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# AGRIF2019

GROW DIGITAL

LEVERAGING DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION TO DRIVE  
SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS IN AFRICA



AFRICAN  
GREEN  
REVOLUTION  
FORUM 2019

FORUM REPORT



## DELEGATES

From Left to Right - Hon. Cristina Duarte, Former Minister of Finance, Cape Verde, Hon. Linah Mohohlo, Former Central Bank Governor, Botswana, Mrs. Usha Zehr, Director and CTO, MAHYCO, Mr. Fred Swaniker, Founder, African Leadership Group, Mr. Svein Tore Holsether, CEO, Yara International ASA, H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn, Former Prime Minister of Ethiopia and Chair, AGRA Board and AGRF Partners Group, H.E. Lionel Zinsou, Former Prime Minister of Benin and Partner, Southbridge Group, Hon. Owusu Afriyie Akoto, Minister of Food & Agriculture, Ghana, Mr. Rodger Voorhies, President, Global Growth & Opportunity, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, H.E. Yemi Osinbajo, Vice President, Nigeria, Mr. Frank Braeken, Chairman, Feronia Inc., H.E. Nana Addo Akufo-Addo, President, Ghana, Dr. Agnes Kalibata, President, AGRA, Amb. Kenneth Quinn, President, World Food Prize Foundation, Mrs. Nane Annan, Kofi Annan Foundation, H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, Former President of Nigeria and Chair, Africa Food Prize Committee, Mr. Strive Masiyiwa, Founder and Chairman, Econet Group and Former Chair, AGRA Board and AGRF Partners Group, Rt. Hon. Edouard Ngirente, Prime Minister, Rwanda, Hon. Josefa Sacko, Commissioner, African Union Commission

## CONTENTS

<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<b>04</b>
<b>SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS</b>	
<b>LEVERAGING DIGITIZATION FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS IN AFRICA</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>CTA AND DALBERG REPORT ON ‘D4AG’</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>HIGH-LEVEL MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE - SUPPORTING CAADP PRIORITIES FOR PROGRESS</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>THE ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN AFRICAN AGRICULTURE</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>LAUNCH OF THE AGRIBUSINESS DEAL ROOM AND UNLOCKING PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>CEO ROUNDTABLE - HARD TALK</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>REGIONAL FOOD TRADE AND LAUNCH OF A REGIONAL FOOD TRADE COALITION</b>	<b>23</b>





<b>THE GREAT DEBATE - GETTING VALUE FROM A CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>FEATURED REMARKS</b>	
<b>YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND RECOGNITION</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>ADDRESS BY H.E. NANA AKUFO-ADDO</b>	<b>48</b>
- LAUNCH OF GENERATION AFRICA	30	<b>ADDRESS BY H.E. HAILEMARIAM DESALGEN</b>	<b>52</b>
- GOGETTAZ AGRIPRENEURSHIP COMPETITION	34	<b>ADDRESS BY DR. AGNES KALIBATA</b>	<b>54</b>
- PITCH AGRIHACK COMPETITION ANNOUNCED	36	<b>ADDRESS BY STRIVE MASIYIWA</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>THE AFRICA FOOD PRIZE</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>AGRF DECLARATION: INCREASING ADAPTATION &amp; RESILIENCE OF AFRICAN FOOD SYSTEMS</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>AGRF 2019 COMMUNIQUÉ</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>NUTRITION</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>AGRF PARTNERS AND SPONSORS</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>SCALING UP NUTRITION WITH H.E. THE FIRST LADY OF GHANA</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>SAVE THE DATE AGRF 2020 SUMMIT</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>PRESIDENTIAL SUMMIT</b>	<b>46</b>		





AFRICAN GREEN REVOLUTION FORUM 2019  
24-25 SEPTEMBER  
ACCRA, GHANA

AFRICAN GREEN REVOLUTION FORUM 2019



GROW DIGITAL

Leveraging digital transformation to drive sustainable food systems in Africa

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since 2010, the African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) has established itself as the world's premier forum on African agriculture providing an opportunity to mobilise continental leadership, including the private sector, in investing in the continent's agriculture and food sector. The AGRF Summit is designed to showcase examples of agricultural transformation in action, to share lessons and models, and to promote the policies, programs, and investments needed to drive change in food supply chains across the continent.

**AGRF is a partnership of institutions that care about Africa's agriculture transformation.** The members of the AGRF Partners Group are: African Development Bank (AfDB), African Fertilizer and Agribusiness Partnership (AFAP), Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), African Union, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, CGIAR System Organization, Corteva Agriscience, Technical Center for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation (CTA), Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), IDH the Sustainable Trade Initiative, Grow Africa -a Centre of Excellence of the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), International Development Research Centre (IDRC), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Mastercard Foundation, OCP Africa Group, Rockefeller Foundation, Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU), Syngenta, UK Department for International Development (DFID), UPL, US Agency for International Development (USAID), and Yara International ASA.

AGRF 2019 was held over four days in Accra, Ghana, from September 3-6. It comprised a Presidential Summit, ministerial roundtable, high level meetings, debates, award ceremonies, bilateral business meetings, and exhibitions. The Forum was attended by more than 2400 delegates from 89 countries and high-level dignitaries, including H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of Ghana; H.E. Mahamadou Issoufou, President of Niger; Rt. Hon. Edouard Ngirente, Prime Minister of Rwanda; Rt. Hon. Tony Blair, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom; H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, Former President of Nigeria; H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn, Former Prime Minister of Ethiopia; and Rt. Hon. Lionel Zinsou, Former Prime Minister of Benin. Other important Forum leaders and speakers included Hin. Joseta Sacko, Commissioner of the African Union Commission, several leaders of Regional Economic Communities (REG), heads of international agencies and CEOs of global, regional and national business companies within and outside of Africa.



# GROW DIGITAL

**The theme of this year's Forum, 'Grow Digital', highlights the benefits that ICT connections can have for food production on the African continent. Digital technology is already disrupting established food supply systems, but the benefits are likely to multiply as new innovations are developed and the best ideas rolled out from test-bed areas to other parts of the continent. For example, Kenya has been particularly successful in developing agricultural digital solutions and these will be disseminated into other markets over the next few years.**

At the same time, a growing proportion of African farmers are gaining access to the internet, making it much easier to access digital technologies and services. About 44% of people in Sub-Saharan Africa now have a mobile phone and although the uptake of smart phones is still low, this is likely to increase rapidly in the near future as prices fall.

It could be argued that Africa is actually at an advantage in pursuing its unique Green Revolution, as unlike any other regions, it can benefit from the availability of the internet and mobile technology, never mind digital innovations such as big data, machine learning, block chain, and drones. This gives the continent an opportunity to leapfrog the agricultural transformation trajectory of the past and revolutionise life by overcoming isolation and speeding up change.

Despite the benefits of digitalisation for agriculture (D4Ag), the turnover of D4Ag solutions in Africa stood at just €127m in 2018 against a total addressable market of €2.8 billion, according to a new report by CTA and Dalberg on Digitalization for African Agriculture. Yet rapid growth is likely, given that big tech firms, such as Google and Microsoft, and big agriculture players such as Yara, Syngenta, OCP, Corteva, and many others in the AGRF Partners Group and stakeholder community are increasingly interested in African agricultural digitisation.

The Agribusiness Deal Room at this year's event expanded significantly to include 250 companies, over 50 funders, and total investment opportunities in excess of \$3 billion. At the same time, the Deal Room focused on tangible investments and moving deals through their lifecycle. As examples, private and public sector stakeholders made commitments worth over \$200m to develop and strengthen value chains in Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Uganda and Eswatini. Companies involved included Dangote Farms Ltd of Nigeria, Press Agriculture Ltd of Malawi, Pearl Dairies Ltd of Uganda and Fresh Ltd of Mozambique and Eswatini. Also, A Unilever-IDH partnership committed \$28.6 million towards investments in small and medium size enterprises (SMEs) working in variety of food-related endeavors.

There were new commitments to expand efforts focused on providing African farmers with innovations and the assistance they need to deal with the many impacts of climate change. On behalf of many AGRF Stakeholders, the Hon. Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation from Egypt, Dr. Ezz El-Din Abu Steit, presented The Declaration on Increasing the Adaptation and Resilience of African Food Systems, which called on multilateral, bilateral and private sector partners to support increased funding focused on multiple climate related challenges to food production in Africa. It also called on delegates to commit to embedding resilience and adaptation interventions into national agricultural investment plans and to





scale-up proven technologies targeting smallholder farmers, with a special focus on women and youth.

AGRF 2019 featured the launch of a new Africa Regional Food Trade Coalition, which was set up in response to the current low level of intra-African trade in goods. It seeks to build on the creation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and to reduce the region's \$35bn annual food import bill. The goal is to increase regional food trade via more predictable policies and mechanisms that encourage new agribusiness investments that capitalize on the rich diversity of farming ecologies across the continent. An incredible 70% of African farmers are working to produce food but have no market. The Regional Food Trade Coalition will work to improve the competitiveness of Regional Food Trade on the continent and will continue to report on collective progress at AGRF over the next several years.

In a high-level ministerial roundtable on the CAADP priorities for progress, ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the institutionalization of the CAADP Biennial Review and the African Agricultural Transformation Scorecard (AATS). Ministers also discussed the commitment to develop evidence-based solutions, including digital-based tools for identifying, designing and implementing policy solutions. The need to advance policies that will promote digital solutions for monitoring and implementing priority actions arising from the Biennial Review (BR) was another key topic. As was the implementation of national agriculture investment plans. The CAADP BR toolkit and dashboards were highlighted as vital to improving accountability on the CAADP commitments.

A marquee commitment secured at AGRF 2019 was the announcement from the Reeta Roy, President and CEO of the Mastercard Foundation to invest \$500 million to launch a new Young Africa Works program. The initiative will provide a major infusion of capital to support the efforts of a new generation of young “agripreneurs” who are investing their talent in farming and other agriculture-oriented ventures.

At an event hosted by H.E. Rebecca Akufo-Addo, the First Lady of Ghana, women leaders in Africa vowed to end malnutrition using best tested strategies

## Reports and Prizes

**The 2019 Africa Agricultural Status Report (AASR)** from AGRA and its partners was released at the Forum. The provocative new report busts a major myth of Africa agriculture: that there is a “missing middle” of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) available to power the region's food systems. AGRA's 2019 Africa Agricultural Status Report (AASR) presented new evidence that the “missing middle” is actually a “hidden middle” of SME-powered agri-food supply chains that recently has experienced a “quiet revolution.”

The report found that today, millions of SMEs are sourcing directly from millions more smallholder farmers across Sub-Saharan Africa, accounting for 64 percent of the volume of food consumed in the region. The report noted that the rise of SME's has been largely unrecognized by policymakers, even as it has bridged gaps that previously separated most small-scale farmers from commercial markets.

The launch of the **Africa Agriculture Trade Monitor (AATM) 2019 report** from the International Food Policy Research Institute and CTA examined the effectiveness of efforts to increase regional trade integration and intra-African trade. It also evaluated the potential impact of broader integration on Africa's trade performance in light of emerging trade protectionism in the global economy.

Meanwhile, the Regional Food Trade policy symposium showcased a number of data innovations and initiatives that help in monitoring and forecasting agriculture production, climate and earth observatory, as well as tools used in trade and food security monitoring. Delegates praised the role of these innovations in strengthening evidenced based policy making in advancing food trade in selected countries and the need for scale-up in their use.

Young entrepreneurs were showcased as drivers of innovation and growth in Africa's agri-food sector through the inaugural **GoGettaz competition**, which was launched and hosted by Econet Group and Yara International. After receiving more than 2,000 business proposals from youth agripreneurs, a dozen finalists were able to pitch their innovative business models at AGRF 2019, with two business owners selected as joint winners: Ghanaian Isaac Sesi





and Bonolo Monthe of Botswana. Many of these finalists in the GoGettaz community received commitments of financing, technical support, and invitations to incubators to take help grow their businesses to the next level.

As a hallmark moment of the Forum, the **2019 Africa Food Prize** was awarded to two successful food producers: Dr. Emma Naluyima for her innovative and enterprising approach to smallholder farming, based on highly profitable integration of crops and livestock, and for her selfless efforts to share skills, knowledge and lessons learned on her farm, One Acre Unlimited; and Baba Dioum for his outstanding leadership in Africa's agricultural policy development championing the inclusion of private sector elements into the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) that opened up space and opportunities for increased private sector investment in African agriculture. The Africa Food Prize honours outstanding contributions within every aspect of agriculture and food production that is clearly related to combating hunger and reducing poverty in Africa.

In the closing ceremony, the AGRF Partners Group commended and thanked the Government of Ghana for its tremendous leadership and hospitality in hosting AGRF 2019. Following a competitive bidding process, the 23 Members of the AGRF Partners Group unanimously agreed that Rwanda will host AGRF 2020 and serve as the long term home country of the Forum going forward.



**Dr. Emma Naluyima, 2019 Africa Food Prize Laureate**



**Baba Dioum, 2019 Africa Food Prize Laureate**



## LEVERAGING DIGITIZATION FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS IN AFRICA

The opening ceremony of the Annual Africa Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) 2019 set the tone for the four day Forum. Stakeholders present at the ceremony, which marked the ninth edition of AGRF, included Hon. Prof. Kabwena Frimpong-Boateng Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation on behalf of the Government of Ghana, Dr. Agnes Kalibata, the President of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and Hon. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, Commissioner, Department for Agriculture and Rural Economy at the African Union Commission.





In her welcoming remarks, Dr. Kalibata said that three key issues would shape conversations over the course of the Forum: digitalization for agriculture (D4Ag); the mobilization of private investment; and the need to invest in adaptation and resilience against climate change. The key outcome of the opening ceremony was the launch of the Digitalization of African Agriculture Report – 2018/2019, which was compiled by CTA and Dalberg Partners.

D4Ag includes a wide range of digital solutions in data, hardware and software that are used across the agricultural value chain, from seed to harvest and on to the final consumer. As an example, some D4Ag solutions connect farmers to markets and finance while others give them access to real-time climate and weather data to help them plant and harvest at the right time.

The report broadly categorizes the available D4Ag solutions in Africa into supply chain management, advisory & information services, data intermediation, financial access, market linkages and macro-agri-intelligence. Although D4Ag is a relatively nascent sector in Africa, it is growing rapidly. The number of D4Ag solutions on the continent has grown from 42 before 2013 to 390 in 2019.

Bundling D4Ag solutions, which is essentially providing multiple

D4Ag services via one easy-to-use platform, could increase farmers' income by 57% and yields by 168%, the report states. It can also provide a pathway to diversify participation in African agriculture, including for the 71% of D4Ag users surveyed in the report who are youths. Moreover, just 25% of D4Ag users in Africa are women, despite the fact that 40-50% of all African smallholder farmers are women.

The turnover of D4Ag solutions in Africa stood at €127m in 2018 against a total addressable market of €2.8bn, the report shows. The good news is that private companies, including big tech firms such as Google and Microsoft, and big agriculture players such as Yara and Syngenta, are increasingly interested in African D4Ag.

