



**AGRF** 2021 SUMMIT

Pathways to recovery and resilient food systems



Republic of Kenya  
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock,  
Fisheries and Co-operatives



# VOICES FROM THE AGRF 2021 SUMMIT

**COP26 – CLIMATE  
CHANGE ACTION IN  
AFRICA FROM THE  
AGRF 2021 SUMMIT**

**VALIDATING COMMITMENTS AND  
ACCELERATING ACTION TOWARDS  
NET ZERO**

# VOICES FROM THE AGRF 2021 SUMMIT

## COP26 – CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION IN AFRICA FROM THE AGRF 2021 SUMMIT

### VALIDATING COMMITMENTS AND ACCELERATING ACTION TOWARDS NET ZERO

The AGRF 2021 Summit was a critical gathering of global and African voices. Designed to outline, discuss and validate commitments to, and accelerate action towards ending hunger, reducing poverty, and improving nutrition by 2030. From Sep 7-10, 2021 leaders from across the continent and beyond gathered under the theme of **'Pathways to Recovery and Resilient Food Systems'**, to define the pathways and bold actions needed to transform Africa's food systems guided by leaders and innovators from around the continent.

The last of these commitments – building resilience through early warning systems – makes clear the intrinsic connection between food systems and climate change. Climate change has the power to change food systems, and food systems have the power to combat climate change.



### 4 CORE AREAS TOWARDS NET ZERO

## AGRF 2021 SUMMIT OUTCOMES



African Heads of States, government ministers, and senior stakeholders from the global private sector and NGO community, collectively emphasised that the continent's countries will:

- ✓ **Catalyze** 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.

Four core areas were discussed and addressed at the AGRF 2021 Summit. If we are to achieve global food security through resilient food systems, we must consider: 1) The link between renewable energy and secure food systems; 2) Climate-smart technology; 3) Waste management and food fortification; 4) Diet.



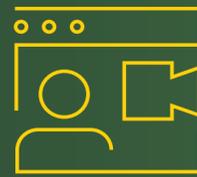


# THE AGRF IS THE WORLD'S PREMIER FORUM FOR AFRICAN AGRICULTURE, BRINGING TOGETHER STAKEHOLDERS IN THE AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPE TO TAKE PRACTICAL ACTIONS AND SHARE LESSONS THAT WILL MOVE AFRICAN AGRICULTURE FORWARD.

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.



## AGRF 2021 SUMMIT IN NUMBERS



**8,430**

Virtual Delegates



**150**

Daily Physical Delegates



**10**

Current & Former Heads of State



**20**

Ministers



**104**

Countries



**US \$12.5 bn**

Commitments



**US \$5 bn**

Deal Room Investment pipeline



**500+**

Global speakers



**2.7 bn**

Potential media reach

# IMPACT OF FOOD SYSTEMS ON OUR PLANET AND PEOPLE

## 4 CORE AREAS TOWARDS NET ZERO

Global food production threatens climate stability and ecosystem resilience and constitutes the single largest driver of environmental degradation and transgression of planetary boundaries.

It is now more widely understood and recognized than ever before that our food systems must be transformed for the sake of our people and for the sake of our planet.

The world agrees that we must urgently address the threat to food security posed by climate change. It is complex. With food systems controlled by multiple government departments, private sector organisations through corporate governance, and international commitments such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the landscape is highly complex, and inefficiencies, food waste, and lack of coordination are, understandably, persistent.

The African voice is critical. For food systems transformation to occur at a global scale, we must recognize that Africa is not on par with the rest of the world. To achieve this transformation, we need to put the smallholder farmer at the centre of everything, building climate change policy from the farmland up.

**“We can’t control nature, but we can protect and restore it”**

Dr. Tony Simons,  
Director General, CIFOR-ICRAF



## 1. RENEWABLE ENERGY

Renewable energy was identified as one of the most effective tools in the fight against climate change. Speakers called for adoption of renewable energy technologies and asked governments and the private sector to leverage the potential of renewable energy to not only protect our environment but to also reduce the cost of production.

During the Commitments Framework session, Dr. Roy Steiner, MD of Food Initiatives at The Rockefeller Foundation, stated that “We are not going to be able to achieve these goals of having a food system that’s equitable, generative and nourishing if we don’t end the climate crisis by bringing renewable energy to the near 1bn people living without access to energy globally - 573m of those live in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Dr. Steiner announced the launch of the global energy alliance that will catalyse a \$1bn investment. \$500m from The Rockefeller Foundation and \$500m from the IKEA Foundation. It really aims to bring 1bn people renewable energy, reduce 1bn tons of greenhouse gas and attain 100% gains in productivity.”

