



AGRF 2021 SUMMIT
Pathways to recovery and resilient food systems



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

**AGRF
2021**
**PATHWAYS
TO RECOVERY
AND RESILIENT
FOOD SYSTEMS**
SEPTEMBER 6-10, 2021
NAIROBI, KENYA
REPORT



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PATHWAYS TO RECOVERY AND RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS



2021 has been transformational to the way we think about food systems. The AGRF 2021 Summit provided an opportunity to raise our ambitions and define a bold vision for the future of food systems in Africa bringing together diverse voices to accelerate change on the theme of pathways to recovery and resilient food systems.

Africa's agriculture has immense potential with rising urbanization and the growth of urban middle-class consumers in Africa which is projected to lead to over \$645 billion in growth in consumer spending by 2025 and of that growth, \$167 billion could be in food and beverages.

However, this will require a whole system change and significant coordination across different actors from governments, farmers, private sector, civil society groups to researchers. We will need to address implementation challenges, reduce fragmentation, and focus our efforts to deliver at the local level to turn potential into reality. Most importantly we will need to do this in an inclusive manner.

I am grateful to the Government of Kenya under the leadership of H.E Uhuru Kenyatta for hosting the AGRF Summit for the second time. This is the kind of visionary leadership that the continent needs to feed itself and the rest of the world.

My gratitude also goes out to the AGRF partner's group for their partnership and commitment towards agricultural transformation in Africa. To our delegates for your participation, commitment and ideas that make the AGRF the premier platform for inclusive agricultural transformation in Africa.

Thank you for joining us. I hereby present to you the proceedings from the AGRF 2021 summit.

*H.E. Hailemariam Dessalegn,
Chair AGRA and AGRF Partners Group*





2021 has been a critical year for the world as the global conversation has shifted from agricultural transformation to food systems transformation. The AGRF 2021 Summit was, therefore, anchored around exploring the pathways and actions needed to accelerate this process and steer the continent towards resilient food systems.

We are excited that the AGRF is a learning platform, but more importantly, that Africa is on a winning journey with renewed commitment to feed itself and the world. At the UN Food Systems Summit, Africa spoke with one voice and is now translating commitments into strategies. The commitment and leadership is evident however, we must remain in dialogue and implement our resolutions. We must remain accountable, and we must show impact. It is time to eradicate hunger, eradicate poverty, and come out strong with resilient systems, healthy people and a healthy planet. These are clear, measurable goals.

I want to thank H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta, H.E. President Paul Kagame, and the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres for their belief in the importance of food systems and the trust they placed in me and my team. We are grateful to the AGRF Partners Group under the able chair H.E. Hailemariam Dessalegn, former Prime Minister of Ethiopia and Chair of AGRA Board of Directors. It was an extraordinary AGRF and an extraordinary year. With appreciation for the path we walk together!

*Dr. Agnes Kalibata,
President of AGRA & Special Envoy of the
UN Secretary-General for the Food Systems Summit*





Under the leadership of President, H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, it was a great honour for Kenya to have hosted the AGRF Summit for a second time. We appreciate the innovations that permitted us to approach the Summit in a hybrid format, allowing us to safely join with global VIPs in Nairobi while also hosting a world of people on-line.

Kenya remains committed to being a leader in food systems transformation not just for our country but for our region, the East Africa Community, our beloved continent and indeed the global community. My call to you is to invest in the continent's young people. Youth engagement in agriculture is critical to sustaining the continent's food systems. Our young people must take charge of their future, and this includes being able to feed themselves with nutritious and safe diets that will nourish them and promote the health and wealth of our people.

Under the theme of “Pathways to Recovery and Resilient Food Systems”, this year's AGRF has given us an opportunity to reflect on the urgency for food systems transformation on the continent. The time is now!

Thank You! Asanteni Sana! God Bless You!

*Hon. Peter G. Munya,
Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture,
Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives, Kenya*





The AGRF 2021 summit brought together over 8,500 delegates across 104 countries and a diverse range of speakers to showcase the possibilities and inspire commitments and actions from all actors within the food systems; from Governments to the private sector and individuals who are making considerable strides within their own space to transform food systems at their level.

The AGRF declaration charts a journey for food systems transformation that will guide our future work and shows we must accelerate our actions.

There were 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 from farm inputs, through to how they process, transport, and retail products; and manage their food waste. AGRF participants also heard how important it is to invest in innovation, digital technologies, and the need for renewable energy for Africa's future pathway.

Throughout, we have drawn energy and inspiration from all those in the AGRF partnership, and a diverse range of experts from across the African agriculture landscape.

A special thanks goes out to the Government of Kenya for hosting the 2021 Summit, the AGRF partners group for their commitment towards inclusive agricultural transformation in the continent and our delegates for your participation and contribution to the summit. Together we will build a more resilient food systems.

We welcome you to reflect with us on the AGRF 2021 Summit actions and commitments and look forward to seeing you in Kigali, 2022!

*Ms Jennifer Baarn
Acting Managing Director, AGRF*





AGRF 2021 SUMMIT
Pathways to recovery and resilient food systems



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



AGRF 2021 SUMMIT IN NUMBERS



8,580
Virtual
Delegates
Participants



150
In-Person
VIP delegates



10
Current &
Former Heads
of State



194
Deal Room
Investors



20
Ministers



104
Countries
represented



**Total
\$12,5 bn+**
in Food System
Commitments



140+
Sessions, including
30 Partner
side events



**Total
\$5,1 bn**
investment
priorities in **20+**
value chains via
the deal room



524
Speakers



2.7 bn
Potential
Media Reach



HIGHLIGHTS

From 7 to 10 September 2021, over 8,400 delegates gathered at the AGRF 2021 Summit in Nairobi, Kenya and virtually, to call for and plan action on building resilient food systems in Africa.

Hosted by the Government of Kenya under the leadership of H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta, and the direction of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Co-operatives. This year's AGRF Summit's theme focused on "Pathways to Recovery and Resilient Food Systems" and heralded a strong call for Africa and the world to change the way we produce, process, market and consume food. Food systems transformation is imperative if Africa is to achieve the key sustainable development goal of ending hunger by 2030.

"From the AGRF 2021 Summit we will work together as Africans and come up with a common position to table UN Food Systems Summit,"

*H.E Uhuru Kenyatta
President Republic of Kenya*



Five priority areas of action emerged:

- ✓ **Catalyze** rapid expansion in agricultural productivity, with a particular focus on **smallholder farmers, women** and **youth**.
- ✓ **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.



THE COMMITMENTS

This year's AGRF 2021 Summit came at a critical time when food systems are under enormous pressure from different shocks and stresses, including the pandemic, climate change, pests, and diseases that cost the region billions of dollars. The Summit called for and spotlighted commitments to the future of African Food Systems.

Commitments were anchored by the African Development Bank who will mobilize US\$1 billion in the next two years and up to US\$10 billion by 2030 from bilateral donors, green funds, and philanthropic organizations to launch the Financing Facility for Food and Nutrition in Africa. The Facility will support modernizing African agricultural production and commodity value chains. IFAD has a resource mobilization target of US\$1.5 billion through the Rural Resilience Programme (2RP) and US\$200 million through the Private Sector Financing Programme (PSFP). Resilience and climate solutions also included the IKEA Foundation and Rockefeller Foundation announcement of a US\$1 billion fund in a global renewable energy alliance.

