



Republic of Kenya

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock,
Fisheries and Co-operatives



AGRF 2021 SUMMIT

Pathways to recovery and resilient food systems



Food Systems Voices from the AGRF 2021



Background note to the UN Food Systems Summit

Under the banner **“Pathways to recovery and resilient food systems”**, The African Union, and other stakeholders from private sector and governments met during AGRF to validate priority actions that would lead to ending hunger, reducing poverty, and improving nutrition by 2030. AGRF 2021 elevated the single coordinated African voice to the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) and identified immediate actions and steps that need to be taken to accelerate progress and recovery towards inclusive agricultural transformation.

Guided by the Africa Common Position Document of the African Union and the UN Food System Summit (FSS) areas of action, Africa's leaders at AGRF called out areas of urgent priority and emphasised that African countries will:

- Catalyse rapid expansion in agriculture and food productivity, with a particular focus on smallholder farmers and women.
- Boost investment financing for Africa's food systems.
- Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all.
- Strengthen Africa's local and regional food markets.
- Build resilience especially through social safety nets, and early warning systems.



Godfrey Bahigwa
Director Agriculture & Rural Development
African Union Commission

A series of sessions and events at AGRF2021 highlighted how these priority areas would be implemented. The session on Accelerating Action – Food Systems Transformation highlighted the existence of over 40 game changing solutions representing a coordinated African voice that will be taken to the UNFSS to support the action areas. Through these game changing solutions, Africa will call for action at all levels of the food system, including national and local governments, companies, and citizens. Key aspects of the proposed solutions include:

- A truly multi-stakeholder approach that includes governments, the private sector, financial institutions, civil society organizations, academia, and, farmers playing a dominant role, which is crucial in the (re)shaping of food systems.
- All stakeholders should strive to create an agricultural system that is cost effective and supports a sustainable food system.
- The strengthening of interregional trade to ensure that the countries have sufficient diversity of food stuffs in regional and local markets in a timely manner.
- Food losses should be reduced through improved post-harvest technologies with improved access to cold chains to extend the shelf life of fresh, healthy produce.
- Improving access to renewable energy to help reduce the cost of production.
- Embracing digitalization to allow farmers to be closer to their clients and increase incomes as they by-pass or reduce dependency on the middleman and to access platforms to make knowledge accessible to farmers all the time.
- Making farming and rural employment more attractive to youth by making farming a more profitable business. In addition, this means ensuring that academic Institutions have the capacity and resources for graduates trained as agripreneurs and who can develop agriculture as a business. This also ensuring that they have access to agricultural finance, with varying requirements for collateral.



Watch the Accelerating Action – Food Systems Transformation Session here



“Now, more than ever, it is critical to shape an African Vision on food systems transformation. The continent must feed itself and this requires building food systems that deliver sufficient and nutritious food; food systems that are sustainable and food systems that create shared prosperity for Africa. Food systems that are resilient,” said Ms. Thule Lenneiy, Coordinator, Agriculture Transformation Office, Kenya who’s team had helped to co-ordinate the Kenyan Food System Dialogues. The leadership of the African Union and national governments through their dialogues have been essential to shape that African Vision.

This Vision was highlighted in a series of sessions on regional and national priorities arising from the food systems dialogues held in preparation for the UN Food Systems Summit. The Food Systems Pathways: Perspectives from Regional Dialogues led by the UN FSS national dialogue leads highlighted a cross-section of African voices.

East Africa Regional Priorities

The major priority for the region is strengthening the East Africa Community common market. This will be achieved by:

- Enhancing trade within the region by removing trade barriers and strengthening regional coordination and harmonization of trade regulations to support free movement of goods including agricultural goods. Trade facilitation and enhancing trade within the region will contribute to free movement of goods, open the regional markets to producers and increase the number of people engaging in agricultural production. This will not only boost food security but contribute to equitable and decent livelihoods.
- Enhancing infrastructure to link the region and open markets to member states as well as within countries, especially transport infrastructure to link rural areas to local and regional markets.
- Investing in post-production capacity including processing and value addition that will support transition from subsistence to commercial agriculture.
- Empowering women and youth to actively participate in agriculture including enhancing access to productive resources.
- Fostering digital and innovative technologies to advance the sector.



“SMEs are an important channel to ensuring food security and sustainable food systems in the East Africa Community.”
- Hon. Christophe Bazivamo, Deputy Secretary, General Productive & Social Sectors, East African Community

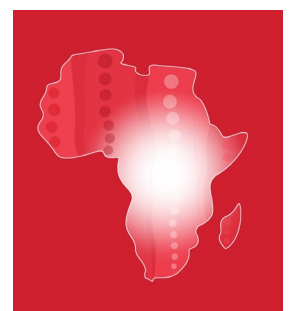
Watch the Perspective from Regional Dialogues – East session:



Central Africa Regional Priorities

Key priorities in the Central Africa Region to strengthen food systems are:

- Improving the water network and drilling boreholes where necessary, people will have improved access to water.
- Building an improved road network to farming communities to enable agricultural produce to be transported to markets and distribution centers.
- Creating thermal and hydro-electric plants, everyone could have access to energy. This would boost artisanal production of agricultural products and establishment of small-scale industries.
- Ensuring inclusive food systems through facilitation of access to land for people living with disabilities, women and youth.



