



Preamble:

- 1.** More than 10,000 delegates - including Heads of State and Government, Ministers, former Heads of State and Government, heads of international agencies, CEOs of global, regional and national business companies, farmers and youth representatives - joined the 2020 AGRF Summit. The Summit confronted Africa's challenges in driving inclusive agricultural transformation, to address the new challenges caused by COVID-19, to improve the continent's resilience and to chart a path forward. The Tenth Annual AGRF Summit was held virtually from 8 to 11 September 2020. This was necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The AGRF is the premier platform for leaders from across Africa and around the world to advance concrete plans and to share knowledge in order to tap the enormous potential of agriculture to drive equitable and sustainable growth across the continent. The Summit was hosted under the leadership of His Excellency Paul Kagame, the President of the Republic of Rwanda. AGRA serves as the AGRF Secretariat, with resources and technical support provided by another 26 partners and sponsors under the AGRF Partners Group.
- 2.** The programme featured 57 sessions that ran over four full days (8-11 September), including plenary sessions, thematic platforms, panels, breakout groups, food insights, cultural moments, virtual outings and networking in 3 Dimensional (3D) spaces. Sessions were run on an interactive platform featuring multiple stages that allowed for several events to be held concurrently. Events were also livestreamed on YouTube, on Rwanda TV, on Social Media via Facebook Live and featured on the cable satellite channel, CNBC Africa, to further increase the audience reach.
- 3.** The Government of Rwanda is now the long-term home of the AGRF, which is a year-round forum and partnership platform through which all partners work together to drive Africa's agricultural transformation agenda; to ensure that the best opportunities are seized and most critical challenges are addressed. It culminates annually in an all-Africa Summit, and by hosting virtually, Rwanda cemented its position as a leader in Africa's agriculture, as laid out in its Strategic Plan for the Transformation of Agriculture in Rwanda (PSTA 4).

- 4.** The theme of this year's AGRF Summit was Feed the Cities, Grow the Continent – Leveraging Urban Food Markets to Achieve Sustainable Food Systems in Africa. Africa is experiencing the world's fastest urbanization rate. By 2030, fifty percent of the African population will be living in cities, with some sixty percent of sub-Saharan Africans living in informal urban settlements (often termed slums). In Africa in total, about two hundred million children in urban areas are grappling with extreme poverty and its effects. Malnutrition and under-nourishment are rife, with Africans both going hungry and suffering obesity rates as high as sixty percent in urban areas, driven by the consumption of ultra-processed foods and insufficient diet diversity. Africa has an estimated USD thirty-five billion annual food import bill (as of 2018), despite eighty percent of this food coming from sixty million mostly smallholder African farms

The AGRF Summit results

- 5.** The AGRF partners focused this year's Forum around four outcomes, which were widely taken up in this year's Summit.
 - 5.1.** Food Systems: improve existing food systems by introducing more efficient systems to utilize our resources and adapt these to the needs of the growing cities;
 - 5.2.** Nutrition: provide nutritious and accessible diets to feed 1 billion people in African cities by 2040;
 - 5.3.** Resilience: build back better following the COVID-19 pandemic and prepare for ongoing shocks, such as climate change, hunger and civil unrest;
 - 5.4.** Markets and Trade: jumpstart the African free trade agreement from an agricultural perspective and strengthen agri-food data systems to foster evidence-based policies and predictability.
- 6.** African leaders addressed these critical issues across the four days of the Summit. H.E. Hailemariam Dessalegn, former Prime Minister of Ethiopia and Chair of the AGRF Partners Group, stated that the ambition of the AGRF is to broaden partnerships and activities across the continent, and mobilize political will in favour of agricultural transformation. The Rt. Hon. Edouard Ngirente, Prime Minister of Rwanda, raised the need for policies to accelerate agricultural investments especially as the continent deals with the unprecedented effects of COVID-19. He suggested the establishment of a governance platform with local authorities for knowledge exchange and learning, as well as political, administrative and economic synergies. He noted the importance of coordinated national

policies integrating food governance and food trade mechanisms in urban areas.

