

BEYOND THE FARM

Investment for innovation of food processing in Africa's food system

 September 7, 2022 |  14:30-16:00 |  Kigali Convention Center, Room MH1

AGRF Session Concept Note

Session Objectives

Discuss opportunities for expanding and improving commercial activities beyond agricultural production in Africa

1

Share key research findings on how to ensure that post-production activities benefit small-scale producers, generate employment, and increase resilience

2

Foster exchanges between private sector, policy, and science

3

Expected Outcomes

Identification of investment and policy priorities to expand food processing, reduce post-harvest losses and foster market integration in Africa

Evidence-based decision making on post- production-related investments and policies

Session Key Words

Food processing, Markets, Employment, Private sector

Brief Description of Event

The post-harvest segments of African food systems hold great potential for income and employment generation, but much of that remains untapped. The ingredients for expanding these segments can be found in many African countries, including a large youth population that will enter the labor market in the coming decades, a vibrant SME sector operating in agricultural value chains (the ‘hidden middle’) and natural resources suitable for agricultural production to generate the required input into processing and retail. This event will discuss what innovations, investments and policies are needed to boost the performance of the food and agriculture sectors beyond production, including to add value through food processing, reduce post-harvest losses, increase supply-chain efficiencies, and foster competitive integration in local and global markets. The focus will be on how to achieve an equitable transformation that benefits African small-scale producers and SMEs while ensuring their resilience in the face of current and future global crises and related supply-side shocks.

Why is this Session relevant to AGRF?

The event will input into recurring discussions at AGRF on how to go beyond expanding agricultural production to strengthen other parts of the value chain and generate much-needed employment opportunities for Africa’s youth while increasing incomes and contributing to stronger economic growth. Related investments and policies will be crucial if the transformation of agriculture and food systems in Africa is to be achieved. They are also essential to provide market opportunities for agricultural producers, generate employment and build the resilience of food systems as a whole.

Session Format

The event will be divided into two segments. In the first part (20 minutes), researchers will briefly present key findings from related research to provide evidence-based input in the discussions. The second part (ca. 40 minutes) will consist of a moderated panel discussion with representatives from the private sector, policy, and research (including inputs from the audience) to discuss how to put the research findings into practice and identify key investment and policy priorities for expanding post-harvest activities in an equitable, sustainable, and resilient manner.

Speakers

Moderator

Dr. Ousmane Badiane

Executive Chairperson, AKADEMIYA2063

Co-Chair, Malabo Montpellier Panel

Part 1 (Research Presentations – 20 min)

- » **Dr. Getaw Tadesse, Director**, Operational Support, AKADEMIYA2063
- » **Dr. Heike Baumüller**, PARI Coordinator and Senior Research, Center for Development Research, University of Bonn
- » **Presentation of the Book** “From Potential to Reality” with free copy for participants

Part 2 (Panel – 40 min)

- » **Dr. Yemi Akinbamiyo**, Executive Director, Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
- » **Mr. Zephania Niyonkuru**, Deputy CEO, Rwanda Development Board, Rwanda
- » **Eng. Dr. Dorothy Okello**, Dean, School of Engineering at Makerere University, Uganda and Member, Malabo Montpellier Panel
- » **Ms. Victoria Sabula**, CEO, Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund
- » **Mr. Ishmael Sunga**, CEO, Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions and Member, Malabo Montpellier Panel
- » **Mr. Alex van de Langenberg**, COO, Hollanda Fair Foods Ltd



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