“We want to see everyone involved, from farm to fork. Cooperation must be fully integrated in the process of transforming the food system.” - Mr. Divine Ntiokam, Managing Director, Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network (CSAYN)

Watch the Perspective from Regional Dialogues – Central session: English



French





Dr. Elizabeth Mkandawire
Moderator: Southern Africa Regional Priorities



Thule Lenneiye
Moderator: East Africa Regional Priorities

North Africa Regional Priorities

In the face of climate change, water security and stewardship are the top most priorities for the already fragile North Africa region. In addition to this, the region is prioritizing:

- Islamic financing modalities to be further developed to reduce the financing gap for smallholder farmers and climate adaptation in North and Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Advancing renewable energy use to increase agri-food systems productivity and post-harvest management.
- Leveraging huge investments in climate adaptation.
- Enhancing strategic and collaborative partnerships with the private sector to aid and co-create solutions for North Africa's food systems.



"Islamic Finance can play a huge role in reducing the financing gap for smallholder farmers and climate adaptation in North and Sub-Saharan Africa." - Mr. Momodou Ceesay - Senior Sector Lead in Agriculture and Rural Development Islamic Development Bank

Watch the Perspective from Regional Dialogues – North session:



Southern Africa Regional Priorities

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) requires better coordination between and within the countries to accelerate food systems transformation. Ratification and domestication of regional polices will greatly boost agricultural productivity for the region. Further the region needs to:

- Implementing SADC's Harmonized Seed Regulatory System and diversify input subsidy programs to allow farmers a variety of seeds.
- Enhancing sustainable food and nutrition security through food and nutrition education support focusing on healthy diets and cash for work;
- Strengthening food systems and value chains through use of improved inputs, improved access to finance, better collaboration and coordination between stakeholders; and creation of local hubs.
- Heightening climate change action through re-forestation and scaling up of natural resources management.
- Reducing taxes on healthy food and increase taxes on unhealthy food.
- Regulating food safety and enhance quality control.
- Introducing farmer friendly financing and tax measures to allow farmers to get into agro processing, as well as promotion of agribusiness for all gender and fight gender discrimination.
- Reviewing disaster Risk Management Plans and invest in digitalized early warning systems.



"All the problems of low crop productivity are a result of low investment in agriculture in Africa." - Rodwell Mzonde, Director of Agriculture Planning Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Malawi.

Watch the Perspective from Regional Dialogues – Southern session:

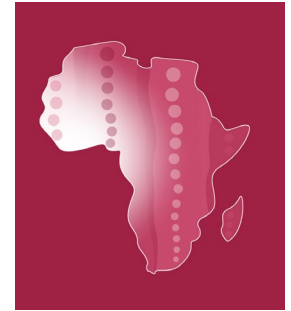




West Africa Regional Priorities

The priorities of the West Africa region aim to address the fragility occasioned by political insecurities, conflicts, terrorism, and climate change which all pose a great threat to its food system. Sound governance is required to achieve the priorities, including:

- Intensifying agro-sylvo-pastoral production.
- Reinforcing the capacities of the actors of the food systems and their resilience.
- Strengthening the parts of the food chain that deal with transportation and storage, commercialization, and quality control.
- Enhancing access to funds for youth and women farmers.
- Reinforcing of humanitarian assistance.
- Promoting good habits of consumption and lifestyles and enhance local production.
- Increasing the access to clean water.



“Food System Transformation is about lives not about statistics. It is about people. We want to see an agriculture that is transformative and inclusive of all sections of the population. Anything that we do should happen at the level of the communities. Communities are the actors of change.” Dr. Abdou Tenkouano, Executive Director CORAF, Senegal

Watch the Perspective from Regional Dialogues – West session:

Watch the Perspective from Regional Dialogues – West session: [English](#)



[French](#)



ABOUT THE AGRF

The AGRF is the world's premier forum for African agriculture, bringing together stakeholders in the agricultural landscape to take practical actions and share lessons that will move African agriculture forward. AGRF seeks explicitly to draw these stakeholders around a common purpose – to unleash the full potential of Africa's millions of smallholder farmers and their families who earn their livelihoods from small-scale farms and provide about 80% of the food and agricultural products consumed across the continent. The AGRF recognizes that Africa is rising, with signs of prosperity and progress in the lives of millions of individuals and entire economies. But for all of the signs of progress, Africa still needs to move from food shortage to surplus, drive beneficial continental trade, and create millions of jobs and opportunities, particularly for women and youth. Business and progress as usual is not enough for these aspirations, so the Forum looks at how stakeholders can do more and do it more successfully.



From 7 to 10 September 2021, 8,300 participants, including 150 in-person in Nairobi, and over a further 4,500 participants in the Dealroom, came together at the Eleventh AGRF Summit 2021 in Nairobi, Kenya, to call for and plan action on building resilient food systems in Africa. There was a strong call for Africa and the world to change the way we produce, process, market, consume food, and reduce waste in order to achieve the key sustainable development goal of ending hunger by 2030 on the continent. During the week, there were major commitments in exceeding US\$12.5 billion in planned funding to 2030 and programs that will transform value chains in dairy and rice as well as new initiatives to support entrepreneurship, renewable energy, and innovation.



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