



KAMPALA CAADP SERIES

Nutrition Intelligence:
Leveraging Opportunity
Crops, Agro-processing,
and Data Insights to
Improve Resilience

Webinar Session **IV**

 **Thursday, January 29, 2026**

 **12:00 – 13:30 GMT/14:00 – 15:30 CAT/15:00 – 16:30 EAT**

 **Online**

CONCEPT NOTE

1. Background

Across Africa, malnutrition remains a persistent challenge, driven by climate shocks, fragile food supply chains, limited dietary diversity, and insufficient use of nutrient-rich local crops. At the same time, the continent possesses a wealth of underutilized “opportunity crops”, that is, nutrient-dense, climate-resilient crops such as millets, legumes, roots, and tubers that hold promise for improving dietary quality, resilience, and livelihoods. Strengthening local agro-processing ecosystems, for example, through fortification, can further increase access to nutritious foods while creating rural employment opportunities and reducing post-harvest losses.

In parallel, advances in data systems, particularly mapping and measuring nutrient adequacy at disaggregated levels, are opening new pathways for more targeted nutrition planning and response mechanisms. These analytical tools help governments, development partners, and humanitarian actors identify nutrient gaps, align interventions with population needs, and prioritize response efforts in fragile and crisis-affected countries. They can also help advance nutrient-smart trade agreements between neighboring countries.

This webinar will explore how opportunity crops, agro-processing, and nutrient adequacy mapping can jointly accelerate progress toward improved nutritional outcomes. It contributes to an emerging dialogue aimed at equipping African policymakers, researchers, investors, and humanitarian agencies with actionable evidence, technologies, and policy options to strengthen food and nutrition security sustainably and at scale.

2. Objectives and Expected Outcomes

The upcoming session will include presentations on AKADEMIYA2063 Kampala Policy Briefs 12 and 13, focusing on two key topics: “[Food Processing and Nutrition in Africa: Improving Diets under the Kampala Declaration](#)” and “[Nutrient Adequacy Analysis for Nutrition-Sensitive Agrifood Systems Under the Kampala CAADP Declaration](#).[“](#) In addition to these presentations, speakers will discuss opportunities to advance the integration of Neglected and Underutilized Species (NUS) into food systems. This discussion will draw on insights from the European Commission’s Knowledge Centre for Global Food and Nutrition Security report, “[Neglected and Underutilised Species \(NUS\): Potential for Food and Nutrition Security – A Knowledge Review](#).[“](#)

The webinar aims to:

- Deepen understanding of opportunity crops as engines of nutrition and resilience.
- Highlight innovations in agro-processing that can improve access to affordable, nutrient-rich foods.
- Demonstrate how nutrient adequacy mapping can guide policymaking, investment, and humanitarian action.
- Generate actionable insights to inform national strategies and regional agendas to accelerate nutrition outcomes.

3. Preliminary Agenda – 90 min

Time	Agenda Item	Speaker
	Welcome & housekeeping	Dr. Layih Butake Director, Communication & Outreach, AKADEMIYA2063
5 min	Introduction	Dr. Afton Halloran Senior Scientific Manager, Global & Environmental Health, Novo Nordisk Foundation
25 min	Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrient adequacy • Food processing and nutrition • Opportunity Crops 	Ms. Julia Collins Senior Associate Scientist, AKADEMIYA2063 Dr. John Ulimwengu Senior Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) Dr. Aisha Musaazi Nakitto Head, Policy Innovation Unit, AKADEMIYA2063 Dr. Carlo Rega Scientific Officer, European Commission Joint Research Centre
40 min	Moderated Panel	Dr. Simon Winter , Vice President, Reimagining Humanitarian Nutrition Security, The Rockefeller Foundation Prof. Anna Lartey Professor of Nutrition, University of Ghana Dr. Nicole Claassen Head of Sector Programme, Food and Nutrition Security, Fisheries, GIZ Ms. Martha Haile Founder & CEO, Abze Mr. Nico Wilms-Posen Project Coordinator, Crop Trust
15 min	Q&A	
5 min	Closing remarks	Dr. Debisi Araba Managing Director, AKADEMIYA2063

ABOUT AKADEMIYA2063

AKADEMIYA2063 is a pan-African non-profit research organization with headquarters in Kigali, Rwanda, and a regional office in Dakar, Senegal. Inspired by the ambitions of Agenda 2063 and grounded in the recognition of the central importance of strong knowledge and evidence 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 the African Union's Agenda 2063 of transforming national economies to boost 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 intelligence, knowledge systems, data intelligence and governance—as well as partnerships and communication and outreach activities. For more information, visit www.akademiya2063.org.

GET IN TOUCH

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