

Session title:	Science & Innovation for Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems in Africa
Session number:	10
Type of session:	Zoom Internal Meeting
Day:	Monday, 6 September 2021
Time:	11:15-13:00 EAT
No. of participants:	86
Session Organizers:	CGIAR
Moderator:	Peter Ballantyne and Cynthia Mugo, ILRI
Rapporteur:	Chiara Villani, Nadine Sanginga, CGIAR
Relevant outcome:	<p>This side event highlighted the role of science, research, and innovation in creating sustainable and resilient food systems in a climate crisis across Africa.</p> <p>It brought together stakeholders and key partners from national, regional, and global levels, and from different stages of research and delivery (demand, innovation, and scaling) to: (1) discuss how research and innovation can help small-scale producers become more resilient to climate shocks; (2) explore opportunities for upscaling initiatives on climate-smart farming practices to increase production of nutritious food crops and animal products; promote scientific evidence, climate-smart solutions, and innovative finance; and (3) highlight partnerships that support climate-resilient livelihoods.</p> <p>During the discussions, CGIAR—a key player in efforts towards developing an Africa with sustainable and resilient food, land, and water systems—committed to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ensure that it delivers more diverse, healthy, safe, sufficient, and affordable diets, and improved livelihoods and greater social equality, within planetary and regional environmental boundaries. 2. work with partners to generate and use interdisciplinary research to identify transformative,

	<p>inclusive strategies, innovations, and policies that will help transform African food systems.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> leverage on its collaboration with diverse partners (donors, NARS, private sector, farmers' organizations, NGOs/CBOs, policymakers) to deliver on its goal of transforming food, land, and water systems to make real, lasting, and positive impact. promote partnerships with policymakers, the private sector, and civil society to enable use of CGIAR's innovative tools and data for decision-making to transform food, land and water systems.
<p>Objectives:</p>	<p>This side event introduced One CGIAR and focused on the roles of science, research, and innovation in ensuring sustainable and resilient food systems for Africa. It highlighted CGIAR priorities and commitments and discussed how these can help accelerate inclusive agricultural transformation in Africa.</p>
<p>Speakers: (*Name, Title, Organization)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Claudia Sadoff, Managing Director, Research Delivery and Impact, CGIAR Aly Abousabaa, Regional Director, Central and West Asia and North Africa, CGIAR Harold Roy-Macauley, Regional Director, East and Southern Africa, CGIAR Nteranya Sanginga, Regional Director, West and Central Africa, CGIAR Naglaa Abdallah, Professor, Faculty of Agriculture, Cairo University and senior scientist, Agricultural Research Center (ARC), Egypt Abdullahi Ndarubu, COO, Harvestfield Industries Ltd, Nigeria Martin Fregene, Director of Agriculture and Agro-Industry, African Development Bank Emma Naluyima, Smallholder farmer and veterinarian, Africa Food Prize 2019 Laureate, Uganda Juan-Lucas Restrepo, Global Director of Partnerships and Advocacy, CGIAR Peter Ballantyne, Consultant, Communications and Knowledge Management, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) Cynthia Mugo, Policy and Stakeholder Engagement Advisor, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) 	
<p>Main highlights: (*For Insights and newsletter. To be based on the theme of the day. Fill in in bullet form)</p> <p>KEY CHALLENGES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water stress and scarcity 	

- Frequent and severe drought
- Climate variability: unpredictable season and weather patterns
- Land degradation and very low fertility
- Dependence on monocropping
- Pests and diseases
- Food, nutrition, and livelihoods insecurity
- Unemployment and lack of access to markets
- Conflicts, IDPs
- Poverty
- Changing mindset at the policy level
- Non-involvement of youth in agriculture
- Food self-insufficiency
- Weak communication on the benefits of research and innovation
- Climate change
- Underinvestment in livestock

