



The United Republic
of Tanzania



AFRICA FOOD SYSTEMS FORUM 2023

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

SEPTEMBER 4-8, 2023
DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA

FORUM
REPORT



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WELCOME

TO THE AFS FORUM 2023 REPORT



HE Hailemariam Dessalegn
Chair, AGRA Board



“ The forum provided a platform to reflect on the coordinated large-scale action undertaken by the continent’s and global leading thinkers, policymakers, and innovators to explore the latest breakthroughs and best practices in agriculture and food systems transformation. ”

The 2023 Forum was a landmark event, as it was the first summit held under the new brand of the Africa Food Systems Forum, now known as AFS Forum. It was a key moment for highlighting the political, policy and financial commitments and innovations the continent has made and continues to work towards to achieve productive, nutritious, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable food systems.

The forum provided a platform to reflect on the coordinated large-scale action undertaken by the continent’s and global leading thinkers, policymakers, and innovators to explore the latest breakthroughs and best practices in agriculture and food systems transformation. It called for bold thought leadership to accelerate action towards translating food systems pathways and commitments into actionable strategies, particularly to address climate.

Asante Sana to the United Republic of Tanzania, under the excellent leadership of H.E. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, for hosting the Africa Food Systems Forum 2023. As the host country of this remarkable forum, for the second time, Tanzania has exemplified the spirit of the forum through innovative initiatives such as the Build Better Tomorrow Investment Program leaving a legacy for years to come.

I thank all our partners for making the AFS Forum 2023 a resounding success. The success of this year’s forum was made possible through strong government ownership, support, and collaboration. The AFS Forum’s growth as the world’s premier forum on African agriculture and food systems is testament to the great things that can be accomplished when we come together to address food and nutrition security while creating jobs opportunities for youth and women. Thank you for joining us. I hereby present to you the proceedings from the Africa Food Systems Forum 2023.





Hon. Hussein Mohamed Bashe

Minister of Agriculture of
the United Republic of Tanzania

“ This year’s theme allowed us to bring many innovations to the AFS Forum including concrete deals (The BBT Investment Program) and reflect on how we can move forward together to accelerate action towards translating food systems pathways and commitments into actionable strategies. ”

Under the leadership of H.E. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, Tanzania is honored to have hosted all of you in Dar Es Salaam and Zanzibar, and I hope you had a wonderful time. By empowering women and youth to engage in sustainable food production, Tanzania is an inspiring model demonstrating how inclusivity can be a cornerstone of our journey towards sustainable food systems transformation.

To make the quantum leap to overcome the challenge of hunger on the continent, we cannot afford to leave anyone behind, and youth and women must be at the centre of our action. Tanzania calls upon all African nations to prioritize inclusivity in our food systems, allowing our young people and women to assume their rightful roles. As a nation, we are wholeheartedly dedicated to this transformative mission, and the AFS Forum served as an excellent platform to highlight the

proactive involvement of youth and women. Furthermore, it was a significant opportunity to showcase Tanzania’s efforts towards food sovereignty.

This year’s theme allowed us to bring many innovations within the AFS Forum including concrete deal (The BBT Investment Program) and reflect on how we can move forward together to accelerate action towards translating food systems pathways and commitments into actionable strategies. This requires financial reforms and allow enough flow of funds to reach the most vulnerable people. Now we must harness the potential of our continent to feed our people and the world!

Asante Sana! Thank You! ***Karibuni Tanzania Tena!***





Dr. Agnes Kalibata

President of AGRA

“ We have made commitments. We explored the pathways and actions needed to accelerate this process and steer the continent towards food systems transformation, we must now act urgently particularly in a context crisis. ”

The Africa Food Systems Forum has grown to become one of the largest food systems forum globally. Under the leadership of H.E. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, Tanzania hosted the largest forum to date breaking our own records. We thank all the SMEs, youth, farmers, leaders, speakers, partners, and the people of the United Republic of Tanzania who helped make this a reality.

We have made commitments, explored the pathways and actions needed to accelerate this process and steer the continent towards food systems transformation, we must now act with urgency particularly in a context crisis. Global food systems are facing unprecedented challenges from climate change, the Russia-Ukraine crisis, population growth, economic downturn, youth unemployment, the gender gap, and other pressing issues; the need for transformative action has never been more urgent. The time is now!

I want to thank Her Excellency, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, for her strong leadership and for hosting the AFS Forum 2023 and the trust in AGRA and the forum to support Tanzania's Food Systems Agenda. We are grateful to our board and the Partners Group under the able Chair H.E Hailemariam Dessalegn, former Prime Minister of Ethiopia and Chair of AGRA Board of Directors.

As we are heading to COP 28, I hope this forum has reignited our resolve to Recover, Regenerate, and Act urgently to transform our continent's food systems to feed Africa and the world under a changing climate!





Svein Tore Holsether

President and Chief Executive Officer, Yara International



“ Whether we are delving into topics related to soil health or climate solutions, we have the opportunity to delve into the intricate web of interconnected issues, fostering a more holistic approach to the challenges before us. ”

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that Yara joins in co-chairing the steering committee of the African Food Systems (AFS) Forum. 2023 marked a significant milestone in our collective journey towards agricultural transformation and the establishment of sustainable food systems on the African continent.

On behalf of the AFS Forum partners, our heartfelt appreciation goes out to the United Republic of Tanzania for hosting a truly exceptional forum that witnessed an extraordinary level of participation. What sets the AFS Forum apart is the depth of the discussions that unfold both in the hallways and during workshops. These dialogues and exchanges have added a remarkable level of complexity and nuance to our conversations, enabling delegates to explore comprehensive solutions. Whether we are delving into topics related to soil health or climate solutions, we have the opportunity to delve into the intricate

web of interconnected issues, fostering a more holistic approach to the challenges before us.

In a world where complex problems demand innovative solutions, partnerships, and cohesion are paramount. The AFS Forum 2023 served as a powerful reminder of the importance of working together, breaking down silos, and harnessing the collective wisdom and resources of all stakeholders. The convergence of voices and perspectives from a diverse array of stakeholders, including the youth, farmers, fishers, representatives from the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and government officials, has forged an unparalleled and remarkably effective platform for collaborative progress.

THANK YOU





Mr. Amath Pathé Sene

Managing Director,
Africa Food Systems Forum

The Africa Food Systems Forum 2023 brought together more than 5400 delegates from 90 countries – including 5 Heads of State and Government, 6 former Heads of State and Government, 35 Ministers, and more than 80 heads of international agencies and businesses. CEOs of global, regional, and national companies, including SMEs, combined to form a private sector delegation of 1200 people, with youth, farmers and women representing 57% of the speakers.

This was the highest ever attendance of the summit since its creation of the AFS Forum tripling the average attendance of previous forums. This shows the importance of food systems for the continent, and we expect the attention and interest to continue to grow thanks to all attendees. The AFS Forum 2023 was focused on innovation and offered dedicated space for youth and women and their inclusion in all sessions. We organised field visits to give participants and investors the possibility to experience the field and see opportunities,

integration of next platforms such as TEDx youth, migrants, CEO chats. More importantly a whole program that reflected food systems with all themes covered. One of the main innovations was the AFS Forum Legacy Program, which serves as a framework for the host country to implement a concrete investment that can be financed by investors. The BBT Investment Program which received US\$600 million in commitments in the next six years is the first in a series of Legacy Programs to be developed in the editions to come.

The Forum explored the pathways and actions needed to accelerate the process and provided a mandate to steer the continent towards food systems transformation under the theme “Recover, Regenerate, Act: Africa’s Solutions to Food Systems Transformation.”

Major commitments in the areas of climate change, soil health, nutrition, inclusivity, collaborative action, financing, and investments

needed to drive transformational change, while elevating trade and market efficiency. The Deal Room further positioned the AFS Forum as a prime venue for connecting agribusinesses and investment opportunities with critically needed capital.

Our sincere gratitude goes to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and her generous people for hosting this successful Africa Food Systems Forum 2023. Thank you for your warm hospitality and generosity. A special thanks goes to the Local Organizing committee, and the AFS Forum partners group for your commitment towards Africa’s food systems transformation and to our delegates for your participation and contribution to the forum. We invite you to reflect with us on the AFS Forum 2023 outcomes and commitments and look forward to seeing you in Kigali from Sep 2 - 6 for the AFS Forum 2024!





