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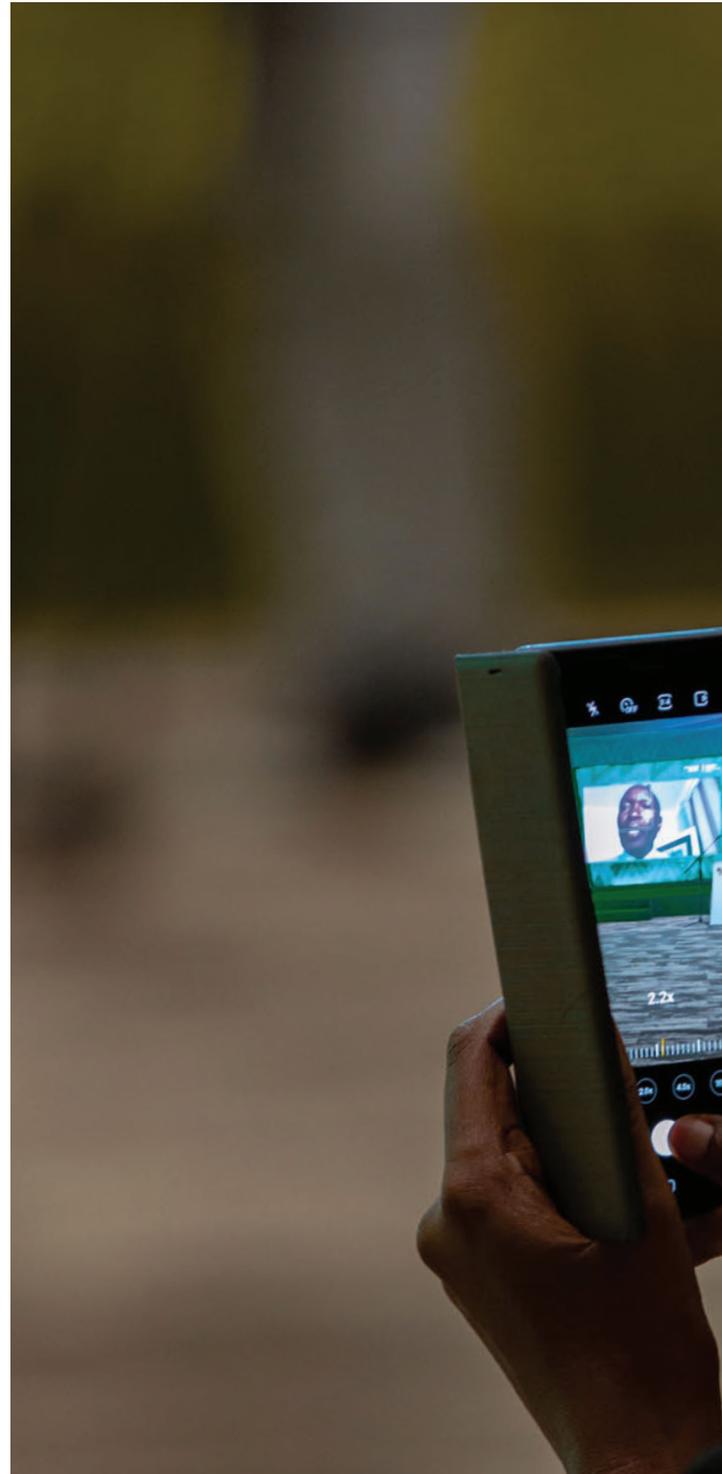


Feed the Cities, Grow the Continent:
Leveraging Urban Food Markets to Achieve
Sustainable Food Systems in Africa



Contents

Executive Summary	12
Reports and Awards	14
Presidential Summit	18
High-Profile Ministerial Roundtable	20
Eminent Leaders in Conversation	21
Agribusiness Deal Room	23
Farmers Forum	24
Youth Townhall	25
Markets and Trade	26
Nutritious Food	31
Food Systems	36
Resilience	40
The AGRF at 10	47



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Cities, around the world, are drivers of economic growth. Their consumers influence markets, and their signals shape the prosperity of food production hubs, mostly in rural areas. Africa is no different as it depends on urban settlements to provide reliable markets for most of the agricultural produce generated within the continent.

As Africa's population doubles and reaches about 2.4 billion people within the next three decades, we expect increased pressure on the domestic agricultural sector to supply healthy, safe and nutritious food for the growing continent.

This, coupled with global challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, brings us to the realisation that we must increase productivity in the agri-food sector, while ensuring that our food systems deliver healthy, safe, nutritious food that are produced within equitable systems, provide sustainable livelihoods and limit negative impacts on the environment.

It is critical that all stakeholders in the African food and agriculture industry interact regularly in conversations and align on agendas that define our next steps. The AGRF is the premier platform for achieving this level of engagement. This year's Summit brought a timely focus to the role that cities play in influencing sustainable food systems and economic prosperity.

Without a doubt, the conversations at this year's Summit presented a step-change in our approach towards the pursuit of food & nutrition security and the increasing shared prosperity across Africa.

On behalf of the AGRF Partners group, I thank H.E. Paul Kagame, the President of the Republic of Rwanda, for agreeing to host the AGRF Summit 2020 amidst a challenging global environment and we are proud that the event became the most successful in history.

Going forward, we anticipate the implementation of the commitments made at the summit, with a particular interest in seeing how we embrace the growth of our urban populations to create a vibrant agricultural sector that will yield great benefits for everyone in Africa. It is my pleasure to present to you the report of the proceedings from the AGRF Summit 2020.

H.E. Hailemariam Dessalegn,

Former Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Board Chair AGRA & AGRF Partners Group



I am delighted to present to you the proceedings from the AGRF 2020 Summit.

2020 will go down in history as one of the most challenging years of our times. COVID-19 has created a significant strain on our food systems, disrupting markets and putting immense strain on our small holder farmers. At the same time, this crisis has offered an opportunity to stop, to reflect and to work towards changing what is broken. That is what we did at this year's AGRF.

Africa is the fastest urbanizing continent and it is estimated that by 2030, 52% of Africans will be living in urban areas. Against this backdrop as well as the stresses created by the pandemic, this theme "Feed the Cities, Grow the Continent" felt particularly relevant. At our farmers' forum, we learned that what we need is action. Action in creating and maintaining infrastructure, action on education and access to resources. Youth participating in our town hall were urged to take the lead and inject new energy into the continent's agricultural transformation. At the Presidents' roundtable, leaders re-committed to meeting commitments made in the Malabo Declaration, the Sustainable Development Goals and The African Union Agenda 2063.

The agriculture sector is Africa's "value-add" and has huge potential. Agriculture accounts for more than 40% of employment in most of our countries and contributes an average of 23% to Africa's GDP. There are some 45 million farmers on the continent – African governments and investors must reach all of them, leaving no one behind, if we are to see an end to poverty and hunger. Farmers must have access to markets far from their rural homes, to storage for their produce, and to finance to grow their businesses.

My experience has shown me that, when food systems function well -at all stages leading up to the point when we consume food, including the way it is produced, transported and sold - agriculture can provide huge opportunities for smallholder farmers. I am fully convinced of the power of food systems to transform the lives of smallholder farmers and their families and communities, and bring about changes to entire economies. We know what needs to be done, but inclusive agriculture transformation is not an easy thing to achieve: it is complex and requires a long-term focus. We estimate at least US \$25-35 billion a year of investment is needed to transform the continent's agriculture, while an unparalleled coalition for change is required at continental, country and local level between government, private sector and civil society.

As we move into 2021, we will need to step up our investment in agriculture and our small holder farmers, and transform our rural areas. Inclusive agriculture transformation requires a long-term focus and an unwavering commitment therefore, we need to lean in and have those hard conversations at forums like the AGRF about what needs to change and how we can work better together. This is the only way we will make progress.

Dr. Agnes Kalibata

President, AGRA







This year presented the world with unique challenges that, in one way or another, impacted us all. The Covid-19 pandemic posed a stress test to global agri-food systems in ways previously inconceivable.

For the first time ever, the AGRF summit took place in a virtual format and a hybrid component, comprising both a scaled-down physical event in the host country, Rwanda, and digital participation from around the world.

For us, this was the best-attended AGRF Summit of all time, with over 10,400 registered, and close to 7,000 active delegates from 154 countries, including 492 global speakers. Over four days, we had meaningful engagements on how to capitalize on the economic

power of rapidly-growing urban populations to create prosperous, sustainable food systems for Africa.