INNOVATIONS PROPOSED

- CGIAR strategy will deliver through its recently launched new research and innovation portfolio to transform food, land, and water systems in a climate crisis in three Action Areas: Systems Transformation, Resilient Agrifood Systems, and Genetic Innovation. The Initiatives have been designed to make real, lasting, and positive impact across five SDG-focused Impact Areas: (1) Nutrition, Health, and Food Security; (2) Poverty Reduction, Livelihoods, and Jobs; (3) Gender Equality, Youth, and Social Inclusion; (4) Climate Adaptation and Mitigation; and (5) Environmental Health and Biodiversity.
- In Central and West Asia, and North Africa Region, CGIAR is focusing on: Fast technology adoption for take-up and testing of innovation; Diverse food systems for better dryland biodiversity and genetic resources; Sustainable and equitable intensification of farming systems to increase local/regional value chain profitability, resilience, and youth employment; Digitalizing research to address climate, drought, and heat risk management; Sustainable water and landscape management, and sustainable energy; Social and economic policies for innovation and gender equality.
- In West and Central Africa Region, CGIAR is focusing on: Climate-resilient and nutritious crop varieties and animal breeds; Seed systems and institutional arrangement; Tools and good agricultural practices for management; Digital advisories and early warning systems related to weather, plant health, markets, etc.; Employment & entrepreneurship models for youth and women; Technologies for agro-processing and increased food safety; Decision-making tools; Circular bioeconomy.
- In East and Southern Africa Region, CGIAR is focusing on: Aligning R4D agenda with stakeholder needs & priorities; Collaborative partnerships for delivery of



climate information services & climate-smart sustainable intensification technologies; Regional scaling hub on climate-smart technologies & practices; capacity strengthening; policy implementation; Agribusiness SME incubators & accelerators providing business support & technical assistance; Technical options for diversification of agricultural production systems & nutrition-sensitive policy orientation and institutional innovations.

- CGIAR will also use impact outcomes to change mindsets and show evidence to in-country decision making structures; make sure that research developed in one country/region can be scaled up in other countries in Africa and the world at large; use sustainable and equitable intensification of farming systems to increase local/regional value chain profitability and resilience.

RECOMMENDATIONS/ NEXT STEPS

- Increase financial guarantees and access to finance to improve inclusion of women, youth, and other underserved populations
- Capacity building to increase uptake
- Include women and youth in science and agribusiness
- Empower women in the field of investments
- Build capacity of partners and farmers
- Focus on recovery and resilience
- Promote irrigation technologies
- Promote innovative partnerships with national institutions and governments and the private sector
- Focus interventions and innovations based on needs of farmers and end-users
- Continue to work with national extension systems and regional organizations in scaling out innovations
- Focus on delivery and impact at scale
- Leverage on digital tools, AI, agri-technology start-ups to disseminate technology
- Better communicate CGIAR research and innovation to end-users including farmers and making technology accessible
- Forge stronger partnerships and collaboration with partners on the ground
- Lobby African governments to invest in agriculture and stop depending on donor funding

Session Summary:

(*To go in final report. Max 300 words. Fill in prose)

This side event kicked off with Claudia Sadoff, Executive Management Team Coordinator and Managing Director, Research Delivery and Impact, CGIAR, giving a brief on CGIAR's new research and Innovation strategy, which seeks to make significant and meaningful contributions to addressing Africa's challenges and helping it realize its potential for agriculture; transforming the food, land, and water systems in a climate crisis; and highlighting the importance of CGIAR to Africa through its goal of

generating better outcomes for nutrition, livelihoods, and environmental sustainability.

This was followed by a fireside chat with the Regional Directors of the three regions across the continent covered by CGIAR. These are Central and West Asia, and North Africa (CWANA) led by Aly Abousabaa, DG, ICARDA; East and Southern Africa (E&S) led by Harold Roy-Macauley, DG, AfricaRice and West and Central Africa (W&CA) led by Nteranya Sanginga, DG, IITA. They each outlined the priority needs in their regions and priority interventions by CGIAR. They also gave an overview of some of the game-changing innovations from CGIAR that are making a difference in Africa.