**“Providing access to renewable energy
can be a pathway to a more sustainable future
for farming communities.”**

*Mr. Per Heggnes,
Chief Executive Officer, IKEA Foundation*



**\$12.5
billion+ in
commitments
by partners**

COMMITMENTS HIGHLIGHTS

Click on a box to learn more about commitments made at AGRF 2021:



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

4K Clubs



GLOBAL DAIRY PLATFORM

Dairy Nourishes Africa



Investing in rural people

Private Sector Financing
Programme (PSFP)
& Rural Resilience
Programme (2RP)



The Rice Race



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP
GROUPE DE LA BANQUE AFRICAINE
DE DEVELOPEMENT

AfDB: Advancing
Technologies and
Financing for Food and
Nutrition in Africa

IKEA Foundation



IKEA Foundation and
Rockefeller Foundation:
Distributed Renewable
Energy Initiative (DRE)



Centre for African
Leaders in Agriculture
(CALA)



Enriching Lives Together
Sustainability Strategy &
2030 Sustainability Goals



United Nations
Global Compact

Seaweed for Food
Security



Kenya Cereal
Enhancement Program
Electronic Voucher
System

**Walking
the Path
to 2030:**

Commitments



FOOD SYSTEMS PATHWAYS

AGRF 2021 elevated the single coordinated African voice to the UN Food Systems Summit; and identified immediate actions and steps that need to be taken to accelerate progress and recovery towards inclusive agricultural transformation.

Meeting at this year's summit, the African Union, and other stakeholders from private sector and governments validated priority actions that would lead to ending hunger, reducing poverty, and improving nutrition by 2030. Over 40 game changing solutions were profiled over the course of the week. 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.

“We (Africa) are not being left behind; we are building resilient and sustainable food systems locally and globally.”

*Dr. Godfrey Bahiigwa,
Director, Agriculture & Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission, Ethiopia*

Each African region – North, West, South, East and Central – held meetings to identify their priority pathways to Food Systems transformation. Proposed solutions included:

- Strengthening interregional trade to ensure that the countries have sufficient diversity of food stuffs in regional and local markets in a timely manner.
- Reducing food losses 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, increase incomes as they bypass or reduce dependency on the middleman, and 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 and ensuring access to finance, including varying requirements for collateral.
- Ensuring academic institutions have the capacity and resources to train agripreneurs.

“Now, more than ever, it is critical to shape an African Vision on food systems transformation. The continent must feed itself. Africa requires food systems that deliver sufficient and nutritious food; food systems that are sustainable and food systems that create shared prosperity for Africa.”

*Ms. Thule Lenneiye,
Coordinator, Agriculture Transformation Office, Kenya*

[Read more](#)



[Watch the Accelerating Action – Food Systems Transformation Session here](#)



THE AGRF 2021 SUMMIT PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

PRESIDENTIAL SUMMIT

The Presidential Summit is the highest-level moment of the AGRF, comprised of Heads of State & Government, eminent persons, and hundreds of leaders and stakeholders present from across Africa's agriculture and agribusiness sectors. The AGRF 2021 Presidential Summit was convened under the leadership of H.E. Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya.

Focusing on the gains that have been made in Africa's agriculture landscape, African leaders shared the bold steps they are already taking to drive food systems transformation across their own countries and within their regions. Actualizing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), leveraging agricultural innovations, scaling investments in infrastructure, innovative financing including climate finance, diversification of diets, and empowering women and youth were cited as critical pathways to food systems transformation on the continent.

“The continent must move to importing less food, as it can grow what is needed for its consumption.”

H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda

Financing the Agricultural sector remains critical; leaders committed to working towards fulfilling the Malabo Commitments and ensure 10% of budgets is allocated to the agriculture sector.

“To fully unlock the potential of agriculture in Africa, we need to raise agricultural productivity, develop and integrate value chains, build climate resilience, modernize food supply systems and boost the private sector to produce healthy and nutritious food.”

*Dr. Akinwumi Adesina,
President, African Development Bank*



MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE

This year's High Level Ministerial Roundtable discussed emerging issues and challenges related to transforming Africa's Food Systems. The session provided an opportunity for collective reflection and stocktaking on the progress countries are making with regards to political, policy and financial commitments and actions needed to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs, the CAADP, and Malabo targets.

“Political and institutional reforms are required. We must open the doors of our institutions to more players, particularly the private sector.”

*Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer,
African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD)*

It further discussed efforts towards driving inclusive agricultural transformation in the context of the Food Systems Summit. It afforded Ministers, National Conveners of the Food System Dialogues and other stakeholders, the opportunity to further discuss, refine, and make final proclamation on commitments and actions to be implemented with the support of other stakeholders.

“The remaining 9 years of the SDGs should be focused, and things should be done differently. Holistic sustainable agricultural transformation is required.”

*H.E. Hailemariam Dessalegn,
Chair of the Board of Directors, AGRA
and Chairperson, AGRF Partners Group*

Ministers agreed to:

- Open trade and foster regional cooperation.
- Strengthen markets, link producers to market and use technology to deploy extension services and deliver inputs for farmers.
- Foster cross and multisectoral cooperation - between different ministries, private sector, national and regional bodies - and stop working in isolation.
- Empower the most vulnerable populations - including women, youth, and smallholder farmers - through social protection programs, youth empowerment programs and agribusiness networks.
- Increase budgetary allocations to the agricultural sector.
- Leverage public private partnerships to pool funds and resources to the sector.
- Invest in digital and physical infrastructure.
- Develop resilient and sustainable food systems through climate smart agriculture.



ELDERS' COUNCIL

Five former heads of state gathered at an inaugural Elders' Council to reflect on the status of food systems in Africa. This special session was convened by H.E. Hailemariam Dessalegn, Former Prime Minister of Ethiopia.

In his remarks, H.E. Jakaya Kikwete, former President of Tanzania urged African countries not to opt for protectionism as it can be very inefficient. Instead, countries should focus on increasing production to prevent shortages.

H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former President of Liberia spoke on the role of women in food system transformation. In Liberia women can now legally own land and have been very resilient in farming. There is need for commitments to remove barriers that have prevented women from achieving their goals.

“We all need to make commitment to remove barriers that have prevented women from achieving their goals.”

H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Former President of Liberia

Benin's former Prime Minister, H.E. Lionel Zinsou, emphasized the need for financial resources to flow to the agriculture sector. He also noted the need to improve agriculture's logistics, cold chain, and infrastructure.

Former Nigeria President, H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo provided insights on post conflict policy solutions to meet agricultural targets. Agricultural policies must be consistent and not influenced by regime change. H.E Obasanjo urged government ministries to work together and not in silos.

“Peace is a precondition for success in agriculture.”

*H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo,
Chair of the Africa Food Prize Committee
and former President, Nigeria*





DELIVERING HEALTHY DIETS FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET

Shifting towards a more sustainable diet is critical to improving health while reducing global warming and other environmental impacts. Challenges such as food security, increasing resource constraints, massive urbanization, an aging farming population, and dietary shifts including rising obesity.

