AFRICA FOOD SYSTEMS FORUM 2025

Africa's Youth: Leading Collaboration, Innovation and Implementation of Agri-Food Systems Transformation

AKADEMIYA 2063

IFAD
Investing in rural people

THE WORLD BANK

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Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition

SPECIAL EVENT

PIONEERING A 3FS AFRICA COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE (3FS CoP) UNDER KAMPALA

Country-Owned Financial Intelligence and Food Systems Financing Strategies

September 2, 2025

14:30–16:00 GMT

Thematic Hall | CICAD & Diamniadio Expo Center | Dakar, Senegal

ABSTRACT

1. In January 2025, African leaders adopted the Kampala CAADP Declaration (2026–2035), decisively setting the course for building resilient and sustainable agrifood systems in Africa over the next decade. Catalyzed by the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, the Kampala CAADP Declaration marks a shift from a singular focus on agricultural transformation to a continent-wide vision of high-performing African food systems, underpinned by renewed financial commitments. African leaders pledged to boost domestic and foreign, public and private finance and to provide analytical support to member states for targeted financing strategies. Kampala CAADP goes beyond the long-standing pledge of allocating 10% of national budgets to agriculture, setting a more ambitious target of dedicating these resources to financing country transition to high-performing national food systems. Kampala CAADP marks a fundamental mindset shift: moving from tackling sectors and issues in isolation—food security and nutrition, natural resource management and sustainability, resilience to shocks and crises, and decent livelihoods for those working in African food systems—to recognizing their interconnections. African leaders are committed to policy reforms and investment strategies to address these priorities in a coordinated manner.

2. Through the Kampala CAADP Declaration, African leaders also pledged to empower those on the frontlines of Africa's food systems —small agrifood entrepreneurs, especially women and youth. Africa has an estimated 33–50 million small farms producing 70–80% of the continent's food supply, underscoring their pivotal role in national economies and food systems. Under the African Continental Free Trade Agreement, African agriculture is projected to generate US $1 trillion in agribusiness by 2030. The continent's total urban food market is expected to reach US $150 billion by the same year, with smallholder farmers potentially capturing up to US $30 billion. Africa also holds 65% of the world's remaining arable land and boasts the youngest, most dynamic population of any region. Through the Kampala CAADP Declaration, leaders aim to empower African agrifood entrepreneurs to seize these opportunities while catalyzing foreign direct investments.

3. The Kampala CAADP Declaration will take effect in January 2026, in the context of a food finance ecosystem under renewed pressure. Several converging pressures are reshaping global food systems finance, including debt distress; significant cuts in external development finance; armed conflicts and displacement; intensifying climate shocks; rising import tariffs and input costs, and agricultural subsidies that distort global food markets, forcing small agrifood entrepreneurs to compete under unfair trade terms—often without appropriate access to technology or affordable finance. Projections for 2025 are concerning, signalling a growing disconnect between rising food assistance needs and shrinking development finance. In the context of a depressed global economy, shocks, and crises, for 48 LDCs—33 of which are African—transforming food systems would require financing equivalent to 40% of their GDP, a figure that underscores the scope of resource mobilization they require to implement their national pathway for food systems transformation . A new era of food systems financing is emerging, marked by increasing demands from African leaders and citizens for investments that accelerate the transition to high-performing food systems and reduce long-term reliance on food assistance. In this context, country-level financial intelligence—defined as visibility into domestic and external, public, and private financial flows within the national food system, along with a clear understanding of the roles played by government, the private sector, and development partners—is essential. Such intelligence enables decision-makers to leverage their comparative advantages and to assemble an effective mix of financing instruments.

4. Amid shifting development finance dynamics, country-owned and led strategies to unlock, scale, and repurpose financial flows for high-performing food systems across Africa are more critical than ever. In this context, empowering decision makers with country-level financial intelligence—visibility over domestic, external, public, and private flows to the national food system, and understanding the roles of governments,

the private sector, and development partners—is key to leveraging their comparative advantage and assembling the right mix of financing instruments.