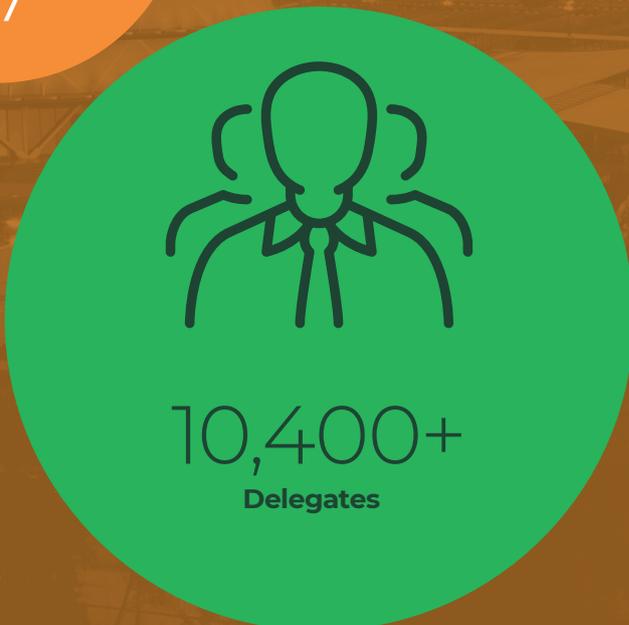
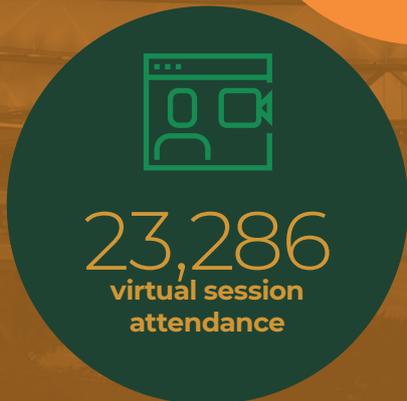
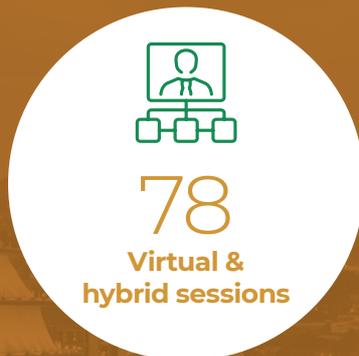
Africa is urbanizing at a faster rate than anywhere else in the world. In the next 25 years there will be twice as many people living in the region's towns and cities. That is close to 1 billion people requiring a regular supply of food every day.

At the AGRF Summit 2020, the conversations yielded tangible resolutions to foster the transformation of the agri-food sector to sustainably feed the continent, and the rest of the world. In this report, you will read about these resolutions in light of the current state of food and agriculture in Africa, as well as their implications on the future.

As a global community, linked in our common humanity, we are only beginning to take stock of the impact of the agri-food system shocks we have experienced this year, yet we are confident that we will rise to the challenge of building back better. We welcome you to journey back with us to the AGRF Summit 2020 highlights, and look forward to engaging with you next year on our march to increase prosperity in Africa's agri-food sector.

Debisi Araba, Ph.D (DIC),
Managing Director, AGRF

+ AGRF Summit in numbers





Executive Summary

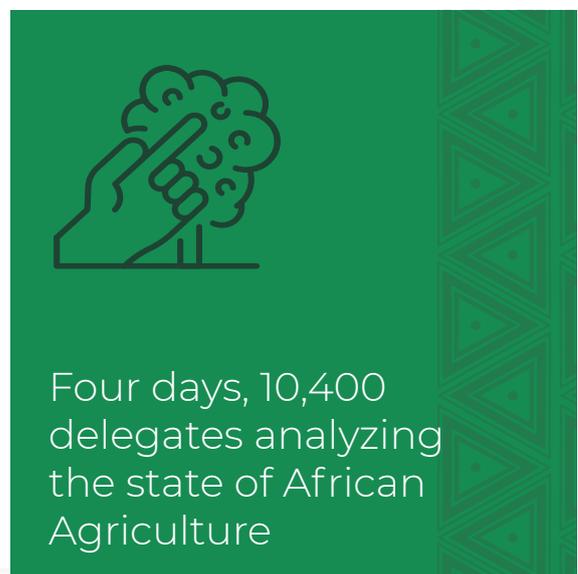
More than 10,400 delegates including 492 speakers from 154 countries attended the 10th edition of the African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) virtual summit on 8-11 September. The event was co-hosted by the AGRF Partners Group and the Government of Rwanda under the leadership of H.E. President Paul Kagame.

In attendance were current and retired presidents and heads of state and government, ministers, governors, mayors, scientists, members of the civil society, private sector leaders, and farmers.

For four days, the delegates gathered on a revolutionary virtual platform to analyze the state of African agriculture under the theme, Feed the Cities, Grow the Continent: **Leveraging Urban Food Markets to Achieve Sustainable Food Systems in Africa.**

This theme was a call to action to rethink Africa's food systems in the delivery of resilient, better nourished, and more prosperous outcomes for all.

Like previous events, this year's Forum focused on driving progress and the achievement of the goals in the Malabo Declaration of the African Union. The Declaration is a set of commitments made by African heads of state and government to strengthen agricultural development at the center of the continent's overall development and progress. Similarly, AGRF 2020 aligned with the AU Agenda 2063 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by enabling private sector investments and engagements and supporting African smallholder farmers to become sustainable businesses for economic growth, contributing to Agricultural Transformation.



The AGRF Summit 2020 was designed around the following tangible and concrete outcomes in the following thematic areas:

- **Markets and Trade:** Building inter-connected African markets that create opportunities, right from rural smallholders to urban supermarkets.
- **Nutritious Food:** Creating demand for African products that fuel diverse, healthy diets with the safety and quality that every consumer needs.
- **Food Systems:** Defining the food systems Africa wants and be part of a multi-stakeholder vision for Africa and the world on the future of food.
- **Resilience:** Investing in enterprises and innovations to build a more sustainable and inclusive future.

The event took place in two session formats; plenary and parallel workshops, covering various topics including: agro-innovation, financing, inclusive food markets, gender-responsive policies, and building back better.

The delegates explored innovative ways to streamline the continent's agricultural value chains to sufficiently serve the rising urban food demand while commercially benefitting the continent's farmers.

The attendees also sought environmentally and commercially sustainable agricultural strategies for a quick response to emerging challenges such as COVID-19, climate change, and pest attacks.

The delegates agreed that coordinated efforts between players in the public and private sector would unlock Africa's agricultural potential leading to food sufficiency for all.



Reports and Awards

Africa Agriculture Status Report

Urban populations are growing faster in Africa than anywhere else in the world. Feeding Africa's cities with good quality food, therefore, presents a major opportunity for the continent's 60 million farms.

This is one of the findings of the 2020 Africa Agriculture Status Report (AASR), which focuses on the continent's growing urban food markets. The report's theme is Feeding Africa's Cities: **Opportunities, Challenges, and Policies for Linking African Farmers with Growing Urban Food Markets**

Published each year by AGRA, the AASR serves as a handbook for governments and their supporting partners to deliver agricultural and economic transformation.

This year's report reviews the structure and scale of urban food markets, the current challenges facing farmers and agribusinesses, and key policies for ensuring affordable and safe urban food supplies.

The report identifies five key public goods required to ensure the competitiveness of African farmers and agribusiness in growing urban food markets:

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

Traditional markets and small-format shops currently account for 80 - 90% of urban food retailing” - 2020 Africa Agriculture Status Report, AASR



Urban populations are growing faster in Africa than anywhere else in the world

Africa Agriculture Trade Monitor

The 2020 Africa Agriculture Trade Monitor (AATM 2020) report was officially unveiled during the “Great Debate” session.

The AATM 2020 is the third publication in a series of flagship reports that present an overview of trade in agricultural products in Africa. The report is the result of a collaborative initiative between the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and AKADEMIYA2063.

This year’s edition covers intra-Africa trade integration including the role of non-tariff measures and the competitiveness of African value chains that are crucial for food security.

The report also examines the importance and measurement of informal cross-border trade for agricultural products. This is in addition to giving an overview of the regional integration experiences in Southern Africa, with a focus on the Southern Africa Development Community.