“How we go about producing and consuming food in our world over the coming decades will basically determine the future of humanity on this planet.”

*Dr. Gunhild A. Stordalen,
Founder and Executive Chair, EAT Forum*

Ensuring sustainable food systems requires vastly reducing their environmental and health costs, while making healthy and sustainable food affordable to all. The AGRF highlighted the need to move from the present-day focus on broadacre, monocultural cropping to 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.

Key recommendations include:

- Promotion of more diverse diets
- More fruit and vegetable production
- More integrated and regenerative systems
- Greater use of traditional foods
- Use of African crops that are more resilient
- Adjustment of subsidies and social protection systems to include healthy foods



CHEFS CHAT WITH THE CHEFS’ MANIFESTO

Each day of the AGRF summit featured a lunch time chef’s chat with Mr. Paul Newnham, Director of the SDG2 Advocacy Hub Secretariat & Chefs’ Manifesto Coordinator, and selected chefs from across the continent

Chefs are a core actor in our food systems; bridging the gap between farm and fork, chefs are food advocates in their kitchens, restaurants, and communities. These daily chefs chats focused on the theme of good food for people and planet and shared the delicious plethora of African cuisines available for consumption and production.

“Chefs need to be included in the food systems conversation as they are an important link between production and consumption.”

Chef Ska Moteane

Throughout the week, the Chefs shared scrumptious recipes while discussing the need for diet diversification, food affordability, supply chain development and farmer engagement. The need to improve demand and supply for local and indigenous food was a key theme.



EQUITABLE LIVELIHOODS

Ensuring Equitable Livelihoods and Living Incomes focused on tackling poverty from a multidimensional perspective, with an emphasis on women, youth, and smallholder farmers. Current food systems practices and norms that limit equity so solutions will entail significant structural changes in political, economic, and social systems.

Advancing equitable livelihoods requires building agency among people who lack the space or the enabling environment in which to exercise their power. Genuine transformation in food systems:

- policies must foster a level playing field
- facilitate equitable access to resources
- ensure that the heavy lifting is done by those who can bear the costs while ensuring transparency and accountability.

“There is no way we can talk about food system transformation if it leaves half of the population behind. Women are critical and we have to figure out how to engage them in decision making about the food systems.”

*Dr. Susan Chomba,
Director of Vital Landscapes for Africa,
World Resources Institute (WRI)*

The agricultural private sector (corporations, small and medium-sized enterprises, women self-help groups, etc.) plays a key role in improving equitable access to livelihoods. The private sector holds the potential to generate much-needed investment in agricultural supply chains. Responsible investments must be culturally appropriate and benefit small-scale producers, workers, and consumers.



YOUTH TOWNHALL

In 2015, 226 million youth aged 15-24 lived in Africa. By 2030, it is projected that the number of youths in Africa will have increased by 42 per cent. Africa’s youth population is expected to continue to grow throughout the remainder of the 21st century, more than doubling from current levels by 2055.

The Youth Townhall session elevated the voices of young people on issues related to their engagement in agriculture.

In this year’s Youth Townhall, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, engaged directly with youth from across the continent and reiterated his support for youth in agriculture.

“Our young people are Africa’s greatest strength! We are not here to dictate solutions to our youth. Agriculture must be transformed to become a youth friendly sector. Young people should have a 360-degree view of agriculture and see where they fit in”.

*H.E. Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta,
President of the Republic of Kenya*

Kenya’s 4-K Clubs deliver agricultural education in schools, both at primary and secondary school levels in Kenya. Youth need access to these skills to help build a brighter future for the food systems. The four Ks stand for “Kuungana, Kufanya, Kusaidia Kenya” in Kiswahili, loosely translating to coming together, to act, to help Kenya.

“We need to give children the same platform and the same avenue to start taking care of the environment as our parents gave us. Deliberate investment for the future generations is what we want to see, and our hope is to see this replicated around the world.”

*Ms. Anne Nyaga, Chief Administrative Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Fisheries and Cooperatives
in the Government of Kenya*

In a ministerial interactive session with Hon. Rosemary Mbabazi, Minister for Youth and Culture from Rwanda and Hon. Yaw Frimpong-Addo, Deputy Minister for Food and Agriculture from Ghana, the youth discussed how to create an enabling environment that promotes youth participation in agriculture.

“The full engagement of youth in agriculture will directly contribute to accessibility, affordability and food safety for all and eventually contribute to job creation. Food security is as important as political security.”

*Hon. Rosemary Mbabazi, Minister for Youth and Culture,
Republic of Rwanda*

The Youths from across the continent prioritized the following as their call to action for 2030:

- Adopt young farmers clubs in the basic education system.
- Set up agricultural training centers, especially for women in rural areas.
- Assist youth and women in acquiring land and lease agreements.
- Promote youth products in local and international markets through AfCFTA.
- Involve indigenous youth from marginalized communities in national programs
- Involve youth in policy making decisions



*UN Department
of Economic and social affairs,
(May 2021/1), ‘Populations Facts.’*

FOOD SYSTEMS INNOVATORS

To achieve sustainable food systems, there is urgent need to develop innovative tools and approaches. Food Systems Innovators are the young African agri-preneurs, who are deploying creative and innovative solutions across the agricultural value chain.

Throughout the AGRF week, these food system innovators showcased their breakthrough innovations that are transforming Africa’s food system. The videos showcased the work of 23 innovators who have in their own unique ways achieved greater farm yield, value-addition, increased income, created more job opportunities, and reduced levels of hunger and malnutrition.



Baridi:
Solar-powered cooling
for livestock products



Integrated Aerial Systems:
Drone-based spraying technology



Lombrisol:
Organic waste recycling



Seekewa:
Crowd based community platform
supporting small farming projects



Flamingo Foods Company:
Weather forecast
and satellite technology



Sanit Wing Ltd:
Cold-pressed avocado oil processing



Give Smile Solutions:
App linking producers and consumers



WhatsNear:
App for commodity transport





FARMERS FORUM

Is Doubling Farmers income enough to reach Zero Hunger?

This year’s Farmers Forum elevated African farmer voices in the discussions related to food systems transformation. This year’s forum included remote hubs from Uganda, Ghana, Tanzania, and Mozambique. The Forum shared the major challenges that farmers face, celebrated their resilience and showcased their solutions for the recovery and resilience of Africa’s food systems.

“A green revolution lies in the fields and not in air-conditioned rooms. Decision making should move from the nice, air-conditioned offices to the fields so that farmers have their say on matters that affect them”

*Mr. Ajay Vir Jakhar,
Chairman, Bharat Krishak Samaj (Farmers’ Forum India)*

Africa’s farmers are calling for:

- Increased incentives to motivate farmers to adapt to climate change. Current incentives such as carbon credits, favor big corporations.
- Promote fairness and equity in the value chain and move farmers along the value chain – for instance through value addition.

“Most of the issues that farmers face are non-technical in nature. We cannot increase productivity, production and competitiveness if basic needs such as infrastructure are not met.”