AFS Forum 2023 IN NUMBERS



5,400
Delegates



90
Countries



5
Heads Of State
& Government



6
Former
Heads
Of State



80
International
Agencies



1200
Private Sector
Agencies



30
Ministers



140
Journalists



500
Speakers



41
Sessions



57%
Participants
Women



18
Parliamentarians



71.4m
Potential Media
Reach

THE AFRICA AGRIBUSINESS DEAL ROOM

continued to catalyse investments and finance into
Africa's Food Systems



THE DEAL ROOM COMMUNITY

10 governments

1,200 private sector players

3 MAJOR VALUE CHAINS:
Rice, Livestock and Fisheries

60 SMEs

More than
100 investors



INVESTMENT PIPELINE

Active SME pipeline of
US\$ 127 Million
under consideration

US\$ 10.2 Billion
in national food systems investment
opportunities



TOP 3 SME ASKS:

1

Fuel subsidies to facilitate lower operational costs and ultimately food prices

2

Maintain fertilizer subsidies for farmers to ensure upstream produce supply

3

Improve the enabling environment for business (taxes, business payments, non-tariff costs)

HIGHLIGHTS



“ The AFS Forum has undoubtedly grown to become the largest food systems forum globally. It is time to move beyond talking about Africa’s potential. Let’s talk about action and getting things done. Let’s harness Africa’s potential. ”

Dr. Agnes Kalibata, President, AGRA

From 5 to 8 September, over 5400 delegates gathered for the Africa Food Systems Forum in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. Under the theme, “Recover, Regenerate, Act: Africa’s Solutions to Food Systems Transformation,” discussions focused on building back better food systems and food sovereignty with youth and women at the center.

Hosted by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, this was the first Africa Food Systems Forum since the rebranding of

the AGRF in alignment with our partner’s vision for comprehensive food system transformation. The focus now extends beyond the annual forum to promote discussion and action on pivotal decisions on food systems and food security. Our goal is to foster continuous stakeholder engagement throughout the year in measures of action and policies that are crucial for achieving our continent’s food security objectives.

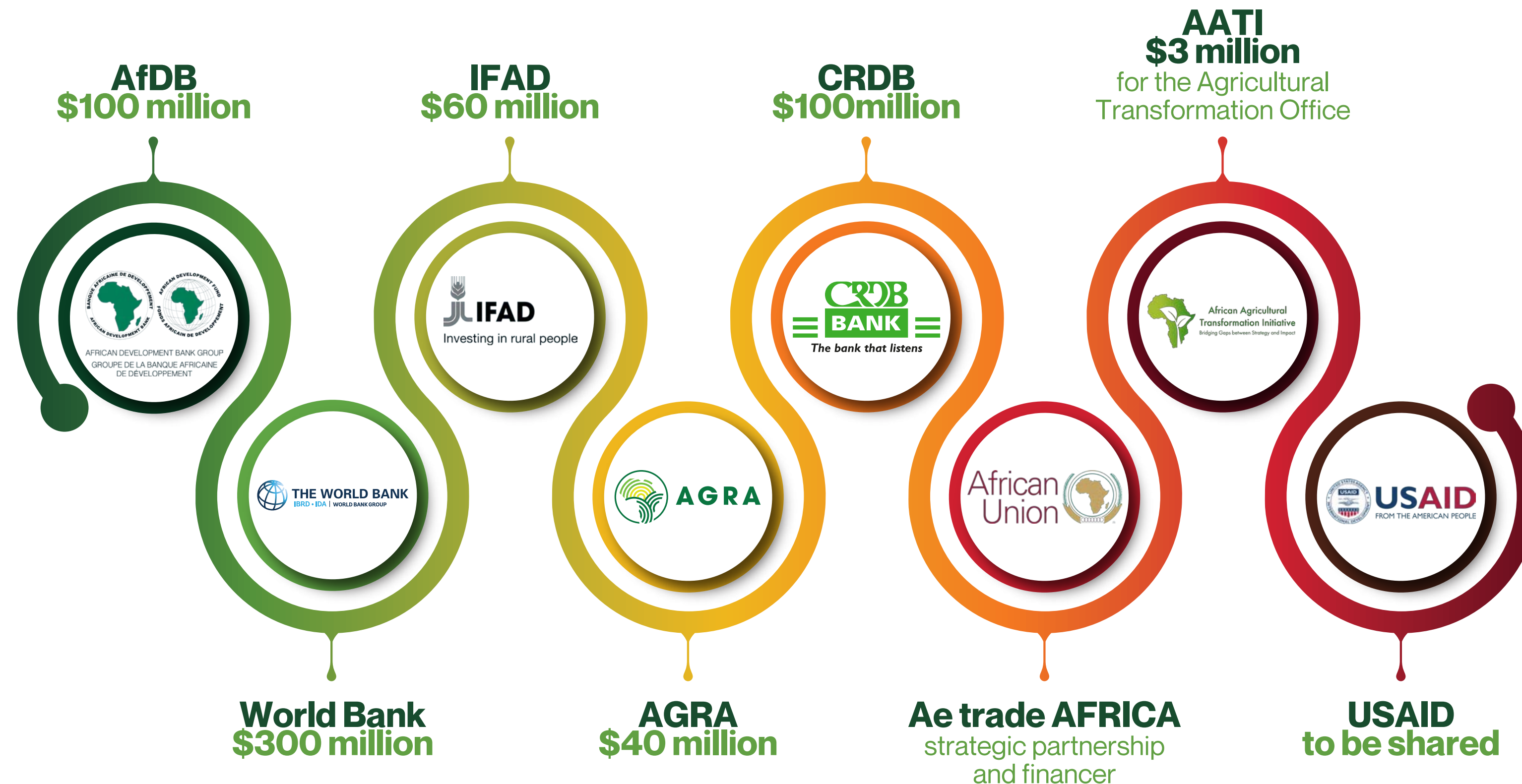


THE COMMITMENTS



Building Better Tomorrow (BBT) Investment Program, a legacy program from the AFS Forum 2023

The BBT Investment program received US\$600 million in commitments from the African Development Bank, AGRA, IFAD, Ae Trade Group, African Agricultural Transformation Initiative (AATI), CRDB Bank, World Bank and The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for the next 6 years. The BBT Program, based on a sustainable food systems approach, aims to involve 1.6 million youths in diverse food system segments in Tanzania. It also plans to indirectly impact 10 million people in 12,000 villages and contribute to the development of 200,000 youth and women-owned businesses. As a pilot initiative, it aims to catalyze national-level food system transformations, with the ultimate goal of global expansion, exemplifying a visionary approach. to widespread change.





PRESIDENTIAL DELIVERY COUNCIL, AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION OFFICE & AGRICULTURE DELIVERY UNIT



In addition to the BBT, Tanzania has created a Presidential Delivery Council, established an Agricultural Transformation Office and Agriculture Delivery Unit to accelerate agricultural productivity in food systems. Tanzania President, Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan has committed to triple the country's budget for agriculture and implement multi-year strategies aimed at addressing the sector's pressing challenges. The ATO will play the crucial role of developing and implementing Tanzania's Agriculture Master Plan. The ATO was launched in the margins of the AFS Forum in partnership with the African Agricultural Transformation Initiative.

CRDB CLIMATE RESILIENCE FUND



CRDB is the first bank in Tanzania to be accredited by the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Using concessional resources from the GCF in 2022, CRDB set up the Tanzania Agriculture Climate Adaptation Technology Deployment Programme (TACATDP) worth US\$200 million. Through TACATDP, CRDB is setting up three new financial products to support local agribusinesses: a dedicated credit line for climate adaptation technologies and practices; a credit guarantee facility to expand access to new borrowers; and a weather-indexed insurance product to help protect against losses from climate-related events. Over 6 million farmers will benefit from the programme. CRDB committed 100 million USD to the BBT Investment Program.



KENYA TO BUILD 100 MEGA DAMS

At the Presidential Summit, Kenya President, H.E. Dr. William Samoei Ruto announced his government's intention to raise US\$11.5 billion through public-private partnerships to build 100 mega dams and 1000 micro dams. This initiative will bring three million acres under irrigation by 2026, helping address the country's water and food security challenges and benefit over 2 million smallholders by 2030.





THE COMMITMENTS

METL TO RAISE US\$ 1 BILLION FOR AGRICULTURAL EXPANSION IN AFRICA



MeTL President, Mr. Mohammed Dewji, announced his initiative to raise US\$1 Billion to go towards agricultural expansion and agroprocessing, including in sisal and sugarcane value chains. At the Agribusiness Deal Room, MeTL committed to invest US\$100 million in four Rwandan companies engaged in production agriculture and other strategic sectors.

RWANDA FERTILIZER BLENDING PLANT



In partnership with the OCP Group, Rwanda's fertilizer blending plant will process and blend 100,000 tonnes of fertilizers per year. The initiative aims to switch from generic to tailor-made fertilizers and lower the cost of fertilizers to boost agricultural output and farmers' income.

EQUITY BANK'S AFRICA RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE PLAN



The plan aims to capacitate, finance and connect East African Community value chains to global supply chains. Through the plan, the bank will support industrial needs and promote the development of an entrepreneurial and innovative local workforce.





US\$15 MILLION FROM UNITED STATES TO SUPPORT FOOD SYSTEMS IN AFRICA



The new investments will support inclusive and resilient food systems in Africa by providing targeted support to women, smallholder farmers, and small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) across the continent. These investments are part of the supplemental funds deployed by the U.S. government through Feed the Future, a whole-of-government initiative to address food insecurity and fertilizer price spikes in Africa.