In its conclusion, the AATM 2020 offers policy recommendations for improving agricultural exports performance, especially in the context of the unprecedented uncertainty arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Africa Food Prize

Ugandan Professor Catherine Nakalembe, a remote sensing scientist, and Burkinabe soil scientist André Bationo were jointly awarded the \$100,000 Africa Food Prize in recognition of their exceptional contribution towards the promotion of food security across the continent. The two laureates were selected from a pool of over 500 nominees for their outstanding effort in changing the reality of farming in Africa from a struggle to survive to a business that thrives.

Prof. Nakalembe is a remote sensing scientist at NASA, where she helps countries

build systems to monitor crops based on NASA’s and the European Space Agency’s free satellite data. In this role, she helps African farmers to make evidence-based life-saving decisions related to food security. Her work in this area has helped prevent potentially disastrous impacts of crop failure. Her relentless efforts have also promoted the formulation of policies and programs that are directly impacting farmers against the impacts of food failure.

Co-award winner, Dr. Bationo, has contributed greatly to the understanding of soil fertility issues in Sub-Saharan Africa. Dr. Bationo was selected to win the prestigious prize for his efforts in the improvement of micro-dosing fertilizer technology. He was also cited for scaling up an inventory credit system that allows farmers to store grain and receive credit when prices are low, thus selling their grain when prices are higher. Dr. Bationo’s innovations have benefitted millions of farmers in West Africa, having spread from the villages in Niger where he first implemented them.





GoGettag Agripreneur Prize

Twelve young entrepreneurs made pitches for the \$100,000 GoGettag Agripreneur Prize, a competition for innovative youth with business interests in the agri-food sector. The 12 finalists were picked from among 24 semifinalists who had been asked to showcase their innovative solutions for Africa's agriculture and food security problems in a 2-minute video pitch, which was followed by online interviews.

The selection criteria to make the final 12 included innovation, market traction, social and environmental impact, business model, and management team, in addition to a demonstrated ability to adapt and impact the agricultural landscape of Africa, during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Generation Africa's evaluators and judges selected two startups to win US\$50,000 each. Tanzanian Daniella

Kwayu and Rwandese Moses Katala emerged the overall winners of the award.

Ms. Kwayu is the founder of Phema Agri, a digital agriculture investment platform that provides smallholder farmers with blended finance with an aim to de-risk the value chain. Using their crowdfunding platform, Phema Agri match de-risked, vetted, trained and market linked farmers looking for financing to investors looking to grow their wealth by investing in agriculture. In return, farmers share their profits with investors. The platform is a B2B2C business model linked directly to bank payments and mobile network operators for ease of transactions. Phema Agri's innovation involves providing a convenient, easy to use investment platform in agriculture.

Co-award winner, Mr. Katala, heads Magofarm, an insect technology startup that turns food waste into insect protein for animal feed, which they deliver straight to farmers based on an individual needs analysis. The company produces a protein ingredient called magomeal, which contains 15 percent more nutritious amino acids than all other alternatives in the market, at a much more affordable price. Magofarm's innovation is around the efficient conversion of food waste into protein by insect larvae. In the process, as well as producing organic protein, they take part in reducing the amount of food waste that goes into local landfills every year. Magofarm are regional pioneers of waste-to-nutrient insect technology using insect larvae to upcycle organic waste into premium and sustainable proteins for animal feed.

Additionally, and in recognition of the high quality of entries to the competition this year, four more entrepreneurs were picked to win \$2,500 each to grow their businesses. This is aside from the mentorship, programming linkages and other entrepreneurial guidance offered to all finalists. The four were: Elizabeth Gikebe (Mhogo Foods, Kenya), Millicent Agidipo (Achiever Foods Limited, Ghana), Dysmus Kisilu (Solar Freeze, Kenya), and Paul Matovu of Vertical and Micro Gardening, Uganda.



Dr. Catherine Nakalembe and Dr André Bationo represent exactly the kind of entrepreneurial and innovative spirit that African agriculture depends on to transform

Svein Tore Holsether, President, Yara International.

Presidential Summit

The Presidential Summit brought together heads of state and government, eminent persons and hundreds of leaders and stakeholders from across Africa's agriculture, agribusiness and food sectors.

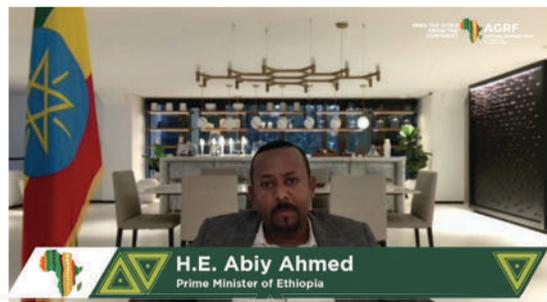
Rwanda's President, H.E. Paul Kagame, was joined by H.E. Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of Ethiopia, H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission and H.E. Amina Mohamed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The Presidential Summit focused discussions on how Africa can leverage its blossoming urban population to stimulate development in rural areas and the wider agri-food sectors, particularly on how to leverage markets and trade opportunities to grow cities, and to build resilience against emerging threats, such as COVID-19.

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

Key areas for progress were identified:

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



High-Profile Ministerial Roundtable

A high-level Ministerial Roundtable Session provided an opportunity for planning to build back better by taking stock of where Africa is with regards to policy reforms, partnerships and financing towards achieving the 2025 Malabo Declaration target of ending hunger in Africa.

In the face of COVID-19, the ministers made strong calls for investment in agriculture and food systems, and to make progress towards the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and implement the Continental Agri-Food Policy under the AfCFTA Framework. Points of agreement included:

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



15 governments + COMESA pitching investment opportunities in over 20 agricultural value chains

Eminent Leaders in Conversation



3
trillion

agriculture in Africa is a
USD 3 trillion industry

The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the urgent need to build resilient agricultural and food systems in Africa. British journalist Ms. Femi Oke led a session on how the continent can bounce back better by leveraging urban markets as an engine of economic recovery.

Her panel included distinguished leaders from Africa, Europe and the United States.

Rwanda's Minister of Agricultural and Animal Resources, Hon. Gerardine Mukeshimana, described her country's remarkable rise from

civil war 25 years ago to being recognised today as Africa's leading agricultural nation.

She added that policy has been at the heart of helping Rwanda build its current food systems, which are designed to ensure that food is available, healthy, nutritious and affordable for all its people.

Kenya's Minister of Industrialization, Trade and Enterprise Development, Hon. Betty Maina added that a strong policy environment creates for driving sustainable growth in Africa's agriculture. Meanwhile, Ms. Carla Montesi, the European Union's Director, Planet and Prosperity, and Mr. Dirk Schattschneider, the Deputy Director General at Germany's Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, recognized growing market opportunities for Africa's agricultural products in other continents.

In agreement was Hon. Ted McKinney, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs, who presented a five-point plan for Africa to gear up for accelerated international trade. Below are the considerations for his plan:

- Talk with farmers and offer them a hand-up, but let them choose the direction they take. Don't issue a mandate.
- Go deeper on free-trade agreements.
- Help open up opportunities for Africa that don't tie them or restrict their growth.
- Allow farmers to develop their innovative spirit and let them choose what's right for them.
- Encourage sustainability.



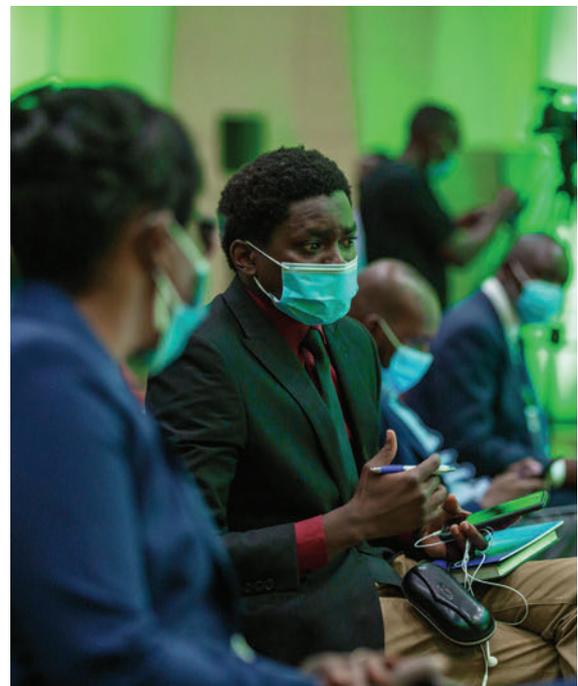
A Civic Call to Action

The challenge of feeding Africa's cities can be overcome by a synergy between city planning and collaboration between governments and the private sector. Civic leaders from Africa described the ongoing rural-urban migration trend in Africa as a burden to cities' resources. The speakers, however, agreed that the food shortage problems could be resolved within reason.