7. The Africa Agriculture Status Report (AASR) 2020

“Feeding Africa’s Cities: Opportunities, Challenges and Policies for Linking African Farmers with Growing Urban Food Markets” was launched at the AGRF Summit. The report found that the current COVID-19 pandemic exacerbates existing gender, economic and social inequalities, aggravates problems of urban under-nutrition, and points to the urgency of urban food systems planning and governance reforms. The report identifies five key public goods required to ensure competitiveness of African farmers and agribusiness in growing urban food markets:

- 7.1.** Improved urban food system governance;
- 7.2.** Efficient urban wholesale markets;
- 7.3.** Food safety regulation and enforcement;
- 7.4.** Regional free trade and agricultural policy harmonization, and;
- 7.5.** Agricultural research focused on high-growth, high-value food commodities.

- 8.** The Summit highlighted that growing cities are shaping Africa’s farming and agribusiness incentives in increasingly powerful ways. They affect spatial patterns of farm production, induce rapid expansion of food processing and trigger growing concerns about food quality, food safety and public health. The Speakers at the Summit noted the need to engage with urban actors in shaping public policy on agriculture, such as city planners, mayors, district councils, trader organizations and public health professionals. Effective governance of urban food systems requires inclusive models that coordinate and harmonize actions of the many diverse players now shaping African agri-food systems.

- 9. The Presidential Summit** brought together Heads of State and Government, eminent persons and hundreds of leaders and stakeholders from across Africa’s agriculture, agribusiness and food sectors. Rwanda’s President, H.E. Paul Kagame, was joined by H.E. Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of Ethiopia, H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission and H.E. Amina Mohamed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations. With the theme: “The Food System Africa Wants”, the Presidential Summit focused discussions on how Africa can leverage its blossoming urban population to stimulate development in rural areas and the wider agri-food sectors, particularly on how to leverage markets and trade opportunities to grow cities, and to build

resilience against emerging threats, such as COVID-19. With a changing landscape brought about by COVID-19 and the digital revolution, coupled with renewed commitments around major African Union policy shifts and decisions - such as the African Continental Free Trade Area and the pledge to triple intra-Africa trade in agricultural products - leaders spoke on the progress they are making in their own countries and the commitments they are ready to make to leapfrog into sustainable food systems. Key areas for progress were identified:

- 9.1.** Food systems that create sustainable and productive employment, increase food and nutrition security, and improve the quality of natural resources and ecosystems by investing in enterprises and innovations for a more sustainable and inclusive future;
- 9.2.** Delivery of commitments to the African Unions’ Malabo Declaration;
- 9.3.** Unleashing opportunities provided by the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

10. The High Level Ministerial Roundtable

Session provided a platform and collective moment for planning to build back better by taking stock of where Africa is with regards to policy reforms, partnerships and financing towards achieving the 2025 Malabo Declaration target of ending hunger in Africa. In the face of COVID-19, the Ministers made strong calls for investment in agriculture and food systems, and to make progress towards the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and implement the Continental Agri-Food Policy under the AfCFTA Framework. Points of agreement included:

- 10.1.** Support the institutionalization of the CAADP Biennial Review and use it more effectively to support countries in prioritization, resource commitment and performance management;
- 10.2.** Use evidence-based solutions, including digital tools, for identifying, designing and implementing policy solutions, and ensure the policy framework enables this;
- 10.3.** Drive the delivery of national and regional agriculture investment plans through well planned, implementable and measurable flagship investments and a strengthened policy environment.

11. The Agribusiness Deal Room is a matchmaking platform that provides enterprises and governments with an opportunity to engage with investors, and other actors to access capital, partnerships, and technical assistance. This year, the Deal Room further positioned AGRF as a prime venue for connecting agribusinesses and investment opportunities with critically needed capital; the deal room hit new records by presenting a pipeline of approximately five billion USD in Agri-business investment commitments. More than 3500 participants from over 90 countries signed up to the Agribusiness Deal room, resulting in over a thousand meetings. Close to one thousand companies interacted in the Deal Room, 208 SMEs underwent a specific assessment beforehand, representing a cumulative annual revenue of US\$255m and seeking US\$547m of capital. Fifty seven percent of SMEs who participated had strong women leadership with more than a third of the owners or management being women. Thirty one percent of the SMEs can be classified as youth enterprises. Companies came from 27 different countries. Fifteen governments presented investment opportunities of over US\$ 4.5 billion at different stages of development. Highlights of Deal Room partners announcements include:

- 11.1.** UPL, AGRA and other partners are launching the West Africa Rice Initiative, a public-private partnership aiming to enhance rice self-sufficiency and targeting 1.2 million farmers in the rice sector in West Africa;
- 11.2.** IDH reported significant progress on a USD 50 million partnership with Nestle;
- 11.3.** AGRA signed new agreements with Africa Improved Foods (AIF), Microsoft and OCP to enhance quality input supply to African farmers and enhance local sourcing;
 - 11.3.1.** Microsoft will focus on building digital skills and solutions for agriculture;
 - 11.3.2.** AIF will reach 2 million smallholder farmers by 2035 with training on grain quality and aggregation;
 - 11.3.3.** OCP will focus on developing last mile models to supply farmers with quality inputs.

