

Africa Food Systems Forum 2025

Program Synopsis

Overview:

The African continent is a 1.2-billion-person market and will reach 2 billion by 2050. It has the youngest population in the world with more than 400 million young people between the ages of 15 and 35 years. Africa is undeniably a vast land of opportunities with 60% of arable land, abundant water resources, rich ecosystems, 365 days of solar, young vibrant population and cheap labour. However, the continent still faces various challenges (i.e. climate change, low investments in agri-food systems, infrastructure gaps, unskilled youth, land reforms, and fragmented agri-food policy) to create job opportunities for youth and women and ensure food and nutrition security. Hosted under the leadership of H.E. Bassirou Diomaye Diakhar FAYE, President of the Republic of Senegal, the Africa Food Systems Forum 2025 Summit will bring together public and private sector leaders, policymakers, researchers, development partners, and youth champions around the theme: **“Africa’s Youth Leading Collaboration, Innovation, and Implementation of Agri-Food Systems Transformation.”**

This year, the African Union launched the Kampala Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) with the aim to mobilize \$100 billion. The Summit will be a prime moment to meet the escalating challenge of food security in Africa and center African youth by honestly taking stock of our progress and integrating them into our political and financial commitments and innovations towards productive, nutritious, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable food systems.

At the end of the High-Level Summit, it is expected that commitments will be made by Heads of States to:

- **Presidential summit and declaration**
- **Communiqué on food systems from the ministerial**
- Country **Food Systems CAADP implementation with** Ministerial declaration
- MSMs and country Deals closed
- Sharing of best good practices/solutions and technologies to scale up

Young Leaders

To foster peer-to-peer learning and enduring friendships among the younger generation, the AFS Forum will convene events in the Youth Dome, feature youth speakers in all high-level discussions, hold the Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition, and launch platforms to intensify youth exchanges during and beyond the summit.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Teranga – Host Showcase and Facts of the Day

Rooted in Senegalese hospitality, the Teranga moment offers daily showcases of i) national innovation, culture, and food systems leadership ii) highlights of main food systems topic by practitioners. Morning briefings, technical and cultural moments highlight Senegal's and Africa's contributions to the Forum's goals, helping participants start each day with local context and inspiration and link with Africa's and global perspectives.

Plenary Sessions

Plenary sessions are the cornerstone of AFS Forum, bringing together high level distinguished African and global leaders, policymakers, researchers, and youth leaders to unpack critical challenges and opportunities shaping the continent's food systems. From state-of-the-sector vision, policy direction, governance, Investment and finance, nutrition, trade, and youth leadership, reports and strategic dialogues these sessions set the tone for each day, providing a platform for bold ideas, actions announcements, and collective reflection on the Forum's core theme.

Thematic Sessions

Organized around key priority themes, the thematic sessions serve as platforms for knowledge sharing, dialogue, and collaboration on key aspects of Africa's food systems transformation. These sessions create opportunities for actionable learning and idea exchange that feed into high-level deliberations and follow-up on themes such as women and youth in food systems, sustainability and climate, finance and accountability, digital innovation, trade and regional integration. The thematic sessions are integral to fostering continuous stakeholder engagement and driving progress aligned with the Forum's overarching goal of transforming Africa's food systems with a strong focus on youth leadership and collaboration.

Stakeholder Forums

Stakeholder forums including the Researchers Forum, Civil Society Forum, Farmers Ministerial Roundtable, and Parliamentary Forum—allow like-minded groups to deliberate in focused formats. These invite collaboration, policy alignment, and network-building, and are critical for ensuring that all voices, from ministers to scientists, help shape Africa's food future.

Youth Dome

The Youth Dome is designed to serve as a powerful launchpad for youth-led solutions that drive sustainable and inclusive food systems across Africa. This dynamic, interactive space will empower young voices, foster innovation, and provide crucial pathways for youth employment and the growth of agribusiness. This youth platform will showcase youth-led agribusinesses, startups, and digital solutions, connecting them to resources through youth-focused dialogues, GoGettaz Live Pitches, capacity-building mentorships, an innovation showcase, and targeted networking opportunities.