His Worship Pudence Rubingisa, the Mayor of Kigali, said his administration had set aside 23 percent of the land for agricultural purposes, a strategy that proved resourceful during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A similar strategy is under implementation in Ethiopia, where the capital Addis Ababa is now re-evaluating its farming prospects in favor of increased local production.

In Kenya and Nigeria, the COVID-19 pandemic brought to light the inadequacy of existing market infrastructure. Governor Nyoro of Kenya's Kiambu County said the fragility of the open-air markets that serve the country's cities was brought to the fore by the containment measures. Acting Commissioner for Agriculture, Lagos state, Nigeria, Hon. Abisola Olusanya added that the modern markets will help farmers tame post-harvest loss for food damaged while on transit.



Agribusiness Deal Room

Among the biggest challenges that entrepreneurs in agribusiness face is access to finance. The Agribusiness Deal Room, therefore, is designed to respond to this need, by bringing together governments and businesses on a common platform that drives new business deals and commitments.

This is in respect to the fact that agriculture in Africa is a USD 3 trillion industry, and one that can benefit from the continent's rapid urbanization to present huge business opportunities.

This year's Deal Room was structured around four main objectives:

- Identifying investment opportunities to help feed Africa's cities
- Improving access to finance, especially for women-led SMEs
- Promoting ways to enhance sourcing in Africa
- Creating new ways to help investment and access finance

The 2020 AGRF Agribusiness Deal Room hit new records by presenting a pipeline of approximately US \$5bn in Agri-business investment commitments.

More than 3500 participants from over 90 countries signed up for over one thousand meetings. As a result, close to 1,000 companies from 27 different countries interacted in the Deal Room, 208 SMEs underwent a specific assessment beforehand, representing a cumulative annual revenue of US\$255m and seeking US\$547m of capital. About 57 percent of SMEs who participated had strong women

leadership with more than a third of the owners or management being women.

Additionally, 31 percent of the SMEs can be classified as youth enterprises with a total of 15 governments presented investment opportunities of over US\$ 4.5 billion at different stages of development.

57% of SMEs have women leadership and 31% are youth entrepreneurs

208 SMEs from 27 African countries sought investments of \$532M

Farmers Forum

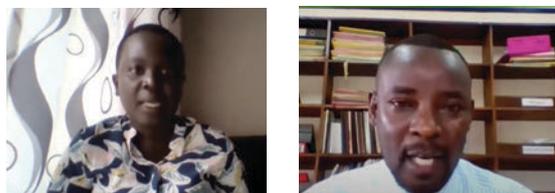
A determination for their opinions to be heard were the overriding sentiments demonstrated at the Farmers Forum, one of the key sessions at the 2020 AGRF Summit.

Dr. Dick Kamuganga, President of the Uganda National Farmers Federation, representing 120 members across the country, tabled a list of objectives for African agriculture, ranging from providing sufficient food for every household, delivering sustainable development, and driving inclusive growth to deliver export expansion and creating fully inclusive business models.

Among many other thoughts, Ms. Hellen Akinyi Onyango, Crop Aggregator at the Farm to Market Alliance, aired her hopes for a more inclusive industry that attracts more bright young people. As she said, “Just two percent of African students are studying agriculture, while the industry drives 32 percent of Africa’s GDP. We must think hard about how to make it more appealing and more profitable for them.”

Mr. Daniel Gad, Owner and General Manager of Omega Farms, centred his thoughts around a single word: “action”. Action on infrastructure, creating and maintaining the physical road and rail systems by which farmers can bring their produce to market. Action on building smallholder confidence by giving them access to resources like seeds, apps and information. Action on education, via accessible training centres for young people. And action on transforming the value chain, by giving producers a direct link to food-processing resources.

Other contributions included pleas for farmers to exercise their power and take



more responsibility for solving the issues they face by sharpening their focus on getting their produce to market and working harder to minimise losses through enhanced storage and distribution.

All these views and many more were summed up by Dr. Theo de Jager, President of the World Farmers’ Organisation (WFO), who listed the following four key demands by African farmers

- Agriculture must create wealth to destroy poverty and inequality.
- There must be a fair distribution of risk and reward.
- Innovation and entrepreneurship must be decentralised.
- There is a need to remind the world to talk with farmers, not about farmers.

Mr. Daniel Gad, Owner and General Manager of Omega Farms, centred his thoughts around a single word

"action"

Youth Townhall

During the Youth Town Hall event, H.E. President Paul Kagame of Rwanda challenged Africa's youth to take charge of the continent's agricultural plans and strategies. President Kagame noted that young people are best-placed to lead the agricultural revolution that will drive Africa to a season of food security and economic rejuvenation. According to him, the youth have the energy and technological exposure needed to transform the continent's agricultural prospects.

"The potential for African agriculture is immense, we need investments in value chains... so that agriculture can serve as the basis for agricultural transformation... but I want the young people to ask themselves how they will lead us to be where they want us to be," H.E. President Kagame said.

Just 2% of African students are studying agriculture while the industry drives 32% of the continent's GDP - Akinyi Onyango, Crop Aggregator at the Farm to Market Alliance,



An engaging discussion featuring some of Africa's youth leaders in fields related to agricultural and food value chains followed. The panelists, including youth leaders in the agribusiness sector around Africa, agreed that young people have the power to inject new energy into the continent's agricultural efforts.

Asked to name one thing from their wish lists that they would like to see implemented in Africa's agrisystems, several of the panellists highlighted the importance of technology and innovation. Most of the speakers noted that a data-led approach to farming is necessary for crafting agricultural systems of the future.

Other speakers appealed for financial support as some reiterated the need for youth engagement by governments.



Markets and Trade

Feeding and Employing Africa's Urban Population

Africa faces an import food bill of USD 35 billion every year amidst a 65 percent unemployment rate. A distinguished panel of guests, including Dr. Vimal Shah, Chairman, BIDCO, Mr. Khalid Bomba, CEO, ATA, Ethiopia and Ms. Emma Wade-Smith, UK Trade Commissioner for Africa, concluded that these problems can both be addressed through the agricultural value chains.

Dr. Shah called for a radical approach to change mindsets and adapt to changing consumption patterns, particularly as the world learns to live alongside COVID-19.

He argued for a full value chain approach and described how agriculture needs to change to agribusiness.

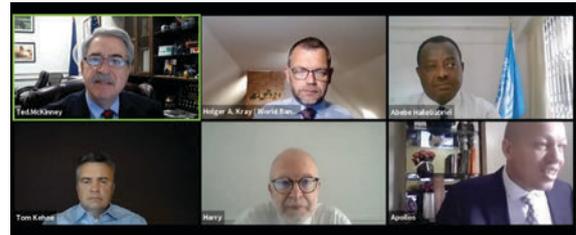
“Every farmer needs to be a businessman and if they are to thrive, then real legislation that liberalizes agribusinesses is crucial,” he said. He also advocated for the use of land, encouraged by a land tax if left idle.

The panelists agreed that it is time for Africa to feed itself because, with 65 percent of the world's uncultivated arable land, there is no reason for Africa to be a net food importer. What is needed is a whole government approach.

Implementing Continental Agri-Food Policy Reforms under the AfCFTA Framework

Among the challenges that players in the African agribusiness sector face is the limitation of movement within the





continent's borders. It is predicted that the removal of such trade barriers could lead to the establishment of strong and reliable markets for African farmers.

On the path to this goal, Africa's leaders are implementing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which promises to pave the way for accelerating the establishment of the Customs Union. Against this background, panelists sat in a session to discuss the challenges involved in implementing reforms to Africa's continental agri-food policy AfCFTA framework.

Dr. Apollos Nwafor, AGRA's Vice President for Policy and State Capability moderated the session in which speakers emphasised the fact that production considerations are only one part of the wider picture.

Mr. Harry Hagan, Group Head, East and Central Africa and Prosperity at the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, recommended a virtual whole-government approach. As he explained, ministries responsible for factors ranging from finance and standards to tax and customs all have a key role in helping to meet the fast-changing needs of consumers, markets and society in the face of rapid population growth, urbanization, rising incomes and changing dietary habits.