**“Not to take steps towards net zero would be disastrous. There is need to produce, to protect and to prosper.”**

Dr. Yemi Akinbami, Executive Director for Forum, for Agricultural Research



## 2. CLIMATE-SMART TECHNOLOGY

Early warning systems, risk insurance, soil health analysis technology, the development of resilient varieties, and other innovations that promote resilience and combat climate change are critical to secure food systems. Climate-smart technology is critical for three outcomes:

- i Increased productivity:** 75% of the world’s poor live in rural areas and rely on farming for their livelihoods. It’s more critical than ever before to produce enough of the right foods, by developing and growing resilient varieties – both to improve nutrition security and to boost incomes.
- ii Enhanced resilience:** Short-term climate change shocks – like drought, pests and disease, and longer-term risks like erratic weather and shorter growing seasons need to be addressed with technology that can improve our capacity to predict, adapt and grow.
- iii Reduced emissions:** It is critical that we identify ways to combat agriculture’s impact on the environment, from effectively absorbing carbon from the atmosphere, and chasing lower emissions for each calorie or kilo of food produced, to maximising existing arable land and avoiding further deforestation.

## 4 CORE AREAS TOWARDS NET ZERO

were discussed and addressed at the AGRF 2021 Summit:

- 1) The link between renewable energy and secure food systems;
- 2) Climate-smart technology;
- 3) Waste management and food fortification;
- 4) Diet.

CGIAR, a key AGRF partner, is pioneering climate-smart technology. Climate Analogues is one example. Information is gathered from databases or local studies. It is then compared and used as the basis for further climate studies, to develop adaptation pathways, facilitate farmer-to-farmer knowledge exchange, test new technology or practices, validate computational models, and more.

**“We need African rules for the African farmers that will help our standards gain credibility and be equivalent to the world’s standards.”**

Mr. Okisegere Ojepat, CEO, Fresh Produce Consortium of Kenya (FPCK)

### 3. FOOD WASTE MANAGEMENT AND FOOD FORTIFICATION

Solid waste management accounts for over 3% of all GHG emissions, but the truth is probably nearer to 15-20%. This [global food waste management report](#) breaks down waste management into sources, prevention, collection, and treatment. Leaders at the AGRF 2021 Summit discussed the huge amounts of food wasted on the continent each year, emphasizing the need to develop resilient crop varieties and pest control measures for nutritious food that meets the needs and preferences of the 1000+ ethnic groups in Africa.

**“To feed our diverse continent, we cannot apply one simple solution. The challenge is complex, and this requires investments and concerted efforts in a collaborative, measurable way”**

H.E. Hailemariam Dessalegn,  
former Ethiopian Prime Minister



### 4. FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES TO DIETS

When asking agriculture, nutrition, and food systems experts for their recommendations on required dietary changes for healthy people and planet, many agree that only buying the food we need, and eating it (not wasting it), reducing our consumption of red meat and dairy products (these are the most climate intensive), considering plant-based diets, and eating seasonally, were some of the key changes we can all make. Avoiding imports of higher emission products is also an important consideration in the journey to Net Zero.

AGRF 2021 Summit highlighted that innovation is key to accelerating action towards net zero. We know, thanks to the Commission for Sustainable Agriculture Intensification (CoSAI) that current investment in innovation in agri-food systems is only about USD60B annually in the Global South, with only about 7% of this investment in innovation explicitly identifying environmental objectives. To address these complex issues, we must ensure that the innovation investment portfolio is balanced to ensure our food systems are resilient within our climate limits.

**“To achieve sustainable diet diversification, a more multi-disciplinary approach is paramount”.**

Ms. Susan Mochache, CBS, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Health represented by Dr. Andrew Mutava Mulwa, Director of Medical Services, Preventive and Promotive Health

## 4 CORE AREAS TOWARDS NET ZERO



# CLIMATE CHANGE & FOOD SYSTEMS: 6 KEY SESSIONS

From soil health and healthy diets to climate adaptation and sustainable productivity, the AGRF 2021 Summit heard from key voices on food security, across six sessions dedicated to climate change and food systems.



## SESSION

# 1

### SOIL AND ROOT HEALTH: HOW CAN THEY BE ENHANCED TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE, FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION?

[Listen to the session](#) 

Enock Chikava, Deputy Director of the Country Systems Transformation Team at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation discusses why Africa's food systems need to be transformed and what innovations are available to farmers and how agriculture can help countries to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

**“What is good for Africa is good for the world, Africa can be an example of how food can be can continue to be produced by small holder farmers and we [Africa] can be a great example of balancing productivity and sustainability”**

Enock Chikava , Deputy Director of the Country Systems Transformation Team at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

## SESSION

# 2

### AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO ADDRESS CLIMATE AND FOOD SECURITY CHALLENGES IN RWANDA

[Watch the session](#) 

Hosted by representatives from AGRF partner [CNFA](#), this session was an in-depth discussion of Hinga Weze approaches to improve agricultural productivity, future-proof farmer communities against climate change, improve farmers market access, and engage with partners in the government and private sector to achieve program outcomes.

Information and communications technology emerged as a key means to improving farmers' access to market information. The Rwanda Smart Nkunganire System is an example of one such technology. Low-cost technologies, such as small-scale irrigation and mobile solar irrigation pumps are important solutions to farmers in areas at risk of drought.



## SESSION

3

**EQUITABLE LIVELIHOODS FOR WOMEN  
THROUGH INNOVATIVE FINANCING AND  
CLIMATE ADAPTATION**[Watch the session](#) 

Calling for increased investment in research and financial literacy, the session highlighted some innovative financial inclusion solutions being developed by different organizations, including dedicated banking facilities and departments for women.