12. The Youth Townhall was hosted by H.E. Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda. It brought together selected youth in Rwanda in studio as well as virtually from across the continent on the theme "Africa's Food System of the Future". The session provided an opportunity for young farm leaders to discuss the challenges of this year with the multiple shocks created by the COVID-19

pandemic, climate change and the locust invasion, as well as their vision of inclusive agriculture transformation and the food system they want for the future.

13. The first ever Farmers' Forum at the AGRF Summit brought together farmers from across the continent and other global participants focusing on "The Voice of Africa's Farmers and Civil Society on Food Systems and Building Back Better". This provided a specific venue for farmers and civil society to discuss critical issues, in a year with particularly challenging shocks and stresses brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, locusts and civil unrest. Farmers pointed to the need for governments and development partners to:

- 13.1.** Put farmers at the heart of policy processes and national budgeting processes;
- 13.2.** Mobilize, educate and empower smallholder farmers to transform their livelihoods and food systems;
- 13.3.** Involve farmers in designing the future of Africa's food system.

14. The 2020 Africa Food Prize, presented by H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, Former President of Nigeria and Chair of the Africa Food Prize Committee, awarded two exceptional researchers in geography and soil science: Dr Catherine Nakalembe, an Assistant Research Professor at the University of Maryland from Uganda specialized in remote sensing to study land use and rural livelihoods and Dr André Bationo, Chief of Party for the International Fertilizer Development Center from Burkina Faso specialized in soil biology and fertility.

- 14.1.** Dr. Nakalembe, a Ugandan researcher, is improving the lives of smallholder farmers by using satellite technology to harness data to guide agricultural decision-making;
- 14.2.** Dr. Bationo, a researcher from Burkina Faso, has been working on the improvement of micro-dosing fertilizer technology and scaling-up inventory credit systems for farmers.

15. Dr. Agnes Kalibata, President of AGRA was joined by Mr. Svein Tore Holsether, President and CEO of Yara International to present the **GoGettag Agripreneur Prize**. The GoGettag competition, hosted by Generation Africa, showcases young entrepreneurs in Africa's agri-food sector as drivers of innovation and growth. 12 young agripreneurs from 10 African countries were competing for this year's Prize of US\$ 50,000 to grow their businesses. The 12 finalists (six women and six men) were selected from among 3,000 applicants from 29 African countries. This year's winners were:

- 15.1. Moses Katala co-founder and CEO of Magofarm Limited (Rwanda), an insect technology startup that turns foodwaste into insectprotein for animal feed;
- 15.2. Daniella Kwayu co-founder and CEO of Phema Agri (Tanzania), a Tanzanian digital agriculture investment platform that provides smallholder farmers with blended finance and de-risks the value chain.

17. The AGRF partners will continue to shape and drive the long-term vision of the Forum, deepen relationships with service providers to streamline organizational logistics, and unlock long-term partnerships with several new institutions looking to grow with the Forum. It will also increase accountability and advocacy to come through on the Forum’s vision to deliver on the goals laid out by African Heads of State and Government in the AU Malabo Declaration, UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Africa Agenda 2063.

Next Steps and a New Era for the AGRF

16. The challenges of the continent in achieving inclusive agricultural transformation require a year-round advocacy and coordination platform. The AGRF will evolve to meet this challenge, through 10 thematic platforms anchored by member organizations. The AGRF will continue to culminate in the annual AGRF Summit. The AGRF Partners look forward to partnering with the Republic of Rwanda as host of the AGRF and new member of the Partners Group in this new approach, particularly under the committed leadership of H.E. President Paul Kagame.

18. The AGRF Summit 2020 closed with a call to seize the opportunities that emerged at the Summit and to deliver on investments and commitments that will consolidate the coming decades to “Feed the Cities and Grow the Continent”.

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