“Without the right policy focus and investment there is a danger that the development will be piecemeal. It will neither be sustainable nor inclusive,” said CTA Director Michael Hailu, in reference to the critical role that governments and policy makers need to play to an enabling environment for private investment.



## HIGH-LEVEL MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE – SUPPORTING CAADP PRIORITIES FOR PROGRESS

**In a high-level ministerial roundtable on the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) priorities for progress, more than 25 Ministers from African governments reaffirmed their commitment to the institutionalization of the CAADP Biennial Review and the African Agricultural Transformation Scorecard (AATS).**

The former Prime Minister of Ethiopia H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn and Dr. Owusu Afriyie Akoto, the Minister of Food and Agriculture, Ghana officially opened the roundtable.

CAADP was a pledge by African heads of state and governments to transform African agriculture within ten years but most of the original commitments have not yet been met. The pledge included a commitment to pro-poor expenditure by spending at least 10% of the country's annual budget on agriculture, nutrition security and building commercial farming. There were also ambitious goals to halve poverty and reduce hunger to zero by 2025.

The 2014 Malabo Declaration re-committed African governments to pledges made during the first decade of CAADP, specifically from the previous 2003 Maputo Declaration when they pledged to spend at least 10% of their national budgets on agriculture. The AATS is a summary communications product of the Biennial Review designed to help leaders focus on the transformative priorities identified in CAADP and see how they can best learn from each other to drive progress. These initiatives form part of the country peer review mechanism that is linked to monitoring of National Investment Plans and Joint Sector Reviews.

As part of opening the Ministerial Roundtable, Former British Prime Minister, Rt. Hon Tony Blair noted that, "A dashboard is a helpful tool that should tell you where you are, where you need to be, so you can work out how to bridge the gap." He also set out the principles behind implementing an ambitious vision: priorities; policy to implement the priority; personnel; talent; and performance management as a control mechanism for implementation.

Success stories have inspired the hope that, with the right strategies and political will, Africa could achieve the commitments it has made. For instance, rice production in Benin has almost doubled since it started instituting the reforms it committed to under the Malabo Declaration.

Ministers discussed the commitment to develop evidence-based solutions, including digital-based tools for identifying, designing and implementing policy solutions. They also considered the need to advance policies that will promote digital solutions for monitoring and implementing priority actions arising from the Biennial Review.

To do this, ministers will need effective and country-led prioritization and sequencing through their flagship programs. They also need to leverage and scale up digital technologies while creating an attractive investment environment. Human resource capacities and coordination between different ministries and wider stakeholders are also crucial. Finally, having the tools to manage performance, such as the Biennial Review scorecard and dashboard, will be essential.

Speakers also issued a call for increased investment in digital-led solutions to advance regional trade and agricultural transformation. Ghana has set an example in this area through its Planting for Food and Jobs flagship program. Whilst concluding, H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn indicated that mutual accountability would lead to action and progress. He welcomed the role played by donors and partners, but cautioned that they must come along to support Africa's priorities and not their preferences.



to drive



2015 AFRICAN GREEN REVOLUTION FORUM 2019 century



## CTA AND DALBERG REPORT ON ‘D4AG’

**The topic of this year’s AGRF builds on research by other organisations, including The Digitisation of African Agriculture Report 2018-19, which was published by CTA and Dalberg Advisors this June. The report argues that Africa needs to at least double current levels of agricultural productivity if it is to meet demand and end food insecurity in the face of the more frequent droughts, floods, new pests and diseases predicted from climate change.**

Digitalisation for agriculture (D4Ag) offers many of the required solutions, including through the collation of far more data than ever before, including from individual farms and fields. This information can empower farmers to make better decisions, including on selecting crop types and inputs, while giving governments a better understanding of agriculture on which to base their policies.

The report is based on a database that tracks 390 active D4Ag solutions in Sub-Saharan Africa and more than 70 defunct solutions with detailed information on each, including type of business model, reach, geographic presence, revenue and impact. Based on self-reported data, D4Ag has resulted in yield improvements of 50-300% and income improvements of 20-100%. “Anecdotally, these figures are higher than those of purely analogue solutions and are generated at reduced cost and thus higher return on investment”, the report said.

Although there are D4Ag solutions present in at least 43 out of 49 Sub-Saharan African countries, more than half of the solutions are headquartered in East Africa and nearly two-thirds of registered farmers across all solutions are based in East Africa. This may be because Kenya is a particularly important hub for ICT in general. There is therefore still plenty of scope to disseminate the use of such solutions across the rest of the continent.

The report argues that D4Ag has probably already helped to reduce some of the effects of climate change by improving resource use, such as soil and water conservation due to advisory services; building resilience, including via digitally-enabled agri-index insurance; and lowering postharvest losses for some farmers. However, it is likely that the effects of D4Ag on climate resilience have only just begun to feed through much more progress in this area is expected over the next few years.









# THE ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN AFRICAN AGRICULTURE

**A plenary that saw the launch of the 2019 Africa Agriculture Status Report (AASR). The report found that millions of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that it described as the ‘Hidden Middle’ source directly from millions more smallholder farmers across Sub-Saharan Africa driving a “Quiet Revolution” across African agriculture, connecting smallholder farmers to commercial markets at an unprecedented rate.**

Dr. Tom Reardon, Professor of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics at Michigan State University (MSU), said: “SMEs are driving growth and transformation but nobody is noticing. This is what this year’s AASR report will hopefully change.”

“SMEs are the biggest investors in building markets for farmers in Africa today, and will likely remain so for the next ten to 20 years,” said Dr. Agnes Kalibata, President of AGRA. “They are not a ‘missing middle,’ as is often thought, but the ‘hidden middle.’ Today, we bring them out into the light,” she added, noting that women-led SMEs were also making headway in African agriculture.

Delegates discussed the various benefits of SMEs and the challenges that face them. Governments need to support businesses, particularly SMEs, noted Dr. Abebe Haile-Gabriel, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa, FAO. Mrs. Ndidi Nwuneli, Partner & Co-Founder, Sahel Capital noted that SMEs in agriculture were ill-equipped to deal with the consequences of climate change, and identified this as an area where governments needed to step in. The session

made an urgent call to action for policy makers, governments and other development partners to collaborate in creating an enabling environment for SMEs in agriculture. Ms. Lucy Muchoki, Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry noted that most agricultural SMEs are led by women. Supporting SMEs is therefore beneficial to the broader goal of ensuring gender equality in agriculture.

The panel was followed by a session where partners made commitments in support of SMEs in African agriculture. USAID, IDH, Unilever, Corteva, UPL pledged their support for the Farm Fit Fund in IDH, which is a coalition of partners that have pooled financial resources to affordable financing to farmers – something that will make a huge difference as most farmers are locked out of formal financial system. “We will work together towards results that create shared value, especially for the most vulnerable,” noted Ms. Maura Barry, Sr. Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Food Security, USAID.



## LAUNCH OF THE AGRIBUSINESS DEAL ROOM AND UNLOCKING PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT TO ACHIEVE THE SDGS

**Hon. Owusu Afriyie Akoto, Minister of Food and Agriculture, Ghana in partnership with Hon. Ken Ofori-Atta, Minister of Finance, Ghana, and IFAD President Gilbert Hounbo together with several other AGRF partners launched a four-day deal room to promote new business deals and commitments, to facilitate dialogue among key companies, investors, governments, and AGRF partners.**

The Investment Center and Agribusiness Deal Room of AGRF 2019 was a hub of activity, securing the Forum as a prime venue for connecting agribusinesses and investment opportunities with critically needed capital. There were more than 350 scheduled meetings and close to 600 impromptu discussions in the formal Deal Room alone. Over 100 SMEs participated in the Deal Room; these businesses have a total fundraising need of \$804 million and were able to meet with a plethora of capital providers that offer debt, equity, quasi-equity, and grant funding. Capital needs ranged from \$100k to \$100 million with an average investment need of \$7 million and a median investment need of \$1 million.

“Technology keeps evolving. So too does Africa’s food system. Uniting these two elements has the potential to be a game changer, but getting results that count from digital technology requires a third element, one that will ensure its rapid, successful deployment - and that is agribusiness,” said Gilbert Hounbo, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

The Deal Room not only attracted venture capitalists and other investors seeking to back African agribusinesses, but also drew the interest of large multinationals keen on expanding their current footprint on the continent. Companies such as Microsoft, Coca Cola, Dangote, Export Trading Group, Corteva, John Deere, Land O’Lakes, the OCP Group, Yara, Olam, SAP and Syngenta Unilever were represented.

Even as enthusiasm grew, Mr. Jerry Parkes, Managing Principal, Injaro Investments, noted that the risks associated with climate change - such as lower crop yields - are making capital for agriculture in Africa more expensive over time. “Unfortunately, due to the history of higher default or climate related risks, the cost of capital when you’re pricing the risk goes higher when you are a capital provider,” he explained.

Another key topic that was discussed at the Deal Room launch was the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). “Can we take the free trade vision and accelerate it five or ten times? We need to do some digital leapfrogging. Let’s increase the transparency, let’s have open source investments, shared data and evidence where it is needed,” observed Ms. Vanessa Adams, Vice-President, Country Support and Delivery at AGRA.







## CEO ROUNDTABLE – HARD TALK

**The CEO roundtable brought together 11 leaders from both the public and private sectors to discuss the challenges of private sector participation in African agriculture and identify long-term solutions. In addition to examining the interventions needed to improve smallholder farmers’ access to technology and finance, the panellists looked at the role of the African Continental Free Trade Area in improving intra-African food trade; the agribusiness skills gap; and how the private sector can become involved in a meaningful way while still delivering shareholder value.**

Discussing accessibility and financing costs, Ms. Diane Karusisi, CEO of Bank of Kigali, said: “Banks have traditionally been involved in agriculture but don’t fully understand it”. This can push smallholders into towards informal lending. Ms. Karusisi said that the Bank of Kigali is therefore using digital technology to improve data collection from smallholders. More than two million farmers are now registered on its new platform, while 160,000 farmers have registered for mobile wallets within three months of launching. “The data we collect should not just be used to provide an easier channel for financing. It is also important for stakeholders to study this data to improve policy making,” she concluded.

COMESA’s Secretary General H.E. Chileshe Kapwepwe said that non-tariff barriers, such as infrastructure and regulation, present the biggest brake on intra-African trade, which currently stands at 17% of total African trade. This compares to rates of 59% in Asia and 69% in Europe. H.E. Kapwepwe said that the continent imported \$35bn of food every year because it is still often cheaper to import from Europe, the Middle East or elsewhere than from a neighbouring African country. The roundtable also discussed corporate tax rates and financial outflows. “Multinational companies must understand that demanding zero taxes when investing in Africa does not benefit the host government and its people,” said Mr. Njack Kane, CEO

of Intervalle Geneve SA. Low revenue collection, delegates heard, leaves African governments reliant on donor funding to finance reform in agriculture and other sectors. The challenge with donor funding, however, is its unpredictability, which makes it difficult for governments to make long-term plans.

A possible solution to the funding problem, Mr. Tiahmo Rauf from Mother Africa Needs You (MANY) said, was greater collaboration with Africa’s diaspora community. “The diaspora are sending more to Africa than other institution. They believe in this continent, we should believe in them as well,” he said, noting that his organisation was committed to connecting Africans in the diaspora with investment opportunities back home, including opportunities in agribusiness.



## REGIONAL FOOD TRADE

**This Policy Symposium examined the state of food trade in Africa and saw the launch of the 2019 Africa Agriculture Trade Monitor (AATM) Report, co-developed by IFPRI and CTA. The report reached a perhaps unexpected conclusion - that Africa's comparative advantage in agriculture has strengthened in recent years. Yet its competitiveness is mainly in unprocessed and semi-processed products rather than processed products. It also argued that informal cross-border trade actually plays a critical role in poverty alleviation and food security.**

Professor Thomas Jayne, Co-Director, AAP, and Director, ReNAPRI, argued that businesses found it difficult to plan for the long-term because policy changed when governments changed or sought re-election. “Predictable policy could be a huge game changer in terms of food trade. It could even bring banks to the table,” he said. If policy becomes more predictable, it could be possible to triple intra-African trade in agricultural commodities and services by 2025, as set out in the Malabo Declaration. Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair agreed, saying that politicians need to muster the courage to act in line with the long-term interests of Africa. “The hardest thing in politics is not knowing the right thing to do, but doing it.”

Mr. Holger Kray, Head of the Africa Agriculture Policy Unit at the World Bank, emphasized the importance of solid data in policy making. Digital tools can help to ensure that the data that is generated is actually used, he said. Mr Kray said that subsidies can be helpful but need to be spent on boosting resilience to climate change.

The Symposium called for action to be taken now. The continent's population is growing and urbanizing rapidly, meaning that if African countries don't step in to meet the surging demand for food, the food import bill will continue rising, despite the fact that the continent has 60% of the world's arable land.





## AGRF 2019 FEATURED THE LAUNCH OF A NEW AFRICA REGIONAL FOOD TRADE COALITION

**The Regional Food Trade Coalition was called for and developed by a large and diverse coalition of leaders from the public and private sector concerned by the current pace and dismal volume of regional trade versus imports.**

The coalition is building on the foundation established by the new African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and market opportunities evidenced in the region's \$35 billion annual food import bill. The goal is to increase regional food trade via more predictable policies and mechanisms that encourage new agribusiness investments that capitalize on the rich diversity of farming ecologies across the continent and the fact that 70% of African farmers are working to produce food but have no market.

### **The Coalition shall aim to:**

- Develop and influence key policy and regulatory reforms that will strengthen regional food trade for the benefit of all stakeholders, including smallholder farmers and consumers.
- Support and coordinate policy interventions by strengthening key systems that generate supporting evidence for reform.
- Facilitate engagement between agribusinesses and public sector actors for developing more predictable and transparent policy regimes that produce structured market systems and facilitate trade in agri-food products.
- Work to improve the competitiveness of Regional Food Trade on the continent.







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FORUM 2019



## THE GREAT DEBATE – GETTING VALUE FROM A CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA

**The African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) comes into force in July 2020, giving the continent’s diplomats, technocrats and negotiators less than a year to agree on the rules that will govern the world’s largest free trade area since the WTO was set up in 1995. About 90% of tariffs will be eliminated within a decade but the remaining 10% will be retained to protect key industries.**

This hallmark plenary session titled The Great Debate: Getting Value from a Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) discussed how Africa can navigate sensitive issues to do with tariff harmonization, the protection of infant industries and the elimination of non-tariff barriers. Mr. Donald Kaberuka, Former President AfDB and Managing Partner, SouthBridge Capital, gave the keynote remarks of this year’s Great Debate. He warned not to discard existing areas of cooperation that are working. “AfCFTA is building on existing structures. Let us keep all the good things. We are not starting from scratch, but elevating the existing levels of cooperation”, he said. Mr Kaberuka also warned:

It is vital the general public buy into what AfCFTA is trying to achieve. In the main debate, Ms. Gayle Smith, the President and CEO of the ONE Campaign, said that politicians will have some

tough choices to make. “We need a massive public education campaign. Bad political actors will manipulate facts; we have seen this elsewhere in the world in issues to do with trade. Give people the facts early on to prevent this,” she said.

