



TM

AGRF AFRICA'S FOOD
SYSTEMS FORUM



COP27
VOICES FROM THE
AGRF 2022
SUMMIT





“Africa contributes the least to what drives the climate change crisis and it informs our reasoning and actions, but it does not stop us from doing what we need to do.”
H.E. Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda





COP27 **VOICES FROM THE** **AGRF 2022** **SUMMIT**

The **AGRF 2022, Africa's Food Systems Summit**, was a critical gathering of global and African voices who met in Kigali, Rwanda, to discuss how African agriculture systems can be transformed to address vulnerability to economic and external shocks and make food production safe, nutritious and, most importantly, sustainable.

This year's theme was **Grow. Nourish. Reward. Bold Actions for Resilient Food Systems**. It heralded a call for faster action to build a more resilient and sustainable agricultural system across the continent while seeking to improve efficiencies through innovation and technology.

The issue of climate change was a central theme, with the COP27 meeting in Egypt just ahead. Delegates recognized the potential of climate change to affect food systems and underlined the need to employ both mitigation and adaptation strategies, with the impact of changing weather systems already affecting the continent.

African countries, working with the African Union, committed to developing a common voice to be put forward at the event, clearly articulating the continent's agenda and priorities.

4 CORE AREAS IN RACE TO RESILIENCE

Government representatives of African countries, working with the African Union, agreed to develop a common voice to put forward at the event, clearly articulating the continent's agenda and priorities.

In terms of agriculture, these would be underpinned by four strategic areas of actions.

1



Transformation of Food Systems

2



Building Resilience in African Food Production

3



Markets and Trade

4



Accelerating Climate Action Through Food Systems





TRANSFORMATION OF FOOD SYSTEMS

“We need to make sure that the small-scale producers are at the heart, the front and center, of the food system.”

**Dr. Ismahane Elouafi, Chief Scientist,
Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations (FAO)**



TRANSFORMATION OF FOOD SYSTEMS

Africa, along with other regions, has been buffeted by crises in recent years that have exposed the structural weakness of its food systems and highlighted the urgent need for structural transformation in the way food is produced, processed, marketed and consumed.

The continent has a food import bill of about \$50 billion a year despite having the largest tracts of arable land globally.

Climate change now threatens to further undermine these already fragile processes, speaking to the urgent need to bolster African agriculture to make it more resilient, more productive and more able to withstand external shocks.



Despite great potential and opportunity, the post-harvest segment of Africa's food system is largely underdeveloped. With investment and innovation, the sector could support employment for the exploding youth population.

Africa's ability to build resilient and sustainable markets within Africa requires a range of inter-related actions.

These include addressing inefficiencies in the value chain that make it costly to produce and distribute both raw and processed food products and ensuring access to land, finance and inputs. Post-harvest management and finding – and reaching – markets are critical factors for success.

Increased productivity is essential to deal with megatrends in agriculture such as rapid urbanization and rapidly growing populations.

Innovation can drive the process of scaling up food production and efficiency of storage, distribution and market access.

The continent has plans and strategies to improve pathways to food systems transformation, but countries need to accelerate the pace of implementation by improving productivity in agriculture, attracting more investment and putting in place an ecosystem for the rapid rollout of technology and collation of reliable data.

Policy makers and funders need to focus not only adaptation methods but climate change mitigation as the crisis is already affecting countries across the continent. This requires strong governance, regional collaboration and the structural transformation of Africa's food systems at a country level.





BUILDING RESILIENCE IN AFRICAN FOOD PRODUCTION

“If we are not talking about building the resilience of farmers, talking about food systems doesn’t matter.”

Mr Jai Shroff, CEO, UPL





BUILDING RESILIENCE IN AFRICAN FOOD PRODUCTION

Building resilience at the base of the pyramid among smallholder farmers, the backbone of farming in Africa but also the most at-risk communities, is key.

Smallholder farmers must be supported to become more resilient, and their production able to withstand seasonal shocks. Smart farming methods need to be encouraged and funded while land tenure systems need to be simplified and efficiently managed.

As climate change begins to take its toll, it is no longer enough to increase crop production or improve plant breeding on their own. Productivity must be increased by doing more with less.