A panel represented by various agriculture transformation actors engaged with CGIAR was asked to react to the presentations by the directors and share what they thought and liked about the new strategy and initiatives, areas for improvement, and how to strengthen collaboration. The panel members were: Naglaa Abdallah, Professor, Faculty of Agriculture, Cairo University and senior scientist, Agricultural Research Center (ARC), Egypt representing national research partners; Abdullahi Ndarubu, COO, Harvestfield Industries Ltd, Nigeria for the private sector; Martin Fregene, Director of Agriculture and Agro-Industry, African Development Bank on behalf of development partners; and Emma Naluyima, Farmer and veterinarian, Africa Food Prize 2019 Laureate, Uganda for farmers, youth, and women. Overall, they expressed optimism on the new CGIAR strategies and initiatives, and the focus on increased collaboration to address the major agricultural challenges in the continent in the face of climate change.

The session was wrapped up by Juan-Lucas Restrepo, Global Director of Partnerships and Advocacy, CGIAR and DG, Alliance Bioversity-CIAT, on the priority actions, steps, and commitments of One CGIAR towards a resilient recovery of agriculture in Africa, highlighting the importance of aligning to the needs of national governments in the region, and engaging more with government/civil society/private sector partners.

Tweetable quotes with timestamp:

(*For podcast and to go to AGRF Communication for social media. Minimum 3 per session)

1. CGIAR has a long and proud history of working across Africa with national and regional partners to bring science-based innovations to smallholder farmers that will offer better prospects for nutrition, livelihoods, and environmental sustainability. - Claudia Sadoff
2. CGIAR's strength is that we are able to work at the global level to develop solutions that can then be applied at the local level. - Aly Abousabaa, Regional Director, Central and West Asia and North Africa, CGIAR
3. Very few African countries invest in agriculture because it is still considered a social activity to be funded by donors. We need to change that mindset—to see

agriculture as a business. - Nteranya Sanginga, Regional Director, West and Central Africa, CGIAR

4. We work very closely with CGIAR on scaling the best technologies. There is no progress without innovation. R&D is fundamental. - Martin Fregene, Director of Agriculture and Agro-Industry, African Development Bank

How has the session contributed to the AGRF outcomes?

*(For end of AGRF communique/ Press release. List 3 - 5 top outcomes)

1. The climate crisis is at the forefront of threats affecting the African continent, especially food systems. This event showed how alliances supporting vulnerable small-scale producers to adapt to climate change while reducing environmental degradation are essential for sustaining food systems and ensuring food and nutrition security.
2. This event helped identify priority research areas/actions for the region to create more sustainable and resilient food systems in the face of climate change and other challenges.
3. The event highlighted the importance of collaborating with NARES and national governments to create innovation that are demand-driven and adapted to the local context.
4. CGIAR, as the world leader in agricultural science and innovation for development, has been a key player in transforming Africa's agriculture through its various centers. In implementing its new strategy, CGIAR pledged to redouble its efforts with the help of a wider and more diverse stakeholder spread in scaling knowledge, technologies, and innovations to support recovery and strengthen the resiliency of Africa's food systems.

COMMITMENTS

CGIAR commits with partners to:

- Forge new multisectoral policies and strategies for food, land, and water systems transformation in three regions in Africa.
- Play a catalytic role in developing practical solutions for more resilient, diverse, and remunerative food systems that generate a smaller environmental footprint, improve livelihoods, foster inclusion, and make healthy diets affordable.
- Improve the prosperity (assets and incomes) of resource-poor small-scale food system workers, farmers, fishers, and livestock keepers under climate change, with an eye on meeting optimal nutrition outcomes.
- Increase genetic gains in farmers' fields across the dimensions of nutrition, livelihoods, equality, environment, and climate.
- Conserve the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants, and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed genebanks.