- US\$4 million investment in VALUE4HER will go towards **supporting women in agribusiness** to strengthen VALUE4HER’s work as Africa’s first women in agribusiness digital marketplace.
- **Strengthening resilience to shocks** - US\$5 million investment in Sustain Africa to help expand its program and improve its ability to track fertilizer price trends and signal when shortages arise. The program will enable six million farmers in sub-Saharan Africa to successfully grow crops, even in the face of shocks.
- **Investing in nutrition**– US\$6 million investment towards the **Nutritious Foods Financing Facility (N3F)** in partnership with the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) and Incofin Investment Management. The first of its kind, N3F is an investment fund focused explicitly on improving diet quality and nutrition in sub-Saharan Africa by financing to SMEs involved in the provision of affordable, safe, and nutritious local food. The fund also prioritizes investments that advance gender equality and provide at least 30 percent of all loans to woman-owned or led SMEs.



USDA’s PLANT AND ANIMAL HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS IN AFRICA

- USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service will work closely with the World Organization of Animal Health to develop resources for early detection of zoonotic infections in wildlife, standardizing trade issue management methods, and reducing food supply chain disruptions.
- USDA is also collaborating with FAO’s International Plant Protection Convention and the African Union to create the **Africa Phytosanitary Program**. The initiative aims to equip Africa with advanced tools for preventing, detecting, and managing significant plant pests and diseases.
- In its initial stage, the program will equip plant protection organizations with the proper means to “prevent, detect and manage” plant pests and diseases. The first year of the program will include 11 countries, and there are plans to integrate it in all 54 African countries by 2026.



THE COMMITMENTS

World Food Programme (WFP) and various partners committed to work together and address food insecurity and malnutrition. A strategic meeting is to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa during the WFP leadership retreat.

The **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** committed to accompany countries in their investment plan at the Investment Forum 2023 in Rome. BBT will be included to raise additional funding.

The AFS Forum, AGRA, and UNFCCC COP28 Secretariat discussed the opportunity to follow up on the AFS Forum declaration at COP28 and support deal room investments at COP28 with the aim of mobilizing additional climate finance.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



“ We must ensure transparent tracking of funding for African youth. Accountability matters. It’s time for governments to listen to youth and women in agriculture. ”

H.E. President Samia Suluhu Hassan

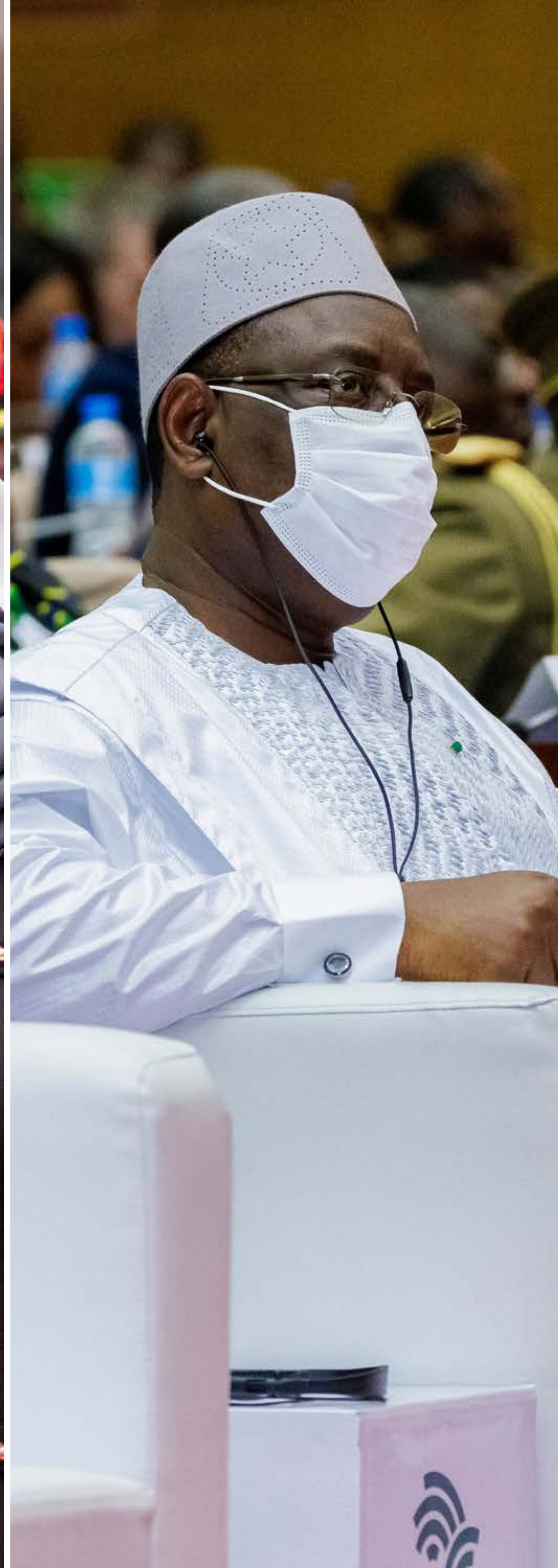
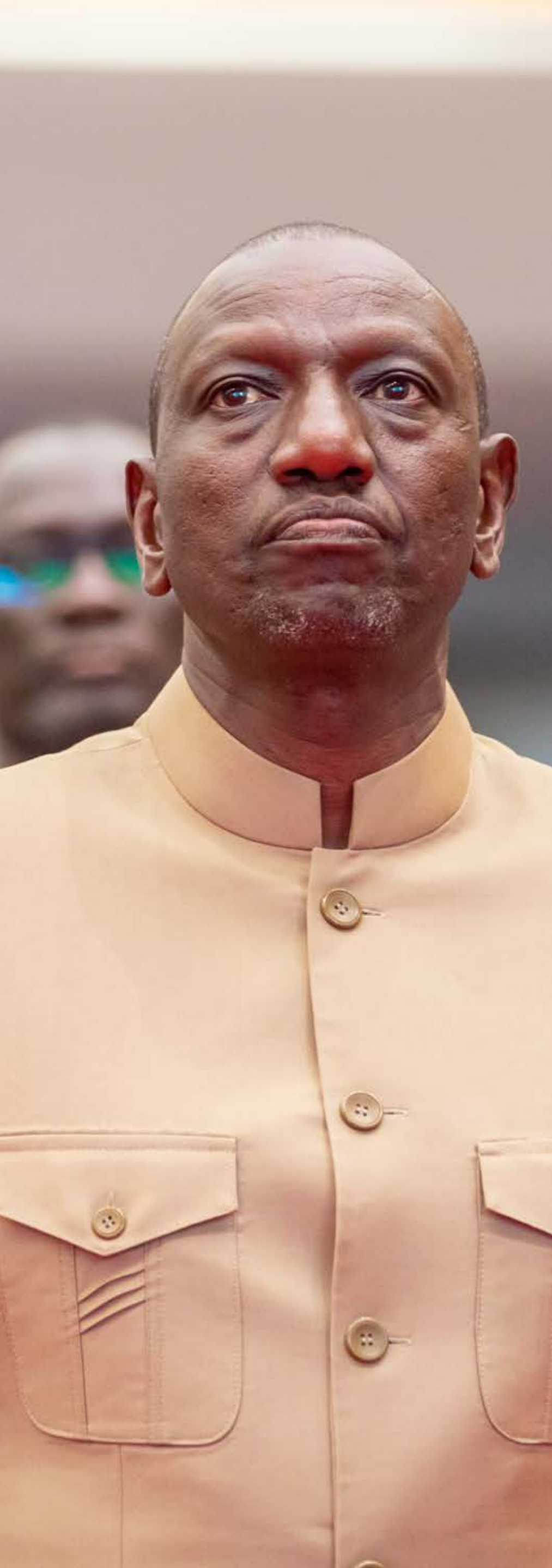
Presidential Summit

The Presidential Summit brought together Heads of State and Government, eminent persons, hundreds of leaders and stakeholders from across Africa’s agriculture, agribusiness and food sectors. Her Excellency President Samia Suluhu Hassan was joined by H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal, H.E. General Évariste Ndayishimiye, Republic of Burundi, H.E. Dr. William Samoei Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E. Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi, President of Zanzibar. Under the theme: “Africa’s Solutions to Food Security and Sustainable Food Systems Transformation”, the Presidential Summit focused on efforts to advance Africa’s food systems transformation, fostering collaboration to mobilize investment from the private sector for sustainable and resilient food systems.

Delivering irrigation, inputs, quality seeds, and knowledge services were highlighted as key national interventions. The important role of livestock and fisheries was highlighted by H.E. Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi, President of Zanzibar.

The Presidential Summit illustrated that collaboration remains critical and the partnerships forged among governments, businesses, civil society, farmers’ organizations, and research institutions must transcend boundaries and sectors. United in purpose, we move forward, realizing that our collective actions will shape a future where sustainable and prosperous food systems define Africa.







Council of the Wise

As a favorite element of the AFS Forum, the Council of the Wise provides an opportunity for leaders to come together and build a common voice and position on an African agenda on sustainable food systems.