Addressing soil health through proper management and deployment of fertilizer is essential to building sustainable systems, complemented by appropriate technology that is made accessible to farmers in terms of both internet availability and products geared to this segment of the value chain.

The solutions must be bottom up, to ensure strategies employed and support mechanisms are appropriate and effective.

Existing plans and projects in food production need urgently to be scaled up to address growing demand for food, and to boost trade of products across the continent.

A healthy diet is critical to improving health and has added climate and environmental benefits. In the African Union Year of Nutrition, African governments and their partners were challenged to ensure nutrition is at the forefront of priorities and action plans for COVID-19 response and recovery.

The shift to more nutritious food is supported by prominent leaders across the continent who are championing the transformative actions needed to change dietary preferences and investment in enriching staple foods.



MARKETS AND TRADE

“Adaptation to climate risks is overdue and must become a central theme of climate actions. The global effort to build climate resilience is needed. And of course, Africa has to be a central part of that global effort.”

Professor Joachim von Braun,
University of Bonn

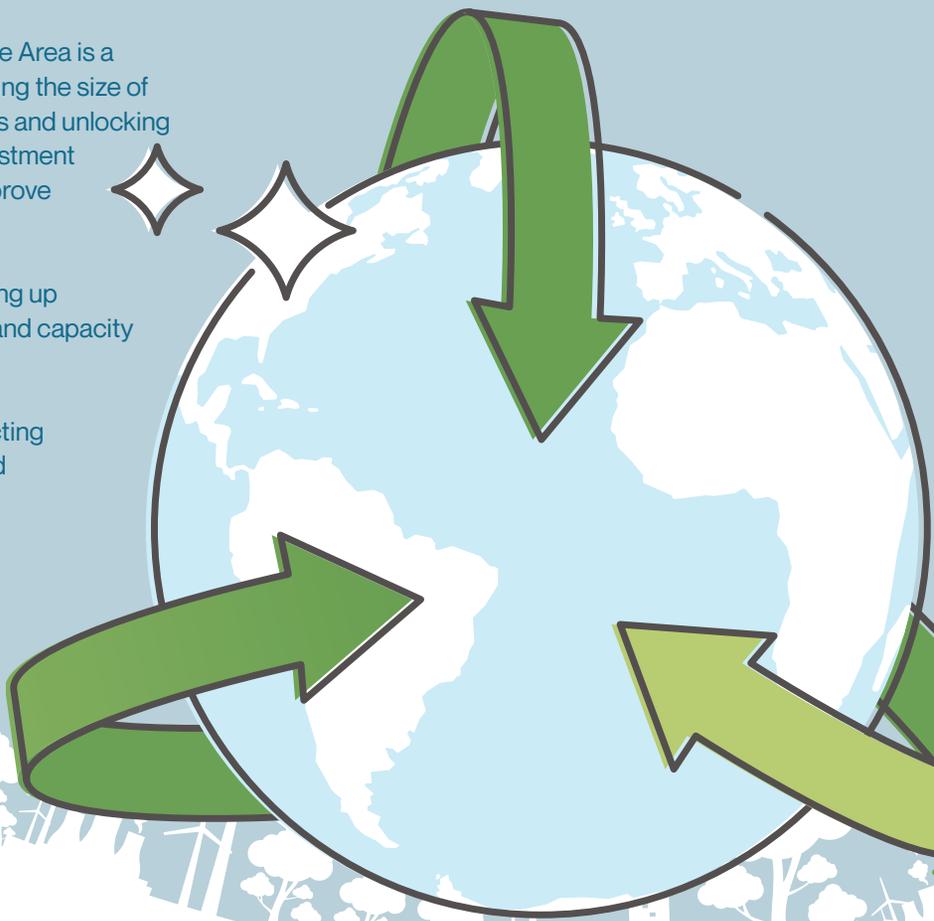


MARKETS AND TRADE

The importance of regional food trade as a pathway for Africa's recovery was highlighted at AGRF 2022, given its potential to build resilient food systems and drive sustainable economic growth.

The African Continental Free Trade Area is a significant opportunity for increasing the size of markets for the continent's farmers and unlocking new opportunities for greater investment in agricultural infrastructure to improve the ease of trade.

It offers opportunities for the scaling up of agriculture, skills development and capacity building in this critical sector while also boosting progress in creating industrialized economies by attracting investment into manufacturing and energy generation.





Regional collaboration in relation to trade is also an opportunity for countries to share experiences and information relating to climate change mitigation efforts in the wake of agreements reached at COP27



Value addition must become the bedrock of agricultural policy, particularly as regional trade offers new markets for processed goods. New models are also needed.



The pandemic has driven a shift to shorter supply chains, boosting the sourcing of raw materials in domestic and regional markets by multinational companies.



Policy makers need to come to the party to improve the ease and cost of doing business in their countries to ensure the competitiveness of Made in Africa goods and services.



Regional collaboration in relation to trade is also an opportunity for countries to share experiences and information relating to climate change mitigation efforts in the wake of agreements reached at **COP27**.



ACCELERATING CLIMATE ACTION THROUGH FOOD SYSTEMS

“Access to food and food systems must be included in the climate agenda if we are to build resilience”

Agnes Kalibata, President AGRA



Accelerating Climate Action Through Food Systems

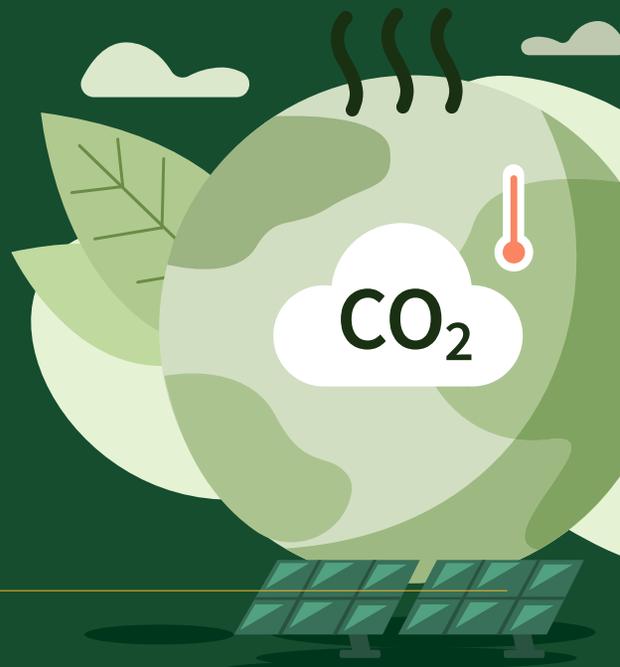


Agriculture is one of the largest contributors to climate change on the planet, accounting for about **30% of the world's carbon emissions.**

Although Africa is one of the least responsible regions for carbon emissions, climate change is a key constraint to the continent realizing the unprecedented opportunities offered by agricultural transformation.

The impacts of changing weather patterns are already taking their toll on agriculture on the continent and time is running out for the sector to adapt to the changing environment while meeting climate goals and reducing emissions. The move to better yields and developing climate-resilient crops is critical.

This requires improving soil health, increasing biodiversity, enhancing water management and improving the nutritional content of food.





Africa must turn to science and innovation to build climate-resilient food systems. Farmers should look again at indigenous foods, which may be hardier than newer crops introduced over the years.

Making climate action ‘business as usual’, rather than focusing too much on specific interventions, is critical as countries try to both adapt to this new crisis and mitigate against its immediate effects.

A major constraint continues to be finance. Already African agriculture is regarded as high risk by investors and financiers because of the largely informal nature of farming, poor policies, lack of mechanization and technology and small land sizes.

Funding gaps are already significant and climate change adaptation and mitigation costs represent a new layer of costs. Derisking requires a multistakeholder approach to financing, guarantees and products, backed by global funds focusing on climate change.



TIPPING THE BALANCE IN CLIMATE FINANCE

“Political leaders need to prioritize and appropriately fund food systems, climate, and nature-based solutions. We must advocate for this to change as a food systems community”

**H.E Hailermariam Dessalegn,
Chair AGRF Partner’s Group**

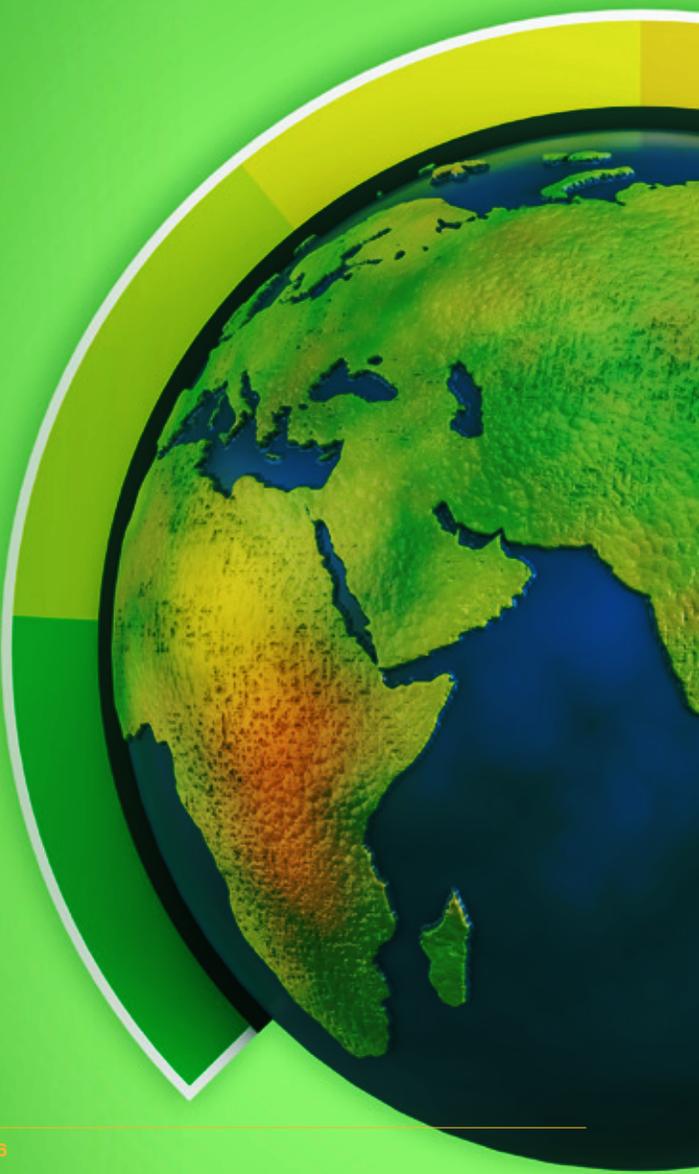


TIPPING THE BALANCE IN CLIMATE FINANCE

Africa contributes just 3% to global emissions but is greatly affected and least equipped to manage the changes required to adapt. Africa is already facing severe food shortages caused by external factors and the lack of expenditure of at least \$15 billion a year in agriculture related adaptation measures could lead to a further cost of \$201 billion in climate impacts. Only 1.5% of global climate finance is channelled to small-scale agriculture and more than 95% is provided from public sources.

The AGRF Agribusiness Deal Room and AIM for Climate brought together world leading funding, policy and implementing areas together to present their thoughts on how to tip the balance in climate finance towards private sector investment in adaptation.

Investing in agri-SMEs in Africa is critical. They are core to African agriculture, handling the majority of food consumed in Africa. Unlike multinationals they cannot respond to climate change by moving to other geographies.





Six insights that could help to tip the balance towards increased flows of private sector resources to stem the 30% yields loss expected by 2050, if Africa does nothing.

-  More grant-based support is needed to incubate and accelerate good ideas enable them to become investible and move to scale through access to the existing forms climate finance that are readily available.
-  Adaptation is local. Africa's local banks needs to be mobilised, along with last mile delivery platforms, to enable innovation to be implemented in context specific ways.
-  The role of carbon credits needs to researched and piloted, to make it significantly easier for agri-SMEs to afford the climate products and services they need to adapt.
-  The nexus of agriculture and energy and/or transport could offer solutions to tackle both adaptation and mitigation and to increase bankability of projects.
-  Address the information gap by sharing proven climate-smart agriculture products and services.
-  All actors need to match the courage of the young agripreneurs leading the way, such as the AGRF Go-Gettaz winners.

YOUTH_LED CLIMATE SMART BUSINESSES TO WATCH



Ms Esther Kimani

Kenya SME -
GoGettaz Winner

FarmerLifeLine
Technologies

The CDD (Crop Pest & Disease Detection Device) detects crop pests and diseases early enough and sends a text message to the farmer.



Mr Dennis Ssekimpi

Uganda SME -
GoGettaz Winner

HYA
BIOPLASTICS

We created bio-based and 100% home compostable food packaging that provides a cost competitive alternative to petroleum-based plastics



Ms Nancy Iraba

Tanzania SME -
GoGettaz Impact
Award

Healthy
Seaweed
CO. Limited
(*Seaweed
Cafe)

Supports 2 groups of smallholders seaweed women producers in Zanzibar through training of converting seaweed to food for more income generation and by buying raw seaweed with higher price from their farms



Mr Eloge Niyomwungere

Burundi SME -
GoGettaz Impact
Award

Best Food
Solution

Social enterprise which adds value to locally produced chili in order to eradicate chili post-harvest loss through value addition and export of chili products. We process Burundian chili into innovative products like chili oil , chili powder , Sundried chili and red chilli pesticides.



Mr Kombo Ekra Noël N'guessan

Côte d'Ivoire
SME - GoGettaz
Impact Award

LONO

Clean Technologies for Rural Development: Products and services for agriculture, renewable energy, bio-fuels and waste management

CALL TO ACTION: AGRF 2022 SUMMIT OUTCOMES

African Heads of States, government ministers, and senior stakeholders from the global private sector and NGO community, collectively emphasised the following priority actions emerging from AGRF 2022.



Climate Action

Forge a common African position on climate change for COP27 and call for a USD 200bn annual investment in adaptative food systems in Africa



Innovation

Integrate innovation and technology into agricultural systems



Nutrition

Promote and ensure access to safe and nutritious food



Regional trade

Strengthen regional trade systems to boost intra-African trade



Food Systems approach

Forge new pathways to achieving the key sustainable development goal of

ending hunger by 2030 and building resilience and self-sufficiency into food value chains



Local Sourcing

Boost Africa's food production and processing to shorten supply chains.



Investments

Governments commit to increase spending on agriculture and improving operating and policy environments to attract investors.



Smallholder farmers

Direct critical interventions to capacity building of smallholder farmers, including building their resilience to climate change and improving productivity and resilience.

SPOTLIGHT ON: THE AFRICA CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE COOLING AND COLD-CHAIN (ACES)



The Centre has been established to develop and accelerate uptake of sustainable cold chain solutions in the agriculture and health sectors throughout Africa. In doing so, ACES will economically empower farmers, increase export revenues, enhance job creation in rural areas, mitigate climate and environment impacts, and foster low-carbon development.

ACES will test, adapt, demonstrate and transfer the different technologies and strategies to the real-world scenario, from farm to fork. It will connect local and international experts, investors, private companies, farmers' organizations, and energy and logistics providers. The programme is developed by the Governments of Rwanda and the United Kingdom (UK), the United Nations Environment Programme and the UK's Centre for Sustainable Cooling. Learn more on <https://coolingafrica.org/>

The role of digitization and big data in climate action

Food systems transformation can be accelerated by data-driven strategies and policies. Farmers farmers must be supported by effective and tailor-made data systems that not only forecast but can provide directions on how to respond to coming events. It is essential that farmers trust and have confidence in data systems, which requires that they be placed at the center of any data model that is designed for their

benefit. At the policy level, governments and agencies need to adopt a more collaborative approach, where policies are interlinked and there is transparency and openness. Governments must recognize the role of the private sector and collaborate to achieve a shared goal of. In applying solutions local contexts must be accounted for, recognizing that African communities are not homogenous and do not lend themselves to a one-size-fits-all solution.

*'Women are very often on the frontline of livelihoods and adapting to the effects of climate change, they are powerful agents of change and promoters of adaptation and mitigation action. – We need to see women as agents of change not victims', **Dr. Nicoline de Haan, Director, CGAIR GENDER Platform.***

Grow.Nourish.Reward.

Bold Actions for Resilient Food Systems



“African women will be key champions, but more actions is required.

There is enough data on women’s unique needs in the face of climate change but there is a need to translate these data into relatable products and services adaptable to the diverse needs of women’s businesses – Data is not good until it is turned into action”

Vicki Wilde, Senior Program Officer at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.



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