H.E. Lionel Zinsou, the former prime minister of Benin, said that the tariff talks should not distract from the importance of non-tariff barriers. These, in his view, posed a greater threat to the successful implementation of AfCFTA as they lock out smaller businesses that cannot absorb the costs of, for example, 20 road blocks between their farm and the market.

**“Every arrangement of this nature has got winners and losers in the short-term. You need to create mechanisms for cushioning the losers”.**



## YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND RECOGNITION

**Most conferences on African development feature the challenges posed by rural youth unemployment and underemployment, so it was no surprise that it featured at AGRF 2019.**

One of the sessions on the topic, Harnessing the Digital and Demographic Dividends in Agri-Food Systems for Rural Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship brought together representatives from the Mastercard Foundation, Young Professionals for Agricultural Development, FAO and Sasakawa Africa Association, together with several young African agripreneurs, who showcased the different digital solutions they have developed in agriculture.

Ms. Reeta Roy, President and CEO of Mastercard Foundation, argued that digital technologies could be used to create a visual map of agricultural value chains and opportunities. She said that this would help include more rural youth in agriculture, helping stem the problem with rapid rural-urban migration that faces most African governments. “Young people cannot grasp an opportunity they cannot see. We need to make the invisible visible in order to help young people see outputs and value chains; to help them create work where it doesn’t exist,” she said.

This is where digital tools can make a big difference, as the convergence of farming and digital entrepreneurship is already helping to attract more young people into the



agricultural sector. Agrocenta has used digital technology to give Ghanaian farmers direct access to large buyers. Francis Obirikorang from the company said: “Local farmers were losing income to middlemen, who sometimes bought produce at 25% below market value”.

Agrocenta connects small farmers with large companies looking to source raw materials, eliminating middlemen from the process and improving farmers’ incomes. The company also tracks data on farmers’ yields to help them to build credibility with financial institutions, which can then provide them with access to affordable finance. In addition, Agrocenta has created an Uber-like text service that links farmers with transport options, allowing them to transport produce to market when prices are most favourable.

Mr. Obirikorang said that it was provide as many solutions as possible on a single platform. In addition, he said that even with enhanced market access, training and education for farmers was still critically important to help them produce the quality that buyers demanded. AGRF 2019 saw the launch of Generation Africa, a system-focused initiative aimed at accelerating youth agripreneurship and supported by Econet and Yara, among others,

## A ROLE FOR GOVERNMENT

Governments have a big role to play in training and education, underlining the fact that government policy and spending on agriculture encourages entrepreneurial activity and private investment in the sector. They also need to invest in rural digital infrastructure. Some rural areas still lack reliable access to electricity, never mind fast internet, making it impossible to leverage digital technology to create attractive employment opportunities in agriculture.



Dr. Mel Oluoch, Ethiopia Regional Director for Sasakawa Africa Association, told delegates about examples of how tech interventions were driving African agricultural transformation. For instance, video solutions that provide remote advisory services on fertilizer to Ethiopian farmers can be used off-line.

Concluding the session, Mr. Ade Freeman from FAO advocated greater involvement of African youth in the decision-making processes of African agriculture. “Young people and women are often excluded, without a voice or access to resources,” he said, noting that this was counter-productive given that the youth are Africa’s key “resource base.” By giving a voice to young Africans involved in agriculture, AGRF played a critical role in changing this unacceptable status quo.

## SHOWCASING MODELS FOR AGRIPRENEURSHIP

Another AGRF 2019 session, Youth in Agriculture: Showcasing and Scaling Models for Agriprenuership, considered why young people are not being attracted into the sector. This would not only benefit them but would have advantages for the industry, given that young people are generally more adept at using the latest technology. The session brought young African farmers face to face with representatives from the AfDB, AGRA, IFAD, Mastercard Foundation, Syngenta Foundation, USAID, and Yara, among others.

One of the foremost obstacles, delegates were told, was the attitude of young people towards agriculture. Many, perhaps having witnessed their parents or older relatives, spend long hours of backbreaking labour on their farms with little to show for it financially, see limited value in agriculture.

“The problem of joblessness, poverty and hunger in Africa can only be solved by agriculture. Thankfully, we have more than enough of the resources required to make it a vibrant industry, and all we need is a change in attitude among the youth to recognize the unlimited opportunities it portends,” said Mr. Patrick Ofose-Agyemang, the CEO of Agrolnnova, a software company creating support tools to support and manage processes in the agricultural sector.



The lack of access to information, technology, financial services and support from administrative authorities also deters their entry into the sector. Agriprenuer Award winner Isaac Sesi, the Co-Founder of Sesi Technologies, appealed for a supportive ecosystem that encouraged the scaling of digitally-enabled, environmentally conscious and market-led ventures to deliver jobs and healthy food, while respecting the natural environment.

“Financing is one of the biggest challenges for young entrepreneurs entering the agriculture industry and success can only be realized through collaborative efforts to educate, support and invest in young talent,” he said. “If agrifood businesses had support from the government then money would not be such a big issue. If governments endorsed certain agrifood businesses then such businesses would find it easier to apply for a loan from a bank.”

Ms. Sonita Tossou, the CEO of Fenou Foods said that it was important for young entrepreneurs to secure long-term investments and not short-term fixes. “As the youth, we have no shortage of ideas, and it only takes a little confidence by investors to support us and we will take off to surprising achievements,” she said.

The key outcome from the event was the consensus that solutions in financing, policy and market-related challenges would make the industry more attractive to youth. Young people have bold aspirations and big dreams; agriculture needs to be seen as an enabler to these dreams rather than a last resort.





# LAUNCH OF GENERATION AFRICA

**Econet and Yara International launched Generation Africa at this year's AGRF. Joining with many other institutions supporting Africa's youth, this is a partnership initiative that aims to inspire young African entrepreneurs to join the agri-food sector for its viable business opportunities.**

## PREAMBLE: A DYNAMIC GENERATION CAN TRANSFORM AFRICA'S AGRI-FOOD SECTOR

There has never been a more promising moment in history, nor a more digitally-capable generation, to leapfrog innovation and opportunity in Africa's agri-food sector. A dynamic cadre of young entrepreneurs is poised to create and scale companies, catalyzing inclusive growth and defining possibility for the continent in the decades to come.

On a continent where over 10 million young Africans join the labour force each year, and where potential is vast for creativity and value creation all along the value chain, a new generation is emerging -- a generation of ambitious entrepreneurs bringing new ideas and tech-forward models to Africa's agri-food sector.

Such path-breakers need an ecosystem of support to travel the entrepreneurial journey from idea to scale. Linking efforts across a diverse set of institutions will better enable young agripreneurs to access the inspiration, guidance, resources and investment they need.

## GENERATION AFRICA: BUILDING A MOVEMENT

At the African Green Revolution Forum 2019, a set of Partners shared their common intention to establish Generation Africa

as a partnership initiative to bring the dynamism of youth to Africa's agri-food sector. Generation Africa aims to strengthen the ecosystem that supports agripreneurs as they travel the perilous journey from ideation to scale, encompassing ventures from small-scale, village-level enterprise to high-growth companies with broad reach. Key elements of an enabling ecosystem for agripreneurship include public narrative, education and training, support programmes, access to capital, the policy environment and wider market health. Generation Africa will collaboratively identify the greatest constraints facing young agripreneurs and convene influential actors to co-create solutions and act in concert.

Generation Africa was co-catalysed by Yara International and Econet Group, and builds on the efforts of other leading institutions. In early 2019, Yara and Econet published a landscape study that analysed what efforts were underway -- and what more could be done -- to inspire and propel Africa's agri-food stars of tomorrow. They ran a signature campaign and competition, GoGettag, which reached over 46M individuals and attracted over 2,000 applicants, elevating a dozen finalists -- and ultimately two grand winners -- as a means of energising the sector and providing role models for young agripreneurs across the continent. Meanwhile, the Africa Green Revolution Forum's Thematic Working Group on Youth has enabled communication between the leading institutions that support young people in Africa's agri-food sector.

**“Supporting Dynamic Young Agripreneurs to Transform Africa's Agri-Food Sector”**



The Thematic Platform on Youth Agripreneurship will be formalised as a core, year-round offering of the AGRF, and will serve as the broad-scale membership base for Generation Africa.

Generation Africa will help coalesce and elevate members' efforts into a transformative movement through the following activities:

- **Curating a GoGettag Community of Agripreneurs:** Building and curating the leading online community of African agripreneurs to increase the reach and effectiveness of relevant initiatives.
- **Promoting Agripreneurship:** Social media and communications to champion agri-food entrepreneurship and inspire a new generation.
- **Agenda Setting:** An annual landscape study will consult agripreneurs and supporting actors to identify key constraints and propose solutions.
- **Hosting the Thematic Working Group:** Facilitating collaboration and communication between any institutions actively supporting youth agripreneurship in Africa.
- **Managing an Ambassadors Group:** An eminent group of leaders and entrepreneurs will serve as a megaphone to the continent for this agenda.

## COMMITMENTS

We, the undersigned, recognize this as a moment to co-create Generation Africa -- a partnership initiative to help unleash young agripreneurs' potential. We hereby commit to collaborating in good faith, and in the interest of Africa's next generation, according to four principles of membership:

- 1. Align efforts in co-creating the definitive agripreneurs community** on the continent, including directing agripreneurs to a common hub for information, support and interaction
- 2. Coordinate efforts and share information** via regular calls hosted by the Technical Platform
- 3. Offer data and insights for a biennial study** in the public interest on the state of youth agripreneurship across Africa
- 4. Support the advocacy of Generation Africa Ambassadors,** a pre-eminent group of leaders and entrepreneurs who serve as a megaphone to the continent for this agenda.

## TOGETHER WE CAN CHANGE A CONTINENT.

Signed,

- African Development Bank
- Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)
- Corteva Agriscience
- Econet Group
- International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)
- Southern Africa Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU)
- Syngenta Foundation
- Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Co-operation (CTA)
- Venture Capital for Africa (VC4A)
- Yara International

Additional organisations are invited to join Generation Africa as Partners or Members. **Please email [info@genafrika.org](mailto:info@genafrika.org)** to explore collaboration with us.



**GENERATION  
AFRICA**







## GOGETTAZ

**AGRF 2019 saw the finale of the inaugural GoGettaz competition, which was hosted by Econet Group and Yara International. The competition reached over 50 million people across Africa with its key advertising and messaging. More than 2,000 agripreneurs submitted proposals for consideration, and 12 finalists were chosen after a rigorous application and selection process.**

Envisaged by Econet's founder Strive Masiyiwa, who is the outgoing AGRF Partners Group Chairman and Yara President Svein Tore Holsether, GoGettaz will move forward as an annual competition to identify innovative entrepreneurial ventures in the agri-food sector founded by people under the age of 35 across the African continent.

The 12 entrepreneurs who made it to the final were:

**Starlin Farah - Ecodudu Limited**, a feed manufacturing and fertilizer producing company that uses Black Soldier Fly insect technology to sustainably and consistently offer alternative protein for animals (Kenya).

**Leah Bessa - Gourmet Grubb**, a dairy alternative/alternative Protein using Black Soldier Fly larvae, farmed commercially (South Africa).

**Siny Samba - Le Lionceau**, a baby food producer (Senegal).

**Bonolo Monthe - Maungo Craft**, working with oil producers and communities to turn underused, indigenous fruits of Botswana into gourmet low-to-no-sugar preserves (Botswana).

**Affiong Williams - ReelFruit Nigeria**, the largest dried fruit processing company in Nigeria by revenue and distribution (Nigeria).

**Lilian Nakigozi - Women Smiles Uganda**, a vertical farming manufacturer (Uganda).

**Piwai Chikasha - Alley Capital Group Ltd**, a supplier of high-quality crop spraying services using customized drones (Zimbabwe).

**Nnaemeka C. Ikegwuonu - ColdHubs**, a social enterprise that designs, installs and operates 100% solar-powered walk-in cold rooms (Nigeria).

**Bertin Fokou - Distribution Express (DITEX)**, a mobile and web app helping farmers to find a means of transportation cheaply.

**Joe Oyebisi - FarmCorps**, which leverages mobile identity systems, risk analysis and tokenization of funds to enable donors, peer-lenders and micro-finance institutions to easily finance smallholders to purchase of quality farm-inputs (Nigeria).

**Steven Betcha - Ngomalands**, a tech-platform that connects owners of uncultivated arable land with people seeking land to rent for agricultural purposes (DR Congo).

**Isaac Ses - Sesi Technologies Limited** which offers affordable technologies to help reduce post-harvest losses (Ghana).

With \$100,000 in prize money on offer, the judges took a day to review the finalists, after which one male and one female young business owner - Ghanaian Isaac Sesi and Botswanan Tswana Bonolo Monthe - were announced as winners of the inaugural GoGettaz Agripreneur Prize at the Africa Food Prize gala dinner. IFAD President Gilbert Houngbo said: "When you think of the fact that Africa is the only continent where the youth population in rural areas is still expected to grow, then there is no question about investing in agribusinesses run by young people."







## WINNERS OF PITCH AGRIHACK COMPETITION ANNOUNCED

**Seven young agricultural entrepreneurs, including four women, were awarded today for digital innovations during the closing plenary at the African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) in Accra.**

The winners of the early stage start-ups are Profish, Ghana (€7,500), and Savanna Circuit Tech, Kenya (€5,000). For the mature stage start-up Jaguza Tech, Uganda (€15,000); Arinifu Technologies, Kenya (€12,500). Trackball Global Technologies Nigeria were given the public choice award (€5,000). The Data Analytics Award went to Foodlocker Limited, Nigeria (€10,000) and the GreenTec award to TechShelta Company Ltd., Ghana (€5,000).

Michael Hailu, Director, CTA: “It’s a rewarding legacy for CTA, which has pioneered support for digital entrepreneurship among young people in the agricultural sector. Through Pitch AgriHack we have discovered self-taught youngsters, who are full of ideas and determination, and who are providing answers to some of Africa’s persistent challenges.”

The applications range from software to track the production of milk from farm-to-market; a mobile-based web application to improve productivity; low cost handheld devices to detect animal diseases; an online-based food processing and delivery service; cloud-based livestock management system; using Internet of Things (IoT) devices to connect farmers to agronomists; and an application designed to provide to logistics and market services.

Pitch AgriHack is a competition organised by CTA to support young agricultural entrepreneurs (agripreneurs) build viable businesses and boost innovation for a more sustainable agricultural sector.

The 22 finalist start-ups, 11 of which are women-led, from seven countries were selected out of 326 young start-ups that applied. Earlier in the week the finalists underwent training through a boot camp process before pitching their innovations to potential investors and a judging panel.