Chaired by H.E. Hailemariam Dessalegn, Former Prime Minister, Ethiopia & Chair of the AFS Forum Partner’s Group, this year’s Council of the Wise brought together 6 former Heads of State - H.E. Lionel Zinsou, Former Prime Minister, Republic of Benin; H.E. Dr. Jakaya Kikwete, Former President, United Republic of Tanzania; H.E. Jonathan Goodluck, Former President, Nigeria; H.E. Mohamed Beavogui, Former Prime Minister of Guinea, and H.E. Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Former Prime Minister of Niger.

The leaders stressed the need to speed up investments in developing entire agricultural value chains in Africa, research, include women and young people, building the resilience of farmers, activating the African continent free trade agreement and mobilising passionate and competent people to be the drivers of agricultural development.

“If you want to succeed, you must have the right leadership that deploys the right strategy and the right policies.”

H.E. Mohamed Beavogui, Former Prime Minister of Guinea





Ministerial Roundtable

The 2023 High Level Ministerial Roundtable brought together 35 ministers to take stock of country actions to progress pathways to food systems transformation. The discussions focused on the challenges and opportunities, and how countries can work together to accelerate progress towards sustainable and equitable food systems.

The ministers underscored the need for urgent action to address the challenge of climate change and acknowledged the need for increased investment in green economies; prioritizing the creation of decent and fulfilling jobs for millions of women and youth in food system; and creating an enabling environment and incentives to boost private sector investment.

To move these priorities forward, the ministers committed to:

- Advocate for the reform of the global financial architecture to deliver the means of implementation for sustainable food systems transformation.
- A whole of government and society approach by strengthening collaborations, cooperation, and partnerships across all state and non-state actors.
- Increase regional and continental food trade by strengthening their comparative advantage in food production.
- Bring forward a new era of green growth to deliver prosperity for people and the planet.





Youth Town Hall

The fourth agricultural revolution will be driven by technology and young agri-preneurs!

The Youth Town Hall has become an important moment at the AFS Forum to elevate the voices of young people so they may speak to their leaders and articulate a path forward for their involvement in Africa's food systems transformation.

In this year's Youth Town Hall, Her Excellency President Samia Suluhu Hassan engaged directly with young people from Tanzania and across the continent, demonstrating her leadership commitment to mainstreaming youth in agriculture.

In this year's Town Hall, young people called on governments to:

- Support youth engagement in agriculture.
- Track and monitor funding for youth in agriculture.
- Enhance market access for youth in agriculture, ensuring reliable distribution and marketing channels.
- Increase access to technology and data infrastructure, particularly for the blue economy.
- Mobilise climate financing for youth initiatives to contribute to building their resilience and promoting sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural practices.

This year's Youth Townhall was a special moment for the grand prize winners of the GoGetta Agripreneur Prize Competition, Ms Hasina Andriatsitohaina, Founder and CEO of Mad'Arom in Madagascar, and Mr Ikenna Nzewi, co-Founder and CEO of Releaf Africa in Nigeria. The two were announced during the town hall and received their awards from Her Excellency President Samia Suluhu Hassan, making it a memorable moment for them.





CEO Chats

The CEO Chats were a much-welcomed addition to the AFS Forum’s program bringing together distinguished CEOs and leaders and creating a platform for young and emerging CEOs of smaller enterprises to learn from those working at a different scale. CEOs were at hand to provide mentorship while sharing their leadership journeys, lessons learned, and key insights on how to navigate and succeed in complex business environments.

The chats explored the topics of leadership, innovation & technology, social impact, and financing.

In the leadership chat, Jehiel Oliver, founder of Hello Tractor and Ayodeji Balogun, Group CEO, AFEX, responded to CEOs of emerging African SMEs Eloge Niyomwungere of Best Food Solutions, Burundi; John Charles Nuwagaba of NatureNow, Uganda; Marcelline Koutatouka of mkTOTO, Congo, and Judith Endelesi Karia of Ava Group Investment, Tanzania. The session underscored the need to foster innovation and entrepreneurship to drive food systems transformation.

The Social Impact Chat highlighted the positive impact women-led enterprises are having in food systems transformation and the need to strengthen women’s engagement in agri-food systems. Emerging CEOs Emmastella Gakuo, Savannah Circuit; Charlotte Binya, Founder, Women in Africa, Cameroon; Hadija Jabiri, GBRI Ltd, and Nancy Iraba, Healthy Seaweed engaged women leaders Victoria Sabula, CEO, Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund (AECF) and Surita Sandosham, CEO, Heifer International.

In the Financing Chat, leading CEOs Oluyemisi Iranloye of Psaltry



International and Ruth Zaipuna of NMB, Tanzania helped Marie Ange Mukagahima of Health Group, Rwanda, Ogola Lois Kange of Smiley’s Kitchen, Nigeria, Lillian Mpama of Lillies Innovations, Malawi and Nana Prempeh of Grow for me, Ghana explore the critical issue of financing SMEs. Financing remains a major challenge for most SMEs and establishing specialized financial institutions with a primary focus on providing financing solutions tailored to agribusinesses would be a major game changer.

Erik Fyrwald, CEO, Syngenta and John Ulanga, CEO, Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) engaged Maryanne Ruguru Gichanga, of AgriTech Analytics, Kenya, Lucy Chioma Aniagola of Agrodemy Enterprises, Nigeria, Dick Lukala of FSC, Ifakara and Esther Kimani of Farmer Lifeline Technologies, Kenya, in exploring the role of cutting-edge advancements in agriculture and how they can drive transformative change in food systems.





Field Visits

Another unique element of the AFS Forum 2023 was the field visits organized by the host country. Delegates had an opportunity to see innovative projects and agri-business facilities in Tanzania and Zanzibar, allowing them to experience Tanzanian food systems solutions firsthand. The visits possessed a strong process orientation and appreciation of promising agricultural value chains and food systems from blue economy to cash and staple crops. They also enabled attendees to gain insights and direct experience with real-life initiatives and activities through agri-businesses tourism.



RECOGNITION & AWARDS



“ PABRA’s dedication to bean research and development and their remarkable impact on overcoming malnutrition through the development of improved bean varieties and complementary technologies are commendable. ”

H.E. Jakaya Kikwete

Africa Food Prize 2023



The Pan-Africa Bean Research Alliance (PABRA) was honoured with the prestigious Africa Food Prize for 2023, recognizing their exceptional leadership in the development of numerous bean varieties that improve farm productivity and profitability.

To date, PABRA members have released over 650 improved bean varieties with diverse characteristics. These varieties are grown by over 37 million smallholder farmers and consumed by more than 300 million people in Africa, significantly improving nutrition, health, and food security. As a crop typically managed by women, PABRA beans enable more families to eat healthier diets while improving farm income.

The Africa Food Prize is the preeminent annual award that recognizes outstanding individuals or institutions that are leading the effort to change the reality of farming in Africa. The US\$100,000 prize celebrates Africans who are taking control of Africa’s agriculture agenda and puts a spotlight on bold initiatives and technical innovations that can be replicated across the continent to create a new era of food security and economic opportunity.



VALUE4HER Women Agripreneurs of the Year Awards #WAYA2023

Siny Samba, the CEO of Le Lionceau in Senegal, was the grand prize winner of the 2023 VALUE4HER WAYA.

Lucy Chioma Aniagolu, the Founder of Agrodemy Enterprises in Nigeria, won the Young Female Agripreneur (Rising Star) award, while Maryanne Ruguru Gichanga, Director at AgriTech Analytics in Kenya received the Female Ag Tech Innovator Award. Bernice Dapaah, the CEO of Bright Generation Community Foundation-Ghana Bamboo Bikes Initiative went home with the Outstanding Value-adding Enterprise award.

VALUE4HER is AGRA's continental program aimed at increasing the performance of women agri-enterprises through improved access to markets, trade, finance, investment, knowledge, networks and skills. This year's winners received a total of US\$85,000 in grant funding during the ceremony.

“These women have demonstrated their ability to drive positive change, inspire their communities, and contribute significantly to food security, climate adaptation, economic growth, and sustainable development. Their journeys inspire us all and stand as a testament of the incredible potential that lies within every individual.”

Dr. Agnes Kalibata, President, AGRA





GOGETTAZ

In an exciting moment for the grand prize winners, Her Excellency President Samia Suluhu Hassan graced the fifth annual GoGettaz Agripreneur Prize award ceremony during the Youth Town Hall. Ms Hasina Andriatsitohaina, Founder and CEO of **Mad'Arom** in Madagascar, and Mr Ikenna Nzewi, co-Founder and CEO of **Releaf Africa** in Nigeria, took home US\$50,000 each.

FOUR GOGETTAZ IMPACT AWARD WINNERS ALSO RECEIVED A US\$2,500 PRIZE EACH:



PELKINS AJANOH
FOUNDER, CASSVITA, CAMEROON

MARGARET WANJIKU
FOUNDER, POLLEN PATROLLERS, KENYA

MARTIN DAINBAQUEE
FOUNDER, ECO-FRIENDLY INCUBATOR COMPANY, SIERRA LEONE

CRESCENTIA MUSHOBOZI
TANZANIA VIJANA AGRIBUSINESS ENTERPRISES (VIABLE), TANZANIA



Learn more about the winners [here](#).