Investment Room

The Investment Room hosts, throughout the week, a high-impact matchmaking platform linking governments, SMEs, and investors to drive agricultural financing and partnerships. It also includes, Legacy Programs serve as flagship platforms for investment pledges, showcasing scalable national strategies and priority projects.

Agri-Food Expo

The Agri-Food Expo is the Forum’s vibrant exhibition zone, featuring different pavilions, private sector showcases, innovation pods, and startup booths. It is a space for networking, discovery, and collaboration—where ideas come to life through technology demonstrations, product and solutions launches, and interactive displays. The Expo also hosts the culinary village as well as the stage for the Arbre à Palabres.

L’Arbre à Palabres (Breakthroughs Tree)

This conversational stage brings together thought leaders, chefs, youth, and innovators in a relaxed setting to explore food systems “breakthroughs.” Through storytelling and dialogue, participants examine the cultural, scientific, and policy dimensions of Africa’s food future in a unique, inclusive atmosphere.

Culinary Village

At the Culinary Village, tradition meets innovation. Attendees enjoy live cooking demonstrations, tastings, and chef-led showcases of African ingredients and culinary heritage. It’s a celebration of food culture that highlights the nutritional, economic, and environmental importance of local diets and cuisines and links with sustainable production and consumption.

Knowledge Hub

The Knowledge Hub is a curated learning space offering reports, data dashboards, technical briefs, and research findings from across the continent. Delegates can access the latest intelligence supporting food systems transformation and engage with experts translating data into action. The Knowledge Hub will also host Masterclasses covering various topics that will offer hands-on support for young people, entrepreneurs, startups and governments.

Field Visits

To connect discussion with lived realities, AFS Forum will include curated field visits in Senegal. Delegates particularly investors and development partners will explore investable and scalable innovative startups, farmer cooperatives, agro-processing hubs, and innovative agritech projects, gaining firsthand insight into how Senegal is advancing food systems transformation at the grassroots level.

Side Events

AFS Forum offers space for in-depth engagement on emerging topics and partners joint work, new partnerships, and sector-specific innovations. Hosted by thematic platforms as well as partners across government, business, academia, and civil society, these sessions enable

targeted exchanges that contribute to the broader agenda while offering practical insights, launches, and collaborative opportunities.

Podcast Pod

The Podcast Pod records and broadcasts live interviews with speakers, youth leaders, and innovators, capturing the energy and insight of AFS Forum in real-time. Episodes will be distributed online to extend the Forum’s reach and spark ongoing dialogue beyond Dakar.

TEDx

TEDx at AFS Forum brings the spirit of “ideas worth spreading” to food systems transformation. Featuring powerful talks from African youth, women leaders, and changemakers, this platform inspires bold action through personal stories, breakthrough innovations, and transformative visions for the continent.

AFSF Awards: Africa Food Prize, Gogettaz, WAYA

Key special moments of the week celebrate African Excellence. The Awards ceremonies comprise the Africa Food Prize, the Gogettaz and WAYA all taking place at different moments of the week. A prominent Award recognizing an outstanding individual or institution that is leading the effort to change the reality of farming in Africa with 100,000 USD Prize. The Gogettaz recognizes youth entrepreneurs or entrepreneurial solutions, innovations sharing their experiences and driving conversations on the future of food systems from the frontlines. WAYA, an AGRA prestigious award scheme that recognizes female agripreneurs demonstrating remarkable Innovation and business excellence in agricultural value chains

Entrepreneurship Training and Master Classes

Designed to build practical skills and business acumen, master classes and training sessions offer hands-on support for young people, entrepreneurs and startups on food systems. Covering various topics, these sessions equip youth with the tools to succeed and grow within Africa’s dynamic food sector.

