specific light manufacturing industries. I strongly recommend this book for development economists and policy makers interested in industrial development. --HOWARD PACK, Professor of Business and Public Policy, the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania