



AKADEMIYA

**ReSAKSS**  
Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System  
by AKADEMIYA2063

African Union

# ReSAKSS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## Moving the Technology Frontiers in African Agrifood Systems

 **January 20-22, 2026**  
 **Virtual Event**  **12:00 – 15:30 GMT**

**AGENDA**

# AGENDA

## Day 1 – January 20, 2026

### *Setting the Stage – Moving the Technology Frontiers in African Agrifood Systems*

**3 hours 30 minutes**

Time (GMT)	Session	Duration	Invited Speakers
12:00 – 12:10	Opening and Housekeeping	10 min	<b>Moderator: Dr. Layih Butake</b> , Director, Communications and Outreach, AKADEMIYA2063
12:10 – 12:35	Welcome and Opening Remarks	25 Min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Dr. Ousmane Badiane</b>, Executive Chairperson, AKADEMIYA2063</li><li>• <b>Mr. Watipaso Mkandawire</b>, Regional Food Markets Adviser, Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)</li><li>• <b>Mr. Tim Robertson</b>, Senior Agricultural Specialist, World Bank; Chair, CAADP Development Partners Coordination Group (DPCG)</li><li>• <b>H.E. Moses Vilakati</b>, Commissioner, African Union Commission, Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment (AUC-DARBE)</li></ul>
12:35 – 12:50	Framing Remarks: <i>Technology and Innovation for Africa's Agrifood System Transformation</i>	15 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Ms. Martha Haile</b>, Food Systems and Agricultural Technology Leader; Co-Founder of ABZE and Hello Tractor</li><li>• <b>Amb. Prof. Muhammadou M.O. Kah</b>, Permanent Representative of the Gambia to the United Nations Office in Geneva; Member, Malabo Montpellier Panel</li></ul>

# Day 1 – January 20, 2026

## *Setting the Stage – Moving the Technology Frontiers in African Agrifood Systems*

**3 hours 30 minutes**

Time (GMT)	Session	Duration	Invited Speakers
<b>12:50 – 13:05</b>	<b>Overview of the 2025 Annual Trends and Outlook Report (ATOR)</b>	15 min	<b>Prof. Christian Henning</b> , Chief Scientist, AKADEMIYA2063; Co-Editor, ATOR 2025
<b>13:05 – 13:50</b>	<b>High-Level Panel: Shaping Africa's Technology Future</b>	45 min	<b>Moderator: Dr. Canisius Kanangire</b> , Executive Director, African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF)  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Dr. Enock Chikava</b>, Director, Economic Opportunity, Africa, Gates Foundation</li><li>• <b>Prof. Shenggen Fan</b>, Chair Professor and Dean, Academy of Global Food Economics and Policy, College of Economics and Management, China Agricultural University</li><li>• <b>Dr. Éliane Ubalijoro</b>, CEO, Center for International Forestry Research–World Agroforestry (CIFOR–ICRAF)</li></ul>
<b>13:50 – 14:00</b>	<b>Interactive Poll and Audience Q&amp;A</b>	10 min	Live poll on priority technologies for Africa
<b>14:00 – 14:10</b>	<b>Break</b>	10 min	Coffee Break/Virtual Networking