Since the launch of the AgriHack Talent initiative, the services of entrants have reached over one million farmers and agricultural stakeholders and they have raised over €2 million from investors and partners.

The competition was organised in 2019 with support from the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), OCP Group, GreenTec Group and with the contribution of the World Bank, FAO and other partners.

For more information or to request an interview, contact Toby Johnson, Team Leader Communications, CTA, +31 (0) 6 10 88 50 80, johnson@cta.int

### ABOUT CTA

The Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) is a joint international institution of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States and the European Union (EU). Its mission is to advance food security, resilience and inclusive economic growth in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific through innovations in sustainable agriculture. CTA operates under the framework of the Cotonou Agreement and is funded by the EU.



## ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE

**Owing to a turbulent mix of factors, such as climate change, population growth, water stress and land scarcity, Africa’s food systems are facing a unique challenge. Once conflict is thrown into the mix, it becomes clear that African food systems need to be very flexible and resilient if they food shortages are to be avoided.**

While climate change attracts a great deal of attention, conflict actually has a more devastating effect on food. War displaces people, destroys infrastructure, limits free movement of capital, goods and people, drives hyperinflation and creates a host of other challenges that make it difficult to get food to people in need, let alone plant food. In light of this, it is not surprising that most conflict-ridden areas rely 100% on food aid.

The overall scale of conflict in Africa has fallen in recent years but some fragile areas are still rocked by violence and instability. These include parts of the Horn of Africa, the Sahel, Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan and Libya. Dr. Agnes Kalibata, President of AGRA, told delegates in AGRF 2019 that two third of the 200m people hungry in Africa live in conflict areas.

### TACKLING HUNGER AND POVERTY IN CONFLICT ENVIRONMENTS

The Partnership for Recovery & Resilience (PfRR) in South Sudan is an initiative that includes 14 bilateral donors, 17 UN entities, dozens of NGOs and other institutions, which seeks to build resilience through education, health, governance, peace building and a host of other areas. The session Tackling Hunger and Poverty in Conflict Environments, looked at the role of such partnerships in restoring food security and building resilience in South Sudan.

Mr. Pierre Vauthier, South Sudan Country Representative for FAO told the session that the challenges faced by people in South Sudan are such that it is “impossible to separate humanitarian

response from resilience and peacekeeping”, so PfRR is hugely important because it provides a comprehensive approach. It can help to “reverse course and channel drivers of conflict into drivers of wealth and cohesion,” said Ms. Hsiao Wei Lee, Senior Strategy Advisor and Head of Programme for the World Food Programme in South Sudan.

However, Hon. Ambassador Kenneth Quinn, President of the World Food Prize Foundation, remarked that all efforts to build resilience ultimately depended on the ability of leaders on both sides of the conflict to compromise and put the good of the country ahead of their personal interests.

Every conflict environment is unique, but PfRR is generating lessons that AGRF stakeholders would do well to reflect on when looking to engage in recovery and resilience efforts going forward.



## CLIMATE CONCERNS

Panellists at a policy symposium at AGRF agreed that climate change in Africa could only be adequately addressed through interventions aimed at boosting the adaptation and resilience of food systems. Fortunately, the push to make climate adaptation and resilience a global priority has gained momentum in the recent past with the creation of new global initiatives such as the Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA).

GCA's Secretariat is partly overseen by Prof. Patrick V. Verkooijen, CEO of the Global Center on Adaptation, who said that it was critical to mobilise global support at the highest levels but argued that it was critical to counterbalance the predominant message of risk with a new message of opportunity. "We need to also look at the opportunities that adaptation and resilience presents," he noted, elaborating that opportunity is the language that spurs private sector into action. Bringing private sector on board is critical, he said, as private investment is key in delivering solutions at scale.

Hon. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Co-Chair, Global Commission on the Economy and Climate, and Former Finance Minister of Nigeria, noted that many countries don't yet have comprehensive risk management systems in place to forestall the consequences of climate change. She said that managing climate-related risk required a change in mind-set rather than ad hoc interventions. "It is all about developing climate-friendly infrastructure, cities, finance, energy and agricultural systems," she explained.

African Risk Capacity (ARC), which is an AU agency, has been set up to help African countries develop risk and insurance mechanisms at a national level by financing climate smart agriculture. ARC Director General, Dr. Mohamed Béavogui, commented: "In the 1980s, he said, the cost of natural catastrophes was \$30 billion. At the end of the 1990s, it was \$100 billion. Today, it's over \$300 billion...The cost of climate disasters is rising. We need to manage and finance the impact of disasters. We need to assess specific country risk, then develop climate modelling to understand the risk and prepare."

## PREPARATION IS KEY

Delegates were told that preparation is essential, as it is much more expensive – financially, socially and environmentally – to react after a disaster has struck. However, the level of investment required to enhance preparation is sometimes out of reach for African countries

due to budgetary constraints, creating the need for broad-based alliances that share the costs, but also the benefits.

However, Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda said that the Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA) said that private sector investment is ultimately the most sustainable way to finance adaptation and resilience, while measures had to be built on evidenced-based policies and knowledge. Her organisation is now backed by about three hundred different entities as there is increasing recognition that the public and private sectors need to work together.

Different speakers were able to offer diverse perspectives on climate smart agriculture but there was a consensus that the following measures were effective: embedding resilience and adaptation in national agricultural and investment plans; prioritising the scaling up of technologies with proven ability to combat climate change; targeting smallholder farmers as they key agents of transformation; supporting development research that is market-driven and thus able to catalyse private sector investment; and strengthening climate data analysis.

## DIGITAL INNOVATIONS

Whether in areas affected by conflict, climate change or other huge challenges, digital innovations can strengthen resilience for smallholders in African food systems. In line with the Forum's theme this year, Dr. Martin Kropff, Director General of CIMMYT told delegates how digital innovations can be used to strengthen climate resilience for smallholder farmers. The continent needs "two times more in food production by 2050, with two times less the resources – and it has to be two times better in nutrition and quality", he said.

Such initiatives rely on the collection of data, particularly climate data, and this is where drones can play a big role. Ms. Ingabire Muziga Mamy, the managing director of Charis Unmanned Aerial Solutions Ltd, told delegates how her licensed drone company had now completed 6,000 flights in Rwanda, Tanzania and Ghana, with revenue increasing 350% since 2017.

There is an obvious correlation between weather and improved productivity but access to weather data is limited in Africa. "If you don't believe that agriculture is a weather-driven industry, then you'd better ask a farmer," said David Bergvinson, the Chief Science Officer of aWhere, which analyses data from weather stations and satellites to disseminate to subscribers in Kenya, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe and Zambia.



## AGRF DECLARATION: INCREASING ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE OF AFRICAN FOOD SYSTEMS

**Climate change is the defining issue of our time, threatening to wipe out the hard-won development gains across the continent. With the population projected to double to 2.4 Billion by 2050, Africa needs to feed a rapidly growing population in the face of climate variability and extreme weather events.**



Adaptation and resilience are key accelerators and enablers to achieving development results and are a core part of the foundations on which development gains stand. The current commitment and actions in support of adaptation and resilience are insufficient. An urgent, massive and coordinated push is urgently needed – across the continent – to increase the resilience of livelihoods among smallholder farmers and rural communities.

We, the participants of the African Green Revolution Forum – 2019 in Accra, Ghana, including African Heads of State, ministers, and representatives of farmer organizations, private agribusinesses, financial institutions, academics, development partners, NGOs, and civil society:

- Recognising the impact of climate change on the continent and its devastating effects, especially on the poorest and most vulnerable;
- Focused on the need to build the resilience of farmers and rural communities, and support the adaptation of Africa's food systems;
- Acknowledging the link between climate-related vulnerability and poverty and the risk posed by climate change to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- Drawing on previous agreements, discussions and processes including the work of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) under the African Union, the AAA initiative, the Global Commission on Adaptation, coalitions such as the recently formed Just Rural Transition (JRT) and the recommendations from the Africa Climate Week 2019;
- Conscious of the need to take a broad, integrated approach towards food systems and land use, including through alignment and development of policy frameworks and

We commit to the rapid acceleration of efforts to support adaptation and resilience building in African agriculture systems, which suffer the effects of climate change disproportionately. We call for increased funding to support adaptation and resilience building in Africa's food systems as a key part and enabler of Africa's development agenda.





We urge all our multilateral, bilateral and private partners to support our efforts by ensuring their investments and loans in agriculture are designed with deliberate consideration of adaptation and resilience needs.

Our joint ambition is to accelerate the progress towards adaptation and resilience of Africa's food systems and support agriculture's contribution to economic growth in line with the Africa Union Agenda 2063, the 2014 Malabo Declaration and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Our commitments to climate adaptation and resilience building is captured under five action points which align with the recommendations by the Global Commission on Adaptation to; improve smallholder production, help them manage risks brought on by climate variability, provide assistance to the most vulnerable and achieve policy coherence. We will:

- 1.** Embed resilience and adaptation in our national agricultural and investment plans. We will collaborate across sectors to ensure an integrated approach to investments, including through alignment with National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs). Adaptation and resilience will be at the heart of everything we do going forward. For the most vulnerable, we shall make provision for social safety nets to cushion them against extreme weather events. We will also develop comprehensive risk management plans coupled with appropriate financial tools with which to manage risk, including setting aside budgetary and other types of contingency resources.
- 2.** Scale up adoption of proven technologies. Many of the tools to support adaptation and resilience are available for the task ahead. We commit to accelerating adoption and achieve impact through scaling technologies and information platforms that have significant grassroots' impact.
- 3.** Target smallholder farmers as the key agents of change, with a special focus on Gender and Youth. Smallholder farmers form a significant part of the population and present an opportunity to drive scale. We shall therefore make concerted efforts to

partner with them for resilience and adaptation interventions in order to drive food security and improved household incomes. This includes supporting value chain development and access to markets in order to support income diversification. We will also put measures in place to support uptake of weather-based insurance to safeguard farm-level investments. Gender and youth issues will be brought to the fore to ensure increased adoption rates and sustainability.

- 4.** Support market driven Research for Development (R4D). We will create a conducive enabling environment that will stimulate the involvement and increased investment of the private sector in the generation of evidence and knowledge needed in adaptation and resilience building in food systems. Many countries in Africa already have the infrastructure base for this, it is now time to increase investments that will lead to the much-needed link between research knowledge and the market.
- 5.** Strengthen climate data analysis and reinforce Early Warning Early Action (EWEA) systems to protect livelihoods. Early warning mechanisms provide crucial information for decision making at farmer-level. We also support climate-informed agricultural advisories, leveraging digital platforms where appropriate, to inform farmer choices. We commit to investing in mapping risks to better prepare for emergencies and put measures in place to safeguard livelihoods and recover from extreme weather events.



## NUTRITION

**Even as hunger was a huge problem in Africa during the 20th Century, the challenge of ensuring sufficient food production and distribution is growing further in the 21st Century, as the continent’s population is expected to reach 2 billion by 2050. Relatively less attention has been paid to improving the quality of food until relatively recently, but concerns over health are starting to focus attention on the nutrition provided by Africa’s food systems.**

Dr. Lawrence Haddad, the Executive Director of GAIN, told delegates at the session on Boosting Accountability and Accelerating Action to Support Nutrition-Sensitive Sustainable Food Systems that there needed to be a more open and constructive dialogue between governments and the private sector about nutrition. If it is cost effective to process or supply foods high in sugar, salt and trans-fats and there is a ready market, businesses will supply food that ultimately undermines health.

Governments therefore need to provide incentives to make it less costly to supply or process nutritious food. Yet Dr. Haddad said that there are not currently enough initiatives to promote healthy eating to encourage investment by the private sector. There is also insufficient data at the disposal of governments. “There has to be desire to want to make the systems nutrition sensitive. There has to be some kind of motivation to make agriculture systems more nutrition supporting. This is probably the most difficult”, he said.

Mr. Ringson Chitsiko, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanization and Irrigation in Zimbabwe, emphasized the important role of government. “Unless and until governments acts at the highest level to consult and take action on policies to underpin nutrition, calls for nutrition-sensitive food systems will come to naught,” he said. “There are gaps between policy makers and the people that will be impacted by those policies, hence the need for consultation,” he added.

Roy Steiner, Managing Director, Food Initiative at the Rockefeller Foundation, agreed, asking delegates: “Do people know the nutritional value of the food they consume? The gap in our

nutritional understanding is huge”. Even in cases where food safety laws require food processing companies to include nutritional information in product labelling, most consumers are still not aware of what the data means for them and their health. “Our health care system is going to be bankrupted by the food system and the statistics about the tsunami of diet related diseases and cost of those diseases are not going away,” he warned. However, it may be difficult to persuade consumers to make big changes to their diets because it may be seen as an attack on established traditions and cultures.

Mr. Alexander Dodoo, Director General of the Ghana Standards Authority reminded delegates not to exclude smallholder farmers from the conversation on nutrition. “Smallholder farmers tend to eat poor quality produce in order to sell the finer products at higher prices,” he said. This can only be addressed by raising the incomes of small-scale farmers. Public health is closely tied up with agriculture, both in terms of supplying sufficient food in



terms of quantity and quality, but also with regard to the health of farmers and their families. Given that farming is still the most common form of employment on the African continent, this involves a huge proportion of the population.

## THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Professor Sandy Thomas, Director of the Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition told the Forum that although nutrition is linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), rates of diet-related Non-Communicable Diseases are rising. By 2050, the cost of diabetes care alone will reach USD \$6 billion. Yet better nutrition can help address these challenges. In common with other speakers, she said that the private sector needed to be encouraged to do the right thing with the right policies and regulations.

Poor nutrition can be the result of poverty or poor lifestyle and diet choices in relation to those who are wealthier. Ms. Khadija Mohammed, the founder and CEO of Kwanza Tukule Foods, said that growing urbanization brings an inherent nutrition challenge, as those who live in informal settlements are often unable to afford or have access to high quality diets. In response, her organisation is sourcing food products directly from farmers and providing them to vendors in poor districts of Nairobi. She said more of such low-tech solutions can be extremely useful in addressing the issue of nutrition.



Hon. Alhaji Mohammed Sabo Nanono, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development in Nigeria, said that Nigeria had adopted a holistic approach to nutrition, telling delegates:

**“We are making it a matter of policy that any donor-funded programme in the country must have a nutritional mainstreaming element to it, the progress of which will be measured”.**

Professor Paul Amuna, African Nutrition Society and Senior Lecturer and Consultant in International Nutrition and Public Health at the University of Greenwich, said that agriculture, food and nutrition policies must be integrated. This will ensure that all government departments make a contribution and are aware of their own responsibilities. He also called for specific school-based food, nutrition and agriculture strategies. This would entail working with local farmers and vendors who will be trained and integrated into the process so their lives are improved as they help nourish the children.

The session concluded with a consensus that nutrition policy had to become mainstream and a multi-sectoral approach adopted, to enable solutions to be devised and implemented. There was also a call for close collaboration between public and private sector institutions to achieve the ultimate goal of providing sufficient nourishment to all Africans.