There was also broad agreement that reform includes country-specific solution design. As Dr. Holger Kray, Practice Manager for Agriculture and Food Security at the World Bank, put it, "Establishing a free trade area is not a moment in time where things happen automatically – countries will need to make a major effort."

Dr. Abebe Haile-Gabriel, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) emphasized the importance of country-level action underpinning a continental

Our leaders need to embrace the option of trading with each other, using available evidence and data as the critical basis of planning

AGRA President, Dr. Agnes Kalibata

and regional framework. "This will take real leadership and commitment," he said.

Harmonizing Market and Trade Policies and sourcing in Africa

This session curated a macro perspective on African value chains and their integration into global markets.

As well as highlighting the need to make the AfCFTA a reality, the overall message was that Africa must feed itself and that a collaborative effort is required from all actors in the value chain, with support from governments in creating a conducive environment for businesses to thrive and for investors to inject capital into African markets.

The speakers noted that the COVID-19 pandemic has offered a unique opportunity to re-imagine and transform a system that is not working for either people or the planet, with some pointing out that it is "hurtful" that Africa rarely captures the true value in its value chain when it has the potential to be both self-sufficient and a major exporter.

The panelists spoke of an urgent need to create sustainable, greener, more equitable food systems, the AfCFTA trade agreement was cited as an important framework, and that the private sector has a huge role to play.



Some key recommendations for immediate actions included: fostering enabling environments through capacity-building, transparency and compliance; building capital markets and better financial flow, including opportunities in blended financing; and investing in digitization market information collection.

Other areas to unlock, include:

- Increased formalisation of markets;
- More stability in the operating environment;
- Greater commonality of food standards;
- Improved logistics and infrastructure and
- More blended finance opportunities.

The discussion also covered the real-life challenges of connecting rural agriculture to urban consumers, and the need to improve the productivity and profitability of smallholder farmers within value chains, with a key recommendation of closing the gap – the many unnecessary layers and middlemen – between the farmer and the processor.

Food, Markets, Trade and Agriculture in the context of COVID

The global COVID-19 pandemic has challenged Africa to find a clear pathway for food security. A panel moderated by Prof. Claudine Moore, the Founder of C. Moore Media concluded that for Africa to succeed, the interplay between food, markets, trade and agriculture will be critical.

This interplay goes to the heart of the 2020 Africa Agriculture Trade Monitor (AATM), launched at AGRF's Great Debate. During the session, leading minds on agri-food policy were invited to share their thoughts on the report whose key findings include:

- In the last 10-15 years, Africa's growth and recovery following "the lost decades" of the late 20th century have been reflected in its performance in global export markets.
- The value of African exports has gone up, and Africa is starting to diversify its direction, exporting to emerging markets and faster-growing economies.

- Africa is now exporting value-added products and expanding into the processed export segment. But clear areas of weakness remain.
- Africa is still a net importer. It is also punching below its weight in global trade. Africa accounts for 10 percent of global agriculture output but only 5 percent of global agriculture trade.
- Africa's competitiveness in global markets is affected by a range of determinants. Some of these are external, but some are internal, such as regulatory and administrative barriers within African countries – which of course also hamper intra-African commerce.
- Africa-to-Africa trade represents just 16 percent of total African trade, while Africa's trade with China and Europe together accounts for 54 percent. Regional blockages within Africa – along with non-tariff barriers – are the main obstacle in this area.

Panelists underscored the need to minimize the impact on supply chains, livelihoods, and incomes – particularly those of women and youth.

Overall, the speakers agreed that COVID-19 has taught Africa “hard and bitter lessons” about overreliance on global supply chains and demonstrated the importance of continental interrelation.

Commentators from Cornell University, Yara and CFTA were united in their view that the continent needs to fight COVID-19 together, a unity which, if maintained, could lead to food security.

Expanding the Universe of Investment-Ready Agribusinesses

Driven by urbanisation, population growth and increasing food demand worldwide, Africa's Agribusiness sector has the potential to grow into a USD 1 trillion industry in the next 15 years, from the current status of USD 3 billion.

A session on investment-readiness explored the different strategies for sustainably



transforming agriculture into a driver of economic transformation, combating poverty, enhancing food and nutrition security, and providing jobs and income to millions of households.

Speakers at the session affirmed that African agriculture has immense opportunities that remain unexplored due to the lack of proper structures and dedicated investments to support agribusinesses. Other recommendations included partnerships between governments and players in the private sector in agribusiness-related projects.

Furthermore, there were proposals for agribusinesses in the continent to develop the formal structures needed to secure the interest of investors.

The panellists concluded that by making agriculture more attractive, there will be a more meaningful engagement with the sector across the continent, improving the continent's economic wellbeing and food security prospects.



Mr. Liam Condon, President, Bayer Crop Science.

The possibilities for digital in Africa are endless

Accelerating the Growth, Sustainability, and Inclusivity of Digital Agricultural Solutions

Digital agricultural solutions represent a broad range of technologies and practices that can help reduce the environmental footprint of agriculture while boosting productivity and income.

A session on technology explored ways in which the deployment of innovations such as precision agriculture, data aggregation and analysis, satellite imaging, robotics, and automation can help producers increase efficiencies and yields and drive entrepreneurship.

The discussions were guided by a study of African producers in 2019 who found that the adoption of digital agricultural solutions typically improved incomes by 20 - 40 percent. Adoption of digital advisory services led on average to a 20 percent improvement in yield, while digital financial and market linkage services led to improvements of 40 percent and 70 percent respectively.

Moderator Ms. Ethel Delali Cofie, from Women in Tech Africa, sought to find from the panelists strategies for the sustainable implementation of digital solutions in African agriculture. Prioritizing data access among smallholder farmers was listed as one of the solutions. The speakers also spoke of the need to tap into local know-how in the building of digital ecosystems that are relevant to local stakeholders, enabling connectivity that helps smallholder farmers “become vibrant members of a vibrant economy”.

Other key measures, including the integration of digital culture and the expansion of digital education through integrated platforms that expand digital access to smallholder farmers.



Nutritious Food

Advancing Gender and Nutrition

As the COVID-19 pandemic struck Africa and food challenges linked to broken supply chains became a reality, the most affected people were women and children.

Panelists at the Advancing Gender and Nutrition session confirmed that women were overburdened with the responsibility of feeding their families as food prices soared amidst a diminishing supply as a result of containment measures, including lockdowns.

"Women are disproportionately affected by spending time spent on chores and by the complete loss of employment and income. But the most nutritionally vulnerable groups are children, especially those who used to depend on schools for their meal rations, and now must wait on their parents for food," said Mr. Olav Kjørven, the Chief Strategy Officer at the EAT Foundation.

With the pandemic likely to last well into next year, the panelists agreed on the need for immediate solutions to cushion women, especially, from further consequences. For working solutions, the speakers recommended consulting the target group - African women in this case - who would then help identify their biggest challenges and recommend the key areas of assistance.

In the second half of the session, the conversation shifted to women in business and finance, where it was majorly accepted that women disproportionately face challenges in access to business financial support.



There was consensus that some financial institutions are beginning to see women entrepreneurs as valid clients, although the level of interest is not yet enough to meet the demand.

Among the early steps to fast-track the growth of financial support for women-led enterprises, particularly those in agribusiness, the panelists said was the establishment of databases that make a correlation to the capacity to repay loans and their business models.



Growing Africa's Food - African Leaders Unpack Nutrition Indicators

As Africa bids to meet its nutrition goals it is required of its leaders to focus on strategies that encourage the consumption of local food products that fuel diverse, healthy diets with the safety and quality that every consumer needs.

A panel seeking to unpack nutrition indicators recommended the development of urban food markets and the fostering of urban-rural linkages, as some of the strategies to speed up the reduction of poverty and hunger in Africa.

Ms. Thato Moagi-Mugonda, a South African Farmer and the Managing Director of Black Sheep Agribusiness, spoke of the need for encouraging the uptake of indigenous food products.

Fellow panelist Dr. Barbara Wells, the Director General of the International Potato Center, added that there is a need for leaders at all aspects of society to inspire campaigns around the consumption of healthy foods.

Citing the success of her organisation's orange-flesh sweet potato, which is now being cultivated in 16 African countries, benefitting 30 million farmers, Dr. Wells



said adoption at a household level is mainly triggered by general public education.

"Education at the community level must involve the participation of community leaders, who have a greater influence in their areas of leadership," she said.