PROGRAMME SYNOPSIS

DAY 0: Sunday, AUGUST 31st, 2025

Please join us for side events, special events, the opening of the exhibition and networking in the Youth Dome

TIME	SESSION
10:00 – 16:00	<p>Field Visits</p> <p>To connect discussion with lived realities, AFS Forum will include curated field visits in Senegal. Delegates particularly investors, development partners will explore farmer cooperatives, agro-processing hubs, and innovative agritech projects, gaining firsthand insight into how Senegal is advancing food systems transformation at the grassroots level.</p>
10:00 – 18:00	<p>Registration Opening</p> <p>Agri-Food Expo</p> <p>The Agri-Food Expo is the Forum’s vibrant exhibition zone, featuring different pavilions, private sector showcases, innovation pods, and startup booths. It is a space for networking, discovery, and collaboration—where ideas come to life through technology demonstrations, product launches, and interactive displays.</p>

AFSF PARTNERS



DAY 1: Monday, SEPTEMBER 1st, 2025

TIME	SESSION
09:30 – 10:00	<p>Teranga - Host Showcase & Facts of the Day</p> <p>Venue: Auditorium</p>
10:00 – 13:00	<p>PLENARY</p> <p>Opening Ceremony</p> <p>Venue: Auditorium</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Larry Madowo, CNN International Correspondent</p> <p>National Anthem of Senegal</p> <p>Welcome to the 2025 Food Systems Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Amath Pathé Sene, Managing Director, Africa Food Systems Forum Hon. Dr. Mabouba Diagne, Minister of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Livestock, Republic of Senegal <p>Video: Africa's Youth Food Systems Transformation in Africa</p> <p>Opening Remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H.E. Hailemariam Dessalegn, Board Chair, AGRA & Former Prime Minister, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Lord Collins of Highbury, Minister for Africa, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), United Kingdom Hon. Francesco Lollobrigida, Minister of Agriculture, Italian Republic H.E. Nardos Bekele-Thomas, CEO, AUDA-NEPAD H.E. Bassirou Diomaye Diakhar Faye, President, Republic of Senegal <p>Senegalese Cultural Performance</p> <hr/> <p>Opening Panel – Youth Town Hall</p> <p>Africa's food systems can only thrive if youth are at the heart of the transformation. The 2025 Africa Food Systems Forum puts this belief into action with a powerful Youth Town Hall, an interactive platform where young Africans engage directly with policymakers, innovators, and industry leaders. Under the leadership of H.E. President Bassirou Diomaye Faye and H.E. Prime Minister Ousmane Sonko, Senegal's youth-first vision comes to life through bold initiatives like</p>

the Community Agricultural Cooperative (CAC), setting the tone for a continent-wide movement.

Watch as youth leaders in agri food systems from across the continent voice their priorities, pitch groundbreaking ideas, and challenge decision-makers to invest in their vast potential. From demanding inclusive policies to scaling youth-led agribusinesses, the Town Hall is where a new generation of voices meets decisive action. Join this pivotal assembly and witness Africa's youth actively shape a resilient, productive, and collaborative food future for all.

Venue: Auditorium

Moderator:

Mr. Larry Madowo, CNN International Correspondent

Interaction with Youth and President

- **H.E. Bassirou Diomaye Diakhar Faye**, President, Republic of Senegal
- Youth
- **Ms. Siny Samba**, CEO, Le Lionceau
- **Mr. Moustapha Sy Ndiaye**, Founder, Maraz
- **Ms. Claudia Senghor**, Agroeconomist & Founder, AGROBABE
- **Ms. Robha Abekeri**, Youth Pastoralist, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
 - **Ms. Fahima Mohamed Ismael**, Djibouti

Presidential Summit – Delivering the African Food Systems Promise

Be part of a defining moment for Africa's agricultural future at the Africa Food Systems Forum 2025 - the continent's premier platform for transforming food systems. Hosted by Senegal's dynamic leadership, this Presidential Summit confronts today's critical challenges, declining aid, climate shocks, and global instability, by shifting the focus to unlocking Africa's vast agri-food potential through domestic resources and bold policy reforms. Anchored in the new CAADP Strategy (2026–2035), the summit galvanizes leaders to reimagine and reinvest in our food systems. Dive into discussions exploring smart financing, from tax reform and local bonds to tapping remittances and pension funds for sustainable transformation. With youth-led innovation pulsing at its core, this forum will elevate African solutions, drive high-level commitments, and decisively position the continent as a global food powerhouse.