Participants also discussed, at length, the critical need for investment in climate adaptation and resilience research. They agreed that the discussion and solutions should involve women, particularly in the development of varieties of seeds that are climate resilient.

On that note, [PABRA](#) talked about their investment in research into climate adaptation and the development of resilient seed varieties. Of the 35 million farmers who have access to the resilient varieties being developed, 68% are women.

To highlight the urgency of climate adaptation within agriculture, AGRF partner, [IFAD](#), committed 25% of its financing to climate adaptation.

## SESSION

4

**INSIGHTS: CAN AFRICAN AGRICULTURE  
CONTRIBUTE TO NET ZERO?**[Watch the session](#) 

In this fascinating session, panellists agreed that there were three key challenges in African agriculture contributing to Net Zero:

To balance increased productivity and resilience, with lowering emissions on the path to Net Zero

The cost of energy, financially and environmentally  
Deforestation

Distinguished leaders, including Dr. Leonard Mizzi, Directorate-General for International Partnerships - Sustainable Agri-Food Systems and Fisheries, EU, discussed the importance of introducing policies around soil health and soil emission, increasing diversity of crops and farming systems, making investments in new climate systems, and the rise in importance of digital agriculture.

To take strides towards Net Zero, the group called for action and solidarity; for a holistic approach, with the EU, to building resilience and mitigating risk in food systems; and for further development of climate-smart technology to address specific climate-damaging processes, like livestock production.



## SESSION

5

## GETTING TO ZERO: LEVERAGING INNOVATION IN AFRICA'S INPUT SYSTEMS TO BUILD RESILIENCE AND ENHANCE SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTIVITY

[Watch the session](#) 

Representatives from AGRF partner [Syngenta Foundation](#), and other important speakers agreed that agribusinesses in the input sector have been hugely affected by the COVID pandemic and some of them are on the verge of collapse. They discussed the urgent need to provide them with the structures of support to avoid eroding the gains made in enabling access to inputs by smallholder farmers.

As throughout the Summit, panellists recognised that our current food systems need to be re-tooled as they are contributing to climate change, biodiversity loss, and deforestation.

One recommendation for sustainable productivity was the mainstreaming of insect consumption and the use of insects for animal feed:

**“A lot of insects have higher protein than other sources of protein. They also have Omega 3, antioxidants, and minerals hence we advocate for their use even in our Food Systems”**

- Dr. Segenet Kelemu, Director General & CEO of the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE)

## SESSION

6

## DELIVERING HEALTHY DIETS FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET

[Watch the session](#) 

Dietary habits are changing in ways that harm human well-being and the planet. Shifting towards a more sustainable diet is critical to improving health, while reducing global warming and other environmental impacts. This session discussed opportunities to shift current trends in malnutrition, prioritizing nutritious food availability and affordability for all.

The speakers highlighted that achieving the SDGs will not be easy, as they will have to be met in the context of climate change impacts and other challenges, including food and nutrition security, increasing resource constraints and massive urbanization, an aging farming population, a need to rapidly reduce emissions from food systems, and dietary shifts.

Key issues raised include the need for a significant redistribution of the primary factors and results of production. This includes significant changes to, for instance, the structure of landholdings, technologies and their use, capabilities of women and men, and the distribution and dynamics of the population and labour force. The session also highlighted that ensuring sustainable food systems requires vastly reducing its environmental and health costs while

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making healthy and sustainable food affordable for all.

Panellists also highlighted the need to move from the present-day focus on broadacre, monocultural cropping to much more diverse and nutritious production systems. Growing a wider range of species would ensure that the risks posed by pests, diseases, climate variation and market fluctuations are spread more evenly across the farming portfolio.

Finally, participants emphasised the need for coherent and cross-sector policies working towards multiple goals across health, environment, climate, finance, and social development as levers for food systems transformation.



# COLLABORATION, INCLUSION, TECHNOLOGY, AND EDUCATION **ARE KEY**

Voices at the AGRF 2021 Summit agree that collaboration, inclusion, technology, and education are key if agriculture is going to play a meaningful part in the journey to Net Zero

## EVENTS:

The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) is organizing a panel discussion to be held during a side event at COP-26 on the topic, titled *'Managing trade-offs between Climate Change Mitigation, Food Security and Landscape health in Low Carbon Africa'* will lead towards policy directions but will be also used for establishing platforms for debates and policy formulation on Climate Change in Africa. It will be responding to the following critical questions Africa has been facing to build a low carbon African economy.

**DATE: 1ST -13TH NOVEMBER 2021**



REGISTER FOR THE SESSION HERE

## ABOUT **VOICES** FROM THE AGRF

Voices from the AGRF is a series of abstracts produced to capture the progress, key actions and recommendations from Africa and beyond towards a food secure Africa.



FIND OUT MORE HERE



FOLLOW THE AGRF ON **TWITTER FOR FOOD SYSTEMS RESILIENCE AND TRANSFORMATION INSIGHTS IN LIGHT OF COP26.**



GLOBAL FOOD WASTE MANAGEMENT  
- FULL REPORT



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