Also on the panel were Dr. Lawrence Haddad, Executive Director, GAIN, Dr. Johan Swinnen, Director General, IFPRI and Ms. Nndi Okonkwo Nwuneli Co-founder, AACE Foods, who all spoke of the need for comprehensive data to identify the nutritional needs of the continent as a primary step in the solution-finding process for nutrition challenges.

Women in Agriculture

Even before COVID-19, women producers faced constrained access to social protection, education, credit and markets compared with men, making them much more vulnerable to the socio-economic impacts of the disease.

A session exploring the challenges that women in agriculture deal with during the pandemic listed caretaking duties due to school closures, suspension of microfinance loans, loss of female financial independence and increased levels of domestic violence as among the difficulties brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms. Åslaug Marie Haga, Associate Vice-President, IFAD, said, “crises don’t affect everyone equally”. As women play an indispensable role in food systems (80 percent of food in Sub Saharan Africa is produced by women) there is a vital need to empower women to address these challenges and transform agricultural value chains to promote equity, resilience, sustainability - to “build back better” in the wake of the pandemic.

Many areas of further resilience-building were identified, including diversification, better storage solutions, and an emergency recovery fund to help women farmers bounce back. Financial inclusion was identified as vital as lending institutions see agriculture as high risk and women need better training in creating bankable business proposals

Ms. Robin Miller, Partner and Global Digital & Data Practice Lead at Dalberg Advisors spoke of the untapped potential of AI, e-commerce and blockchains while emphasizing the integration of digital policy into conversations about food systems.



H.E. Graça Machel, Chairperson of the Graça Machel Trust

Instead of only building resilience, we need to transform the hungry into producers

Hon Karina Gould, Canada's Minister of International Development

We need to break down sectoral silos and take an integrated approach to food systems

H.E. Josefa Leonel Sacko, AU Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture

You won't end hunger if you don't invest



Food Systems

Strengthening Agri-Food Data Systems

Within African agriculture, a lack of timely, complete, and relevant data remains a major barrier to progress. Compared to other regions, Africa lags behind in collecting and making available the data that underpins well-functioning food systems.

Bridging this ‘agricultural data gap’ will be key to reducing hunger, poverty, and malnutrition on the continent, and as a subject is one that AGRF has addressed for several years running. But in the wake of COVID-19, it has never been more urgent or more relevant.

A panel of experts in a session moderated by Mr. Sean de Cleene, a Member of the Executive Committee of the World Economic Forum, emphasized that data helps to navigate volatility, ambiguity, and uncertainty.

At the macrolevel the panelists said, data shapes policy, informs investment, and underpins decision-making across the agri-food sector. On the ground, they added, data provides information on pests, soil, weather, and markets, and helps improve resilience in the face of climate shocks and events.

But data on its own is not a silver bullet. As Ms. Joanna Ruiter from the Netherlands Space Office reflected, data has to be “actionable for farmers”.

According to Ms. Ruiter, Africa needs to leverage all the tech that’s available “so that it makes the best sense for all stakeholders” and truly benefits those it was intended to benefit. Data has to be accurate, ownable, human-centric and relevant, much of which

depends on the methods of collection and distribution.

The Future of our Food Systems

Africa’s vision of an ideal food system for the future is one that offers fair livelihoods, healthy diets, and sustainable consumption and production. Looking at the role of national food plans and furthering the food systems dialogues, experts discussed ways to help craft a path for Africa’s voice in the Future of Food Systems.

The speakers asserted that for success, agriculture has the heart of government thinking, noting that viable, progressive food systems are dependent on a truly systemic policy environment around agriculture.

Improving the income of farmers was listed as a priority policy item with the panelists defining it as the number one parameter for inclusive growth.

Ms. Gerda Verburg, UN Assistant Secretary-General

Involve your new generation; try to create decent jobs, because they will be the generation who [help to build] your prosperous future



UK Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Tony Blair

Unless we empower women and youth, there is no way we are going to reduce food insecurity

The speakers also insisted that for more success, agriculture has to be programmed as an attractive career option for the youth through digitalization and other technologies.

Furthermore, the panelists identified two key principles and values that need to underpin the food system of the future.

- The protagonists must be African – Africans must make their own choices about the technology, the economics and the culture of their agricultural;
- There must be a unity of vision. A system is a very hard thing to shift. To survive, Africans have to stop conflicting with one another and learn how to work together

The power of the market will also be fundamental to a progressive future with

competitive, commercial agriculture being dependent on the development of markets with proper incentives and legal frameworks.

Defining Food Systems For the Africa We Want

The need to transform food systems in Africa to reduce poverty, and improve food security and nutrition is more urgent than ever before. This is especially after the COVID-19 pandemic confirmed that the continent needs stable food systems to deal with emerging and existing challenges.

A session to define food systems for Africa's future brought together eminent persons from around the world in discussions. The session began with confirmation by H.E. Josefa Leonel Sacko, the AU Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, that only four African countries are on track to meet their 2025 Malabo Declaration targets. The compliant countries are Morocco, Mali and Ghana.

Looking ahead, Ms. Sacko highlighted the opportunity afforded by the implementation of the AfCFTA – an opportunity to reduce poverty, create jobs for youth, and decouple Africa's dependency on global imports. "We saw the disruption COVID-19 brought for food distribution," she said, "so we need to be independent and build our food reserves."

Other speakers highlighted the need to break down sectoral silos and pursue an integrated approach to food systems. The 2021 UN Food Systems Summit was listed as an opportunity to encourage integration and collaboration across Africa on how food is produced.

With food systems requiring a focus not only on food but on equality, the environment, and economic development, political leaders were invited to take on the role of coach to promote a team approach and collaboration in nurturing an intersectoral approach.

H.E. Graça Machel, Chairperson of the Graça Machel Trust, spoke of the potential role and agency of the hungry. "Instead of only building resilience," she said, "we need to transform the hungry into producers".

If we stop waste and target the GHG emissions associated with food production, we could feed 10 billion using the technologies we already have today

Dr. Brent Loken, Global Food Lead Scientist for WWF

We must be bold, we must empower and assist, working together co-operatively to improve households and communities

H. E. Ambassador Kip Tom, US Permanent Representative to the Food and Agriculture Organization, FAO

Today, we are only producing enough food for the world's population by exceeding the planetary boundaries

Dr. Brent Loken, Global Food Lead Scientist, World Wildlife Fund, WWF

Echoing a recurrent theme in this session and the AGRF as a whole, Ms. Machel also said that “unless we empower women and youth, there is no way we are going to reduce food insecurity, stunting and malnutrition on the continent”.

Former UK Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Tony Blair reflected on how COVID-19 has deepened and aggravated pre-existing challenges on the African continent. However, he suggested the pandemic has also catalyzed a remarkable “clarity and urgency of decision making” which, if applied to Africa’s food systems, could have a transformative impact.

One crucial development, said Mr. Blair, will be the ratification of AfCFTA. “If Africa did literally nothing else but implement the AfCFTA and break down trade barriers between African countries, it would make an enormous difference.” Africa, he said, also needs “to do more to add value to its raw materials and commodities”. The continent “currently fails to capture this value” and requires greater focus and investment to address this issue.

Maintaining Technology and Input Delivery Systems

Rural retail agro-dealers and their suppliers face many challenges when selling and distributing agricultural inputs to smallholder farmers. The COVID-19 pandemic has deepened these challenges, disrupting trade and vital supply chains, while also impacting labor, harvest operations, marketing, processing and transaction.

Under these conditions, feeding Africa’s urban population has become even more problematic. With the pandemic exposing the fragility of agri-food systems, developing local resilience and sustainability is now more important than ever. Panelists at a session on input delivery systems sought to address the limitations of local supply chains.

The sessions started by discussing the key constraints agro-dealers face in reaching smallholder markets. These constraints include:



- Limited consumer demand;
- High transport and transaction costs;
- Stock-outs;
- Weak inventory management and
- Working capital constraints.

Such constraints culminate in high default risks and low return on investment, deterring investors and leaving agro-dealers with limited access to finance.

The solutions for these problems, according to the panel include the digitization of value chain relationships and the development of wholesale hubs and one-stop-shops. In conclusion, the speakers agreed on a need to continue evolving the provision of agricultural services to smallholder farmers by supporting agro-dealers and retailers, who play such a vital role in the input delivery system.