# Day 1 – January 20, 2026

## Setting the Stage – Moving the Technology Frontiers in African Agrifood Systems

3 hours 30 minutes

Time (GMT)	Session	Duration	Invited Speakers
14:10 – 15:10	<b>Roundtable 1:</b> <i>Emerging Technology Pathways and Regional Lessons</i>	60 min	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Dr. Getaw Tadesse, Director of Policy Intelligence, AKADEMIYA2063</p> <p><b>8-minute Presentations on Chapters 2, 15, 16, 17</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Moving the Technology Frontiers in African Agrifood Systems: An Analytical Framework</i> – Dr. John Ulimwengu, Senior Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)</li> <li>• <i>Technology Development and Adoption in Chinese Agrifood Systems: Implications for Africa</i> – Dr. Ting Meng, Associate Professor, Academy of Global Food Economics and Policy, College of Economics and Management, China Agricultural University</li> <li>• <i>From Innovation to Impact: Exploring the Economic Potential of Digital Twins in European and African Agriculture</i> – Dr. Frits K. van Evert, Agrosystems Research, Wageningen University &amp; Research, Wageningen, The Netherlands</li> <li>• <i>Moving the Technology Frontiers in African Agrifood Systems: Lessons from Latin America</i> – Dr. Valeria Piñeiro, Regional Representative of the Latin America and Caribbean region and Senior Research Coordinator, Markets, Trade and Institutions Unit, IFPRI</li> </ul> <p><b>Invited Reactions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Discussant 1:</b> Dr. Abdou Tenkouano, Executive Director, International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe)</li> <li>• <b>Discussant 2:</b> Dr. Evelyn Gitau, Chief Scientific Officer, Science for Africa Foundation (SFA)</li> </ul>
15:10 – 15:25	<b>Open Discussion and Synthesis</b>	15 min	Key takeaways from participants
15:25 – 15:30	<b>Day 1 Wrap-Up and Closing</b>	5 min	Dr. Augustin Wambo Yamdjeu, Former Director, Knowledge Systems, AKADEMIYA2063

## Day 2 – January 21, 2026

### Technological Pathways to Productivity and Resilience

3 hours

Time (GMT)	Session	Duration	Invited Speakers
12:00 – 12:05	Day 1 Recap and Day 2 Overview	5 min	<b>Dr. Seraphin Niyonsenga</b> , Head of AGRODEP Unit, AKADEMIYA2063
12:05 – 12:50	<b>Cluster 1:</b> <i>Digitalization, AI, and Biotechnology</i>	45 min	<p><b>Moderator:</b> <b>Dr. Benjamin Kwasi Addom</b>, Adviser, Agriculture &amp; Fisheries Trade Policy, Commonwealth Secretariat</p> <p><b>8-minute Presentations on Chapters 3, 4, 5</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Untapped Potential of Artificial Intelligence and Geospatial Technology in African Agrifood Systems</i> – <b>Dr. Jean Paul L. Faye</b>, Head of AI Innovation and Modeling Unit, Department of Data Intelligence and Governance, AKADEMIYA2063 &amp; Physics Department, Faculty of Science and Technology, Cheikh Anta Diop University</li> <li>• <i>Optimizing Biotechnology Paradigms and their Application for Agrifood Systems Transformation in Africa</i> – <b>Dr. Emmanuel Okogbenin</b>, Director, Program Development &amp; Commercialization, African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF)</li> <li>• <i>Digitalization in African agrifood systems: from e-learning to e-markets</i> – <b>Mr. Benjamin Graeub</b>, Co-Founder, farmbetter</li> </ul> <p><b>Invited Reactions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Discussant 1:</b> <b>Ms. Priscilla Wakarera</b>, Rhea Soil Health, Co-Founder and CEO</li> <li>• <b>Discussant 2:</b> <b>Dr. Julius Ecuru</b>, Principal Scientist and Manager, Research Innovation Coordination Units, icipe</li> <li>• <b>Discussant 3:</b> <b>Mr. Ken Lohento</b>, Digital Agriculture Expert</li> </ul>

