AFRICA FOOD SYSTEMS FORUM 2023
Recover, Regenerate, Act:
Africa's Solutions to Food Systems Transformation

USDA

2063
AKADEMIYA

AGRA
Sustainably Growing
Africa's Food Systems

SIDE EVENT

Transforming African Food Systems

Sharable, Reliable & Timely Agricultural Data & Market Information are Essential for Agricultural Policies, Market Information, Food Security & Sustainable Food Systems

September 4
4:00–5:30 PM (EAT)

Mt Kilimanjaro Hall | Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Organized by: **The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), AKADEMIYA2063, and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)**

#AGRF2023

Transforming African Food Systems:
Sharable, Reliable, and Timely Agricultural Data and Market Information Are Essential for
Agricultural Policies, Market Information, Food Security and Sustainable Food Systems

Concept Note

African food systems are critical to national economies, livelihoods, food security, and nutrition. They are also severely stressed under the weight of challenges including environmental degradation, pests and diseases, biodiversity loss, conflict, and climate, health, and economic shocks. Transforming food systems to ensure healthy diets, economic prosperity, and environmental security is vital.

For a sustainable transformation, food system actors need reliable, timely, and easily accessible data and information, including technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), to drive innovation and guide decision-making across the food system.

During the side event, USDA will highlight how technical collaborations with countries and regional organizations can strengthen their capacities to produce reliable and timely agricultural data and market price information and share demonstrated innovations to empower smallholder farmers, local buyers, and youth by putting digital tools in their hands.

AKADEMIYA2063 will highlight the importance of 1. high quality data to guide progress tracking as part of the CAADP Biennial Review process; 2. leveraging remote sensing data and AI to track greenhouse gas emissions and predict agricultural production and yields; and 3. digital tools by showcasing: the Africa Agriculture Watch (AAgWa) and the electronic BR (eBR) developed in partnership with the African Union Commission (AUC) to improve data quality and aid BR data entry and management.

AGRA will discuss its 1) Hub for Agriculture Policy Action (HAPA), a distinct service that helps consolidate and translate advisory services to governments seeking to reform, refine and/or develop clearly defined policies, 2) digital strategy that connects agriculture ecosystems and sustainably integrates the three pillars of governments, markets, and villages in the service of strategic value chains and 3) the Regional Food Balance Sheet (RFBS) Initiative.

AFRICA FOOD SYSTEMS FORUM 2023
Recover, Regenerate, Act:
Africa's Solutions to Food Systems Transformation

#AGRF2023

Transforming African Food Systems:
Sharable, Reliable, and Timely Agricultural Data and Market Information Are Essential for
Agricultural Policies, Market Information, Food Security and Sustainable Food Systems

Objectives

The event will deliver on the following objectives:

1. Reflect on challenges and opportunities for data availability, generation, and use in agriculture and food system value chains.

2. Explore the role of data, AI, and digital platforms in facilitating data access, driving innovation, and guiding decision-making in agriculture and food system transformation.

3. Highlight the need for reliable and timely agricultural data and market information for guiding agricultural policies, market information, food security and sustainable food systems.

4. Learn how to utilize publicly available data and digital and market tools and how you may work with USDA and its partners to increase capacities in agricultural data and market information systems.

Expected Outcomes

AGRF side-event delegates will have a shared understanding of:

1. Challenges, opportunities and best practices for data availability, generation, and use in African agriculture and food systems.

2. Best practices and options for leveraging data, market information, digital tools, and AI to drive innovation and decision-making in food system transformation.

3. The importance of establishing a continental convening body on agricultural data and market information. Such a body will develop a continental-level framework that could be used to build/enhance technical capacities of Ministries of Agriculture and relevant data institutions to collect, analyse and provide timely, and reliable agricultural data for policies, trade, food security and sustainable food systems.

AFRICA FOOD SYSTEMS FORUM 2023
Recover, Regenerate, Act:
Africa's Solutions to Food Systems Transformation

Transforming African Food Systems:
Sharable, Reliable, and Timely Agricultural Data and Market Information Are Essential for
Agricultural Policies, Market Information, Food Security and Sustainable Food Systems

Session Agenda

MEET THE SPEAKERS

Session Chair
Dr. Ousmane Badiane
Executive Chairperson, AKADEMIYA2063

Opening Remarks
Dr. Agnes Kalibata
President, Alliance for a Green
Revolution in Africa (AGRA)

Framing Remarks
Dr. Godfrey Bahiigwa
Director, African Union Commission, Department
of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy &
Sustainable Environment (AUC-DARBE)

Presentations

"Strengthening Agricultural Data & Market Information Capabilities at the Governmental, Intergovernmental & Individual Farmer Levels"
Dr. Otto Gonzalez
Senior Director, Agricultural Economic
Development Division, Global Programs,
USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

"Africa Agriculture Watch (AAgWA): Leveraging Remote Sensing Data & AI to Develop Crop Production Forecasts"
Dr. Racine Ly
Director, Data Management, Digital Products and
Technology, AKADEMIYA2063

"Building Agricultural Data Capacity with Geospatial Tools - Examples in Tanzania of GADAS & YouthMappers"
Lisa Colson
USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

"The CAADP Electronic Biennial Review (eBR): Improving Data Quality & Management"
Mr. Babacar Ceesay
Senior Manager, Information Systems,
Department of Data Management, Digital
Products & Technology, AKADEMIYA2063

"Agromovil – A Digital Tool Linking Small Farmers with Buyers to Improve the Efficiency of Small-Scale Agriculture – Examples from Ghana & Tanzania"
Mr. Andrew Mack
CEO & Founder of Agromovil, a project implementer
of USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

"The Regional Food Balance Sheet (RFBS) Initiative: Utilizing Food Balance Estimates to Forecast Food Crop Shortages"
Ms. Providence Mavubi
Director for Agriculture & Industry, Common
Market for Eastern & Southern Africa
(COMESA)

The role of data and analytics in informing policy decision-making: Experiences from demand-driven evidence-based policy planning and development"
Dr. Paul Thangata
Head of Data & Analytics, Alliance for a Green
Revolution in Africa (AGRA)

"Relevancy of Data for Predictive Policymaking"
Mr. Boaz Keizire
Head of Policy, Advocacy, and Food Systems,
Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)

Q&A Session

Closing Remarks

Dr. Otto Gonzalez
Senior Director, Agricultural Economic
Development Division, Global Programs,
USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

Dr. Ousmane Badiane
Executive Chairperson, AKADEMIYA2063