

faced by leaders, that the hinder progress in achieving national agriculture priorities. They will also highlight the importance of honing collaborative leadership skills, and the potential of the Centre for African Leaders in Agriculture to support leaders to deliver on sector priorities.

Sequence 2

The second sequence at AGRF 2021 asks the question “African food systems leadership – how to shape the future?” and explores how to inspire new forms of leadership in agri-food systems that can accelerate systems-level change across Africa. AGRA’s Centre for African Leaders in Agriculture (CALA) and the African Food Fellowship, as new agri-food system leadership support initiatives, seek to catalyze a professional movement of food system leaders who work collaboratively to build sustainable food systems for the well-being of all African citizens and its environment. The session will begin a new dialogue on the nature of African leadership for food systems transformation in Africa and familiarize attendees with the two initiatives.

Speakers:

Sequence 1:

1. Dr. Agnes Kalibata, President, AGRA
2. Dr. Jochen Harnisch, Head of Division, Agriculture, Water and Biodiversity – KfW
3. Professor Hamadi Boga, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Kenya
4. Professor Siza Tumbo, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Tanzania
5. Jean Claude Musabyimana, Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI), Rwanda
6. Dr. Mandefro Nigussie, CEO of the Agricultural Transformation Agency, Ethiopia
7. Bongwiwe Njobe, Head of Social Investing, First Rand Group, and former DG at the National Department of Agriculture (South Africa)

Sequence 2:

8. Dr. Fadel Ndiame, Deputy President, AGRA
9. Prof. Richard Mkandawire, chairperson Malawi Planning Commission and Senior advisor to NEPAD on CAADP
10. Dr. Jolly Dusabe, Youth Focal Point Secretariat of UNFSS 2021
11. Nachilala Nkombo, CEO, WorldWide Fund for Nature, Zambia and Inspiration Committee, African Food Fellowship
12. Victor Mugo: Co-Chair of the Youth Liaisons to the UNFSS

13. Dr. Nungari Mwangi, CALA, AGRA
14. Eunice Khaguli, Dean, African Food Fellowship
15. Joost Guijt, Director, African Food Fellowship

African Food Fellows

16. Waithera N'gang'a, African Food Fellow
17. Brenda Namagumya, Wageningen University & Research

Centre for African Leaders in Agriculture delegates

18. Vincent Aduramigba-Modupe, Africa Centre Director of the International Nitrogen Initiative; and a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Agricultural Research and Training, Ibadan, Nigeria
19. Christabell Makokha, Head of Partnerships and Innovations Lead, Aceli Africa - Kenya

Main highlights:

(*For Insights and newsletter. To be based on the theme of the day. Fill in in bullet form)

SEQUENCE 1

- We need strong leadership that will enable us to deliver on our commitments in agriculture and agri-food systems in general (policy and planning capacity is increasing, we see major challenges in capacity for effective implementation),
- We need **boldness and intentionality to lead to results**
- We need leaders who are **result-oriented and ethical**
- Leaders need to recognise the urgency of the moment. They need to ensure effective interventions are prioritized and implemented to address food security challenges as many Africans are going to bed hungry, COVID 19 has made matters worse
- Leaders need to transform what they learned from school to tangible results. We need to translate the skills, mix them with the right attitude so that we can achieve the results.
- **Leaders need to have technical skills as well as soft skills**, technical skills relevant to address the food systems challenges, but also soft skills to build trust
- **Coordination is key.** We need to have coordinated policies and programmes that will enable the African continent to achieve the intended development outcomes efficiently
- Food System is complex, it has many dimensions that are interconnected. There is interconnection between local level, national level, and continental levels and beyond. It is important to have **collective action and collaboration among actors.**
- Need for leadership to ensure the success of the devolution system of governance, especially the interphase between the national and subnational levels

- We need collaborative leadership to have in place the agrifood systems we want. Collaborative leadership will unlock results and progress for the continent in terms of food security and sustainability.
 - There is no silver bullet no one leader can solve all challenges within the food systems on their own, there is interdependency on what other leaders are doing as well
 - We need to take multi-sectoral approach
 - Leaders need to be very intentional in forging strong public private partnerships.
 - Necessary collaborative actions are required by governments, pan African organizations, bilateral and multilateral development partners, and the private sector
 - Stressing the importance of PPP, Professor Tumbo indicated priority is the farmer, it's impossible to advance agriculture without involving private sector for the provision of inputs, and financing
 - Experts and leaders across countries to work together
 - Network, partnerships came out very clearly
- Institutional Reforms important for the agriculture sector
- Transformation is not a one-person accomplishment, there must be collaboration and a shared goal and a shared target. A leader can transform if they can mobilize the expertise and skills and experience of the team. It is about motivation and managing politics.