## SCALING UP NUTRITION WITH H.E. THE FIRST LADY OF GHANA

At a Special Event at AGRF 2019, delegates led by H.E. Rebecca Akufo-Addo, the First Lady of the Republic of Ghana, promised to combine efforts to fight malnutrition and hunger and called for increased accountability, noting that the continent needed to honour nutrition commitments ahead of the Nutrition for Growth Summit in 2020 in Tokyo, Japan. H.E. Rebecca Akufo-Addo, who highlighted SDG 2, which focuses on ending hunger in all its forms, said that local foods should not be ignored as African dietary patterns change as a result of urbanization.



There was a strong consensus from speakers that Africa needed to approach the nutrition issue from different directions in order to address the twin challenges of stunted growth and childhood obesity. Africa is the only continent in the world where children are both stunted and obese. Approximately 60 million African children under five are stunted while 10 million others are classified as overweight.

Part of the solution is combining efforts to boost food production with efforts to educate people on proper nutrition. “Nutrition is a matter of agricultural food production, as well as awareness building. Increasing yields is one thing because it will ensure an adequate supply of food, and education is the other – training people on how to combine foods for proper nutrition,” Hon. Gerda Verburg, Coordinator of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, told delegates.

Ethiopia’s Former First Lady, H.E. Roman Tesfaye, noted that her country renewed its commitment to end hunger and malnutrition after the 1995 drought. The rates of stunting and malnutrition have fallen in Ethiopia since the 1980s and Addis Ababa has now set a target to end malnutrition by 2030,





including by bringing all stakeholders on board. “All industries related to the food value chains have to be integrated in such ways that we have a constant and balanced supply of food,” she said.

Ms. Vera Osei-Bonsu, founder of the Start Right Infant and Child Nutrition Network (SRICNN) said digital technology had enabled her to share knowledge. She now trains more than 70,000 followers on her social network, teaching them how to prepare healthy meals using local foods. She has also published a cookbook focusing on the preparation of meals for infants and babies, in addition to creating her own line of baby foods that are distributed around Ghana.

The Special Event was attended by Honorable Ambassadors and High Commissioners from the Governments of Canada, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States, demonstrating the political leadership and top priority these governments continue to place on partnering with African governments and stakeholders to improve nutrition.



## PRESIDENTIAL SUMMIT

**At the Presidential Summit of AGRF 2019, African Heads of State and Former Heads of State reaffirmed their support for placing agricultural transformation at the heart of broader economic transformation, and they noted the incredible opportunity to do so with digital innovations. They also considered how governments, the private sector, donors and other partners were actually delivering, in comparison with the various political, policy, and financial commitments made at past AGRF Summits and other events focused on African agriculture.**

AGRA President, Dr. Agnes Kalibata, said that digital technology presented a unique opportunity to catalyze growth in agriculture; highlighted the important role of private investment in driving African agriculture; and echoed concerns about the impact of climate change on farmers and Africa’s food systems.

The Summit, which was attended by over 2400 delegates from 89 countries, including more than 25 African Ministers of Food and Agriculture and 400 regional and international businesses, also served as a platform to honour the memory of the late Kofi Annan—the illustrious son of Ghana who founded AGRA and was the chief architect behind AGRF. Ms.

Nane Annan of the Kofi Annan Foundation recognized this tribute from the community and what agriculture and food security

meant to Mr. Annan. She also repeated one of her late husband’s most popular sayings: “A hungry man is not a free man”.

Mr. Strive Masiyiwa, Executive Chairman of Econet and outgoing Chairman of AGRF Partners Group, said that Africa had made progress in agriculture since he first became involved with AGRF. “When we started, sub-Saharan Africa countries were exporting just 2000 metric tonnes of hybrid seeds. Today I can report we have over 110 seed companies producing 110,000 metric tonnes a year,” he said. However, he emphasized how much still had to be achieved by 2030 – the target date for achieving the SDGs and a uniquely African Green Revolution.

In his first official address as incoming Chairman of the AGRF Partners Group, H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn noted that responding





to climate change would be a key agenda under his watch. “We need urgent action in building the climate resilience of our smallholder farmers and food systems,” he said. Africa contributes just 2-3% of global greenhouse gas emissions yet suffers the most debilitating effects of climate change, including because of underinvestment in adaptation and resilience, particularly in sectors like agriculture that are disproportionately more vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

The host President, H.E. Nana Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana, delivered the keynote address. He told delegates about Ghana’s achievements, including a fully operational commodity exchange in Ghana, which has helped streamline market access and cut waste in a country responsible for a significant share of the world’s cocoa supply. He also mentioned Ghana’s ambitious Planting for Food and Jobs Initiative, which has put agriculture at the heart of the national development agenda.

He also recognized the progress AGRF has made since inception. “Some of the positive results include: setting of a collective agenda; securing financial commitments to seize the opportunity

in African agriculture; forging partnerships; establishing models of promoting investments; and getting governments to be more accountable through the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program (CAADP),” he said.

H.E. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, Commissioner at the African Union for Agriculture and Rural Economy told delegates that since the 2003 Maputo Declaration, only six countries had kept their promise to spend at least 10% of their annual national budget on agriculture. She hoped that there would be a positive shift with the more recent 2014 Malabo Declaration where African leaders committed to halving poverty through agriculture by 2025 and ending hunger by the same year.

Niger President H.E. Mahamadou Issoufou said that investing in agriculture is the best way to achieve Africa’s wider Agenda 2063. He noted that Niger has prioritized the sector, investing 17% of its budget to agriculture in 2018 to improve smallholder farmers’ access to inputs, irrigation, new technology, and agricultural infrastructure, including digital services through a new model of smart villages.



## ADDRESS BY H.E. NANA AKUFO-ADDO

Your Excellency Mahamadou Issoufou, President of the Republic of Niger, Your Excellency Yemi Osinbajo, Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Your Excellency Édouard Ngirente, Prime Minister of the Republic of Rwanda, Your Excellency Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Your Excellency Tony Blair, former British Prime Minister, Your Excellency Hailemariam Desalegn, the former Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia, Your Excellency Lionel Zinsou, former Prime Minister of Benin, Ghana's Minister for Food and Agriculture Dr. Owusu Afriyie Akoto, ministers and deputy ministers of state, Dr. Strive Masiyiwa, the Chairman of AGRF Partners Group, Dr. Agnes Kalibata, the President of AGRA, Madam Nane Maria Annan, members of the diplomatic core, traditional rulers, distinguished delegates, fellow Africans, ladies and gentlemen.

**I'm happy to welcome you all to Accra for the 2019 African Green Revolution Forum, following from the 8th forum held in Kigali capital of the Republic of Rwanda. I take this this opportunity to reiterate our gratitude to President Paul Kagame for the warm hospitality of his people and government during our stay in his country last year.**

Ghanaians as you know, also pride themselves very much on their sense of hospitality and we hope you'll enjoy your brief stay amongst us, Akwaaba is our word of welcome. It is wholly appropriate that 10 years after Ghana hosted the maiden edition of the summit and a year on after the passing of the former Secretary General of the United Nations, our illustrious compatriot Kofi Annan, our country hosts this event once again, this time in honor of his name.

It was this noble son of Africa who pioneered the idea of establishing an annual platform for advancing the agenda for the sustainable development of Africa's agriculture. Kofi Annan lit the flame for the implementation of the African Green Revolution, whose aims are to provide high productivity and enhance incomes for our farmers, ensure food security and nutrition, reduce poverty and ultimately guarantee the future of the continent. On behalf

of the government and people of Ghana, I continue to extend our profound condolences to his dignified widow Madam Nane Maria Annan and the entire family on their irreparable loss and wish him peaceful rest in the bosom of the Almighty. He deserves it.

Ladies and gentlemen, the presence in Accra of national leaders from the region and continent reinforces the importance of the AGRF initiative and our collective attachment to the agenda of transforming agriculture which supports the majority of our respective populations. Some of the positive results realized from previous AGRF's include one, the setting of a collective agenda to address issues impacting on agriculture such as a shared vision for digitalization and data strategies and also the Kigali Declaration on farmer-led irrigation, both of which will be followed up at this forum.

Secondly, securing financial commitments of some US\$30 billion to seize the moment for African agriculture over the 10 years following the 2016 AGRF in Kenya.

Thirdly, forging partnerships and securing commitments close to US\$6.5 billion worth of private investment deals in oil palm, potato and rice production at the 2017 AGRA in Cote d'ivoire.

Fourthly, establishing a new Deal Room of engagements for promoting investments at this year's AGRA.

And fifthly, getting governments to be more accountable to the Malabo Declaration for Public Finance in Agriculture through support for the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program (CAADP) Biennial Review process.

Hosting the 2019 AGRF comes at an opportune time in Ghana's development. We have put the transformation of agriculture at the heart of our nation's priorities. This is because we believe the majority of people can feel a change in their lives when we develop agriculture which will bring in its wake rapid economic growth, job creation, reduction in the phenomenon of rural-urban migration, improvement in the resilience of communities in the fight against climate change and achievement of the 2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.







If we are to realize these dividends, we must as a matter of urgency, confront the many challenges that impede the advancement of the agricultural sector. These include inadequate infrastructure; underdeveloped value chains; inadequate processing and storage capacities; poor access to agricultural financing; high post-harvest losses; low adoption of technologies; low mechanization drive; and weak markets. The inability to take advantage of the wealth of arable land and water that we have at our disposal is an obstacle we must surmount. If you take the Volta River and its tributaries for instance, Ghana has the potential for all-year-round farming. Sadly, this is not the case. We certainly cannot excel if we do not figure out how we can tap the immense resources and opportunities at our disposal.

Addressing these challenges is the central priority of my government and indeed many on the continent. Our response in Ghana under my stewardship has been to formulate a national investment plan for agriculture over the next four years, which we have entitled investing for food and jobs. In pursuit of the objectives of the plan, we have rolled out a comprehensive, ambitious and innovative set of policies and programs tailored to addressing long-standing problems of this sector. We are all agreed that we cannot tackle all the constraints in the agricultural sector at the same time. The strategy is to prioritize actions that directly support farmers.

We are rolling out a set of strategic flagship interventions in the various sectors of agriculture under the program for planting for food and jobs. This program has five main modules namely: the food crops module, designed to boost productivity of food crops through increased smallholder access to subsidized fertilizers and improve seeds. The tree crops module that focuses on planting for export and rural development plan targeting the development of selected tree crops, cashew, coffee, oil palm, coconut, mango, and rubber. This is meant to diversify Ghana's cash crop sector, which is has been dominated by cocoa for the past 130 years. Our strategy is to develop the selected tree crops each to earn as much as cocoa is currently earning for Ghana i.e. US\$2 billion annually. We're targeting to rack in additional foreign exchange of US\$12 billion per year.

The livestock module focusing on rearing for food and jobs that rolled out in June this year to revamp livestock production in Ghana. This is aimed at achieving self-sufficiency in the production of meat and creating job opportunities for the youth.

We also have the greenhouse village module, targeted at increasing vegetable production through the application of greenhouse technology. This is part of my government's strategy to provide new opportunities for the youth and women in agriculture and add value for nutrition outcomes.

And, finally the mechanization module that focuses on mechanizing for food and jobs and is dedicated to expanding the rate of mechanization in Ghanaian agriculture. The strategy is to focus on hand-held machinery and equipment suitable for small-holder farming and to provide low capacity agri-processing machinery to enable value addition in the farming areas.

Excellences, this comprehensive program and its innovative policies are already showing good results. GDP growth rate in agriculture increased from 2.9% in 2016, the last year in office of my predecessor to 6.1% in 2017 and is projected to grow even further to 6.9% in 2019. We had a bumper harvest of produce last year. As a result, we did not import any food for the first timer in a long time. Actually, we exported food to our neighbors, a clear departure from what was the situation in the years before I took office.

Nonetheless, we believe we can do more and do it even more quickly to achieve our vision. The 21st Century provides us with enormous opportunities to harness the benefits of the digital revolution to develop our nation's agriculture. There are innovations to help overcome challenges in land and soil mapping, water management, pest and disease management, extension delivery, finance and beyond. There exist mobile phone applications to improve targeting, distribution and target tracking of agricultural products, and the provision of post-harvest management to our farmers.

Today, a farmer in a remote area of the country can use his or her phone to see satellite images of his or her farm, choose the best seeds, types of fertilizer and soil health package for his or her crops, and sell the produce to the market. Other innovations are less widespread but could catch on soon, like the use of drones and artificial intelligence to help with pest and disease monitoring.

My government's vision is to embrace fully digitalization to speed up economic development. That is why the theme of AGRF 2019,



Grow Digital, leveraging digital transformation to drive sustainable food systems in Africa is appropriate and excites me so much.

**We in Ghana, are applying digital technology in many sectors of the economy to great effect. The dividends have exceeded expectations and given impetus to expand further the application of digital technology across all sectors. In agriculture, we have started and we will continue to work widely on ways to increase agribusiness investment, boost regional trade and strengthen adaptation and resilience in the face of climate change. The evidence in Ghana in terms of success in the application of digital technology in new areas gives the assurance that the digital agenda for agriculture will surely succeed.**

I am pleased to inform you that we now have a fully operational commodity exchange in Ghana, trading operations through an electronic trading platform started in November last year and is promoting high productivity, price stability, increased exports and reduced imports of commodities.

I invite you to pay a visit to the office of the exchange in Accra whilst you are here. Full digitalization in agriculture will present numerous opportunities for the youth along the agricultural value chain. The average African youth is technology-savvy in the use of mobile phones and computers. The digitalization of Africa's agriculture therefore presents a fertile ground for business opportunities for our youth. Equally, digitalization also offers a great deal of opportunities for women in agriculture in the area of planting, harvesting, marketing, processing and other activities along the value chain.

Digitalization is a revolution that is here with us and has surely come to stay. Africa has no excuse but to make the most of it. Our responsibility as well as leaders of our families, our institutions, our companies, our communities, or our countries is to tap into this new resource as an opportunity at our disposal to make this our time for agricultural transformation across the continent.

Public and private sector collaboration is also critical towards the success of digitalization; it must be encouraged. In Ghana, we have witnessed such a successful collaboration between Kosmos Innovation Center and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture in developing the capacity of youth in digital technologies to promote entrepreneurship.

We are committed and aligned to the Malabo Declaration on accelerated agricultural growth and transformation for shared prosperity and improved livelihoods. We continue to monitor our progress and learn from others on how best we can quickly advance to reach the targets we set for ourselves in this vision and in the vision of agenda 2030 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Your excellences, this year's forum is a welcome opportunity to focus on digitalization as a complementary tool to accelerate the transformation of agriculture. With programmatic, policies and strategies, we can unlock this new ray of hope and irreversibly change the face of Africa's agriculture for the better. Let us seize this opportunity to overcome challenges and show that this will indeed be Africa's century.

