



AGRF 2021 SUMMIT

Pathways to recovery and resilient food systems

Declaration at the 11th African Green Revolution Forum

10 September 2021

1. We the 8,300 participants of the Eleventh African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) came together in Nairobi, Kenya, from 7 to 10 September 2021 to call for and plan action on building resilient food systems in Africa. We express our appreciation to the Government of Kenya for its active and leading role as host, the personal leadership of H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta, and the direction of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Co-operatives.
2. Here at the AGRF, we have heard a strong call for Africa and the world to change the way we produce, process, market, consume food, and reduce waste. We know that a failure to change will make it impossible to achieve the key sustainable development goal of ending hunger by 2030 on this continent. Hunger and poverty in Africa can only end with resilient food systems.
3. We have drawn energy and inspiration from our AGRF partnership, and a diverse range of influential experts from across the African agriculture landscape. We seize the opportunity offered by the UN Food Systems Summit on 23 September and are determined to contribute to its success.
4. We recognise the Government of Kenya's continental leadership during the summit proceedings and recognise the transformative action to change the narrative around agriculture through the establishment of the school based agricultural clubs at the primary and school levels. Through the clubs the Government of Kenya will raise awareness of agriculture, environmental conservation from the formative ages of young children which will inevitably infiltrate into the community.
5. This year's AGRF has underscored and reaffirmed our understanding of what food systems are, and the criticality of food and agriculture on this continent. Indeed, COVID-19 amplified our understanding of the weaknesses in our food systems. It underscored the deep-rooted threat posed by changes to our climate, exacerbated by other external shocks and pressures that influence the way we produce, process, trade, and consume food.



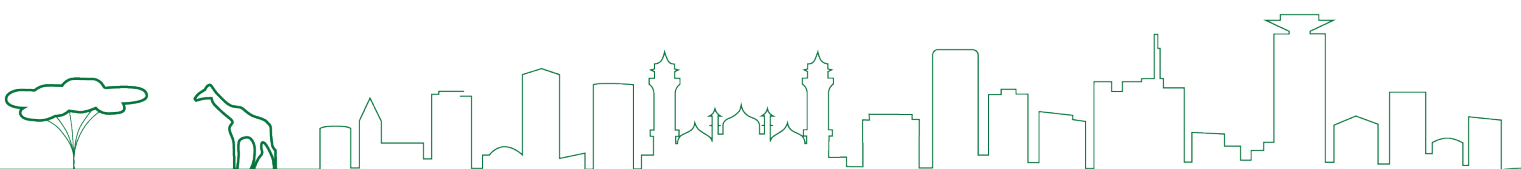
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6. The threat posed by climate change must be urgently addressed. We acknowledge that continuing with 'business as usual' will prevent achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Africa's Agenda 2063 targets. We are resolute that Africa's challenges be addressed directly, with solutions and pathways defined.
7. We were joined by 6 presidents and some 20 ministers; and a 'Council of Elders' to support leaders on the continent. We took heart from their declared commitment to building resilient food systems, and their firm determination to translate these commitments into inclusive policy formulation, prioritization and resource allocation, and accountability.
8. Africa's leaders have called out, guided by the Africa Common Position Document and the UN Food System Summit areas of action, areas of urgent priority. African countries will:
 - a. catalyze rapid expansion in agriculture and food productivity, with a particular focus on smallholder farmers and women;
 - b. boost investment financing for Africa's food systems;
 - c. ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all;
 - d. strengthen Africa's local and regional food markets;
 - e. Build resilience especially through social safety nets, and early warning systems.
9. The #AGRF2021 affirms inclusion as critical to achieving potential and sustainability, with youth and women leading prominently across the AGRF Summit programme. Women and youth entrepreneurs were recognized and honored for their leadership and achievement on the pathway to inclusive business development and advocacy. Civil society raised their challenges and ideas directly to presidents and ministers.
10. During the week, we saw major commitments in nutrition, innovation, renewable energy, climate change, regional food trade, and investment being made towards the transformation of food systems. Participants have committed to resilient value chain development for farm inputs, through to how we process, transport, and retail products; and manage our food waste. We also heard how important it is to invest in innovation, digital technologies, and the need for renewable energy for its future path.



11. This AGRF recognised the breadth of policy and financial commitments required to drive investments, from government to private sector. In the Agribusiness DealRoom, we have seen over 4,000 entrepreneurs and leaders from 89 countries present \$5.1 billion investment needs. Recognizing that SMEs are key to building resilient food systems, especially those led by women and youth, 822 SMEs sought investment in the Agribusiness DealRoom. We have learned from each other and the experts at this forum.
12. The AGRF has become a moment to celebrate talent in Africa. The Africa Food prize was awarded to International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT). The GO GETTAZ agripreneur prizes went to two bright young people. Women agripreneurs were honored through the Value4Her awards, emphasizing the need for collaboration, mutual learning, and solidarity.
13. Recognizing the urgency of addressing challenges and raising ambition to meet the demands of this and future generations to end hunger, the AGRF calls upon leaders, institutions, investors, coalitions, and individuals to accelerate action towards the 2030 SDGs, and unlock change for people, prosperity and planet by building resilient food systems.