SEQUENCE 2 - KEY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR AFRICAN FOOD SYSTEMS LEADERSHIP:

- Leadership is an essential requirement for significant systems change.
- We must build an ecosystem to support leaders to make good decisions. CALA and Fellowship can support this leadership. We need to work across and between value chains, collaborative, new tools of leading
- Food systems have arrived at the heart of global attention. They are failing people and the planet. 700m people went hungry last year and Covid has shown food systems need new direction.
- For some time, sustainability has not been a priority in agriculture. Degradation of soils or water basins is acute. A multisectoral approach is key recognizing the importance of agricultural science, but also soft skills to build trust and collaboration. Young people need to be at the forefront of efforts – most young people are working on their own, with very little support.
- Young people recognize that food systems are failing for people and environment. It has been hard for young to get into agriculture. Three common themes are noted among the youth: Africa needs to ensure everyone has access to nutritious food; decent employment opportunities in agri-food systems are needed; young people are passionate their future, sustainability and want food

systems to stop damaging the environment – climate smart agriculture is important. Good to see CALA and the African Food Fellowship support the leaders for the future.

- CALA is there to support leaders in implementation of food systems transformation. Efforts are needed to deal with succession, and new leaders are needed to ensure continuity of leadership. The great value addition of CALA is network and partnership for system change. Alignment of policy leaders in favour of proven technology. Leadership is a skills to be learned.
- The African Food Fellowship is a collaborative initiative led by Wageningen University and Research and Wasafiri Consulting and supported by the IKEA Foundation. The purpose is to empower new African leadership to help Africa deliver on the Malabo Declaration goals. The African Food Fellowship will support thousands of mid-career leaders to transform food systems in countries across the continent. It started in Kenya in 2021 bringing together 30 fellows in 3 pre-defined impact areas of the food system. It revolves around fostering collaborative leadership across the public, private and civil spheres to transform the food system. Spirit of Ubuntu – agriculture is optimistic – progressive and profitable – not poverty inducing. People first. Creating an ecosystem of support for people
- Why a food system perspective? We have many initiatives put in place to tackle challenges, but there is a great deal of work in silos – interventions should be able to connect with one another across the system. Systems thinking helps think about the points of connection and collaboration. Many different people and institutions have a role. We can leverage markets and technology in efforts going forward. Multi-sectoral coordination is key.
- Africa can feed itself and contribute to world food security. Food systems are key to help smallholders out of poverty. Lending to agri-SMEs is critical – and the gap of lending is 65m USD. Innovative solutions are required. Public sector needs to support this. Leaders are key to broker relations between public and private and civic sectors.
- 3 words come through from the session: **Deliver!** Leadership that delivers on the promises that are made. Good knowledge exists on what needs to be done. **Systems!** We must move away from single solutions together complex systems, people, and planet together. Find the synergies. **Collaboration!** Implies working very collaboratively. We mustn't feel lonely – we must be bold – and resistance will be there – and the issues is finding the confidence to lead and connect the levels that are needed.

Session Summary:

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

African can feed itself and contribute to global food security. Leadership is core to an agenda seeking to achieve successful food systems transformation that is good for people and the planet. Our food systems have many challenges in Africa including environmental degradation, financing gaps, siloed planning and implementation, the

effects of Covid-19 and many more. An ecosystem is required to support the food systems leadership that can forge a new pathway forward. AGRA's CALA and the African Food Fellowship are two new initiatives seeking to have great impact through empowering leaders in the food system to feel they can make different kinds of policy and implementation decisions in favour of transformation. Leadership that goes against the grain is hard. The two initiatives are based on fostering collaborative leadership that create the means for support and accountability on the exciting and challenging road ahead. Three aspects stand out – we must: Deliver! Think and act systemically! Collaborate!

Tweetable quotes with timestamp:

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

CALA tweets to be release 15 Sep 2021

“Our continent needs to move forward with agriculture transformation from a food systems perspective” - Agnes Kalibata, @AGRAAlliance president’s remarks at #AGRF2021 summit session hosted by CALA and @_AfricanFood. Learn more about CALA’s mission through <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wMIw-Vz8jXM>

“The greatest value of CALA is networks and partnerships for system change”- Vincent Modupe, CALA delegate, Nigeria #AGRF2021. CALA will bring together 80 leaders from government, public sector and civil society to strengthen their capacity. Learn more- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wMIw-Vz8jXM> & cala.agra.org

Inclusive Food systems help to lift smallholders out of poverty, and leaders are key in developing solutions that bring together public, private and civic sectors energies to support this. These critical insights came out clearly at CALA's #AGRF2021 session. To learn more- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wMIw-Vz8jXM> #thetimeisnow

How has the session contributed to the AGRF outcomes?

The session contributed to AGRF 2021 theme of “Pathways to Recovery and Resilient Food Systems”, by underscoring that:

- Leadership is core to an agenda seeking to achieve successful food systems transformation that is good for people and the planet
- AGRA’s CALA and the African Food Fellowship are empowering leaders in the food system to feel they can make different kinds of policy and implementation decisions in favour of transformation
- Transformation is not a one-person accomplishment. That there must be collaboration towards the shared goal of transformed African food systems

COMMITMENTS

Over the first three years, CALA is committed to:

- (i) enhancing the leadership capacities of at least 160 leaders,
- (ii) advancing flagship programs and policies in eight countries to achieve progress in their agricultural transformation,
- (iii) strengthening coordination and strategic partnerships to drive forward an inclusive agriculture transformation and,
- (iv) generating lessons in leadership capacity development for Africa's agricultural transformation that will help refine the Initiative to increase its strength, impact, and sustainability.