I wish you well in your deliberations and it is my hope that when we meet again in 2020, we'll have great results to share on our joint progress and achievements. May God bless Mother Africa. I thank you for your attention.





## ADDRESS BY H.E. HAILEMARIAM DESALGEN

Your Excellency Nana Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana, Your Excellency Mahamadou Issoufou, President of the Republic of Niger, Your Excellency Yemi Osinbajo, Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Right Honorable Édouard Ngirente, Your Excellency Baba President Obasanjo, Right Honorable Tony Blair, the Executive Chairman the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, honorable ministers and honorable commissioner of the African Union, department of agriculture and rural economy, members of our board, partners, stakeholders, ladies and gentlemen.

Mr. President, first of all, I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for hosting us in your beautiful country, and again, for your commitment and leadership of the Ghanaian agricultural transformation. Your Excellency, I was in Ghana's rural areas the day before yesterday. I have seen with my own eyes that Ghana's agricultural transformation is happening. Your Excellency, this is the kind of leadership the continent needs. We have seen your strategy on Planting for Food and Jobs. What we saw in the field, was a step better; you are not only planting for food and jobs but you are also planting for export. The future of African agriculture is in commercialization; thank you for leading the way.

As the new chairperson of AGRF and the new board chair of AGRA, I am pleased to be here as we harness and leveraging technological advances including going digital for the transformation to happen. We have to nurture the African Green Revolution Forum as the premier forum for agriculture in Africa.

AGRF's objective is to provide a platform to review progress and strategize on accelerating efforts towards agricultural transformation. The theme of this year's forum Grow Digital: leveraging digital transformation to drive sustainable food systems in Africa highlights the priority to drive a new set of innovative agricultural policies and investments that will ensure this is Africa's century.

We are also facing one of the greatest challenges of our time; climate change! This is a challenge that we must own as leaders, policymakers, investors and of course farmers and business people. I am happy that we will be addressing this key issue in this forum. We need urgent action in building the climate resilience of our smallholder farmers and of our food systems. Investments in climate adaptation and resilience will protect the development gains we have already made and strengthen the sustainability of existing programs.

In Africa must do more to root these processes in our needs, our realities and our potentials. I call upon African leaders to step up and drive the investment and political attention needed to adapt to climate change in agriculture and beyond. We need increased and demonstrable political direction to support policies, programs and investments needed to drive the Green Revolution in Africa.

Governments must commit to investing in agriculture because of the food security and nutrition security imperative and as the surest path to the prosperity of our people.

Your excellences that's why we are here today. We need to redouble our efforts if we are to bring about meaningful change in Africa through agriculture. No continent has grown without making agriculture a priority. Africa will not be an exception. Kofi Annan led the way when he called for a "Uniquely African Green Revolution." We must complete his work avoiding the mistakes of green revolutions elsewhere. Africa's Green Revolution should be unique by safeguarding environmental sustainability. It should also be inclusive encompassing all generations especially our young people.

As I close, I would like to thank my predecessor Strive. Strive, thank you so much for your contribution to this continent. As you said, a revolution in agricultural sector is possible just as it happened in the telecom sector.

Thank you so much for your kind attention.



## ADDRESS BY DR. AGNES KALIBATA

Your Excellency, the President of the Republic of Ghana, Your Excellency the President of Togo, Your Excellency Vice President of the Republic of Nigeria and Your Excellency Right Honorable Prime Minister of the Republic of Rwanda, excellences, ministers, ladies and gentlemen, it's my pleasure to welcome you today to the 9th African Green Revolution Forum which is taking place here in Ghana today. For the first time, we are coming back to a place where the African Green Revolution has already happened. So, we're excited to be in Ghana.

The reason we're coming back to Ghana your Excellency Mr. President is because this is a beautiful country to be in. But it's also because our founder, the late Kofi Annan was from Ghana. So, we wanted to honor this year in memory of Kofi Annan. We want to thank you, your excellency, for the support we've gotten while organizing this conference. It's been amazing working with your team but also working with you. Many people have seen the videos you put out to ensure that everybody understands that the Africa Green Revolution Forum is in Ghana this year so we wanted to appreciate your personal effort and leadership.

This year's forum focuses on three interrelated areas. The most important or the first is around leveraging the digital revolution that is happening. Just think about it, 70% of Africans today own a mobile phone with 300 million owning smartphone, By 2020, which is next year, 500 million will have a smartphone, meaning that they can actually have a solution right in their household. The part that I love the most, women will be having that smartphone too! I keep telling people that they can plan and the husband won't know what they're planning. So, the digital revolution is here and the opportunity, the real opportunity, is how we use the digital revolution to leapfrog into the future, the future that our people deserve, the place where most of the continents are except Africa. So, we are very excited about the opportunity that brings.

The second part of the conference is around private sector and what we now call the hidden middle. We found that we have SMEs on this continent that are providing 64% of the food that we eat. Yes, we are still importing about 20% but 80% of the food that we eat comes from smallholder farmers with 64% of it going through SMEs. They are the hidden middle that we would like to focus on as we go forward to ensure that they're able to do a great job and a better job.

The third part of this conference is looking at climate change and the impact it is having on our continent. I want to congratulate the Government of Ghana. If you didn't notice, we actually started a tree planting campaign and we call it 'Saying No to Climate Change'. This week alone, we planted 200,000 trees working with Ghana's Department of Forestry and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. The Department of Forestry has promised that by the end of year, they will have planted 200 million trees. They're calling it, 'Let's Get Back our Rainforest'. So, we really want to encourage everybody to be part of this.

So, your excellency, let me just highlight the key parts of this conference. In the last two days, we focused on two areas. We focused on leadership for agriculture which is a very important part of moving agriculture forward but also we focused on the role of women in agriculture. We launched two reports: the report on digitalization of agriculture and the report on the role of private sector. Today of course we're talking about the presidential summit and we have had several meetings including the ministerial roundtable which focuses on the things we take forward, the things our ministers in the agricultural sector want to hold themselves accountable for in the next one year.

Tomorrow, we will look at the Continental Free Trade Area among to ensure that we have clarity on how we will implement it.

On Friday of course is the closing ceremony and celebrating everything we came to do here in Ghana. I wanted to mention that throughout the Forum, we have a Deal Room that is creating a platform to pair investors and businesses. We are providing a match-making opportunity in the Deal Room. The different countries that are represented here also have an opportunity to pitch investment opportunities.

Your excellency, allow me to once again extend our gratitude to you and to the Government and people of Ghana for hosting us.

I welcome you and all participants to the conference.

Thank you.



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## ADDRESS BY STRIVE MASIYIWA

Your Excellency the President of Ghana, thank you so much for hosting us today, sir. I welcome His Excellency the President of Togo, the President of the Republic of Niger, the Vice President of Nigeria, the Prime Minister of Rwanda and our father and mentor, President Obasanjo as well as our friend the Right Honorable Tony Blair, and of course Mrs. Annan, the wife of our dear brother and founder Kofi Annan. My colleagues on the AGRA Board, our friends and partners, distinguished guests, AGRA staff and the farmers. I welcome you today.

As many of you know, this is my last conference in this role but not my last conference. I was here accompanying Kofi Annan to the last conference that took place here - our very first AGRF. But I also came here with him prior to that, when we were putting together the building blocks of what has become AGRA. It has been an honor and a privilege for me because when he decided to retire, he asked me to take over the chairmanship, a role I have now performed for nearly 10 years. Just before he left, him and I had discussed my need to also retire, and we had begun to put a process together.

When we had our first board meeting having set up AGRA, I expressed some trepidation to Kofi Annan. I said, "You know, I'm just a tech guy. I don't know anything about farming." He said, "That's why I want you on this board." So, I tried another shot. I said, "You know, I really should be out there being an entrepreneur." He said, "Actually, now that I think about it, that's why I want you on this board." So, we kind of tried a few things and finally, he said, "You know, the reason I want you on this board," and bear in mind, a couple of us, it was almost like a telecom's board because for people like me and Mo Ibrahim and if people know Mo Ibrahim and I, we fight a lot, mostly about telecoms and he had become almost like a referee between us. And he said, "You see, it's what you guys did in telecommunications that I want to see happen in agriculture.

Your excellences, 25 years ago as I've often said, 70% of our people had never heard a telephone ringing, not used one but they'd never heard it ring. Today, more than 70% of our people own a

telephone. It was the beginning of our digital revolution. And so, I began to think of seeds like I think of telephones. When we started, I was given a statistic that said, "Only three African countries were exporting hybrid seeds in Sub-Sahara. It was Zambia, Zimbabwe and Kenya, a total of 2,000 metric tons. So, we said, "Well, okay so how do you make seeds?" That's how telephone people look at things. And so, we began to invest money to develop seed companies. It was the low hanging fruit for us and it was like telephones. Today, I can report to you, excellences and to our dear friends that we have over 110 companies producing the seeds - about 110,000 metric tons a year.

So, I scrambled back and I went to see President Obasanjo, big mistake. He said, "This is how you're going to do it, you need fertilizer. We must have fertilizer." And together we had that fertilizer summit, your excellency you recall, and you were our guest speaker at the first AGRF here, and you spoke about fertilizer. At the time, the average usage of fertilizer was four kilograms per hectare. It is now over 20 kilograms per hectare rising quickly with some African countries already over 50 kilograms per hectare.

Now, why would they be using so much fertilizer in producing so much seed? The businessman in me says these people must be business people too. So, we begun to say, "Don't call them farmers, call them business people. Let's begin a business revolution." But you cannot do anything unless you talk to the farmers themselves. So, Kofi Annan said to me, "We must visit the farmers every year." And so, we would go out on field trips. He said, "No Gucci shoes please, just let's visit the farmers." We were a little bit more sensible than that and I relied on a lot of good friends, like a good officer of our organization at the time, Akin Adesina, who is now head of the African Development Bank (AfDB). But we listened to the farmers and they would say, "Mr. Annan, we need money, we need access to money. We need access to lands. We need you to advocate for us." We realized that we had to become a strong partner to the governments. We had to be the ones helping you with strategies and listening to how you wanted to solve the problems.



And so, your excellences, I can't stand here and mark my own exam paper. That will be marked in 2030 according to President Obasanjo who said that is when we will decide whether or not we delivered a Green Revolution on the continent of Africa. So, all I can say is we have some interesting green shoots on the ground, there is a momentum which I see in this room, there is an energy amongst the youth who are saying, "We don't need a handout, we just need a hand up. Just show us what to do and we will do it." They do not want to cross the Sahara and the Mediterranean your excellences, they want to develop their continent and they need us to help them.

Let me pay a tribute of course to my dear brother and mentor the late Kofi Annan. I always said that I never ever wore his shoes. They were too big so I just lived in them for the last 10 years. You cannot fill his shoes, you can only just look at them and occasionally be comfortable to live in them. He was a big hearted man and he set us an extraordinary vision.

Let me pay tribute to my colleagues at the foundations - the Rockefeller Foundation and the Gates Foundation - who laid the seeds and for the funding that we initially required to get this thing off the ground as well as the many partners, many of them national government partners like the USAID at the U.S. Government, President Obama was a massive champion when he came in, the British Government, DFID, the Scandinavian Governments, the German Government, and more recently the Chinese and the partnerships from the Middle East - everybody came. I can report to you, your excellences, wherever you pointed us to seek help, support, friendship, we were received with open doors and it is my task to pay tribute and to thank them.

Let me also pay tribute to my colleagues on the board, men and women from all over the world and Africa itself that have served during the 15 years since our organization was founded. The management and staff, for us as a board as I always say, actually our job is very easy. We just find the best people. I want to thank President Kagame because when we were in trouble, I went to him and said, "We are looking for somebody." He said, "How can I help you?" I said, "I think your agricultural minister is just the

person I need." She was kicking and screaming but she's done a fantastic job. Thank you Agnes for accepting that role.

Our board, by the way was decreed that it must at all times be 50% women or more. Let me pay tribute to the staff, the AGRA staff who I've always told will not get a pension because this is not a job for which you will be pensioned. I expect you to be out of here by 2030 and you're young enough to go to your next job. But nevertheless, I thank you for your day-to-day work and professionalism as a greatest gathering of African experts trying to solve an African problem.

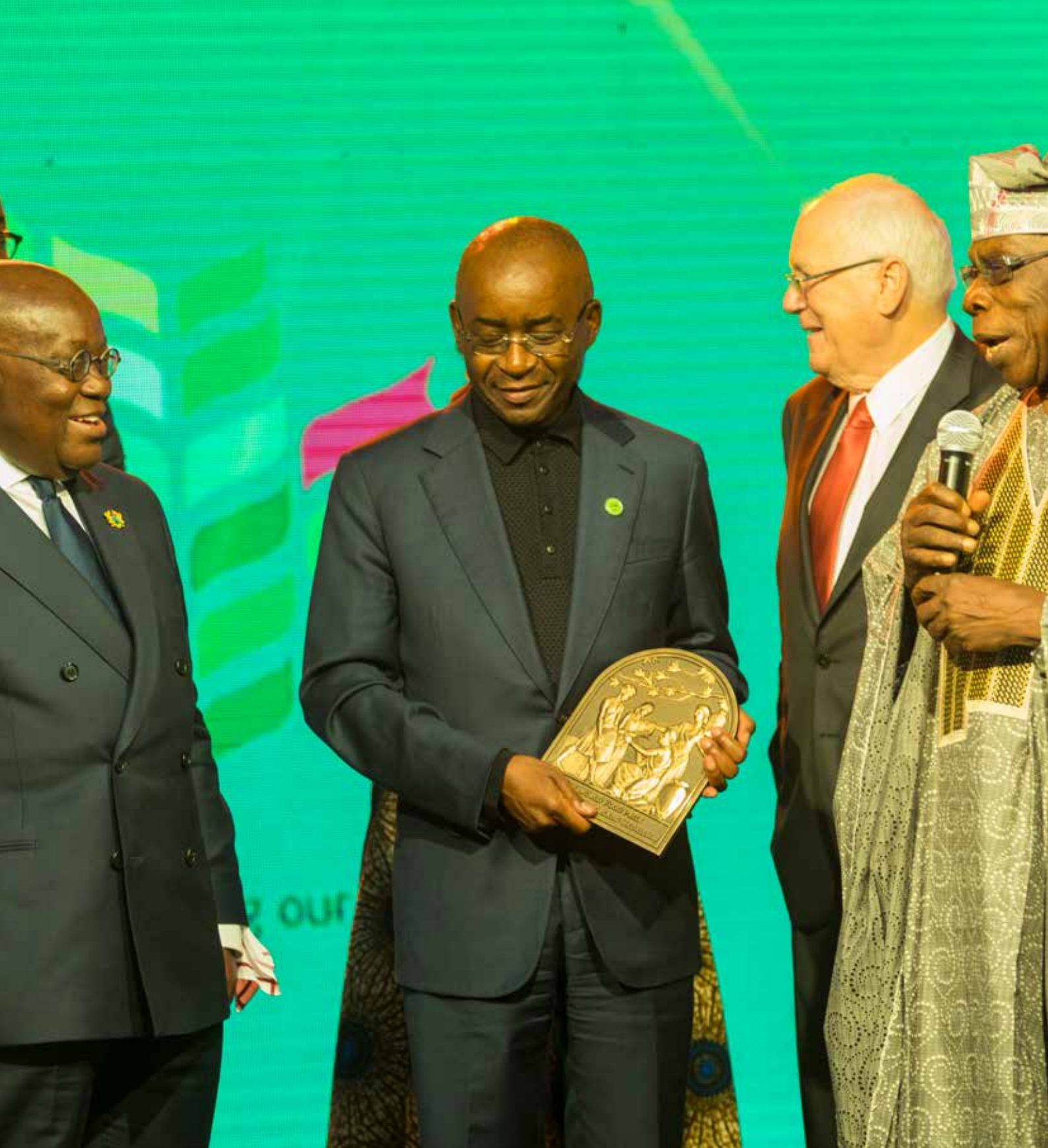
Finally, your excellences, allow me to pay tribute to the African farmer. Kofi Annan addressing us at our first board meeting said, "I know that you big guys, if we gave you the right incentives you can go out and you can produce all the food we want." He said, "But that's not the way this is going to be done. The African Green Revolution will be delivered successfully through the African smallholder farmer." No matter where we are when we're gathered here, we must not forget that it is about the African smallholder farmer. It is about improving their livelihoods, helping them to live dignified lives for which they earn a living and increase in their prosperity through their work as farmers.