## Day 2 – January 21, 2026

### Technological Pathways to Productivity and Resilience

3 hours

Time (GMT)	Session	Duration	Invited Speakers
12:50 – 13:05	Q&A	15 min	Audience interaction
13:05 – 13:15	Break: 10 min		
13:15 – 14:00	<b>Cluster 2:</b> <i>Mechanization, Irrigation, Processing, and Value Addition</i>	45 min	<p><b>Moderator:</b> <b>Dr. Andrew Agyei-Holmes</b>, Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER), Ghana</p> <p><b>8-minute Presentations on Chapters 6, 7, and 8</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Advancing Mechanization in African Agrifood Systems: Unlocking Productivity and Resilience</i> – <b>Dr. Oliver Kirui</b>, Research Fellow &amp; Nigeria Country Program Leader, IFPRI</li> <li>• <i>Processing and Value Addition Technologies in African Agrifood Systems</i> – <b>Dr. Ramadhani Omari Majubwa</b>, Senior Lecturer, Sokoine University of Agriculture</li> <li>• <i>Integrating Emerging Irrigation Technologies to Advance Agricultural Production and Resilience in Africa</i> – <b>Dr. Greenwell Matchaya</b>, Senior Researcher, Economics, ReSAKSS Coordinator, and Deputy Country Representative, South Africa, International Water Management Institute (IWMI)</li> </ul> <p><b>Audience Q&amp;A</b></p> <p><b>Invited Reactions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Discussant 1:</b> <b>Dr. Oliver Kirui</b>, Research Fellow &amp; Nigeria Country Program Leader, IFPRI</li> <li>• <b>Discussant 2:</b> <b>Dr. Ramadhani Omari Majubwa</b>, Senior Lecturer, Sokoine University of Agriculture</li> <li>• <b>Discussant 3:</b> <b>Dr. Greenwell Matchaya</b>, Senior Researcher, Economics, ReSAKSS Coordinator, and Deputy Country Representative, South Africa, IWMI</li> </ul>

## Day 2 – January 21, 2026

### Technological Pathways to Productivity and Resilience

3 hours

Time (GMT)	Session	Duration	Invited Speakers
14:00 – 14:45	<b>Cluster 3:</b> <i>Emerging Production Technologies</i>	45 min	<p><b>Moderator:</b> <b>Dr. Aisha Musaazi</b>  <b>Nakitto</b>, Head, Policy Innovation Unit, AKADEMIYA2063</p> <p><b>8-minute Presentations on Chapters 9, 10, and 11</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Emerging Technologies for Resilient and Competitive Livestock Systems</i> – <b>Dr. Abdrahmane Wane</b>, Principal Scientist, Regional Director, West and Central Africa, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)</li> <li>• <i>Insect farming innovation: A Pathway to self-reliance in agrifood systems in Africa</i> – <b>Dr. Zewdu Ayalew Abro</b>, Impact Assessment Economist, icipe</li> <li>• <i>Aquaponic systems for small-scale farming in Africa: Potentials and Challenges</i> – <b>Prof. Christian Henning</b>, Chief Scientist, AKADEMIYA2063; ATOR 2025 Co-Editor</li> </ul> <p><b>Invited reactions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Discussant 1:</b> <b>Dr. Adebayo Abass</b>, Cassava Value Chain Leader, Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT), International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)</li> <li>• <b>Discussant 2:</b> <b>Mrs. Francesca Brenda Opoku</b>, Founder, Beauty Secrets, Ghana</li> </ul>
14:45 – 14:55	<b>Reflections and Synthesis</b>	10 min	Key takeaways
14:55 – 15:00	<b>Day 2 Wrap-Up</b>	5 min	<b>Dr. Racine Ly</b> , Director, Data Intelligence and Governance, AKADEMIYA2063; ATOR 2025