5. IFAD and the World Bank, as co-leads of the Food Systems Summit financing agenda, developed the 3FS framework to empower governments and stakeholders with data-driven intelligence on Financial Flows to Food Systems—across national budgets, development finance, and soon, private sector sources. While numbers alone do not drive change, financial intelligence enables leaders to identify opportunities, anticipate shortfalls when certain financing sources fall short of expectations, manage risks, and align resources to address urgent needs while advancing long-term goals.

6. At a time of major shifts in the development finance landscape—and with growing debt stress limiting national budgets—government interest in the 3FS is rising. IFAD, the World Bank, GAIN, and AKADEMIYA2063 have come together to empower governments with financial intelligence on food systems financing. In addition to Niger and Peru, which piloted the 3FS from its inception, since January 2025, eight governments have requested access to the 3FS framework—six of them in Africa: Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Kenya, Rwanda, and Tanzania.

SPECIAL EVENT OBJECTIVES

7. In the context of a rapidly evolving food systems finance landscape, it is critical to facilitate not just a one-off discussion, but a regular platform for continuous engagement of African decision-makers and stakeholders on food systems financing—powered by data-driven intelligence, country-level insights, and the sharing of country-owned, game-changing financing initiatives.

8. As a follow-up to the session on Africa's Food Systems Financing held during the Food Systems Summit Stock-taking Moment (FSS+4), this session will convene some African decision-makers, technical experts, development partners, civil society, and other stakeholders to dive deeper into first-of-its-kind data intelligence on the distribution and relative importance of development finance and domestic resource mobilization in country-level food systems financing. It will also signal the launch of a continuing process of dialogue, knowledge exchange, and collective action to sustain momentum beyond a single convening on food systems financing around three segments:

- **Engagement around financial intelligence on food systems financing across African countries: State, stakes, and the path forward.** This session will spotlight the state of development finance and domestic resource mobilization for food systems in African countries, benchmarking progress since the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit. IFAD, AKADEMIYA2063, and IFPRI will release comprehensive data intelligence on external development financing directed at African countries for food systems, covering the period before and after 2021. It shows that Africa remains the top recipient of development financing for food systems, which has grown amid rising pressures. Yet, the continent still lags in mobilizing resources—both domestic and international—at the scale required to transform its food systems. Discussions will address key questions: How much development finance is directed to African food systems? What is being financed? What types of instruments are used—ranging from grants to concessional loans? And what are the implications of current shifts for national financing strategies?

- **Peer exchanges through a 3FS African Community of Practice (CoP) on keeping track of financial flows to food systems finance—**approach, value, and lessons learned for adaptive country financing strategies. The session will launch an African CoP on 3FS implementation, led by AKADEMIYA2063, to foster regular exchange on country-owned evidence and progress in mobilizing, scaling, and optimizing financial flows to food systems. Seven African governments are already engaging with the 3FS framework—some having completed in-country mapping of financial flows, others currently undertaking the exercise, and some preparing to begin. The CoP will

bring together government leaders, technical experts, development partners, civil society, and other stakeholders to share lessons learned, innovative approaches, and best practices for aligning financial flows with each country's context and the Kampala CAADP ambition of dedicating at least 10% to food systems transformation. Beyond the special event in Dakar, the 3FS CoP will aim to create a critical mass of expertise across the continent to ensure availability of the knowledge needed to guide strategic choices by the governments.