Your excellences, allow me to pay my final tribute as chair and introduce you to my successor. My successor is His Excellency, the former Prime Minister of Ethiopia, a nation that has stood solidly and has led the way on this green revolution. Our board has elected him. We believe that he is the one who will complete this mission as I pass the baton to him. Thank you Prime Minister for taking this job.

Lastly, let me thank my family for giving me the opportunity and the support to have been here in all the times that I was away and then of course I thank God. I thank Him for the grace, I thank Him for the strength and I thank Him for the peace and I bless you in His name.

Thank you very much.





## OUTSTANDING SMALLHOLDER FARMER AND EMINENT AGRICULTURAL POLICY ADVOCATE SHARE 2019 AFRICA FOOD PRIZE

### Dr. Emma Naluyima of Uganda and Baba Dioum of Senegal are named joint winners of the US\$100,000 prize at the African Green Revolution Forum

Two exceptional professionals, who are both at the same time successful agricultural producers, were announced as the joint winners of the 2019 Africa Food Prize.

Dr. Emma Naluyima, a smallholder farmer and private veterinarian from Uganda, and Baba Dioum, a policy champion and agricultural entrepreneur from Senegal were recognized for their remarkable achievements in demonstrating and promoting innovative and sustainable growth in Africa's agriculture through improved resource use and market links.

Rather than pursue a promising institutional career, Dr. Naluyima quit employment to become a farmer, transforming her 1-acre plot into a showcase of profitable and environmentally friendly agriculture. The secret to her success is innovative integration of crop and livestock production, based on recycling of farm resources to provide natural fertilizers and pesticides as well as biogas. Dr. Naluyima, who generates \$100,000 a year from her farm, also hosts up to 10,000 visiting farmers to share knowledge through her advisory service.

Also a prosperous farmer, Baba Dioum has excelled in the policy sphere, leading the introduction of key reforms in the agriculture sector of his own country, before taking on influential roles in regional and Africa-wide policy development. With a knack for fostering dialogue and commitment, Mr. Dioum successfully promoted cross-border agricultural trade in West Africa and helped significantly to advance the trade dimension of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of Nigeria, who chairs the Africa Food Prize Committee, congratulated Dr. Naluyima and Mr. Dioum on behalf of other Committee members, praising them

for their courage in defying the status quo to open new pathways toward a more prosperous agriculture and for their solidarity with many others who wish to follow in their footsteps.

"What most strikes me about this year's winners is how their academic and professional success has gone hand in hand with their success as farmers," said H.E. President Obasanjo. "Rather than turn away from the countryside like so many others, they have embraced farming, using their talents and knowledge to demonstrate its enormous commercial possibilities. In other words, they practice what they preach, and this lends real credibility to their message about the value of technical and policy innovation in agriculture."

The 2019 winners, chosen from a total of close to 200 nominees, exemplify the central aim of the Africa Food Prize, which is to put a spotlight on innovations that promise to create a new era of food security and economic opportunity for all Africans. The two winners' achievements strongly complement one another, showing how both small-scale production and high-level policy reforms can contribute to agricultural transformation.

Not content with the immediate financial rewards of her 1-acre farm - US\$100,000 per year, Dr. Naluyima has turned it into a platform for sharing knowledge about her innovative model with the 10,000 people who seek her out each year. She and her husband have also set up a primary school - still on their 1-acre plot - that gives special emphasis to science and technology for its close to 300 students. Her experience and achievements speak volume about the importance of this kind of education for enabling rural women and youth to build more appealing livelihoods.

Baba Dioum's whole life and career have revolved around markets





and trade in agricultural commodities. It thus comes as no surprise that, while pursuing his policy work, he also engaged in the production of vegetables and later potato for export, eventually shifting to mango production for the export market. To help consolidate West Africa's position in this market, he created a regional network of mango exporters and developed a successful regional brand.

The Africa Food Prize began as the Yara Prize, and was established in 2005 by Yara International ASA in Norway to honour achievements in African agriculture. Moving the Yara Prize to Africa in 2016 and

rechristening it the Africa Food Prize gave the award a distinctive African home, African identity and African ownership.

The Africa Food Prize honours outstanding contributions within every aspect of agriculture and food production that is clearly related to combating hunger and reducing poverty in Africa.

The Africa Food Prize winners are selected by an independent committee chaired by H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of Nigeria. Other committee members are: Dr. Eleni Gabre-Madhin; Professor Sheryl Hendriks; Dr. Wanjiru Kamau-Rutenberg; Mr. Birama Sidibe; Amb. Sheila Sisulu; Dr. Vera Songwe; and Professor Joachim von Braun.



# AGRF2019 COMMUNIQUÉ

## Preamble:

**The Ninth Annual African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) was held in Accra, Ghana from 3 to 6 September 2019. The AGRF is now well established as the premiere platform for leaders from across Africa and around the world to advance concrete plans and share knowledge to tap the enormous potential of agriculture to drive equitable and sustainable growth across the continent. The Forum was hosted under the leadership of H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, the President of the Republic of Ghana. Also present and presiding over various events were H.E. the First Lady of Ghana Rebecca Akufo-Addo; Ghana’s Minister of Food and Agriculture, Hon. Dr. Owusu Afriyie Akoto; Ghana’s Minister of Finance, Hon. Ken Ofori-Atta; and several key cabinet members; and the African Union Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Economy, the Hon. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko. Other co-hosts were the 23 members of the AGRF Partners Group (under the Chairmanship of Mr. Strive Masiyiwa, Chairman of Econet Group), with AGRA serving as the AGRF Secretariat. Additional resources and technical support were provided by another 19 partners and sponsors who supported the cost of the forum and contributed to programmatic content.**

**2.** The Forum was attended by more than 2400 delegates from 89 countries and high-level dignitaries, including H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of Ghana; H.E. Mahamadou Issoufou, President of Niger; H.E. Yemi Osinbajo, Vice President of Nigeria; and the Rt. Hon. Edouard Ngirente, Prime Minister of Rwanda. It was also attended by several former Heads of State leading the continental agenda, including the Rt. Hon. Tony Blair, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom; H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, Former President of Nigeria; H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn, Former Prime Minister of Ethiopia; and H.E. Lionel Zinsou, Former Prime Minister of Benin. Other important Forum leaders and speakers included heads of international agencies and CEOs of global, regional and national business companies within and outside of Africa. Also in attendance were ministers of agriculture from across Africa; ministers and senior government officials from Australia, Canada, China, the European Union, Germany, Israel, Japan, Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States; and influential business leaders and representatives from financial institutions, agribusiness firms, farmer associations, civil society organizations, NGOs, media, research institutions, development and technical partners, and the growing ranks of young agriculture entrepreneurs and youth leaders.

**3.** The AGRF 2019 in Ghana represents the first time the Forum returned to a country that had hosted it before. Ghana hosted the first AGRF in 2010 and is home to the founder of the AGRF and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), the late Kofi Annan, the former Secretary General of the United Nations. Ghana also has been a consistent and influential champion of the agricultural transformation agenda across the continent, reliably reinforcing the role of agriculture as Africa’s most potent force for powering equitable economic progress. Its commitment to agricultural development has made a major contribution to the country’s historic economic progress.

**4.** The theme of this year’s AGRF was “Grow Digital: Leveraging Digital Transformation to Drive Sustainable Food Systems in Africa.” A rigorous series of technical assessments, policy analyses, and political discussions produced a new level of consensus that



could dramatically accelerate efforts to use digital innovations to make farming in Africa more productive, profitable, sustainable and inclusive. Deliberations at the forum made it clear that the coordinated efforts of public and private sector actors can unlock the potential of advances in everything from big data to block chain systems, drones, robotics, and machine learning platforms to overcome many different challenges and generate a host of new opportunities, particularly for Africa's young, digitally-savvy entrepreneurs. Digital technologies were seen as capable of addressing issues that have been major barriers to tapping agriculture's potential to provide a host of new economic opportunities across the continent.

**5.** AGRF was officially opened by the Hon. Prof. Kwabena Frimpong Boateng, Ghana's Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation speaking on behalf of H.E. Mahamudu Bawumia, Vice President of the Republic of Ghana. The session was oriented around the new Digitalisation of African Agriculture report from the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA). The report offers a comprehensive analysis of digital agricultural or D4Ag prospects in sub-Saharan Africa. The report found that the sector is growing at a brisk pace—some 60 percent of existing providers arrived on the scene in just the last three years—and advised that it will be critical for governments to take a more active role in developing enabling policies, infrastructure, and improved national data sets. In particular, it recommends the creation of an alliance of key stakeholders to promote greater investment, knowledge sharing and partnership building.

**6.** The Forum included a historic Presidential Summit comprised of Heads of State & Government, eminent persons, and hundreds of leaders and stakeholders present from across Africa's agriculture and agribusiness sector. Convened under the leadership of Ghana's President H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, the Presidential Summit was attended by more than 2,500 delegates, broadcast on national television and live-streamed to stakeholders regionally and globally.

**7.** The Forum closely examined how governments, businesses, donors and other partners are delivering on a wide range of political, policy and financial commitments. They include \$30

billion in investments pledged at AGRF in Nairobi in 2016, initiatives that emerged from AGRF 2017 in Abidjan that have added billions of additional dollars, and commitments from AGRF 2018 in Kigali that provided significant new investments. A highlight of AGRF 2019 was the Agribusiness Deal Room. Hundreds of meetings produced over \$200 million in new commitments and generated relationships with the potential produce partnerships that could draw in billions more.

### Ensuring the 21st Century is Africa's Century

**8.** The Presidential Summit featured critical insights into policies and strategies that are delivering proven progress in the agriculture sectors of African countries—and focused on the promise of digital innovations to greatly accelerate the African agriculture transformation and ensure the 21st Century is Africa's Century.

**8.1.** Ghana President H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo noted that AGRF 2019 was an essential opportunity to ensure agriculture is a top priority of every country's development agenda and that digitalization and data strategies play a major role in fulfilling their commitments of the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agriculture Growth in Africa—along with Ghana's ambitious Planting for Food and Jobs Initiative.

**8.2** Niger President H.E. Mahamadou Issoufou stated that investing in agriculture is the best way to achieve Africa's wider Agenda 2063. He noted that Niger has prioritized the sector, investing 17 percent of its budget to agriculture in 2018 to improve smallholder farmer access to inputs, irrigation, new technology, and agricultural infrastructure, including digital services through a new model of "smart villages". In the face of climate change, he stated that drought does not mean famine, as Niger's investments in the 3N Initiative ("Nigeriens Nourishing Nigeriens") have proven and have been acclaimed by experts around the world as a model worth scaling up in countries seeking economic transformation and resilience through agriculture.

**8.3.** Nigeria's Vice-President H.E. Yemi Osinbajo pointed to high-potential initiatives in digital agriculture that are attracting a new



wave of young Nigerians to the agriculture sector. He also noted that the ubiquity of mobile phones is making such things as digital payment platforms accessible across the population, including among poor farmers in remote rural areas.

**8.4.** Rwanda's Prime Minister the Rt. Hon. Edouard Ngirente discussed how focused efforts to make agriculture a key pillar of the country's economic development—which includes significant investments in digital technologies—are attracting a surge of interest in the sector, including from a growing number of younger entrepreneurs.

**8.5.** The Hon. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, Commissioner of Agriculture and Rural Economy for the African Union Commission, noted that there is a growing level of alignment and agreement among AU countries about the potential of digital agriculture services, with several countries, particularly in East Africa, providing a model that can facilitate much wider adoption across the continent.

**9.** Ministers of Agriculture from multiple countries met to discuss similar themes to the Presidential Summit with a Ministerial Roundtable that featured influential business leaders and produced a series of new commitments. Over 25 Ministers from African Governments deliberated particularly on the role of digital innovations, will inform efforts to advance of the 2nd Biennial Review (BR) report, which is slated for discussed by Africa Union Heads of States and Government in January 2020 and will track CAADP goals and targets set out in the 2014 Malabo Declaration. The assembled Ministers agreed to:

**9.1.** Institutionalize the CAADP Biennial Review and use it as a tool to support countries in the prioritization of critical areas that can drive their agriculture transformation and track their resource commitment, actions and performance management;

**9.2.** Use evidence-based solutions, including digital tools, for identifying, designing and implementing policy solutions;

**9.3.** Implement policies that promote digital solutions to support the monitoring and implementation of key priority actions; and,

**9.4.** Drive the delivery of agriculture investment plans through policy priority actions and flagship programs that each Minister will pursue in line with the national investment plans.

## Advancing the Continental Agenda with Ambition and Innovation

**10.** Over three and a half days a series of new initiatives emerged that hold the potential to deliver new investments and major innovations in digital technologies and other areas that will animate the ambitious agenda established by Heads of State and Ministers of Agriculture.

**11.** The President of the Mastercard Foundation, Reeta Roy, announced a new US \$500 million commitment within its Young Africa Works initiative, which will support efforts of young entrepreneurs across the continent to develop economic opportunities in agriculture. Through Young Africa Works, the Foundation will endeavor to help millions of young Africans to find meaningful employment in agriculture. The new investment will raise the Foundation's total commitments to African agriculture to US \$1 billion.

**12.** The World Bank reiterated a recent pledge to invest US \$50 billion in Transforming Africa's Digital Economy, as well as noted its plans to increase funding for food security initiatives by 25 percent relative to 2017 investments, for a total of \$33 billion in funding over the next four years. The Bank is committed to ensuring every African, including every African business and government, is digitally enabled by 2030. The digital investments will focus on foundational elements of the digital economy that will be crucial to realizing the potential of digital agriculture services. They include support for broadband infrastructure; digital skill development; digital platforms; digital financial services; and digital entrepreneurship. One key goal is to double access to broadband services across the continent by 2021.