## Day 3 – January 22, 2026

### *Investing in Innovation: Policy and Financing for Technology Deployment*

**3 hours**

Time (GMT)	Session	Duration	Invited Speakers
<b>12:00 – 12:05</b>	<b>Reflections on Days 2 and 3</b>	5 min	<b>Dr. Paul Guthiga</b> , Head of ReSAKSS Unit, AKADEMIYA2063
<b>12:05 – 12:50</b>	<b>Cluster 4: R&amp;D, Seed Systems, Institutional Enablers, and Policy Dialogue</b>	45 min	<p><b>Moderator:</b> <b>Dr. Menale Kassie</b>, Principal Scientist and Head, Social Sciences and Impact Assessment Unit, icipe; 2025 ATOR Co-Editor</p> <p><b>8-minute Presentations on Chapters 12, 13, and 14</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Nurturing Africa's Agricultural Transformation: The Role of Investment in Research and Development (R&amp;D)</i> – <b>Dr. Gert-Jan Stads</b>, Senior Manager, R&amp;D Data Systems and Global Partnerships, Alliance Bioversity-CIAT</li> <li>• <i>Policy and Regulatory Frameworks for Development of Seed Systems in sub-Saharan Africa</i> – <b>Dr. Moti Jaleta</b>, Principal Scientist, International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT)</li> <li>• <i>The Role of Digitally Enabled Smallholder Producer Organizations (SPOs) in Promoting Emerging Agricultural Technologies in Africa Smallholder Producer Organizations</i> – <b>Dr. Fidele Eric Sessou</b>, Scientist, AKADEMIYA2063</li> </ul> <p><b>Invited reactions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Discussant 1: Prof. Ed Mabaya</b>, Research Professor, Global Development Section; The African Seed Access Index (TASAI)</li> <li>• <b>Discussant 2: Dr. Issoufou Kapran</b> President, Seed Systems Group</li> <li>• <b>Discussant 3: Ms. Sylvia Kyeyune</b>, CEO, Sterling Seeds Ltd</li> </ul>

## Day 3 – January 22, 2026

### *Investing in Innovation: Policy and Financing for Technology Deployment*

**3 hours**

Time (GMT)	Session	Duration	Invited Speakers
12:50 – 13:00	Break: 10 min		
13:00 – 13:50	<p><b>Feature Session:</b>  <i>Innovative Financing for Agrifood Technologies : Reflections on Financing Pathways</i></p>	50 min	<p><b>Moderator:</b> <b>Dr. Katrin Glatzel</b>, Director, Global Strategy and Programs, AKADEMIYA2063</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Spurring Innovation and Science Policy in Africa</i> – <b>Dr. Tom Kariuki</b>, CEO, Science for Africa Foundation</li> </ul> <p><b>Invited Reactions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Andrew Ahiaku</b>, Head, Inclusive Finance, AGRA</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Koen Dekeyser</b>, Policy Analyst, ECDPM</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Liz Wilson</b>, CEO, Small Foundation</li> </ul>
13:50 – 14:35	<p><b>Insights and Implications for the Implementation of CAADP 2026–2035 under Kampala</b></p>	45 min	<p><b>Moderator:</b> <b>Dr. Augustin Wambo Yamdjeu</b>, Former Director, Knowledge Systems, AKADEMIYA2063</p> <p><b>10-minute Presentation on Chapter 18</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Tracking Key CAADP Indicators and Implementation Processes</i> – <b>Mr. Wondwosen Tefera</b>, Senior Associate Scientist, AKADEMIYA2063</li> <li>• <b>Discussant 1:</b> <b>Ms. Jalwau Ahmadu Bello</b>, Special Assistant on Food Security and Climate Change to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Nigeria</li> <li>• <b>Discussant 2:</b> <b>Dr. Hamady Diop</b>, CAADP Post-Malabo Process Coordinator</li> <li>• <b>Discussant 3:</b> <b>Ms. Hannah Scheuermann</b>, Advisor, Global Project Sustainable Agricultural Systems and Policies (AgSys), German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)</li> </ul>

## Day 3 – January 22, 2026

### ***Investing in Innovation: Policy and Financing for Technology Deployment***

**3 hours**

Time (GMT)	Session	Duration	Invited Speakers
14:35 – 14:55	<b>High-Level Closing Panel: <i>From Innovation to Impact</i></b>	20 min	<p><b>Moderator: Dr. Debisi Araba</b>, Managing Director, AKADEMIYA2063</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Mr. Ayo Sotinrin</b>, Managing Director, Bank of Agriculture, Nigeria</li><li>• <b>Mr. Odd Eirik Arnesen</b>, Minister Counsellor, Regional Food Security Envoy, Norwegian Embassy in Dar es Salaam</li><li>• <b>Dr. Martin Fregene</b>, Director of Agriculture and Agro-Industry, African Development Bank (AfDB)</li></ul>
14:55 – 15:00	<b>Conference Closing Remarks</b>	5 min	<b>Dr. Debisi Araba</b> , Managing Director, AKADEMIYA2063