*Mr. Ishmael Sunga, Chief Executive Officer,
Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions
(SACAU)*

- The true cost of food should include health and environmental expenditures.
- Equity and fairness in access to the factors of production. Governments should invest in small holder farmers as they do in big corporations and the private sector.
- Ensure predictability for commodity pricing; this allows farmers to achieve their income targets.
- Implement the Decade of Action and the Malabo Commitments of setting aside 10% of budgets for agriculture.



“We do not need new commitments now. The commitment we should be making is to go back to the promises and declarations that have already been made such as the Malabo Declaration”

*Dr. Chris Muyunda,
Chair, CAADP Non-State Actors Coalition (CNC)*

- Farmers and farmer organizations should be engaged in policy making and be able to hold governments accountable.
- Invest infrastructure, including communication, roads, energy and electricity, to enable farmers to thrive.
- Leverage regional trade as a driver to support smallholder farmers.
- A cooperative, innovative and research-backed approach to supporting smallholder farmers.



CHINA'S EXPERIENCES MITIGATING COVID 19'S IMPACTS ON ITS FOOD SYSTEM: POSSIBLE TAKEAWAYS FOR AFRICA

A special session on China's Experiences Mitigating COVID 19's Impacts on its Food System shared how China, which was first hit by COVID, managed to overcome the challenges posed by the pandemic and safeguard food security for its citizens.

In China, e-commerce is driving industrial development, expanding local employment, and empowering rural residents. Strong policies to support e-commerce, rural farmers, open trade, and technology transfer are building a more resilient and sustainable food system. The role of e-commerce during and after the pandemic was significant. E-commerce and counter-less delivery of food products ensured adequate food supply during the pandemic.

The session called for open trade, increased public investment, partnerships, technology transfer as well as research and development.

“If we want agriculture to grow, if we want to build a resilient agriculture sector, public sector needs to pump in money to help private sector.”

Prof. Kevin Zhigang Chen



CENTRE FOR AFRICAN LEADERS IN AGRICULTURE (CALA)

The Centre for African Leaders in Agriculture (CALA) has been established to provide African Agriculture sector leaders with the practical skills to navigate, coordinate, and solve agriculture challenges; and therefore, improve the implementation of national sector priorities.

CALA's inaugural Advanced Leadership Programme: Collaborative Leadership for Africa's Food Security and Sustainability includes 80 leaders from government, the private sector and civil society from Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda. Over the first three years (2021 -2023), CALA will enable two cohorts of 160 established and emerging leaders to enhance their capacity to deliver on national agriculture transformation initiatives.

CALA was set up with funding from the German Development Cooperation (GIZ) through the KfW Development Bank and led by AGRA in collaboration with the African Management Institute (AMI), the Centre's lead implementer and learning partner, and USAID's Policy LINK.



RECOGNITION & REWARDS

AFRICA FOOD PRIZE 2021

The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) was awarded the 2021 Africa Food Prize, for work that has improved food security across 13 countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

Between 2007 and 2019, ICRISAT led a collaboration of partners to deliver the Tropical Legumes Project. The project, undertaken together with the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), developed 266 improved legume varieties and almost half a million tons of seed for a range of legume crops, including cowpeas, pigeon peas, chickpea, common bean, groundnut, and soybean. These new varieties have helped over 25 million smallholder farmers become more resilient to climate change, as well as pest and disease outbreaks.

“ICRISAT’s leadership in developing seeds that not only end malnutrition but also survive in semi-arid areas is inspiring other agricultural organisations to rethink seed development and farming practices that suit and solve Africa’s agricultural challenges. Their work provides an inclusive approach that supports the whole agricultural value chain, from farm to fork, providing farmers with farming tools and a market for their produce.”

*H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo,
Chair of the Africa Food Prize Committee
and former President, Nigeria*

The Africa Food Prize recognizes outstanding African individuals and institutions leading, that are changing the reality of farming in Africa from a struggle practice to a business that lifts communities out of poverty.



WAYA/VALUE4HER

Dr. Hajia Salamat Garba, Founder and Executive Director of Women Farmers Advancement Network (WOFAN) in Nigeria, was the overall winner of the inaugural VALUE4HER innovation grant of US\$10,000.

VALUE4HER is AGRA's continental program, aimed at increasing the performance of women agri-enterprises through access to markets and trade, finance and investments, knowledge and skills, and networking and building women's collective voice.

Ms. Beatrice Nkatha M'Munyi, Founder and Managing Director of Sorghum Pioneer Agencies in Kenya, received a US\$7,000 grant as the first runner up. Ms. Linda Kudakwashe Manyeza, Founding Director of Food Masters in South Africa, received a US\$5,000 grant as the second runner up.



#VALUE4HER
connect
Africa's First Digital Platform For Women-led Agri-business





GOGETTAZ

“While most businesses everywhere have been forced to pivot to survive during the worst of the COVID pandemic, this year’s Top-14 finalist entrepreneurs focused on ways to innovate, grow their businesses and continue to serve their communities,”

Mr. Strive Masiyiwa, Founder and Chairman of Econet

Ms. Tracy Kimathi, founder of Tree_Sea.mals in Kenya and Mr. Nshimiyimana Alexandre, co-founder of Sanit Wing Ltd in Rwanda, emerged as this year’s winners of the \$100,000 GoGettaz Agripreneur Prize.

Ms. Kimathi developed ‘Baridi’; innovative, solar-powered cold rooms that reduce post-slaughter loss throughout East Africa’s livestock value chain. Mr. Alexandre’s company, Sanit Wing Ltd, which markets oils, cosmetics and soaps; was awarded for its community-focused, socially conscious avocado processing and manufacturing.

“I was so moved to see the passion and wide range of exciting agribusinesses these young entrepreneurs have launched in recent years, generating income for themselves and their nations, and also really positive social and environmental impacts through their climate-friendly innovations,”