Venue: Auditorium

(As invited)

Moderator:

Mr. Larry Madowo, International Correspondent, CNN

Institutional Calls to Action

- **Ms. Alice Ruhweza**, President, AGRA
- **Dr. Alvaro Lario**, President, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- **Dr. Ismahane Elouafi**, Executive Managing Director, CGIAR
- **Mr. Mohamed Hettiti**, CEO, OCP Africa
- **Mr Ibrahim Cheikh Diong**, Executive Director, Fund for responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD)

Presidential Summit – Head of State Summit

- **H.E. Bassirou Diomaye Diakhar Faye**, President, Republic of Senegal
- **H.E. Paul Kagame**, President, Republic of Rwanda
- **H.E. Julius Maada Wonie Bio**, President, Republic of Sierra Leone
- **H.E. Kashim Shettima**, Vice President, Republic of Nigeria

(as invited)

- **H.E. Adama Barrow**, President, Republic of The Gambia
- **H.E. Bola Ahmed Tinubu**, President, Federal Republic of Nigeria
- **H.E. General Brice Clotaire Oligui Nguema**, President, Gabonese Republic
- **H.E. Army General Assimi Goïta**, Interim President, Republic of Mali
- **H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa**, President, Republic of South Africa
- **H.E. John Dramani Mahama**, President, Republic of Ghana
- **H.E. José Maria Neves**, President, Republic of Cabo Verde
- **H.E. Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva**, President, Federative Republic of Brazil
- **H.E. Mohamed Ali Youssouf**, Chairperson, African Union Commission (AUC)
- **H.E. Mohamed Ould Cheikh El Ghazouani**, President, Islamic Republic of Mauritania
- **His Majesty Mohammed VI, King**, Kingdom of Morocco
- **H.E. Umaro Mokhtar Sissoco Embaló**, President, Republic of Guinea-Bissau
- **H.E. Abiy Ahmed Ali**, Prime Minister, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

13:30 – 15:00

Roundtable: Researchers Forum

Education of Young Scientists: Attracting Youth to Research, Science, and Innovation

Recognizing Africa's vibrant youth as the dynamic engine for change, this researcher's forum directly addresses the importance of engaging young people in the research, science, technology, and innovation (RSTI) that underpin a sustainable and food-secure future for the continent. This forum will explore concrete and actionable strategies to effectively draw young talent into the agri-food sector's RSTI landscape. Panellists will explore innovative approaches to foster youth engagement in research-based initiatives across the entire food value chain – from primary production to processing, distribution, and consumption.

Venue: Oval Room

Moderator: **Dr. Daouda Sembene**, CEO, AfriCatalyst

Discussants:

• **Attracting and Preparing the Next Generation**

- **Dr. Wanjiru Kamau-Rutenberg**, Panel Member, Malabo Montpellier & Managing Director, Africa, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT
- **Dr. Simeon Ehui**, Director General, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) & Regional Director, CGIAR
- **Dr. Namukolo Covic**, Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa, CGIAR & President, African Nutrition Society
- **Dr. Pierre Kadet**, Director – Climate-Resilient Food Systems, International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

• **Building Bridges and Empowering Through Mentorship**

- **Ms. Kira Everhart-Valentin**, Alliance Manager for Cowpea, Gates Agricultural Innovations, Gates Ag One
- **Dr. Canisius Kanangire**, Executive Director, African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF)
- **Dr. Shenggen Fan**, Chair Professor & Dean of the Academy of Global Food Economics and Policy (AGFEP), China Agricultural University (CAU)
- **Ms. Katelyn Runyan-Gless**, Strategic Partnerships Manager, AgriCorps
- **Dr. Suzie Newman**, General Manager – Partnerships, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)

• **Creating Enabling Environments**

- **Mr. Maram Kaïre**, Director, Senegalese Spatial Agency & Former NASA
- **Dr. Abdou Tenkouano**, Director General & CEO, International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe)
- **Dr. Jean Luc Chotte**, Director of Research, Institute of Research for Development (IRD)
- **Dr. Ginya Truitt Nakata**, Global Director – Agriculture and Food Systems Policy, The Nature Conservancy
- **Dr. Moctar TOURE, President**, Académie des Sciences et Techniques du Sénégal

Closing Remarks:

- **Hon. El Hadj Abdourahmane Diouf**, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, Republic of Senegal

<p>15:00 – 18:00</p>	<p>PLENARY</p> <p>African Food Systems Year in Review</p> <p>How far have we come, and who is truly leading the charge? Acting as powerful advocates, the First Ladies will bring the stories of the continent’s grassroots champions, the women and local leaders, to the main stage. Explore how leadership is driving investment in nutrition-sensitive farming, empowering women-led enterprises, and securing healthier futures for the next generation. This is a unique opportunity to witness how high-level influence can accelerate action on the ground. Through stories and strategy, we’ll unveil the data driving decisions, with tools like the Africa Agriculture Status Report (AASR) lighting the way. Join this call to action and help put Africa’s true changemakers, those closest to the soil, at the very heart of the solution.</p> <p>Venue: Auditorium</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Raissa Okoi - International Broadcast Journalist <p>First Ladies Roundtable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Marie Khone Faye - First Lady of the Republic of Senegal • H.E. Roman Tesfaye Abneh, Former First Lady, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia • H.E. Nardos Bekele-Thomas, CEO, AUDA-NEPAD <p>Setting the Stage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Abebe Haile-Gabriel - Assistant Director General, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) • Dr. Paulin Basinga - Africa Director, Gates Foundation • H.E. Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki - Former Prime Minister, Republic of Niger & African Union Special Envoy on Food Systems, AUDA-NEPA <p>Launch of the Africa Agriculture Status Report (AASR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. John M. Ulimwengu - Senior Research Fellow, Development Strategies and Governance Unit, IFPRI <p>Food Systems Highlights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Amath Pathé Sene, Managing Director, Africa Food Systems Forum & Regional Director for West Africa, AGRA • Dr. Khaled Eltaweel, Senior Program Coordinator in the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
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Infrastructure, Innovations & Industrialization – Meeting Youth Needs

- **Mr. Chen Xi**, Mayor of Sanya, People’s Republic of China
- **Dr. Canisius Kanangire**, Executive Director, African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF)
- **Ms. Zoe Karl-Waithaka**, Managing Director and Partner, BCG Consulting
- **Prof. Appolinaire Djikeng**, Director General, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)

Investment Room Launch – Mobilizing Capital for Youth Innovation

- **Ms. Binta Touré Ndoye**, Board Member, AGRA
- **Mr. Sunru Yong**, Partner & Co-Director, Dalberg
- **Dr. Maximo Torero Cullen**, Chief Economist & Assistant Director General for the Economic and Social Development, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Commitments Review – Building a Brighter Future

- **Dr. Tom Thompson**, Global GAP Report, Virginia Tech University
- **Mr. Mehdi Filali**, Vice-President West Africa, OCP Africa
- **Ms. Wambui Chege**, Director, Agrifood Systems, Mastercard Foundation
- **Ms. Nomsa Daniels**, Board Member, Heifer International

Closing Remarks

- **H.E. Moses Vilakati**, Commissioner, Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment (ARBE), African Union Commission (AUC)

