

# 14<sup>TH</sup> MALABO MONTPELLIER FORUM

**VALUE-UP:** Policy Innovations to Advance Africa's  
Agri-food Processing Sector for Growth,  
Jobs, and Health

📅 August 27, 2024  
🕒 13:00-16:15 (GMT)  
📍 Online





The **Malabo Montpellier Forum** provides a platform to facilitate dialogue and exchange among high-level decision-makers on African agriculture, nutrition, and food security and to promote policy innovation using evidence produced by the Malabo Montpellier Panel—a group of 17 leading African and international experts in agriculture, ecology, nutrition, and food security.

The Forum Co-Chairs are **H.E. Hailemariam Dessalegn Boshe**, Former Prime Minister of Ethiopia, and **H.E. Dr. Assia Bensalah Alaoui**, Ambassador at Large to His Majesty King Mohamed VI of Morocco. The Forum meets twice a year, and every meeting is guided by a technical report prepared by members of the Malabo Montpellier Panel.

The Panel's forthcoming report, which will be launched at the virtual meeting of the Malabo Montpellier Forum on August 27 2024, is themed **“VALUE-UP: Policy Innovations to Advance Africa's Agri-food Processing Sector for Growth, Jobs, and Health.”** The report focuses on successful approaches, that is, institutional, policy, and technical innovations and programmatic interventions among African countries to boost the role of Africa's agri-food processing sector in the transformation of agri-food systems.

The upward trends in population growth, jobs, and urbanization present ample opportunities to develop Africa's agri-food processing sector due to the increased demand for ready-to-cook, ready-to-eat, nutritious, and safe foods. Efforts to spur the growth of Africa's emerging agri-food processing sector also create real opportunities for job creation and income generation for various actors across value chains. Realization of these opportunities will require effective strategies to tackle challenges related to access to capital, improved processing technology, adequate knowledge and skills, and conducive policy and investment environments, including digital capacities.

As Africa's policymakers discuss a post-Malabo Declaration Agenda, agri-food processing is critical for food systems transformation. This can be achieved through African governments providing enabling environments that support and facilitate the growth of the agri-food processing sector. To support governments' efforts with evidence-based and practical recommendations, the Malabo Montpellier Panel prepared a report on successful and effective approaches to enhance the contribution of Africa's agri-food processing sector to increased food and nutrition security, income generation, and economic growth. The report highlights areas of progress, presents opportunities for replication and scaling up successful interventions, and possible avenues for structural transformation through a sustainable agri-food processing sector.

The Panel's report reviews the potential contribution of the **emerging agri-food processing sector** to economic growth, challenges hindering the growth and sustainability of the sector, and **opportunities to enhance the sector's contribution to economic and food systems transformation**. The report also includes three country case studies on **Ghana, Kenya, and Senegal**, which have shown success and progress in the growth of their agri-food processing sector.

The Malabo Montpellier Forum provides an opportune moment to reflect on challenges and opportunities for growing a sustainable agri-food processing sector and to draw a roadmap of action for consideration by African countries.

The meeting of the Forum will be conducted in three parts: a technical part drawing on the findings and recommendations from the Panel's report, reflections on the outcomes and lessons from the report, and a high-level policy roundtable composed of senior representatives from African governments, the private sector, and development partner agencies.



## About the **Malabo Montpellier Panel**

The Malabo Montpellier Panel convenes 17 leading experts in agriculture, engineering, ecology, nutrition, and food security. It aims to facilitate policy choices by African governments to accelerate progress toward food security and improved nutrition. The Panel identifies areas of progress and positive change across the continent and assesses what successful African countries have done differently. It identifies the institutional and policy innovations and program interventions that other countries can best replicate and scale. The related Malabo Montpellier Forum provides a platform to promote policy innovation; it uses the evidence produced by the Panel to facilitate dialogue among high-level decision-makers on African agriculture, nutrition, and food security. For more information, please visit: [www.mamopanel.org](http://www.mamopanel.org)

### Forum and Panel Inquiries

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