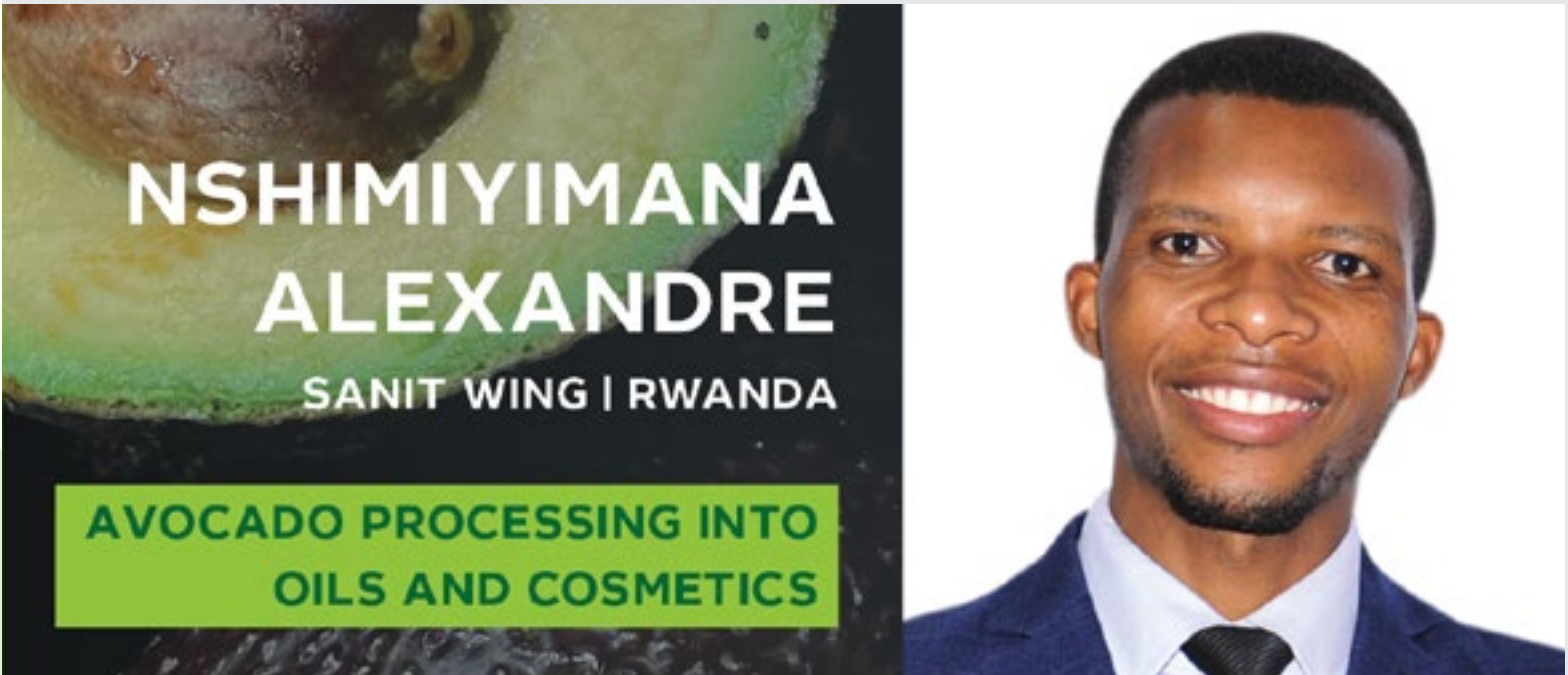
Mr. Svein Tore Holsether,
President and Chief Executive Officer of Yara International

Beyond the two grand prizes and in recognition of their work in social and environmental impact, four additional entrepreneurs were picked to win US\$2,500 each to grow their business.

- Ms. Fily Keita, Co-founder and CEO, Agrowomen, Mali.
- Ms. Diana Orembe, Co-founder and CEO, NovFeed, Tanzania.
- Mr. Gabriel Eze, Co-founder and COO, Rural Farmers Hub, Nigeria.
- Mr. Costantine Edward, Founder, AgriLife, Tanzania.



WINNERS



PITCH AGRIHACK

This year, six youth led agribusinesses showcasing market ready innovations for African farmers won a share of the US\$45,000 Pitch AgriHack 2021. These agribusinesses include mobile crop processing machinery, produce delivery services, as well as ecommerce and farm financing platforms.

The Pitch AgriHack competition, aimed exclusively at youth-led African businesses bringing technological innovation to the agriculture sector, is sponsored by Heifer International and hosted by Generation Africa, a thematic platform of the AGRF.

“The youth of Africa have a crucial role to play in our continent’s food and farming future. Food systems change is one of the most pressing global issues as humanity negotiates a new balance with the natural world amidst the undeniable impacts of climate change”

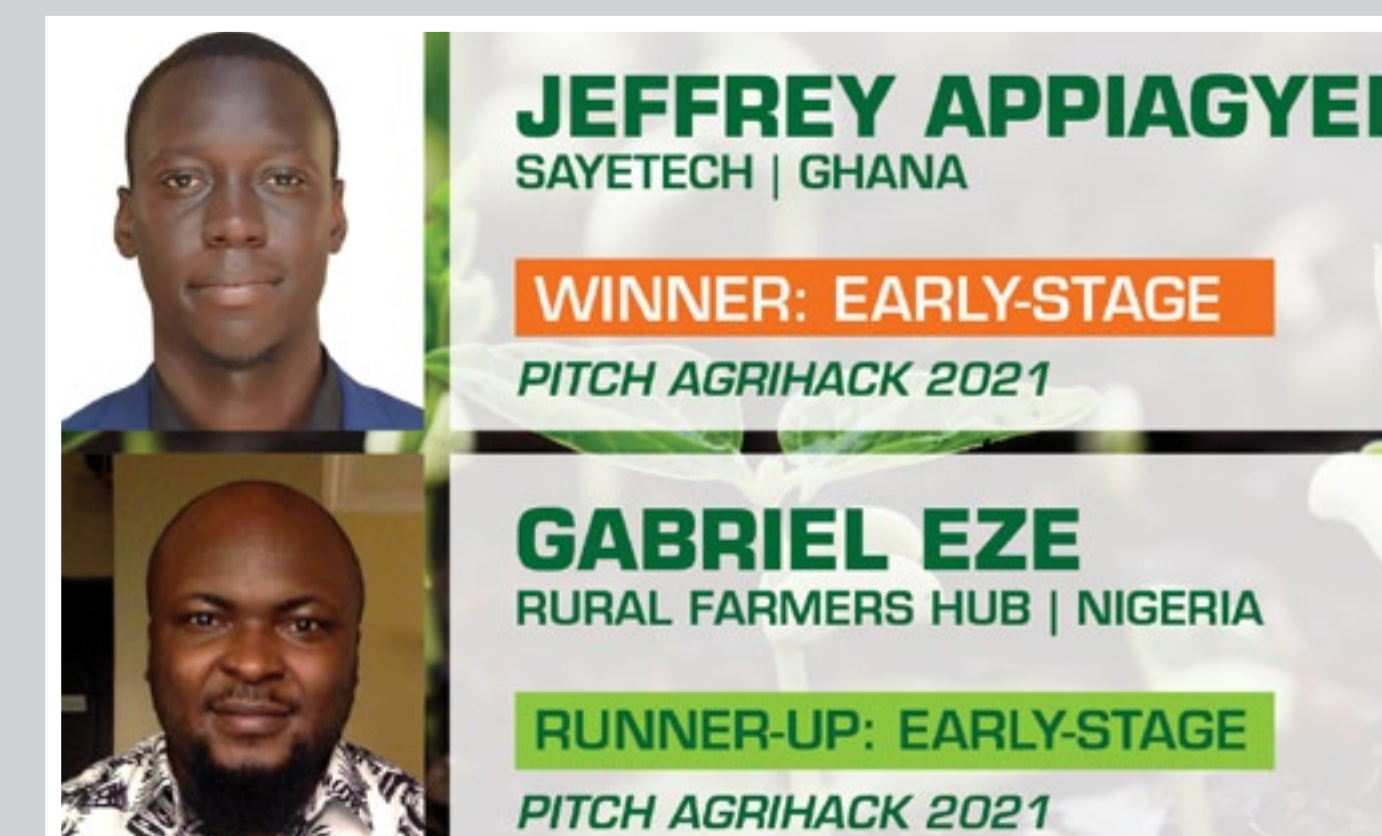
*Dr. Agnes Kalibata, President of AGRA
and Special Envoy to the UN Food Systems Summit*

The companies were competing in three categories – early stage, mature/growth-stage and women-led - and can now attract new investments via the AGRF Agribusiness Deal Room.