Resilience

Resilience and adaptation

The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened the situation for Africa, a continent that is already struggling with low agricultural productivity, climate change and widespread poverty. This is especially after international border closures instantly cut off Africa's supply of valuable food products from other continents. However, a session exploring resilience frameworks for sustainable production and consumption concluded that Africa has the resources needed to overcome its current challenges and move on to prosperity. The speakers recognized the Covid-19 period as an important change-point for transforming how Africa sources its food.

Dr. Naoko Ishii, the former CEO of the Global Environment Facility and now at the University of Tokyo, agreed that this is the moment for a concerted collective effort to find such new ways of working and living. "We should build resilience through taking a properly articulated and integrated approach," she said.

According to H. E. Ambassador Kip Tom, US Permanent Representative to the UN Agencies for Food and Agriculture, this sort of thinking means that lives can be transformed for the better. "Innovation and the right use of technology will be crucial. We must be bold, we must empower and assist, working together cooperatively to improve households and communities," he said.

Dr. Brent Loken, Global Food Lead Scientist for WWF, added that change is essential. "Today, we are only producing enough food for the world's population by exceeding

the planetary boundaries," he said. "If we respected what the Earth is capable of, then using today's methods we could only produce food for around 3.4 billion people. But if we stop waste and target the GHG emissions associated with food production, we could feed 10 billion using the technologies we already have today."

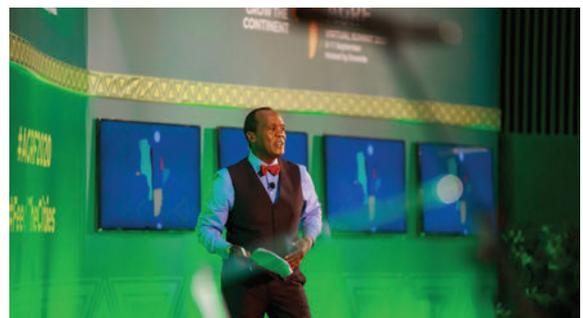
Sustainable Productivity for Resilience

In Africa, the food and agriculture sector is the largest employer and has the most potential for economic growth. But this is dependent on a substantial boost in productivity, particularly among the smallholder farmers upon whom African food systems depend.

Panelists at a session moderated by Ms. Amandla Ooko-Ombaka, an Associate Partner at McKinsey, spoke of the need for a holistic food systems approach, where like-minded partners unite to drive impact, with sustainability at the very top of the agenda, and a focus on innovation and knowledge – and that ultimately everyone in and beyond Africa now has the responsibility to share their knowledge and capabilities with the continent.

From dialogues with farmers, the speakers identified three key priorities:

- Improved access to enabling technology
- A conducive environment in terms of public policy
- Better delivery systems of services over a wider geography
- Proper financing from both public and private sectors



Dr. Jemimah Njuki, a Senior Program Specialist at IDRC

We don't just want to talk about feeding Africa, we want to talk about nourishing Africa



- Access to timely and useful information to understand market signals.

The need for climate adaptation and resilience was also emphasized with recommendations for rewarding farmers that adopt these sustainable practices, both through a reduction of their costs and the classification of food products in favor of sustainable farming.

Reaching Urban Food Consumers Through Resilient Supply Chains

A session on Food Systems and Nutrition sought input on the policies, technologies and investments needed to make food supply chains more responsive, reliable, resilient, and nutritious for urban populations, especially pertinent in the wake of COVID-19 which highlighted the susceptibility of food systems to shocks.

Led by Dr. Leonard Mizzi, the Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development at the EU Commission, panelists emphasized the need to close the infrastructural gaps leading to the uncontrolled migration to cities. “There is an urgent need to link rural and urban areas in terms of logistics, but also in terms of standards around food safety,” Dr. Mizzi said.

Among the solutions identified is access to affordable and long-term finance for farmers to improve currently insecure and complicated raw material supply chains.

Improved logistics was also deemed as key: Mr. Cyril Khamsi, CEO at Kumwe Freight, spoke of the importance of reliable transport systems and the need to improve post-harvest processing to retain the value of crops ready for premium urban markets.

Another solution cited was investing in cold storage as a critical element in aggregation centres, transportation, and local markets. Mr. Nnaemeka Ikegwuonu, CEO of Coldhubs, spoke of the possibilities in leveraging green energy funding through the use of solar power, but that investors needed to understand that adoption rates will be slow and that a large chunk of finance needs to

be dedicated to the education of farmers who have never used cold storage.

Ms. Angel Adelaja, Founder of Fresh Direct, spoke about the value of vertical and hydroponic farming in urban areas to supplement rural agriculture, envisioning a truly dynamic food system: “we need to strengthen value chains in rural areas with improved logistics, good data management, with proper agricultural practices and training.”

Building Back Better - Growing the Continent

According to the UN State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020 (SOFI 2020) report, the world is still way off track for achieving the goal of ending hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition by 2030.

SOFI is an annual flagship report jointly prepared by FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO to inform on progress towards these goals and to provide in-depth analysis of the key barriers to achieving them, in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Zeroing in on the findings of SOFI 2020, a session focusing on recovery provided a chance to reflect on the opportunity to build back a better, healthier, and inclusive food system.

Moderated by Dr. Jemimah Njuki, a Senior Program Specialist at IDRC, panellists emphasized the value and importance of good nutrition. “We don’t just want to talk about feeding Africa”, said Dr. Njuki, “we want to talk about nourishing Africa”, which means putting “our traditional cereals, our fruits and our vegetables” at the heart of African diets.

The participants all agreed that indigenous nutrient-dense foods must be central to food system conversations and strategies aimed at driving health improvements.

To achieve the desired investment in nutrition, the panel urged for the repurposing of public expenditure in the agri-food sector to incentivize production.



Innovative Financial Solutions for Africa's Agribusiness Sector

In sub-Saharan Africa, Agribusiness enterprises – often smallholder farmers and rural SMEs - are the backbone of the economy and the main producers of food. But they often lack the capital to grow - there is a USD 170 billion funding gap to smallholder farmers across the world, and agricultural SMEs are often regarded as un-investable.

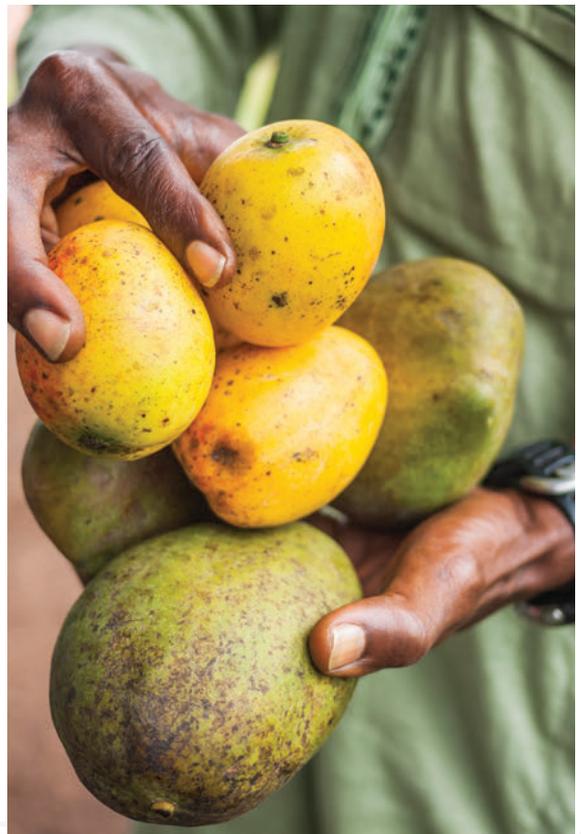
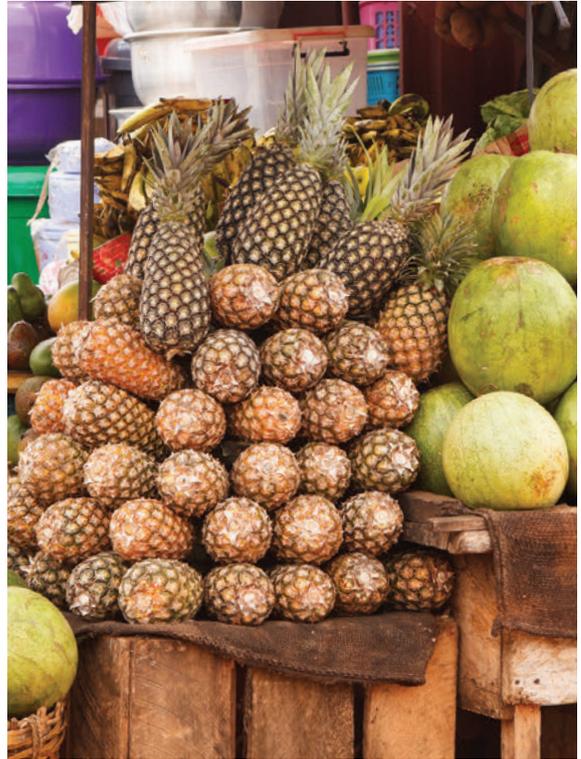
Dr. Bettina Prato Senior Coordinator of the Smallholder and Agri-SME Finance and Investment Network led a panel discussion outlining innovative financial solutions led by the players in the agriculture and food value chains.

