



AKADEMIYA

*The Expertise We Need. The Africa We Want.*



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA  
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA  
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

# The AKADEMIYA2063-University of Pretoria Academic Seminar Series

## *Unpacking Strategic Issues in Africa's Economic Transformation*

### Background

In line with our motto of creating “the expertise we need” for “the Africa we want”, AKADEMIYA2063 is dedicated to serving as a catalyst to mobilize a critical mass of experts across the continent to generate the data, analytics, and necessary technical evidence to support policy planning and implementation for better development outcomes.

In this new partnership with the University of Pretoria (UP), we are working jointly to leverage the vast number of resources produced by AKADEMIYA2063 scientists and their partners over nearly two decades to give hands-on experience to the next generation of policy analysts, researchers, and decision makers through a deep dive into the complex issues at the core of economic development dynamics in Africa. These include several leading flagship publications in the development space in Africa, such as the ResAKSS Annual Trends and Outlook Report (ATOR), the Africa Agriculture Trade Monitor (AATM), and the Malabo Montpellier (MaMo) Panel reports.

### Rationale

The achievement of Africa's development agenda relies on the design and implementation of expertly crafted policies that address the needs of the continent, anticipate future challenges, and are conducive to growth and prosperity. Innovative policy and program design can only be effective when based on data and evidence. Given the

complexities of the development process and mindful of challenges unique to the continent, there is a need to prepare future actors in the international development sector by linking university students to seasoned practitioners to facilitate dialogue on the scientific and programmatic interventions that inform the policy design process.

The AKADEMIYA2063-University of Pretoria Academic Seminar Series will provide a forum for university students at UP, and later, other African universities, to engage with a vast network of leading scientists who contribute to AKADEMIYA2063's flagship reports, toward a deeper and more practical understanding of the specific thematic issues covered in the reports.

### Objectives

In addition to tackling questions at the intersection of research and policy, the series will provide a greater appreciation of the nuances and complexities of the development process itself, with the following objectives:

- Provide an interactive forum for university students to discuss and analyze high-quality knowledge products produced under the framework of AKADEMIYA2063's core programs and central to the implementation of the Malabo Agenda and Africa's broader developmental goals in a bid to understand their application to policy design.

- Connect university students to scientific researchers, international development practitioners, and policy experts to facilitate a better understanding of the development process.
- Contribute to the professional development of university students by facilitating exposure to and networking opportunities with seasoned professionals from the relevant sectors.

### Approach

Implemented through the UP Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences' Department of Agricultural Economics, Extension and Rural Development, the pilot edition of the series is organized under the framework of the 2021 ReSAKSS Annual Trends and Outlook Report (ATOR).

The 2021 ATOR analyzes the patterns and nature of shocks and vulnerabilities and related implications for economic growth and livelihoods across Africa. In particular, it provides in-depth examinations on the impacts of COVID-19 on African economies and food systems, reviews the responses of African countries to the pandemic, and advances the discussion on methodologies to measure the effects of and resilience to shocks. Although the report is centered around COVID-19, its lessons are applicable beyond the current crisis. The pandemic, a uniquely wideranging challenge that combined features of previous health, economic, and food price shocks, reminds us of the breadth of risks and challenges that food systems must continue to withstand

into the future. The report argues for a broader conceptualization of resilience that encompasses climate risks and the wider range of shocks that pose a threat to progress toward transformed food systems and economies.

### Session 3

Join us for the 3rd Edition of the Academic Seminar Series to unpack three chapters of the ReSAKSS 2021 Annual Trends and Outlook Report (ATOR).