PITCH AGRIHACK

Six youth led agribusinesses resonating with this year's Pitch AgriHack theme, "Unleash your Innovation", won a share of the US\$45,000 award:

EARLY-STAGE WINNER

WINNER:

Watson Matsa

*Co-founder and CEO, eSusFarm Africa
South Africa*

MATURE AND GROWTH-STAGE WINNER

WINNER:

Tunde Adeyemi

*Founder and CEO of D-Olivette
Nigeria*

WOMEN-LED AGRIBUSINESS WINNER

WINNER:

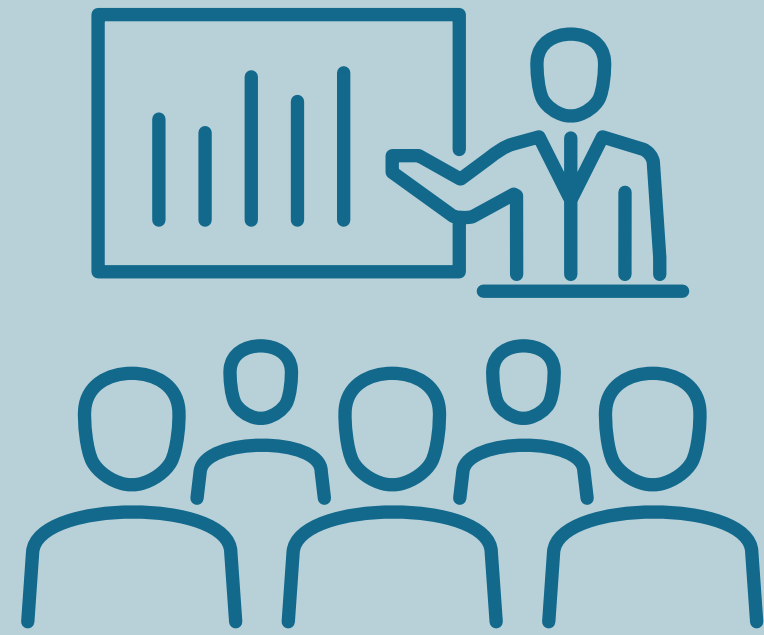
Priscilla Wakarera

*Co-Founder and CEO of Rhea
Kenya*

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.



REPORTS



“ The repercussions of inaction (to climate change) are not just confined to hunger and malnutrition but extend to economic, social, and environmental domains, with the potential to undermine the progress made over the years. ”

Africa Agriculture Status Report (AASR)

Titled “Empowering Africa’s Food Systems”, The AASR 23 underscores the need to address the challenges affecting African food systems, considering the imminent threat posed by climate change and the potential consequences of inaction.

To empower Africa’s Food Systems, the report calls for:

- Policy reforms to repurpose public support towards food and agriculture systems that invigorate economic recovery.
- Redirecting current public expenditure towards investments in production infrastructure.
- Assessments of the structural failures of African food systems.
- A holistic approach to revolutionize Africa’s agrifood system transformation.
- The full realization of AfCFTA—A driver of the development of African food systems.
- Harnessing the full potential of Africa’s demographic dividend.
- Innovative financing models.
- Investing in innovations, knowledge, and the digital revolution.
- Accounting for the environmental–nutrition tradeoff in African food systems.



[READ THE FULL REPORT HERE.](#)





Africa Agriculture Trade Monitor (AATM) Report

The 2023 Africa Agriculture Trade Monitor, a flagship publication of AKADEMIYA2063 and the International Food Policy Research Institute, provides an overview of trade in agriculture in Africa, including analyses of short- and long-term trends and drivers of Africa’s global trade, intra-African trade, and trade within Africa’s regional economic communities.

The 2023 report highlights the growing threat of climate change to trade; looks closely at the impact of the Russia-Ukraine war on food security and poverty; draws on the report’s robust trade database to analyze African agrifood trade and nutrition; examines the types of trade agreements that successfully boost trade analyses; the implications of the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement; and includes focused chapters on the competitiveness of cotton value chains in Africa, world trade and trade integration in the Economic Community of Central African States.

“For me trade is absolutely essential. The market, the post-harvest marketing is absolutely key for the development culture.”

H.E. Lionel Zinsou, Former Prime Minister, Republic of Benin



READ THE FULL REPORT HERE.



RECOVER: HARNESSING AFRICA'S POTENTIAL



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

The Africa Food Systems Forum 2023 opening plenary set the tone for the week's discussion, challenging African leaders and participants to harness the continent's potential to feed, not only itself but the world. Discussions also highlighted progress made so far in food systems transformation on the continent. Speakers deliberated on the key strategies needed to make the quantum leap for Africa to realize food systems transformation.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:



- Adopt equitable policy reforms for meaningful inclusion of women and youth in agri-food systems.
- Increase investments in digital innovation and technology adoption to address climate change and improve food production.
- Enhance cooperation between the public and private sectors.
- Countries must invest at least 10% of their budget in agriculture for a food systems revolution to occur.
- Mainstream food systems transformation in national development plans.
- Recognize farmers as change agents and include budgets for farmer organizations.
- Implement the AfCFTA and remove trade barriers.
- Invest in available research knowledge, including indigenous technologies, to fast-track food systems transformation.



The Great Debate: Can Africa Feed Itself?

The Great Debate set the stage for the Heads of State Roundtable during the Presidential Summit, further reiterating the need to act to overcome the challenge of hunger in Africa by empowering the continent to shape its own food destiny. The message articulated by session speakers was unmistakably clear: African food systems should be self-determined. While international systems may inform decisions, it is African leaders and African farmers who will determine how food is produced.

“We are and remain the architects of our destiny. There is need for a quantum leap if we are to overcome the challenge of hunger.”

– **Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas**, CEO, African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD)

“We have entered the season of 3Cs - Covid, Conflict, Climate Change.”

– **Mr. Rodger Voorhies**, President - Global Growth and Opportunity Division, BMGF) & AGRA Board Member

“Africa is best placed to be the major food exporter to the rest of the world.”

– **Mr. Svein Tore Holsether**, President and CEO, Yara International





The Power of Data, Information, and Research for Sustainable Food Systems

Data is King. That was the key message of the Power of Data session. When we think about data platforms, we must consider the fact that food systems are vast, complex, and intricate. Scaling up data services and ensuring farmers benefit consistently from them is critical as technology is a powerful tool that can harness the potential of rural youth to participate in food systems. Policymaking, efficient data management infrastructure, investment in R&D at public research institutions and universities, and multi-stakeholder engagement were seen as critical in maximizing technology's impact.

Some game-changing innovations and solutions identified include:

- Standardized yield measurement using smartphones.
- Climate resilient seeds, developed through data analysis, are a cost-effective climate mitigation strategy.
- Digital mapping and precision agriculture.
- Use of AI and machine learning to help farmers control production and eradicate crop pests and diseases.





Parliamentarians and Lawmakers Forum

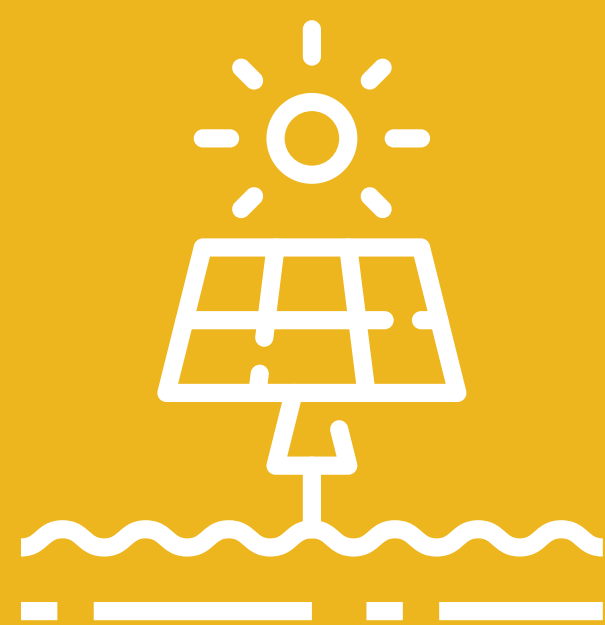
Policies, laws, and regulations can help attract investment and support the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises in the agriculture and food sectors. A special session brought together experts and policymakers to discuss the challenges faced by businesses and the role of governments, parliamentarians, and private sector actors in creating an environment that is conducive to business and trade. 18 parliamentarians attended and discussed with policymakers and financiers the best way to accelerate food systems transformation.

Parliamentarians must hold the executive accountable and work together to ensure:

- Timely release of funds for the implementation of programs.
- Policies give access to land for people who need it for agriculture.
- Policy coherence across sectors and government departments.
- Prioritization of policies for the inclusion of women and youth in food systems.
- Government programs are conceived in a way that ensures that participatory approaches are used and policies reach and involve people at the grassroots level.