The diverse panel went on to highlight the importance of connecting the agricultural value chains when considering finance options. To derisk the agribusiness sector, effectively making it attractive for financing, the panelists recommended greater capacity in farm management, basic accounting, business planning, and development.

One of the speakers, Mr. Jeremy Oppenheim, Founder and Managing Partner of SYSTEMIQ, argued that for capital to flow, risk needs addressing, and returns need to improve and that no amount of blended finance will solve the problem.

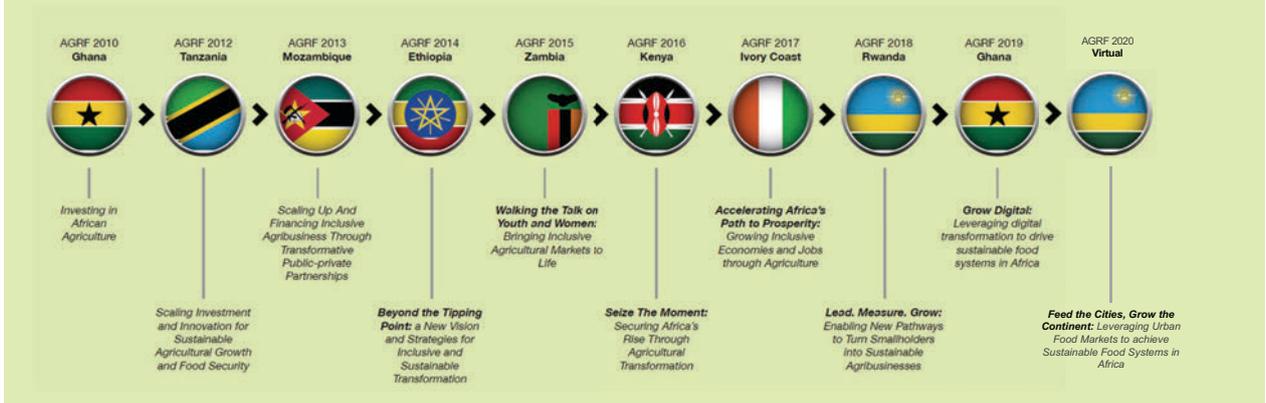
“Investments need to be de-risked and the only way is to take a whole value chain approach: it is impossible to de-risk an individual investment – if the cold chains don't exist or the processing isn't reliable, the whole chain fails,” he said.

The panel all agreed that there are limited investment opportunities because of poor value chains, but that blended finance can push the private sector to accept higher risk and a reduced ticket price.





The AGRF Summit was first held in Ghana in 2010 and has annually brought together Heads of State, Ministers, business leaders, development partners, thought leaders, farmers, youth, and other stakeholders to focus on the actions and policies need to move the continental agenda forward.



The AGRF at 10

After four days of active discussions, presentations, and negotiations, the 10th edition of the African Green Revolution Forum came to a close with delegates eager to streamline the continent's agricultural and food value chains.

At the Forum, agripreneurs, youth entrepreneurs and business leaders showcased innovative models, ready for investment and scaling, while scientists, researchers and thought leaders demonstrated ways in which policy amendments and innovative technology could lead to stronger agricultural value chains.

Meanwhile, public sector leaders shared their experience in delivering inclusive market-strengthening, policies and investments that stimulate strong food security plans across the continent. This is in a bid to leverage urban markets and drive a new era of innovative programs and investments for the benefit of Africa's agricultural producers and consumers.

Deliberations at the forum made it clear that coordinated efforts between players in the public and private sector actors can unlock the potential of Africa's agricultural endeavors, leading to food sufficiency for all.

The event closed with an appeal for environmentally and commercially sustainable agricultural practices that quickly respond to emerging challenges such as COVID-19, climate change and pest invasions.

This was in continuation with the resolutions at the 2019 AGRF in Accra, Ghana, where delegates explored the policies, programmes and investments in Leveraging the Digital

Transformation to drive sustainable food systems in Africa.

In Kigali 2018, delegates outlined their strategies for advancing the continent's agricultural revolution under the theme: Lead. Measure. Grow. This was after confirming in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire a year earlier, that plans for Accelerating Africa's Path to Prosperity are linked to the growth of inclusive economies and the creation of jobs in agriculture.

In 2016, delegates met in Nairobi, Kenya to Seize the Moment and secure Africa's rise through agricultural transformation after seeking strategies for Walking the Talk on Youth and Women by bringing inclusive agricultural markets to life in Lusaka, Zambia a year before.

Previously, in 2014, the AGRF was hosted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, under the theme: Beyond the Tipping Point, to implement strategies for inclusive and sustainable transformation.

In 2013, at the third AGRF, delegates convened in Maputo, Mozambique to devise modalities for Scaling Up and Financing Inclusive Agribusiness Through Transformative Public-Private Partnerships. This was in response to resolutions made in Arusha Tanzania the previous year for Agricultural Innovation and the Establishment of Networks towards Building Functional Biotechnology Regulatory Systems in Africa.

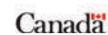
In 2010, Ghana hosted the inaugural AGRF in Accra, under the chairmanship of H.E. Koffi Annan with concrete plans for Investing in African Agriculture.

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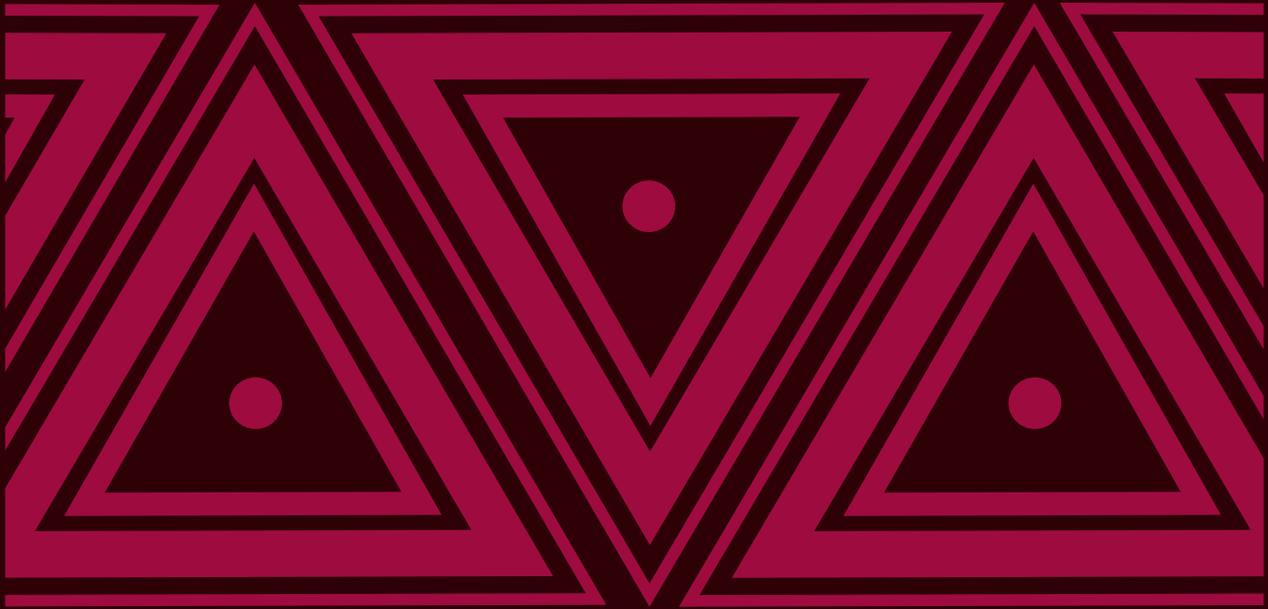
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