**13.** A coalition of donors and philanthropy, including the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the United





Kingdom's Department of International Development (DFID), the German development agency (BMZ), the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, announced a new initiative with the CGIAR aimed at modernizing and sharpening the priorities of public plant breeding in the developing world. The CGIAR's Crops to End Hunger initiative will provide African farmers with a new generation of varieties that help them adapt to climate change, reinforce food and nutritional security and enhance the livelihoods of both producers and consumers.

**14.** There were new commitments to expand efforts focused on providing African farmers with innovations and assistance they need deal with the many impacts of climate change. The Hon. Ezzeddin Abu Steit, Egypt's Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, speaking on behalf of Egyptian President H.E. Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, who also serves as Chair of the African Union, delivered the AGRF 2019 Declaration on Increasing the Adaptation and Resilience of African Food Systems. It calls on multilateral, bilateral and private sector partners to support increased funding focused on multiple climate-related challenges to food production in sub-Saharan Africa. Also, delegates committed to embedding resilience and adaptation interventions into national agricultural investment plans and scaling-up proven technologies targeting smallholder farmers, with a special focus on women and youth.

**15.** The International for Agricultural Development (IFAD) under the leadership of its President Gilbert Houngbo noted that there is a huge funding shortfall between the \$115 billion that is needed for investment in agriculture annually to meet the zero hunger Sustainable Development Goal and the \$10.5 billion invested in ODA to agriculture. In response, IFAD is partnering in several areas to scale up private agribusiness investment. At this Forum, it particularly joined in creating the Food Action Alliance to bring together a consortium of partners, including the World Economic Forum (WEF), Rabobank, AfDB, and AGRA to pool individual strengths to align food systems more closely with the SDGs.

**16.** H.E. the First Lady of Ghana Rebecca Akufo-Addo presided over a special event focused on scaling up nutrition-focused initiatives in the region in advance of the 2020 Nutrition for

Growth (N4G) Summit in Japan. Over the last few years, the long-standing focus on food security in Africa has evolved to become a stronger focus on nutrition security. The goal is to ensure farmers are able to provide consumers with a dynamic mix of crop and livestock products that promote good health and proper childhood development. H.E. the First Lady was joined in the session by UN Assistant Secretary General Gerda Verburg of the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement, as well as Ambassadors and High Commissioners from Canada, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States who are committed to this agenda.

**17.** A new partnership initiative, Generation Africa, was launched by founding partners from leading public and private sector organisations, who will work collaboratively to strengthen the ecosystem that supports young agripreneurs on their journey from idea to scale.

**18.** AGRF 2019 featured the launch of a new Africa Regional Food Trade Coalition. The Regional Food Trade Coalition was called for and developed by a large and diverse coalition of leaders from the public and private sector. They are building on the foundation established by the new African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and market opportunities evidenced in the region's \$35 billion annual food import bill. The goal is to increase regional food trade via more predictable policies and mechanisms that encourage new agribusiness investments that capitalize on the rich diversity of farming ecologies across the continent. Even as the Coalition engages its new partners on its implementation modalities, it was clear that the Coalition shall aim to:

**18.1.1.** Develop and influence key policy and regulatory reforms that will strengthen regional food trade for the benefit of all stakeholders, including smallholder farmers and consumers.

**18.1.2.** Support and coordinate policy interventions by strengthening key systems that generate supporting evidence for reform.

**18.1.3.** Facilitate engagement between agribusinesses and public sector actors for developing more predictable and transparent policy regimes that produce structured market systems and facilitate trade in agri-food products.



**19.** The Forum featured an announcement of the new global SDG 2 Alliance to coordinate urgently needed action and increase financial commitments for interventions focused on achieving the 2nd Sustainable Development Goal to eradicate hunger by 2030. Dr. Stefan Schmitz, Deputy Director-General, Department of Food, Rural Development and Natural Resources, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), encouraged African countries to join the alliance and noted plans to hold an SDG 2 Alliance conference in 2020 in Berlin.

**20.** There were new commitments to extend the tremendous progress in improving Africa's seeds systems to many more countries across the continent. The Forum looked at models and lessons from public private partnerships to improve early generation seed production, and it also featured the launch of the new Seed Systems Group. Working from the successful model developed and validated by AGRF's Program for Africa Seed Systems, SSG aims to partner with African governments and the international donor community to make quality seed of high-yielding, climate-resilient crop varieties available to millions more smallholder farmers—even in countries facing significant development challenges.

## Accelerating Business Investments to Create Jobs and Economic Growth

**21.** The Investment Center and Agribusiness Deal Room of AGRF 2019 was a hub of activity, securing the Forum as a prime venue for connecting agribusinesses and investment opportunities with critically needed capital. There were more than 250 scheduled meetings and close to 600 impromptu discussions in the formal Deal Room alone. Over 100 SMEs participated in the Deal Room; these businesses have a total fundraising need of \$759 million and were able to meet with a plethora of capital providers that offer debt, equity, quasi-equity, and grant funding. Capital needs ranged from \$500k to \$100 million with an average investment need of \$7 million and a median investment need of \$1 million.

**21.1.** Private and public sector stakeholders executed commitments

worth over \$200 million to develop and strengthen several value chains in Eswatini, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria and Uganda. The signing companies/investors were Dangote Farms Limited (Nigeria – Tomato value chain), Press Agriculture Limited, (Malawi – Dairy, Macadamia and Soya value chains), Pearl Dairies Limited (Uganda – Dairy value chain) and Fresh Limited (Mozambique & Eswatini – Horticulture value chain). In addition, a Unilever-IDH partnership committed \$28.6M to SME's in relevant value chains.

**21.2.** Some country delegations presented investment opportunities worth in excess of \$2 billion. The proposed investments, coupled with support from various stakeholders, is anticipated to impact more than 15,000 smallholder farmers and create 7 million direct and indirect jobs.

**21.3.** The AGRF partners will continue to monitor high-potential matches and provide feedback to the partners for targeted interventions. The Agribusiness Deal Room at the AGRF was made possible with the support of core design partners, including AECF, AGRA, AFDB-ADF, CrossBoundary, GAIN, GrowAfrica, IFAD, the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, and USAID. The Deal Room also received advisory support from the World Economic Forum.

## Consolidating Africa's Commitment to South-South Cooperation

**22.** Building on the foundation established at AGRF 2018, the Forum included a number of productive exchanges with Africa's partners across the global south. China has pursued a successful path of agricultural and economic development that has lifted 700 million of its farmers out of poverty. Israel and Brazil also offered valuable lessons on agricultural transformation, particularly how to apply advanced digitally-enabled agri-tech tools, adopt sustainable and appropriate irrigation systems, and increase access to mechanization. In addition, officials and experts from China, Brazil, and Israel discussed policy and digital innovations that can increase access to inputs, services and markets. They also shared key insights that can help African leaders learn from their experience to address current bottlenecks. The AGRF Partners are committed to expanding and deepening the Forum's platforms for



South South Cooperation and attracting even larger delegations in the future.

### Embracing Evidence-Based Leadership

**23.** Leaders and delegates at the Forum were energized by a series of groundbreaking reports that provide a firm foundation for moving forward in multiple areas, including digital services, agri-business development, and regional trade.

**24.** The launching of the Digitalisation of African Agriculture report from CTA offered a rigorous, detailed foundation for data-driven action to realize the potential of digital agriculture (D4Ag) services to accelerate Africa's agricultural transformation. It found that most digital agriculture offerings are focused on advisory services, but those providing market linkages—for both inputs and offtake—represent the fastest growing segment. The report calls on donors, investors, and governments to consider a number of actions to scale existing and new D4Ag solutions and ensure farmers are actively using the services.

**25.** The Forum featured the release of the 2019 Africa Agricultural Status Report (AASR) from AGRA and its partners, which presented new evidence of how a private sector-led “hidden middle” of agri-food supply chains in sub-Saharan has undergone a Quiet Revolution. The report found that today, millions of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) source directly from millions more smallholder farmers across Sub-Saharan Africa, accounting for 64 percent of the volume of food consumed in the region. The report finds the rise of SME's has been largely unrecognized by policymakers, even as it has bridged gaps that previously separated most small-scale farmers from commercial markets.

**26.** The launch of the Africa Agriculture Trade Monitor (AATM) 2019 report from the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and CTA examined the effectiveness of efforts to increase regional trade integration and intra-African trade. It also evaluated the potential impact of broader integration on Africa's trade performance in light of emerging trade protectionism in the global economy. Meanwhile, the Regional Food Trade policy symposium showcased a number of data innovations and initiatives that aid

in monitoring and forecasting agriculture production, climate and earth observatory, as well as tools used in trade and food security monitoring. Delegates appreciated the role of these innovations in strengthening evidenced based policy making in advancing food trade in selected countries and the need for scale-up in their use. The session ended with a call for the formation of a Regional Food Trade Coalition to strengthen policy harmonization and alignment.

### Recognizing and Celebrating Africa's Agriculture Leaders

**27.** The Forum showcased the hard work and admirable achievements of African leaders who are blazing a path for Africa and the world, demonstrating how to food production in the 21st century can be productive, sustainable, resilient and profitable.

**28.** The 2019 Africa Food Prize was awarded to two exceptional professionals and successful food producers: Dr. Emma Naluyima, a smallholder farmer and private veterinarian from Uganda, and Baba Diouma, a policy champion and agricultural entrepreneur from Senegal. Dr. Naluyima has transformed her one-acre plot into a showcase of profitable and environmentally friendly agriculture. Also a prosperous farmer, Baba Dioum has excelled in the policy sphere, leading the introduction of key reforms in Senegal and advancing the trade dimension of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

**29.** Young entrepreneurs were showcased as drivers of innovation and growth in Africa's agri-food sector. The GoGettagz competition, hosted by Econet Group and Yara International, reached over 50 million people with inspiring messages and culminated at AGRF in a pitch competition among 12 dynamic finalists, and one male and one female young business owner – Ghanaian Isaac Sesi and Tswana Bonolo Monthe – were lauded as winners of the inaugural GoGettagz Agripreneur Prize at the Africa Food Prize gala dinner.

**30.** CTA in partnership with AGRA, the OCP Group, GreenTec Group and with the contribution of the World Bank, FAO and other partners, launched Pitch AgriHack 2019. Its ultimate objective is to contribute to the transformation of the agricultural sector



and promotion of youth employment. Winners in the Early Stage category were Profish of Ghana (7500 Euros) and Savanna Circuit Tech of Kenya (500 Euros); in the Mature category, Jaguza Tech of Uganda, (1500 Euros) and Arinifu Technologies of Kenya (12,500 Euros); for the Public Choice Award, Trackball Global Technologies of Nigeria, (5000 Euros); for the Data Analytics Award, Foodlocker Ltd. of Nigeria, (10,000 Euros); and for the GreenTec Award, TechShelta Company Ltd. of Ghana, (5000 Euros).

**31.** GRF 2019 also featured the leadership transition for the Chair of both the AGRF Partners Group and AGRA from Mr. Strive Masiyiwa, Chairman of Econet Group, to H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn, Former Prime Minister of Ethiopia. Mr. Masiyiwa has guided AGRA and AGRF since 2014 under his steady hand, during which the forum has grown in size and influence. H.E. Hailemariam served as Prime Minister of Ethiopia from 2012 to 2018 and Chairperson of the African Union from 2013 to 2014. He pledged to ensure the Forum continues to deliver concrete and objective results.

### Next Steps and a New Era for AGRF

**32.** The AGRF 2019 closed under the leadership of Ghana's Minister of Food and Agriculture, the Hon. Dr. Owusu Afriyie Akoto. In his closing remarks he urged delegates to seize the opportunities that emerged at the Forum to deliver on investments and commitments that will consolidate the coming decades as Africa's Century.

**33.** Following a competitive bidding process, the 23 Members of the AGRF Partners Group unanimously agreed and announced that the Republic of Rwanda will host the 2020 AGRF and serve as the long-term home country of the Forum going forward.

**33.1.** The AGRF has taken place in eight different countries over the last decade, ensuring that awareness, models, lessons, and the political will required to drive an inclusive agricultural transformation in Africa grew steadily across the continent. At the end of its first decade, the AGRF will now adjust its approach and adopt a "home and away" model where the Forum will alternate between hosting the event in Rwanda in even years and different host countries across the continent in alternate years.

**33.2.** The AGRF Partners look forward to partnering with the Republic of Rwanda in this new approach, particularly under the committed leadership of H.E. President Paul Kagame. The move will add the Republic of Rwanda to the AGRF Partners Group to help 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 pressure 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.

**33.3.** The AGRF Secretariat was mandated to operationalize this new relationship immediately and ensure the arrangements are in place by the end of the year in order to host AGRF 2020 in Kigali.

**All partners thanked the Government of Ghana for its gracious hosting of the AGRF delegates and for its consistent and continued leadership of this continental forum.**



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## BECOMING AN AGRF PARTNER OR SPONSOR

There are many opportunities of becoming a strategic partner and join the AGRF Partners Group to drive a shared vision on inclusive transformation in Africa. As a sponsor in different categories, for instance, you will help shape and drive the event in ways aligned to your organization's vision and strategy. In addition to this strategic engagement, sponsors get visibility and institutional benefits.

We look forward to welcoming you to the AGRF Partners Group.

Below are the opportunities to position your organization or company as market leader at this event, and to explore the range of branding and exhibition opportunities that this platform offers:

PARTNER TIER	ROLES AND EXPECTATIONS
<b>AGRF PARTNERS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ <b>Provide guidance, review, and no objection on:</b><ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. AGRF strategy, operating model, and staffing model</li><li>2. Forum objectives, themes, agenda, and program</li><li>3. Event location</li><li>4. Budget</li><li>5. Participate in governance meetings</li></ol></li><li>❖ <b>Benefits based on level of financial contribution:</b><ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Leadership and/or participation in thematic platform(s)</li><li>2. Development and/or participation in sessions at the forum</li><li>3. Speaking roles</li><li>4. Visibility, logo positioning, unique branding</li></ol></li></ul>
<b>SPONSORING PARTNERS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ <b>Receive a combination package (ranked from Bronze to Platinum) depending on their contribution that includes:</b><ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Speaking opportunities</li><li>2. Networking and Business Opportunities</li><li>3. Advertising &amp; Marketing</li></ol></li></ul>

If interested, please contact the **AGRF SECRETARIAT** at [SECRETARIAT@AGRF.ORG](mailto:SECRETARIAT@AGRF.ORG). New partners are admitted throughout the year, but the AGRF Partners Group welcomes expressions of interest before end of 2019 to enable the best opportunities for engaging in the annual Forum.



# SAVE THE DATE!

SEPTEMBER 8-11, 2020 - KIGALI, RWANDA



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