REGENERATE: FOSTERING LOCAL ACTIONS FOR GLOBAL IMPACT



Regenerative Agriculture and Resilient Food Systems

The session highlighted the critical importance of engaging farmers in implementing regenerative agriculture practices, as well as learning from and scaling up models that have worked on the large scale in countries such as Brazil. Farmers, particularly smallholders, will need support to transition to regenerative agriculture.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:



- Develop mechanisms to distribute information to promote wider adoption.
- Enhance market access for regenerative agriculture products.
- Invest in training, investments, and strategic partnerships between public and private sectors to scale initiatives.
- Increase support for capacity-building and knowledge transfer to scale up tested regenerative agriculture techniques.

“Our data shows that it takes at least 6 years before farmers can transition to regenerative agriculture. We need to increase the agency with farmers so that they can adopt regenerative agriculture. We need farmers’ voices to say what works.”

– **Dr. Sieglinde Snapp**, Director, Sustainable Agrifood Systems Program, CIMMYT





Local procurement to catalyze food systems transformation

The Russian-Ukraine crisis has taught us the need to improve local procurement. Local procurement has the potential to address several issues including eliminating food loss and waste, improving the quality of produce from smallholders, enhance nutrition outcomes for rural communities and improving profitability for farmers.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:



- Invest in value addition to address post-harvest losses and help smallholders transition to formal markets.
- Create an enabling policy environment for innovation and technology that encourages local procurement.
- Strengthen value chains through investments in infrastructure, cold chain logistics, and technology.
- Increase access to finance, investment, and digitization to streamline more efficient local procurement programs.

“It’s quite a paradox that in 2023 we send scientists to space, and we are not able to feed our global population.”

– Hon. Anne Beathe Tvinnereim, Minister of International Development, Norway





Infrastructure for food systems transformation

Strategic infrastructure plays a critical role in driving sustainable food systems transformation in Africa and inclusive and resilient economic growth.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:



- Promote public and private financing models and public-private partnerships to mobilize investments for infrastructure development.
- Make infrastructure planning inclusive by adopting measures to ensure the participation of rural communities and farmers.
- Assess infrastructure gaps and direct resources to close these gaps.
- Integrate of digital technologies to enhance efficiency, traceability, and transparency in value chains.

“The biggest trade barrier in Africa is the transport of commodities in-between African countries”

– *Senegal’s Minister of Trade and Commerce*





Financial Solutions and Blended Finance

Financing remains one of the biggest challenges for agrifood systems in Africa. The share of blended finance has doubled over the last 5 years and provides an innovative model for closing the funding gap. The session highlighted the potential of leveraging diverse sources of funding and de-risking investments to scale up sustainable agriculture practices to achieve the desired socio-economic and environmental outcomes.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:



- Redefine the role of the private sector and business models to increase support for capacity-building and make value chains more competitive.
- Commitments from governments to match grant programs.
- Blended thinking, e.g., taxing the harmful to invest in sustainable food systems.
- Employ cross-continental solutions rather than country specific solutions.
- Scale up innovative initiatives such as new models that philanthropic and private capital.





L'Arbre à Palabres

Incorporating the traditional African gathering concept of “L' Arbre à Palabres” in the AFS Forum 2023 added a unique and dynamic dimension to the event. This segment featured a diverse array of sessions, allowing participants to immerse themselves in discussions on various food systems issues. Throughout, attendees engaged in open conversations, shared innovative ideas, and connected with peers, experts, and leaders.

Participants highlighted critical pathways for food systems transformation, including:

- Empower marginalized communities.
- Promote gender inclusivity.
- Secure land tenure.
- Build the capacity of SME agrodealers.
- Foster partnerships with youth.
- Scale up digital agriculture ecosystems.

“Nutrition outcome is not just a nice outcome for food systems transformation, it is a driver of food systems transformation.”

– **Dr. Lawrence Haddad**, Executive Director, GAIN



ACT: CONFRONTING CLIMATE CHANGE AND PIONEERING FINANCING STRATEGIES



Journey towards COP28: Adapting Africa's Food Systems to Climate Change

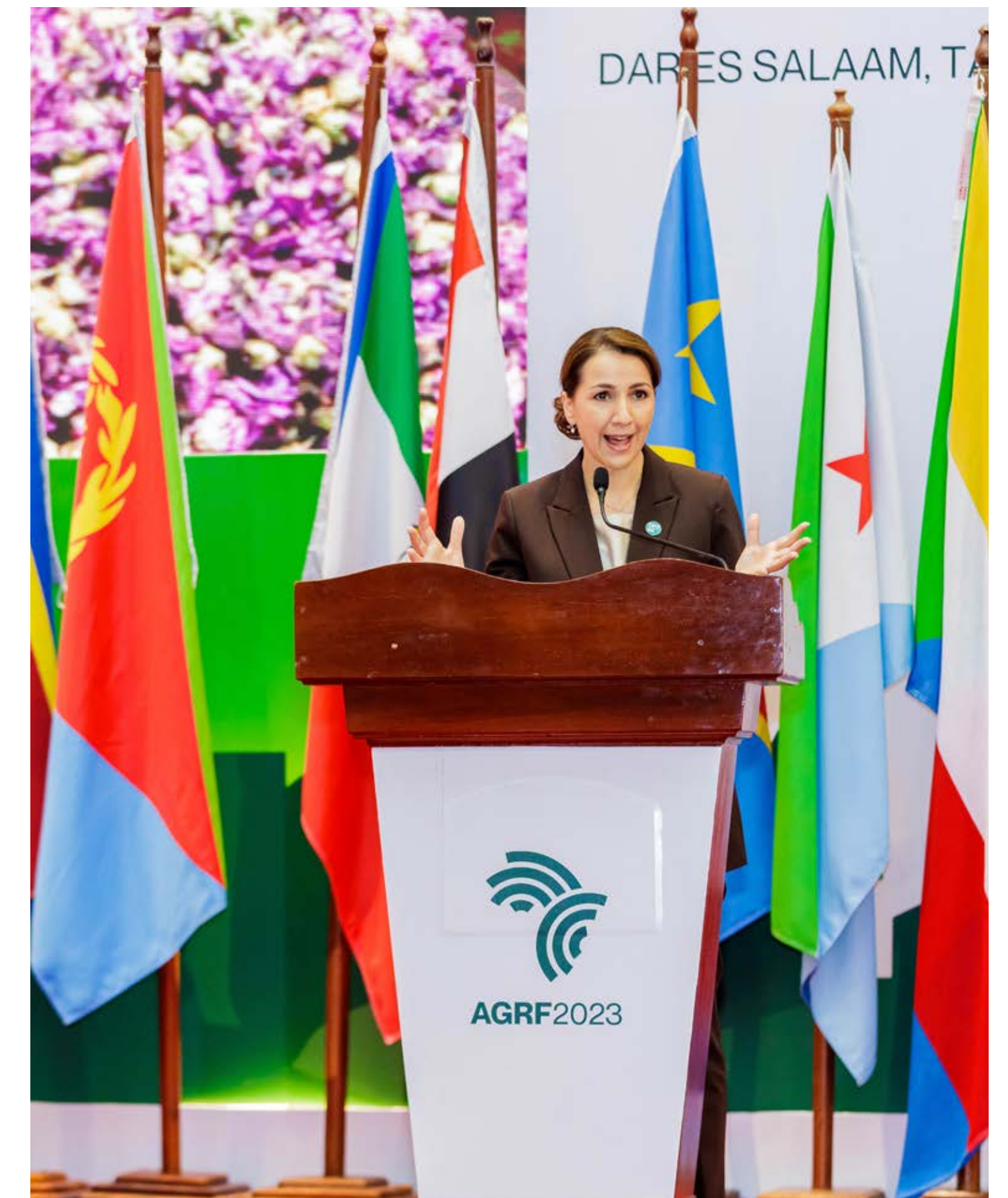
“We have placed food systems transformation at the forefront of climate COP28 and we want to extend our gratitude to farmers for their invaluable contributions.”

– **H.E. Mariam Almheiri**, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, UAE

Ahead of the upcoming COP28 in the UAE, and in alignment with the outcomes of the Africa Climate Summit (ACS2023), the 2023 Africa Food Systems Forum served as a platform for setting the agenda and priorities for the continent in the lead-up to COP28, which are outlined below:

- Global leaders need to honor the commitment to provide US\$100 billion in annual climate finance and swiftly operationalize the Loss and Damage Facility agreed upon at COP27.
- Robust financial avenues encompassing public and private sector investments, alongside dedicated climate finance, are critical to building a climate-resilient African food systems.
- It is imperative to align policies with sustainable food systems, urgent adaptation strategies for climate-resilient food security, which incorporate innovative technologies, and a cohesive approach to securing robust financial commitments, with a particular focus on debt distressed countries.
- Africa's role as both a steward of its unique ecosystems and a champion of global climate action must be recognized and rewarded.

- Farmers are the most vulnerable to climate change impacts on food systems and they must be supported and empowered to build their resilience and play an important role in mitigation and adaptation.
- Investments should be directed to scaling up climate smart technologies in agriculture, including irrigation systems, renewable energy sources, and early warning systems.