DAY 2: Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 2nd, 2025

TIME	SESSION
10:00 – 10:30	<p>Teranga – Host Showcase & Facts of the Day</p> <p>Venue: Auditorium</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Lauren Phillips, Deputy Director, Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) • Ms. Alberta Nana Akyaa Akosa, World Food Forum, Ghana Youth Chapter
10:30 – 12:00	<p>PLENARY</p> <p>Empower Women in Agri-Food Systems</p> <p>Advancing Nutrition & Health</p> <p>Unlock the full potential of Africa’s food and nutrition landscape by championing its most vital players: women. While women form the backbone of our agrifood systems, they remain critically underserved and under-resourced. This powerful plenary confronts this disparity head-on, putting a spotlight on women’s leadership and rights as the key to transformative change. Be present for the official launch of "The Status of Women in Agrifood Systems," a groundbreaking report packed with the latest data and regional trends. Esteemed speakers will unpack the report's key findings on food security, nutrition, and climate resilience, focusing on opportunities for young women. Expect a deep dive into Africa-specific recommendations and actionable strategies designed to forge truly inclusive and equitable agrifood systems.</p> <p>Venue: Auditorium</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Raissa Okoi, International Broadcast Journalist <p>Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Marie Khone Faye, First Lady, Republic of Senegal <p>Keynote Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Susan Kaaria, Director, African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) <p>Panel Discussion – Empowering women in agrifood systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Jemimah Njuki, Director – Gender, Women, and Civil Society, African Development Bank (AfDB)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Lauren Phillips, Deputy Director – Rural Transformation and Gender Equality, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) • Dr. Pierre Kadet, Director – Climate-Resilient Food Systems Division, International Development Research Centre (IDRC) • Ms. Nana Amoah, Director, Gender Youth & Inclusiveness, AGRA <p>Panel Discussion – Nutrition and Gender</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Mbaye Sene, Executive Secretary, National Nutrition Development Council (CNDN) • Ms. Margot van der Velden, Regional Director for West and Central Africa, World Food Programme (WFP) • Dr. Shailendra Mishra, Global Head of Sustainability – Grains, Oilseeds, Edible Oil, Wheat Milling, Feed & Freight, Olam Agri • Ms. Juliet Laverley, President, Women’s Farmer Network of Sierra Leone <p>Panel Discussion – High Impact Nutrition Interventions & Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Roy Steiner, Senior Vice President, The Food Initiative, Rockefeller Foundation & Board Member, AGRA • Dr. Bosibori Bett, Director – Multilateral & Strategic Partnerships, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) • Ms. Sokayna Bellam, Founder, Jodoor, Kingdom of Morocco • Ms. Surita Sandosham, President & CEO, Heifer International • Ms. Siny Samba, CEO, Le Lionceau <p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon. Maimouna Dieye, Minister of Family and Solidarity, Republic of Senegal
<p>12:30 – 14:00</p>	<p>Roundtable: Private Sector Forum</p> <p>Partnering with the Future: The Private Sector's Role in Youth-Led Agri-Food Innovation</p> <p>This session will explore the critical role the private sector must play in actively supporting and collaborating with the youth generation. We will move beyond acknowledging the potential of youth and explore concrete pathways and tools, derisking mechanisms for the private sector to strategically engage and invest in youth-led initiatives supported by public sectors and key reforms needed to achieve tangible progress towards a sustainable and food-secure Africa.</p> <p>This forum session will focus on the importance for the private sector of moving beyond traditional approaches and embracing innovative strategies for meaningful youth engagement.</p> <p>Venue: Oval Room</p> <p>Moderators</p>

- **H.E. Amb. David Lane**, President, Annenberg Foundation Trust at Sunnylands
- **Ms. Ada Osakwe**, Founding & Managing Director, Agrolay Ventures & Board Member, AGRA

Setting the Stage

- **Hon. Dr. Abdourahmane Sarr**, Minister of Economy, Planning and Cooperation, Republic of Senegal