- Early Stage
Winner: Mr. Jeffrey Appiagyei, [Sayetech](#), Ghana.
- Mature and Growth Stage
Winner: Mr. Mahmud Johnson, [J Palm](#), Nigeria.
- Women-led Agribusiness
Winner: Ms. Ore Alemede, [GrowAgric](#), Kenya.



WINNERS





THE NORMAN E. BORLAUG AWARD FOR FIELD RESEARCH AND APPLICATION

Dr. Dossou-Yovo, Associate Principal Scientist, Agriculture and Climate Change Specialist at [Africa Rice Center](#) in Côte d'Ivoire was awarded the Borlaug Award; awarded by the World Food Prize Foundation and endowed by The Rockefeller Foundation.

Dr. Dossou-Yovo is recognized for spearheading innovative water management systems for resilient rice production in the face of climate change. His groundbreaking research has empowered thousands of rice farmers throughout West Africa to use climate-smart cultivation techniques to earn greater incomes, achieve food and nutrition security, and enhance agroecosystems.



THE HEIFER AFRICA INNOVATORS AWARDS

AYuTe Africa Challenge, awarded US\$1.5 million in grants to two youth-led agritech businesses that are increasing access to emerging technologies for Africa's smallholder farmers.

*Hello Tractor <https://hellotractor.com/>*

*Cold Hubs <https://www.coldhubs.com/>*



REPORTS

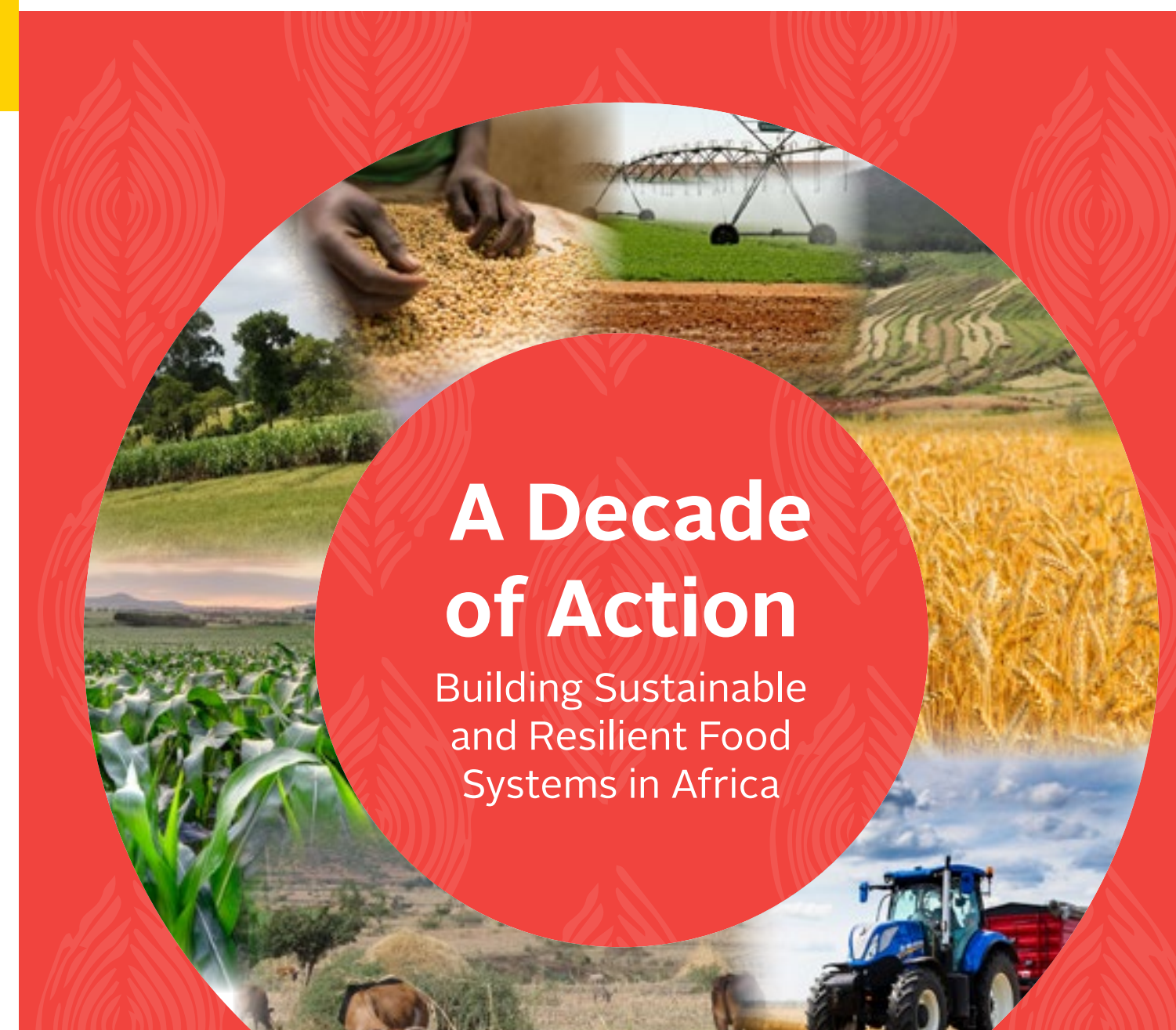
AFRICA AGRICULTURE STATUS REPORT (AASR)

Food systems are a fundamental part of the global economic system – the world’s population depends on them for sustenance. As is the case elsewhere, in Africa, many people depend entirely on food systems for employment and incomes. For these reasons, building resilient and sustainable food systems is crucial to ensuring sustainable economies and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2063 Goals. However, Africa remains food insecure, accounting for 256 million of the world’s 795 million people suffering from hunger.

This year’s Africa Agriculture Status Report, ***A Decade of Action: Building Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems in Africa*** provides evidence and insights on the prospects of achieving resilience and sustainability in Africa’s food systems.



AFRICA AGRICULTURE
STATUS REPORT 2021



“Making our food systems more sustainable means minimizing the disruptions they impose on our environment, our health and our agriculture, including those of future generations.”

*Prof Joachim von Braun,
Chair of the UNFSS Scientific Group*

KEY FINDINGS

- Food systems are a fundamental part of our lives – we all depend on them for our sustenance.
- Africa’s food systems are fragile and need to become more resilient. The status quo is not sustainable.
- Raising yields and productivity on existing farmland is among the most important ways to make African food systems more resilient and sustainable.
- Raising systems productivity will also require utilizing “circular economy” practices such as converting organic wastes into productive inputs in farm production, water recycling, etc.
- Productivity also has to improve in downstream value addition activities.
- Africa has the knowledge to build sustainable and resilient food systems, but the task is complex and will require new thinking as well as new capacities.