Transforming African Food Systems to Cope with Climate Change

The call to transform African food systems to cope with climate change has never been more urgent. The session called for increased investments in innovative policies, practices, and technologies that promote climate-resilient agriculture, enhance adaptation and mitigation strategies, and ensure food security in the face of changing climatic conditions.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:



- Support the advancement of climate smart agriculture.
- Unlock investments to scale up innovative technologies and data-driven solutions, including in seed systems.
- Promote biodiversity conservation including diverse crop varieties and livestock breeds.
- Involve youth in designing solutions and policies.
- Mobilize funding and investment to support sustainable agricultural practices.
- Enhance extension and advisory services for disseminating climate-smart farming practices and innovations.
- Address soil health and maximise the right inputs to promote diversity.





Governing for food systems transformation and better food security

Good policies bring about better outcomes in agri-food systems, and the role of leaders is not only important, but critical. This session shed light on what kind of institutions are needed to drive food systems transformation at all levels of governance. Participants concluded that capacity building in governance, policy coherence and proper implementation strategies are crucial to strengthening the governance of food systems.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:



- Inclusive decision making and equitable resource allocation.
- Domestication of continental policy instruments.
- Policy predicability and coherence ensuring reforms are implemented according to the expectations of stakeholders.
- Promote the convergence of sectors with actions to break down silos and reduce fragmentation.
- Enhanced use of data and artificial intelligence to support decision making.





Innovation and Research Launch Pad

There is a need to rethink where innovative financing efforts have been going as new opportunities present themselves, especially for women in agri-food systems, and recognize the need for radical innovation in partnerships that result in substantial impacts. This session launched several new reports and studies with key indicators and also illuminated new actions regarding innovation in African agriculture.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:



- Enhance collective efforts among development actors.
- Build country-based innovation ecosystems.
- Develop enough progress indicators for the food systems dashboard to allow countries to allocate resources effectively.
- Promote the deployment of holistic approaches throughout the entire value chain.

“We need to break down the boundaries and stop working in silos and go the farmers to help them understand what they need.”

– Dr Bridgitta Steyn, Research Platform Manager for Microbials at Natural Plant Protection (NPP), UPL





Green Financing Framework for Food Systems Transformation

In the wake of the Paris Agreement, green financing mechanisms were heralded as a crucial pathway to support climate change mitigation and safeguard global food systems. However, despite the growing awareness of the urgent need for sustainable funding, the world has fallen short of meeting its financing obligations. The consequences of this failure are evident, as vulnerable communities bear the brunt of climate-related impacts on food production, distribution, and accessibility.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:



- Reinvigorate commitments and channel substantial resources into green financing initiatives that promote sustainable agriculture, biodiversity conservation, and equitable access to nutritious food.
- Enhance collaboration between stakeholders, including banks, development agencies, and climate finance institutions, to create a unified approach to green financing for food systems.
- Incentivize the private sector to invest in green financing by reducing transaction costs.
- Streamline existing green financing facilities to make them work for Africa.



SOIL HEALTH: SUSTAINING THE FOUNDATION OF OUR FOOD SYSTEMS

“ It’s not just about soil health and fertilizer use efficiency. It’s about finance, it’s about trade, it’s about policy and regulatory reform and so it will take a broad coalition of partners. ”

Ms. Dina Esposito, Assistant to the Administrator - RFS at USAID

Africa’s Fertilizer and Soil Health Vision

Ahead of the Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit (AFSH) in November, this session set the stage and served as a preparatory meeting for the summit by outlining priorities for soil health on the continent. The need to futureproof Africa’s soil health and ensure the continent is prepared for future fertilizer crises was underscored. Speakers explored how the fertilizer industry can reinvent itself to meet the fertilizer and soil health needs of the continent, indicating how critical it is for the industry to move from being a mineral fertilizer provider to a holistic plant nutrient solutions provider.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:



- Invest in and develop a continental nutrient road map.
- Invest in and develop capacity to harness green ammonia technologies.
- Invest in laboratories and equipment for soil health management - digital soil mapping, soil testing soil health monitoring and national soil information systems.
- Institute early warning and early response mechanisms, including financial mechanisms to de-risk industry and farmers’ investments during crises.
- Explore the potential for agronomic biofortification to improve human health.
- Institute 4R principles combined with integrated soil health management, and customized approaches for greater yields.

- Invest in fertilizer manufacturing using available raw materials.
- Strengthen regional integration for fertilizer trade.
- Enhance coordination and collaboration across all players and across the value chain.
- Invest in farmer education and capacity building making information and technologies more easily available to farmers.
- Fertilizer financing, including extending subsidies to alternative organic innovations.
- Promote Climate Smart Agriculture, conservation agriculture, secure land tenure and strengthening erosion control techniques.



INCLUSIVITY AND COLLABORATIVE ACTIONS: FORGING AHEAD TOGETHER



African Women Leaders' Forum

Greater commitment to providing women the support they need to enhance and exercise their leadership potential and engage in productive and profitable food systems activities is needed to close the gender gap in food systems in Africa. More women need to take ownership and join unions that will drive the changes needed in agri-food systems. The African Women Leaders Forum provided an important space for women to share concrete insights into the challenges they face and strategies to overcome them. They also emphasized the role of trade and finance in a more equitable future for African Women.

Getting women farmers into the mainstream is essential. This will require de-risking small scale women-led farming operations to increase their access to credit, loans and insurance, guaranteeing equal access to markets, and promoting their participation in decision-making and women-led or joint leadership of farmers' organizations. Family codes, including those that restrict generational wealth need to be revisited to see if they advance or constrain women's empowerment.

“In most settings, women are not seen at the highest level of engagement. We don't see women in logistics. We see middle-men but we don't see middle-women. We need more women to take ownership and to strive. We need to support women as they rise.”

– Ms. Ndidi Okonkwo Nwuneli, Co-founder and Executive Chair, Sahel Consulting & AGRA Board Member





Farmers' Forum

The AFS FORUM 2023 continued to elevate the voices of African farmers, focusing on the potential of farmer organizations and cooperatives to transform African food systems on a wider scale. The farmers also highlighted the transformative potential of technology adoption, particularly digital platforms, for small-scale agriculture. These technologies have been vital tools for disseminating agricultural knowledge, market information, and best practices, offering the promise of improved productivity and sustainability. Additionally, the use of digital tools to connect and organize farmers in collaborative groups was recognized as an innovative approach to enhance their capacity to adopt modern farming techniques.

To forge ahead and that ensure farmers contribute to Africa's vision to feed herself and the world, the continent's farmers are calling for:

- Increased climate financing for agriculture.
- Implementation of blended finance models to support farmers adopting sustainable practices.
- Measures to strengthen farmer organizations and cooperatives' capacity to facilitate knowledge sharing and information dissemination.
- Promotion of climate resilience action plans at regional, national, and local levels.
- Promotion of gender equality in agriculture.





Civil Society Forum

Civil society organizations (CSOs) are joining forces to promote collective action to address the challenges faced by small holder farmers and other vulnerable populations through innovation and research to shape policies and programs that transform the livelihoods of people in the agricultural sector.

For the first time, the AFS Forum dedicated a session to civil society, to underscore their role in food systems. CSOs advocate for and advance practical leadership inclusion, collaboration, and the co-creation of solutions using transdisciplinary approaches, proper policy implementation, integrated land use planning and youth engagement to make real changes on the ground.





Food systems in a time of crisis: youth, refugees, migrants & displaced persons as part of the solution

Over half of all refugees in Africa are under the age of 18! This year's AFS Forum shed light on the challenges facing young people in crisis situations and the need for an action plan to address issues affecting them, especially food insecurity. The session also highlighted initiatives that are working in several countries that need to be replicated and scaled.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:



- Foster open approaches that allow refugees to access land for food production.
- Develop and implement policies that ensure security of lives in camps to keep displaced persons meaningfully engaged, including in agricultural production.
- Promote integration into local value chains by localizing global conventions, and agreements.
- Offer mentorships, training, and capacity-building through incubation programs in refugee settlements.
- Establishing operational models and expanding them in refugee settlements, particularly those that can be integrated with agri-food systems.
- Enhance access to financing for youth in crisis situations, including interest- and collateral-free loans and grants tailored to meet the needs of refugees.

TRANSFORMING AFRICAN FOOD SYSTEMS FOR STRONGER NUTRITIONAL BENEFITS

“ Food is not just for feeding, it has to be culturally acceptable, tasty, safe and nutritious. ”

Prof. Ruth Oniang'o, Editor-in-chief and Founder, African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition and Development.

State of Nutrition and Sustainable Diets

Transforming African food systems to generate stronger nutritional benefits requires a holistic approach that balances the interests of producers and consumers.

“It is quite a paradox that in 2023, we send scientists to space, and we are not able to feed our global population.”

