



AFRICA FOOD SYSTEMS FORUM 2023

Recover, Regenerate, Act:
Africa's Solutions to Food Systems Transformation

#AGRF2023



RECOVER, REGENERATE, ACT: AFRICA'S SOLUTIONS TO FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION



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1. AFRICA FOOD SYSTEMS FORUM 2023 THEME



Sustainable food systems are crucial for human life, well-being, and livelihoods and a healthy planet. Today, African food systems face various challenges, including climate change, depletion of natural resources, changing consumption patterns, demographic growth, biodiversity loss, pollution, conflict, migration, and external crises and shocks. These vulnerabilities are compounded by a lack of finance, equipment, technologies, and infrastructure, inadequate digital connectivity for reliable access to markets and services, as well as adequate coordination mechanisms, governance structures, and policies. This results in food and nutrition insecurity, environmental degradation, and loss of biodiversity. Furthermore, food production methods and diets that rely on imported fertilizers and food staples exacerbate these problems.

RECOVER, REGENERATE, ACT: AFRICA'S SOLUTIONS TO FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

To overcome these challenges, it is essential to transform African food systems by increasing local food production and building resilience to global, regional, and local challenges. Africa has a diverse range of ecosystems and agricultural zones, abundant potential for renewable energy sources, and a youth dividend. If harnessed and organized properly, together, they can drive recovery, regenerate natural resources, and meet food and nutrition security goals, while safeguarding the natural capital for future generations. Building inclusive and sustainable food systems has the potential to address poverty, food and nutrition insecurity, the inequalities affecting women and youth, and unemployment, paving the way to more inclusive, stable, and prosperous Africa societies.



The Africa Food Systems Forum 2023 summit will take place in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania under the leadership of H.E Samia Suluhu Hassan from September 4-8, 2023. The theme for this year's summit – **Recover, Regenerate, Act: Africa's Solutions for Food Systems Transformation** – is anchored around building back better food systems and food sovereignty with the youth and women at the center. It is a call for urgent action to transform rural economies and food systems by making them

more inclusive, productive, resilient, and sustainable. The summit will renew political commitment and energy to transforming African food systems through sustainable management of agriculture and natural resources focused on producing more and locally to feed a growing African population and create jobs and wealth for youth and women, improving livelihoods across the continent. The 2023 summit will showcase African solutions for food systems transformation.

This year's theme is a call to action for all stakeholders in the food systems – primarily women and youth - to work together to produce more food locally, transforming them into sustainable, equitable, and resilient systems. The theme identifies three steps needed to achieve this transformation. Recovery, Regenerate, and Act.



Recovery: calls for decisive strategies and actions to rebuild food systems after multiple crises and shocks.



Regenerate: emphasizes the need to regenerate natural capital resources with adaptation practices, innovation, and technology for sustainable food production in a changing climate context.



Act: urges urgent action to accelerate food systems transformation through better policies, practices, and investments.







2. KEY SUMMIT TAKEAWAYS AND OUTCOMES



Africa's innovations and solutions to global food systems challenges with potential for scale-up are shared.



Progress towards the transformation of food systems across the continent is assessed and highlighted.



Progress from the investments and commitments made through the Agribusiness DealRoom are assessed and ways to strengthen the platform are identified.



Political and policy commitments around production, markets, trade pathways, and investment plans to deliver food system transformation are made.



Political commitment is renewed, and a declaration centered around women and youth on advancing climate resilience food systems in Africa is launched.



Donors' roundtable to introduce the host country's Build Better Tomorrow legacy program is held. A programmatic business model on how Tanzania could pilot food system transformation at the country level and its scalability at the continental level is shared and discussed.



Innovative financing instruments such as catalytic funds to unlock public resources, funding from development partners, and private investment for youth and women-led agribusinesses are mobilized.

3. PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



The AGRF 2023 Summit will bring together a diverse range of speakers to showcase the actionable strategies and how previously defined pathways are being translated at the country level. The AGRF program is built on three key pillars: ambition, action, and partnership. Attendees can come together during the plenary sessions at the start and close of each day and choose to join individual sessions tailored to their specific interests.



GOOD MORNING AGRF

Each morning, youth coming from GoGettaz, from the host country, and various youth organizations will get us excited about the tracks and events of the day.

PLENARY SESSIONS

These plenary sessions feature pre-eminent speakers taking a deep dive into the various themes and unpacking issues pertinent to African food systems.

INTELLIGENCE FOR POLICY, INNOVATION PRGRAMS & INVESTMENTS THEMATIC SESSIONS

The Intelligence for Policy, Programs & Innovation Thematic Sessions will prioritize the development of the thematic platforms and support the goals of the event. These sessions will focus on knowledge and data for innovative policies, programs and investments, emphasizing the following themes: Power of data, information & research for sustainable food systems; Regenerative agriculture & resilient food systems; Infrastructure and logistics for food transformation and trade; the Africa Agricultural Trade Monitor (AATM).

FUTURE OF FOOD SYSTEMS

The Future of Food Systems sessions will serve as the Innovators showcase, highlighting the way forward for Africa's food systems advancement in terms of availability, affordability, accessibility, and sustainability. The sessions will focus on priority agricultural commodity value chains and agroecological zones, providing a red thread through the program. At the end of each day, reflections will be made to bring together the various tracks into common themes and results.



SPECIAL EVENTS

The Summit will feature special events designed to showcase ideas and trending innovations by the youth, farmers, civil society, and business leaders.

CEO CHAT

An interactive parallel panel of distinguished CEOs and leaders discussing key insights on shaping the future of food systems. Sharing innovative and sustainable food systems solutions and practices to tackle global challenges. The CEO Chat includes influential financial and business industries speakers addressing the audience on critical food systems topics, including youth and women, digital, innovative, and blended financing.

DEAL ROOM

The Agribusiness Dealroom is a matchmaking platform that convenes stakeholders from the entire eco-system to facilitate partnerships and investments in African agriculture and Food systems. It specifically supports governments and SMEs with access to finance and partnership opportunities. A key moment which attracts annually over 800 companies, 15 government delegations and 150 public and private investors exploring a wide range of investment opportunities.

LEGACY PROGRAM ROUNDTABLE

A key moment during the summit, at the Roundtable, the Government of the Republic of Tanzania brings together Tanzania's bilateral donor countries and, Financial Institutions, Investors to pledge and support the Implementation of a Tanzania Flagship Program legacy BBT program on food systems with a focus on Youth and women.



L'ARBRE À PALABRES (BREAKTHROUGHS TREE)

Throughout the AGRF, join our special venue to hear from a wide array of innovators on food systems breakthroughs. In a more conversational forum in our interactive stage, join chefs, inventors, authors, academics, policymakers, and small businesses as they describe the techniques to break through to a food system that is more inclusive, sustainable, profitable, and nutritious.

TEDx TALKS AT AGRF TEDx

is a grassroots initiative created in the spirit of TED's overall mission to research and discover "ideas worth spreading." TEDx will bring the spirit of TED to AGRF local communities around the globe through TEDx events. It seeks to uncover new ideas and to share the latest research in their local areas that spark conversations on Food Systems Transformation. Seven African youth leaders, including young women telling their stories on transforming food systems on the continent.

4. ABOUT THE HOST COUNTRY – THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



Tanzania is one of the countries in Africa that is making significant strides toward transforming its food systems. The government has put in place various initiatives to improve food production, reduce hunger, and ensure food security for its citizens. The country has adopted various strategies toward food sufficiency and security.



- **Increased agricultural productivity:** The country has introduced initiatives such as the Agricultural Sector Development Program (ASDP) and the Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI). These initiatives have promoted the use of modern technology and best agricultural practices, resulting in increased crop yields and improved food security.
- **Promotion of agroecology:** Tanzania is promoting agroecology practices that prioritize the conservation of natural resources, biodiversity, and the environment. Agroecology practices have been integrated into the National Agriculture Policy and are being promoted through various programs such as the Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM).
- **Expansion of irrigation schemes:** Tanzania has expanded its irrigation schemes to increase crop production and enhance food security. The government has invested in the construction of dams and irrigation infrastructure to provide water for farming activities.
- **Increased private sector participation:** The government has encouraged private sector investment in agriculture through various initiatives such as the Kilimo Kwanza program. This has led to increased investment in the agricultural sector, improved access to finance, and increased employment opportunities.
- **Improved market access:** Tanzania has made efforts to improve market access for farmers through initiatives such as the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) and the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB). These initiatives have provided farmers with access to markets, financing, and storage facilities.

With the implementation of these initiatives, Tanzania is moving towards achieving its food security goals. However, there is still a need for further investment and policy reform to ensure sustainable, resilient, and equitable food systems in Tanzania.



The United Republic
of Tanzania



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