Discussants

• **Attracting and Preparing the Next Generation**

- **Dr. Donal Brown**, Associate Vice-President, Programme Management Department, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- **Ms. Angela Brefo Yeboah**, 2SCALE youth champion & CEO, Angy Farms
- **Ms. Victoria Sabula**, CEO, Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund (AECF)
- **Ms. Debra Mallowah**, Cluster Division Head & Cluster Lead Crop Science Africa, Bayer
- **Dr. Jean-Claude Bidogeza**, Technical Specialist, Platform for Agriculture Risk management (PARM), IFAD
- **Ms. Meghna Laxman**, Director Corporate Affairs, Pepsico
- **Ms. Ndèye Fatou Mbodji**, Administrateur Général, Fonds de Garantie, Fonds de Garantie des Investissements Prioritaires (FONGIP)

• **Ecosystem for Innovation**

- **Ms. Alice Ruhweza**, President, AGRA
- **Hon. Francesco Lollobrigida**, Minister of Agriculture, Italian Republic
- **Mr. Imungana Malikana**, Co-Founder, TapFuel Global & Founder, Cranitech Ltd.
- **Ms. Wampie Libon**, Director of Inclusive Green Growth, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of the Netherlands
- **Dr. Sylvia Mwamba**, Associate Director & Zambia Country Lead, IDinsight
- **Ms. Natalie Africa**, Interim Director – Economic Opportunity, Gates Foundation
- **Mr. Mochesane Albert Mpali**, Founder & CEO, Lema Agrivest

12:30 – 14:00

Thematic session: Women in Food Systems

While addressing women’s roles in production, processing, trading, and households’ food consumption, we must also consider how the women are positioned in the agri-food systems, their accessibility to innovations, their vulnerability and resilience to climate change, their agency and participation in decision making and how the policy environment influences all these. This session will explore how we are meeting the equitable food systems challenge in Africa and how we can accelerate progress.

Venue: Hall A – Thematic Hall

Moderator

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Dorine Odongo, Senior Communications Manager, African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) <p>Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Susan Kaaria, African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) <p>Discussants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Nicoline de Haan, Director, Gender Equality and Inclusion Accelerator, CGIAR • Dr. Edidah Lubega Ampaire, Senior Programme Specialist, Climate Resilient Food Systems, International Development Research Centre (IDRC) <p>Fireside Chat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, Coordinator, Association for Fulani Women and Indigenous Peoples of Chad (AFPAT) & Co-Chair, FSC Indigenous Foundation • Ms. Nana Amoah, Director, Gender Youth & Inclusiveness, AGRA • Dr. Clara Mi Young Park, Senior Gender Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) • Dr. Mariame Maiga, Regional Gender and Social Development Adviser, Conseil Ouest et Centre Africain pour la Recherche et le Développement Agricoles (CORAF) <p>Panel Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Sefora Kodjo, Board Chair, Foundation, Sephis & Member of the Civil Society Committee, AfDB Group • Ms. Marieme Esther Dassanou, Director Gender, Mastercard Foundation • Ms. Sokhna Mbaye Diop Mbacké, Agricultural Engineer, Technical Advisor & Coordinator of the Gender Unit, Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty, and Livestock, Republic of Senegal <p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon. Khady Diene Gaye, Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture, Republic of Senegal
<p>12:30 – 13:00</p>	<p>Press Conference</p>
<p>14:30 – 16:00</p>	<p>PLENARY</p> <p>Digitalisation & AI 4 Next Gen</p> <p>Witness the future of food being coded today by Africa’s brilliant youth, who are actively turning agricultural challenges into digital opportunities. This forward-looking session spotlights the raw power of technology fused with the creativity of young minds, transforming our food systems from the ground up. Explore how youth-led solutions, from drone-mapped farms to AI-powered supply chains, are already rewriting the rules of farming, processing, and distribution. Join trailblazing entrepreneurs and tech enablers as they demonstrate how artificial intelligence and digital tools are boosting productivity, building climate resilience,</p>

and creating smarter value chains. This session will dive into what it takes to build inclusive digital ecosystems where all farmers and agripreneurs can access the tech they need to thrive.