“Governments, businesses and development partners need to foster the flow of healthy foods for healthy diets – fruits and vegetables, plant-based proteins like pulses, and also eggs and dairy and fish”.

*Dr. Lawrence Haddad, Executive Director,
Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)*



AGRICULTURE TRADE MONITOR (AATM) REPORT

The 2021 Africa Agriculture Trade Monitor (AATM) report analyzes continental and regional trends in African agricultural trade flows and policies, with a focus on the impact of the pandemic at both the macroeconomic and microeconomic levels. To support AfCFTA implementation and advance the growth of African trade, this Fourth edition of the AATM calls for deeper and wider cooperation for both trade data and policies.

“Trade plays an essential role for primary production and exports are crucial for Africa.”

*Dr. Maximo Torero Cullen,
Chief Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization*



Meet the Author - Food Entrepreneurs in Africa: Scaling Resilient Agriculture Businesses, Routledge 2021

Ms. Ndidi Okonkwo Nwuneli, Co-founder, AACE Foods & and Sahel Consulting Agriculture, launched her book on Food Entrepreneurs in Africa at this year's AGRF.

The book captures Ms. Nwuneli's personal experiences and engagement with over 80 successful African entrepreneurs. The book highlights technological innovation, youth in agriculture, a rising African middle class, growing interest in healthy foods and increased funding as positive trends that can help build a lucrative and dynamic sector for agriSMEs





THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS SESSIONS

AGRF advances its mission and work throughout the year to achieve targeted outcomes largely by working through a set of thematic platforms. Ten thematic platforms and thematic working groups have been prioritized for the AGRF to deliver under its current strategy against its priority goals.



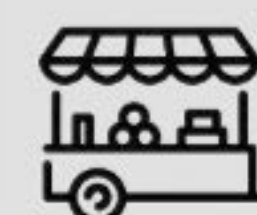
Agri-investment & SME finance

Target outcome: Increased public and private investments in agriculture; stronger pipeline of deals and SMEs ready for investment.



Regional trade

Target outcome: Improved intra-African regional trade and better functioning national and regional markets.



Rural & Market development

Target outcome: Expanded local agroindustry and value chain development; improved policy and investments in agriculture, particularly for irrigation, mechanization, processing, and value addition.



Food systems & nutrition

Target outcome: Improved food and nutrition security.



Resilience & adaptation

Target outcome: Increased capacity of farming households and agricultural systems to better prepare for and adapt to shocks and stresses.



Policy & state capability

Target outcome: Effective and inclusive policy design and implementation; strengthened capacity for evidenced based planning, implementation and review.



Youth employment in agriculture

Target outcome: Expanded local agroindustry and value chain development inclusive of youth; improved and scaled youth policies and programs.



Women in agriculture

Target outcome: Expanded local agroindustry and value chain development inclusive of women.



Agtech & Digitalization

Target outcome: Increased capacity to generate, analyse, and use data, information, knowledge, tools, and innovations.



Inputs

Target outcome: Stronger and sustainable agricultural input systems; Increased agriculture production and productivity.



AGRF 2021 SUMMIT

Pathways to recovery and resilient food systems



THE AGRIBUSINESS DEAL ROOM HIGHLIGHTS

In the Agribusiness Deal Room, leaders from 89 countries and over 4,500 entrepreneurs presented US\$5.1 billion investment needs. This included 14 investment opportunity pitches made by governments to over 190 investors and financial service providers. 822 SMEs, mostly led by women and youth, sought investment in the Agribusiness Deal Room as well as had opportunities to share knowledge and information throughout the different sessions.

A highlight was ‘Aqua-Spark Africa’ that will initially raise US\$50million and will grow that to US\$300 million over the next 6-8 years, with a focus on building aquaculture infrastructure across the continent.



Total **\$ 12.5 billion+** in commitments by partners

17partners shared investment commitments

Target beneficiaries

10 million+ children

45.5 million+ African farmers;
600 million+ farmers globally

3.6 billion+ people connected to renewable energy

160+ leaders
15,000+ professionals trained

200 million+ hungry people

10 million consumers reached with behavior change campaigns

60,000+ agribusinesses and projects (including women & youth-led)

4.6 million+ jobs created

1.1 billion tons+ reduction in ghg emissions

5 million hectares of land under sustainable production

WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

Equitable Livelihoods for Women through Innovative Financing and Climate Adaptation is a powerful pathway to economic development.

WOMEN AT AGRF

Woman speakers

42 %

Deal Room SMEs owned by women

59 %

‘It is estimated that women’s economic exclusion costs Sub-Saharan African countries \$95 billion in lost productivity per year.’

UNDP

The substantial gap in women’s access is a critical hurdle for continued agricultural and financial inclusion and the attainment of sustainable development goals across Africa.

If female farmers had the same access to financial, training and agricultural resources as men, their productivity would increase by 20%-30%.

The session showcased practical models of inclusive financing, as well as climate adaptation strategies that are working and can be replicated and scaled across the continent to realize equitable livelihoods for women.

IFAD’s business development training and access to finance has benefitted 600,000 women. Gender Action Learning systems are ensuring gains are sustained over time by addressing underlying causes of inequalities. In Tanzania, Heifer International is supporting women to champion local bylaws in collaboration with local governments.





REGIONAL FOOD TRADE

There are barriers to food trade in Africa along the entire value chain. Trade issues are relevant to multiple ministries and agencies within government, including not only trade, but also agricultural, health and safety, transport, and finance. It will require strong a whole of government approach and effective leadership to articulate the rationale and sustain the momentum for reform.

“In food security, sustainable agricultural development, and climate resilience, collaboration is the key to transformation.”

Mr. Jai Shroff, Global Chief Executive Officer, UPL

Removing trade barriers requires:

- Leaders address political economy constraints.
- Methods, tools, and initiatives aimed at improving the functioning of regional food markets be developed and popularized.
- Private sector actors be involved in standardization and implementation of regional food trade.
- Robust data systems be developed to close data gaps and inform decision making.

During AGRF, private sector and development partners shared commitments to support data collection mobilization, provision of data, and utilization of data for food and nutrition security, and trade and investment decision-making. This included commitments from Eastern Africa Grain Council, FCDO, AFDB, and USDA. Data is needed to generate accurate Food Balance Sheets (FBS) that inform resilience strategies and interventions. COMESA is using Food Balance Sheets to mitigate gender-based risks and opportunities.

AGTECH & DIGITALIZATION

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the digitization of Africa’s agriculture value chains and spurred broader digital technology usage. The AgTech and Digitalization session discussed how digital agriculture technologies and innovations can be scaled to effectively contribute to a transformed and resilient food system for Africa.

The digital ecosystem in African countries needs to be strengthened by increasing tech adoption, innovation, and sustainability, as well as through partnerships with the private sector. Digital solutions must address the needs of the entire ecosystem including farmers, agribusinesses, policy makers, and researchers.