• **Sharing innovative, country-led strategies for food systems financing.**
The session will provide space for a senior government representative to present innovative, country-owned financing strategies that combine domestic, development, and private capital. Special attention will be given to solutions that unlock consumer and agribusiness markets, empower domestic agrifood entrepreneurs, and transformative foreign investments. These exchanges will ensure continuity, enabling countries to learn from one another and to advance bold, actionable approaches for financing high-performing national food systems.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

9. From this special session, four main outcomes are expected:

- **Africa Report Released and Discussed –** Latest data on external development financial flows to African food systems shared, with key implications for national financing strategies.
- **Financing Gaps and Solutions Identified –** Clear insights on urgent financing needs and innovative instruments to blend domestic, development, and private sources.
- **Replicable Country Model Showcased –** Nigeria's multi-source financing strategy presented, with conditions for adaptation in other African contexts.
- **3FS CoP Roadmap Agreed –** Consensus on mission, governance, priority services, and steps to ensure sustainability of the African Community of Practice.
- **Momentum for Kampala CAADP Commitments Strengthened –** Renewed political and technical alignment to dedicate at least 10% of national budgets to food systems transformation using financial intelligence on food systems financing.

SESSION FORMAT

10. The session will adopt a Roundtable format to foster dynamic, engaging discussions among participants. The moderator will act as a bridge between speakers and the audience, maintaining focus on key themes. This approach encourages deeper idea exchanges than traditional panels, promotes equal participation, and enables an enriched dialogue, ultimately leading to actionable insights. A skilled moderator will guide the discussion, ensuring active engagement and facilitating the flow of conversation.

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#AFSForum2025

La Jeunesse Africaine : Fer de Lance de la Collaboration, de l'Innovation et de la Transformation des Systèmes Agroalimentaires

EVENT PROGRAM

Chair and Moderator – Dr. Ousmane Badiane, Executive Chairperson, AKADEMIYA2063

Opening and Welcome Remarks (3 min) – Context setting and introduction of the session's objectives and co-organizers.

- **Dr. Ousmane Badiane,** Executive Chairperson, AKADEMIYA2063

Keynote Address (7 min) – Inspirational framing on the urgency of innovative, country-led financing for food systems under the Kampala CAADP Agenda.

- **H.E. Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki,** African Union Special Envoy for Food Systems; Co-Chair, Malabo Montpellier Forum

Framing Presentation – Africa Report (15 min) – Launch of the Africa Report on External Development Financial Flows to Food Systems by IFAD, IFPRI, and AKADEMIYA2063; presentation of key findings and implications.

- **Ms. Nadine Gbossa,** Director, Food Systems, IFAD
- **Dr. John Ulimwengu,** Senior Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
- **Dr. Augustin Wambo Yamdjeu,** Director, Knowledge Systems, AKADEMIYA2063

Deep Dive 1 – Panel (25 min) – High-level discussion with ministers and institutional leaders on the state, stakes, and pathways forward in food systems financing, including audience Q&A.

- **Hon. Dr. Henry Musa Kpaka,** Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Sierra Leone
- **Hon. Dr. Mark Cyubahiro Bagabe,** Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources, Rwanda
- **Dr. Lawrence Haddad,** Executive Director, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)
- **Mr. Donal Brown,** Associate Vice-President, Programme Management, IFAD
- **Dr. Johan Swinnen,** Director General, IFPRI

Deep Dive 2 – Nigeria Case Study (10 min) – Video and presentation showcasing Nigeria's innovative homegrown financing strategy combining domestic, development, and private capital.

- **Ms. Jalwau Ahmadu Bello,** Special Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Nigeria

Deep Dive 3 – Panel (25 min) – Interactive dialogue on creating a functional African Community of Practice (CoP) on 3FS, featuring government implementers, technical experts, and development partners, with audience engagement.

- **Dr. Alexandre Rutikanga,** Chief Technical Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources, Rwanda
- **Mr. Dossa Aguemon,** Director of Cabinet, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries, Republic of Benin
- **Mr. Chris Brett,** Lead Agribusiness Specialist, World Bank
- **Ms. Francine Picard,** Co-founder and Director of Partnerships, Shamba Centre
- **Dr. John Ulimwengu,** Senior Research Fellow, IFPRI

Closing Reflections (5 min) – Summarize key takeaways, highlight commitments, and outline the CoP launch process.

- **Ambassador Gabriel Ferrero de Loma-Osorio,** Senior Strategy Advisor, GAFSP, World Bank
- **Dr. Ousmane Badiane,** Executive Chairperson, AKADEMIYA2063