#### Meet the Speakers!

**Dr. Getaw Tadesse**, Director, Operational Support, AKADEMIYA2063  
[Assessing African Economic Policy Responses to COVID-19](#)

**Dr. Jan Duchoslav**, Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute  
[Delivery of Social Protection Programs to Combat COVID-19 in Africa](#)

**Dr. Nicholas Sitko**  
 Senior Economist, FAO  
[Rethinking the Role of Social Protection in African Food Systems Post-COVID-19](#)

#### Facilitator

**Dr. Katrin Glatzel**, Director, Policy Innovation, AKADEMIYA2063

# Agenda, April 21, 2022 (all times SAST)

2:00–3:30 PM SAST

[Register to the Webinar](#)

2:00–2:05 Opening

Dr. Katrin Glatzel, AKADEMIYA2063

2:05–2:10 Welcome remarks

Professor Sheryl Hendriks, University of Pretoria

2:10–2:20 Presentation: Assessing African Economic Policy Responses to COVID-19

Dr. Getaw Tadesse, AKADEMIYA2063

2:20–2:30 Discussant

Ms. Mahlatse Makola, University of Pretoria

2:30–2:40 Presentation: Delivery of Social Protection Programs to Combat COVID-19 in Africa

Dr. Jan Duchoslav, IFPRI

2:40–2:50 Discussant

Mr. Lukhangele Mgweba, University of Pretoria

2:50–3:00 Presentation: Rethinking the Role of Social Protection in African Food Systems Post-COVID-19

Dr. Nicholas Sitko, FAO

3:00–3:10 Discussant

Ms. Yetunde Olugbade, University of Pretoria

3:10–3:25 Discussion and Q&A

Dr. Katrin Glatzel, AKADEMIYA2063

3:25–3:30 Closing

Professor Sheryl Hendriks, University of Pretoria

## About The University of Pretoria

The University of Pretoria (UP) was established in 1908 with just four professors and 32 students, in a little house called Kya Rosa. Today, it is one of the largest research universities in South Africa. UP has transformed into a dynamic university community of staff and students who come from a range of diverse backgrounds and cultures showcasing South African and global societies. The University was born from a vision to create a space for quality education and for new ideas to flourish. Over the course of its existence, and through different phases of political power and social change, UP has been resilient in its commitment to academic quality.

This has allowed us to establish a presence among the top 1,9% of universities worldwide. Our vision has always been to look forward, provide the best possible education for our students, and encourage them to go on to do great things. We are continuously transforming the corporate and research landscape through innovative thinking and the high calibre of our graduates. More than a quarter of a million alumni have passed through our doors. Many are on the path to success, while others have already become leaders in their fields both locally and internationally.

UP has grown to become one of the top universities on the continent, and we are proud that our reputation precedes our graduates around the world. Our story at UP is as much about where we have come from as where we are heading. It is a story of ongoing positive development, dedication to excellence, and striving to reach our goals with zeal, passion and perseverance. For more information, visit [www.up.ac.za](http://www.up.ac.za).

## About AKADEMIYA2063

Established in 2020, AKADEMIYA2063 is an Africa-based non-profit research organization with headquarters in Kigali, Rwanda and a regional office in Dakar, Senegal.

Inspired by the ambitions of the African Union's Agenda 2063 and grounded in the recognition of the central importance of strong knowledge and evidence-based systems, the vision of AKADEMIYA2063 is an Africa with the expertise we need for the Africa we want. This expertise must be responsive to the continent's needs for data and analysis to ensure high-quality policy design and execution. Inclusive, evidence-informed policymaking is key to meeting the continent's development aspirations, creating wealth, and changing livelihoods for the better.

AKADEMIYA2063's overall mission is to create, across Africa and led from its headquarters in Rwanda, state-of-the-art technical capacities to support the efforts by the Member States of the African Union to achieve the key goals of Agenda 2063 of transforming national economies to boost economic growth and prosperity. Following from its vision and mission, the main goal of AKADEMIYA2063 is to help meet Africa's needs at the continental, regional and national levels in terms of data, analytics, and mutual learning for the effective implementation of Agenda 2063 and the realization of its outcomes by a critical mass of countries. AKADEMIYA2063 strives to meet its goals through programs organized under five strategic areas—policy innovation, knowledge systems, capacity creation and deployment, operational support and data management, digital products, and technology—as well as innovative partnerships and outreach activities. For more information, visit [www.akademiya2063.org](http://www.akademiya2063.org).

## Contact Persons

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