Solutions for a well-coordinated and thriving digital ecosystem included:

- Address fragmentation in the digital agriculture ecosystem e.g., through merging digital agriculture start-ups to increase adoption rates to reduce farmer fatigue.
- Bundle agricultural services through digital solutions by offering cost-effective, bundled, end-to-end services. Digital solutions have the potential to disrupt the agricultural sector.
- Eliminate barriers to scale digital agriculture solutions. African public sector, agri-SMES, and governments to provide structures that enable nascent AgTech companies to grow and scale.
- Bridge the gender gap and ensure a gender-transformative approach to digitization. Access to digital finance services strengthens women’s household decision-making power & increases their labor force participation.

“Women in emerging economies are 20% less likely to own a smartphone and 43% less likely to engage online. This has real consequences for their families and for food production.”

Ms. Maura Barry, Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Resilience and Food Security, USAID





RESILIENCE AND ADAPTATION

Food insecurity and poverty in Africa has been aggravated by multiple shocks that include recurrent drought, flooding, land degradation, soil nutrient depletion, and insecurity. AGRF showcased best practices in addressing vulnerability and risk in Africa.

“According to FAO’s last report on the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, the number of undernourished people in Sub Saharan rose by over 44 million over the last year reaching 264.2 million in 2020.”

SOFI 2021



Measures to build sustainable and resilient food and agricultural systems should:

- Support agricultural productivity.
- Strengthen domestic markets.
- Promote intra-regional trade.
- Support development and scaling up of financial mechanisms and investments.
- Support collaborative agricultural research and development.
- Improve farmer skills in agronomy and negotiation.
- Create strong public-private partnerships to accelerate technology transfer.
- Strengthen social protection programs to help households cope with shocks.
- Develop policies that stimulate private investment, innovation, and competition.

“Africa holds significant relevance to help the world achieve the UN sustainable development goals, implement successful and sustainable food systems transformation and ensure global food security.”

Ms. Natasha Santos, Vice-President of Global Stakeholders’ Strategy & Affairs at Bayer Crop Science

FOOD SYSTEMS AND NUTRITION

The session on Africa’s Solutions Towards Safe and Nutritious Food for All showcased a series of technological innovations and solutions that are scaling production of diverse, safe, and healthy crops. Africa must improve the availability, accessibility, affordability, and the desirability of nutrient rich food that is sustainably produced.

The **World Food Program (WFP)** is working with communities in Ghana, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Rwanda on promoting the Bio-fortified, Orange-fleshed sweet potato, noting that it can replace expensive imported wheat by up to 50% in bread and can easily make other products in the value chain such as chips and biscuits.

“I am quite excited that there is now an ongoing project in Ghana, supported by AGRA to scale-up the biofortified, orange-fleshed sweet potato and develop the whole value chain to improve health and wealth in Ghana.”

Mrs. Nane Annan, Board Member and Nutrition Advocate, Kofi Annan Foundation

With support from the Rockefeller Foundation, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, TechnoServe has initiated the **Yieldwise** and **Strengthening Africa Processors of Fortified Foods** projects in Nigeria, Kenya, and Tanzania to reduce post-harvest losses as well as provide technical assistance to food processors to ensure effective food fortification.

RURAL AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT

African food security lies in its opportunity to link markets and add value to improve livelihoods. It is essential to see the agro-ecosystem as a continuum from the farm to value added processing to products on the grocery store shelves.

“Farmers are the first private sector players in the food systems. The moment everyone takes note, they will handle them differently.”

*Prof. Siza Tumbo,
Deputy PS, Ministry for Agriculture, Tanzania*

Dynamic and inclusive agricultural transformation depends on whether farms, especially small-scale farms, are “sandwiched” between small-scale enterprise driven output and input value chains. The performance of these value chains determines the profitability and, therefore, the investment incentives and productive capacity of small farms. Support agricultural productivity.

“We need Knowledge and skills transfers to get to where we as farmers, the primary contributors, can assure the world we can be food secure.”

*Ms. Hellen Onyango,
Crop Aggregator, Farm to Market Alliance*

SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTIVITY

In line with the theme of AGRF 2021 on forging pathways to recovery and resilient food systems, the Sustainable Productivity thematic platform highlighted innovative models that aid the resilience of input systems for Africa’s food systems.

“To ensure smallholder markets receive high-quality inputs – fertilizer, seeds, other inputs – development finance partners must provide trade credit.”

*Mr. Jason Scarpone,
President & Chief Executive Officer, AFAP*

Leveraging Innovation in Africa’s Input Systems to Build Resilience and Enhance Sustainable Productivity explored:

- Insurance as a pathway to resilience.
- Seed access and seed sector development through the African Seed Access index (TASAI).
- Technology for input precision and accuracy to increase productivity and nutrient use efficiency.
- Mainstreaming insects for human consumption.

The role of finance in sustainable productivity was discussed. Financial institutions can develop products that are responsive to the unique needs of agri-enterprises. Instruments such as the Africa Fertilizer Financing Mechanism have successfully guaranteed financial institutions lending input finance to smallholder farmers.

“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)





YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AT AGRF

The AGRF program this year featured significant youth engagement.

Each morning a panel of four African youth ran a session dubbed **‘Good Morning AGRF’** to present an overview of the Summit’s program, in an interactive format highlighting their passion for the agricultural sector and commitment to transform the continent’s food systems. The sessions featured conversation between the youth and select global agricultural leaders.

In the **Youth Townhall**, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, engaged directly with youth from across the continent and reiterated his support for youth in agriculture.

The Youth Thematic Platform - Generation Africa - held a session on **Youth Engagement in Agriculture** to showcase initiatives and programs that are being implemented in various African countries for replication and scaling across the continent.

Several prizes were awarded to youth entrepreneurs including GoGettaz, Pitch AgriHack and The Heifer Africa Innovators Awards.

“Why Generation Africa? We need to support young dynamic entrepreneurs who want to build the future of Africa’s agriculture and food systems.”

Dr. Simon Winter CHBS, Executive Director, Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture

INSIGHTS

To close out each day of the AGRF Summit, a session dubbed insights reflected on the daily themes. These insights sessions raised the following issues and questions:

- What food systems do we want?
- Can African agriculture contribute to Net Zero?
- The Path to Resilience; priorities towards 2030
- Are we walking the path to change?

“We need to create an enabling environment for Agriculture. We must stop taxing farm machinery the same way we are taxing luxury vehicles.”

Ms. Betty Kiplagat, Head of Government Affairs at Corteva Agriscience in Africa Middle East, Corteva





KNOWLEDGE PORTAL



AGRF 2021 Declaration



Watch the 2021 AGRF sessions here



Read the side event reports here:



Watch the side events here



ONWARDS TO THE AGRF 2022 IN KIGALI

The Government of Rwanda serves as a long-term host of the AGRF Summit, championing its agenda throughout the year and hosting the annual Summit in all even years. The next Summit will be held from September 5th – 9th, 2022.

The AGRF Partners Group and the Government of Rwanda under the leadership of H.E. President Paul Kagame welcome you to Kigali, Rwanda in 2022.



DATE - SEPTEMBER 5 - 9, 2022

VENUE - KIGALI, RWANDA





AGRF PARTNERS



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



BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation



AGRF SPONSORS 2021





AGRF 2021 SUMMIT

Pathways to recovery and resilient food systems

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KIGALI, RWANDA

Email: secretariat@agrf.org

Website: www.agrf.org