– **Hon. Anne Beathe Tvinnereim**, Minister of International Development, Norway

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:



- Invest in small-scale food production, especially in rural areas where malnutrition is prevalent.
- Sustainably manage aquatic resources and invest in the blue economy to maximize its nutritional value.
- Apply context-specific and culturally appropriate approaches, as well as gender and nutrition-sensitive policies and investments.
- Develop food-based dietary guidelines that help guide food systems transformation.
- Prioritize culturally acceptable and nutritious foods and reclaim traditional diets.
- Invest in research and education to address challenges, especially in the face of climate change.



The Cost of a Healthy Diet

The cost of unhealthy diets supersedes the cost of healthy diets and Africa must define its own nutritious food systems based on available resources. Improved crop varieties which are drought, disease and heat resistant need to be developed and more youth encouraged to engage in agriculture. This session delved into the challenges and implications of accessing nutritious food, while exploring the multifaceted factors that contribute to the cost of a healthy diet, including affordability, availability, and cultural considerations.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:



- Educate people on the need for healthy nutritious diets. People should know how their food is made and make informed dietary choices.
- Food labelling should be innovative and contribute to education on human nutrition.
- Strengthen Africa's regulators in certifying food and drug products.
- Review school curricula to include nutrition education.
- Encourage vertical and home gardening to grow micronutrient-rich foods.
- Support the private sector to stimulate local production and consumption.
- Implement public health interventions on food fortification.





Food Safety & Post-harvest Management

The hidden challenge within food systems is that one third of food produced is lost or wasted in post-harvest processes. This was the key message of the session, conveying the pressing need for holistic approaches to address the challenge of food loss and waste which has direct implications for poverty reduction, farmer incomes, and welfare.

The importance of ensuring food safety was underscored, with a focus on government policies, standards, and procedures, as well as the challenges posed by climate change and new diseases.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:



- Enhance public-private partnership for food safety.
- Institute cross-border certification agreements to streamline trade processes.
- Enhance data management and analysis to help collect, process, and analyze data related to agricultural production, trade, and food safety.
- Provide sufficient resource allocation, including for establishing labs and funding surveillance efforts to ensure food safety throughout the value chain.
- Encourage collaboration and breaking of silos to effectively address issues such as seasonal overproduction and insufficient production in the off-season, particularly for smallholder farmers.





Sustainable Livestock and Pastoralism Transformation

In Africa, 60-80% of pastoral and livestock production is in the hands of smallholder farmers. It is therefore critical to equip smallholders to not only produce nutritious, safe, and accessible animal-based food, but to do this in a way that reduces the sector's environmental impact. Making a business case for smallholders was identified as the best pathway to achieve this.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:



- Use advanced genomics technologies to identify the best climate-resilient breeds to improve productivity and not quantity.
- Stimulate young people and women to fill value chain gaps between production and consumption to build vibrant, connected business ecosystems.
- Provide entrepreneurship training, including on production and sustainable practices.
- Increase access to post-harvest management technologies – value addition, storage.
- Support the diversification of livelihoods and livestock products to improve profitability.





Culinary Village & Recipes of Change

Chefs represent a unique voice bridging the gap between farm and fork. They must be included in food systems conversation. At the 2023 Africa Food Systems Forum, the Culinary Village and Recipes of Change exhibit included daily conversations with chefs from the Chefs' Manifesto network, as they showcased the forum's themes of Recover, Regenerate, and Act through cooking demonstrations.

The demonstrations covered everything from zero waste recipes, millet, nutritious school meals and low resource cooking techniques. The chefs spoke about their passion for a world where everyone, everywhere, has good food and how they are contributing to driving action on the SDGs.



TRADE AND MARKETS



Trade Infrastructure, Finance, and Investments

The development of trade and the important infrastructure necessary for trade efficiency will spur Africa's agricultural revolution. Africa has a ready market and the capacity to produce and export beyond this market. Farmers play a crucial role as they have clearly demonstrated they have skills and market organizations. Informal markets already anticipate a free trade zone and are more integrated than formal markets. The continent must optimize trade integration and leverage the opportunities of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:



- Stimulate the private sector, including farmers, through enabling legal frameworks and structured markets.
- Regulate competition in the transport industry to reduce export costs.
- Invest in critical infrastructure – processing, transport, logistics, and agroindustrial processing zones.
- Invest in robust, timely data and market information systems to support sound investments.
- Roll out climate smart and production enhancing technologies.





CEO Roundtable: Trade & Investments

The CEO Roundtable session on Trade and Investment brought together top industry leaders and executives to engage in critical discussions surrounding Africa's agricultural trade landscape. Key highlights of the session included robust dialogues on policy for facilitating trade, promoting foreign and domestic investments, and fostering regional integration. Industry leaders pledged their commitment to champion innovative approaches to overcome trade barriers, stimulate investment flows, and accelerate the growth of the continent's agricultural sector.

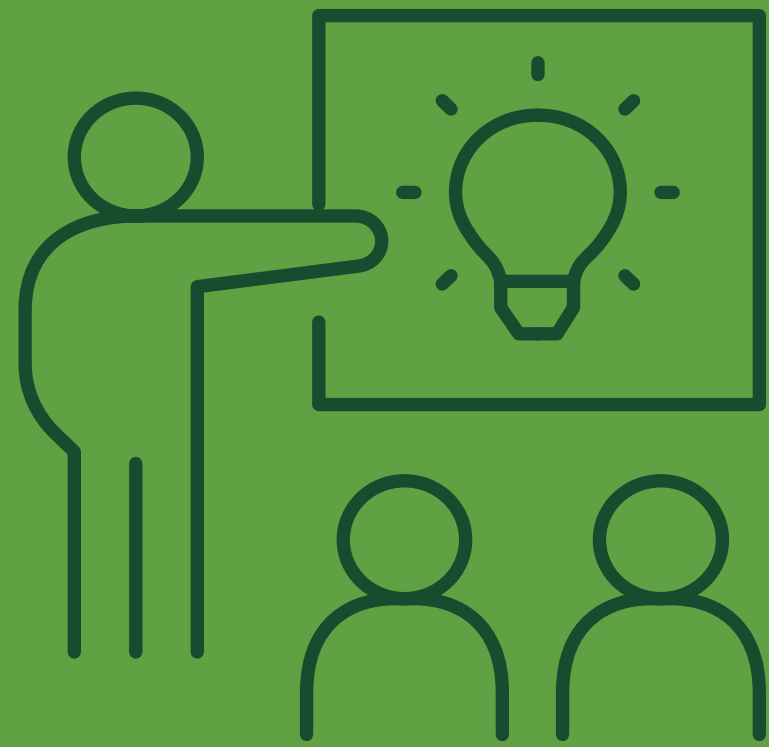
The session underscored the pivotal role of the private sector in driving transformative change and setting the stage for collaborative efforts towards a more prosperous and sustainable future for African agriculture through trade and investment. Public-private partnerships must be fostered to jointly invest in and develop agricultural infrastructure, research and development, and extension services.

“The biggest trade barrier in Africa is the transport of commodities between African countries.”

– **Hon. Aly Gouille Ndiaye**, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Equipment, Senegal



AFRICA AGRIBUSINESS DEALROOM



The Agribusiness Deal Room brought together 10 governments, 60 SMEs, including youth and women entrepreneurs who engaged with more than 100 investors. The Deal Room was an opportunity to work closely with governments to build investor confidence and secure increased private-sector investment, especially in processing, logistics, and technology development. The Deal Room further positioned AFS Forum as a prime venue for connecting agribusinesses and investment opportunities with critically needed capital.

Government investment priorities across most of the countries focused on investments in the following three value chains: rice,

livestock and fisheries. A pipeline of approximately USD\$10.2 billion in agri-business investment was unveiled, of which \$10 billion were national scale investments and \$204 million were investments in SMEs.

The Deal Room launched the SME report, which delved into the impact of the triple crises on SME performance in Africa. The study's findings underscored the challenges faced by SMEs, but also highlighted a largely positive outlook, with 40% of them continuing to inject additional capital to keep their doors open.



AFRICA FOOD SYSTEMS FORUM 2023:

A showcase of innovation, ideas, technologies, and solutions





KNOWLEDGE PORTAL



AFS FORUM 2023 Communique

<https://agrf.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/AFRICA-FOOD-SYSTEMS-FORUM-2023-Communique.pdf>



AFS FORUM 2023 Ministerial Declaration

<https://agrf.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/AFS-2023-Ministerial-Declaration.pdf>



Watch the AFS FORUM 2023 sessions here

<https://www.youtube.com/@AGRFFORUM/playlists>



Access the summit photos here

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/190754687@N04/albums>





ONWARDS TO AFS FORUM 2024 IN KIGALI

The **Government of Rwanda** serves as a long-term host of the **AFS FORUM**, championing its agenda throughout the year and hosting the annual forum in all even years. The next **AFS FORUM** will be held on 2nd - 6th Sep 2024.

The **AFS FORUM** Partners Group and the **Government of Rwanda** under the leadership of **H.E. President Paul Kagame** welcome you to **Kigali, Rwanda in 2024**.





AFRICA FOOD SYSTEMS FORUM

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