



CLIMATE FINANCE FOR FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

A Malabo Montpellier Panel Learning Event Series

Learning Across Borders:
Experience from Benin, Malawi & Rwanda

📅 October 12, 2023 ⌚ 13:00 – 14:00 GMT

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1. Background

Over the last three years, African countries made significant progress in advancing continent-wide policy environments to address their food systems' challenges. In this context, the policy frameworks for climate action are numerous and comprehensive. The Africa Common Position on the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit outlines strategies to tackle the challenges caused by climate change as well as the measures and investments needed to strengthen climate resilience in Africa's food systems. In addition, adopting the 2022 Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan and the 2021 African Union Green Recovery Action Plan also provide complementary guidelines to reduce the impact on agriculture and opportunities to scale up adaptation efforts across the continent.

These strategies arise from long-term national efforts that have seen African countries stepping up and investing significant national resources in response to climate change. African countries are increasingly creating and deploying an innovative and context-relevant financing architecture to access more and better funds from bilateral and multilateral sources and attract more private capital toward food system-related investments in adaptation. The [Malabo Montpellier Panel's 2022 report titled *ADAPT: Policy Innovations to Unlock Climate Finance for Resilient Food Systems in Africa*](#) identifies four countries: Benin, Mali, Rwanda, and Zimbabwe, that are taking concrete steps forward to develop a robust national climate finance system to support adaptation in food systems in an approach that is relevant to their country's development goals. Their innovations and successes can provide a benchmark for neighbors in the region and beyond to add momentum to the scale and speed at which climate finance is mobilized to support a food systems transformation.

2. Objectives

The Malabo Montpellier Panel proposes 4 learning events during which countries with complementary pathways and experience in developing climate finance architecture are brought together to exchange experience and lessons learned. The Panel's 2022 report, *ADAPT: Policy Innovations to Unlock Climate Finance for Resilient Food Systems in Africa*, presents a detailed review of what four African countries – *Benin, Mali, Rwanda, and Zimbabwe* – are doing to develop their national portfolio of institutions and policies to mobilize and disburse climate finance. The selection of these countries is based upon a [methodology¹](#) which plots countries on their performance in accessing climate finance to date, governance, and credit rating, as well as vulnerability.

This concept note proposes convening learning events for countries that perform comparably across these criteria, thereby creating a conducive environment to foster and nurture dialogue and increase their success in attracting climate finance for building resilient food systems that are fit for the future.

This concept notes proposes that representatives from Benin, Mali, Rwanda, and Zimbabwe will have an opportunity to showcase and share their innovations in institutional structures, policymaking, and programmatic interventions with those from Malawi, Morocco, Senegal, and Sierra Leone.² The selection of the countries is further supported by growing evidence from their countries that institutional and policy reforms are resulting in positive change across food systems, as presented in previous Malabo Montpellier Panel reports.

¹ Malabo Montpellier Panel (2022). *ADAPT: Policy Innovations to Unlock Climate Finance for Resilient Food Systems in Africa*. Kigali, Rwanda. P38.

² MaMo Panel has produced several case studies on Malawi, Morocco, and Senegal previously. We will refer to them when putting together information and invitation lists.

3. Provisional Agenda

Welcome Remarks (13:00 GMT)

Dr. Ousmane Badiane

Executive Chairperson, AKADEMIYA2063
Co-Chair Malabo Montpellier Panel

Moderated Panel Discussion (13:05 GMT)

Moderator

Dr. Lee Ann Jackson, Head of the Agro-Food Trade and Markets Division, Trade and Agriculture Directorate (TAD), Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and Member, Malabo Montpellier Panel

Benin

- » **Dr. Appolinaire D. Gnanvi**, Director General, National Environment and Climate Fund (FNEC)
- » **Dr. Martin Pepin Aina**, Director, Directorate for the Environment and Climate (DGEC)

Rwanda

- » **Mr. Patrick Karera, Permanent Secretary**, Ministry of Environment (invited)
- » **Mr. Felix Yvan Rugwizangoga**, Chief Strategy Officer, Rwanda Green Fund-FONERWA (invited)
- » **Dr. Telesphore Ndabamenye**, Director General, Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB)
- » **Mr. Frank Abaho Gakwaya**, Strategy and Research Manager, Development Bank of Rwanda (BRD) (invited)

Malawi

- » **Dr. Rodwell Mzonde**, Director of Planning, Ministry of Agriculture (invited)
 - » **Prof. David Mkwambisi**, Malawi University of Science and Technology
 - » **Dr. Betty Chinyamunyamu**, CEO NASFAM
 - » **Dr. Elias Ngalande**, former Governor of Malawi Central Bank
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Concluding remarks (13:55 GMT)

Dr. Moumini Savadogo

Managing Director, AKADEMIYA2063

4. About

The Malabo Montpellier Panel convenes 18 leading experts in agriculture, engineering, ecology, nutrition, and food security. Its aim is to facilitate policy choices by African governments in order to accelerate progress toward food security and improved nutrition. The Panel identifies areas of progress and positive change across the continent and assesses the things that successful countries have done differently. It identifies the institutional and policy innovations and program interventions that can best be replicated and scaled by other countries. 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.

The Panel is convened by AKADEMIYA2063 and the Center for Development Research (ZEF) at the University of Bonn.

For more information please visit: www.mamopanel.org

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