Venue: Auditorium

Moderator

- **Ms. Femi Oke**, Journalist & Media Personality

Fireside Chat

- **Hon. Alioune Sall**, Minister of Communication, Telecommunications and Digital Affairs, Republic of Senegal
- **Hon. Dr. Mark Cyubahiro Bagabe**, Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources, Republic of Rwanda
- **Hon. Sen. Abubakar Kyari**, Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Federal Government of Nigeria
- **Dr. Alvaro Lario**, President, International Fund of Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- **Dr. Sandra Milach**, Chief Scientist, CGIAR

Youth & Innovation Panel: Digital Agriculture

- **Ms. Adesuwa Ifedi**, Africa Senior Vice President, Heifer International
- **Mr. Bruk Getahun**, Co-founder, Chip Chip Inc, Ethiopia
- **Mr. Benjamin Kwasi Addom**, Advisor, Agriculture and Fisheries Trade Policy (Digital), The Commonwealth
- **Mr. Alloysius Attah**, CEO, Farmerline

Resource Mobilization Panel

- **Ms. Beryl Agengo**, Digital Agriculture Specialist, The World Bank
- **Mr. Jens Hartmann**, Head of Europe, Middle East, and Africa Crop Science Division Bayer
- **Ms. Fatim Haby Mariko**, Senior Manager, IDInsight
- **Mr. Maram Kaire**, Director, Senegalese Spatial Agency & Former NASA

Closing Remarks

- **Dr. Maximo Torero Cullen**, Chief Economist & Assistant Director General for the Economic and Social Development, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

14:30 – 16:00

Ministerial Deep Dive: Livestock

Livestock systems are central to food security, livelihoods, and rural development across Africa, yet they face the twin challenge of reducing climate and environmental footprints while meeting rising demand. With several ministers of livestock expected at AFSF 2025, this Ministerial Deep Dive will drive high-level commitments to raise the profile of livestock,

mobilise significant new investment, and advance a shared agenda that delivers on national development priorities, fulfils climate commitments, and strengthens regional frameworks.

Venue: Oval Room

Moderator

- **Ed Rege** – Animal Scientist and CEO, Emerge Centre for Innovations–Africa

Welcome and Framing Remarks

- **Dr. Appolinaire Djikeng** – Director General, ILRI
- **Dr. Huyam Salih** – Director, AU-IBAR
- **Dr. Birthe Paul** – Head of Project, Catalyzing Transformation Towards Sustainable Livestock Systems (LiveSys), GIZ
- **Dr. Martin Fregene** – Director of Agriculture and Agro-Industry, AfDB

Ministerial Roundtable (as invited)

- **Hon. Dr. Mabouba Diagne**, Minister of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Livestock, Senegal
- **Hon. Felix Lamah**, Minister of Livestock, Republic of Guinea
- **Hon. Idi Muktar**, Minister of Livestock, Republic of Nigeria
- **Hon. Peter Chibwe Kapala**, Minister of Livestock, Republic of Zambia
- **Dr. Remy Pale**, Permanent Secretary of the Coordination of Sectoral Agricultural Policies, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal and Fisheries Resources, Republic of Burkina Faso
- **Ms. Agnes Kisaka Meena**, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, United Republic of Tanzania
- **Hon. Mutahi Kagwe**, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Republic of Kenya

Reflections, Commitments and Next Steps

- **Dr. Siboniso Moyo** – Deputy Director General, ILRI

16:30 – 18:00

Roundtable: Parliamentarians’ Forum

After nearly two decades of CAADP implementation, Biennial Review reports indicate that Africa is not on track to meet the Malabo Declaration targets by 2025. As the continent transitions from the Malabo phase, focus shifts to the Kampala CAADP Strategy and Action Plan (2026–2035), which prioritizes agrifood systems transformation as central to Africa’s economic agenda. Given the complexity of agrifood systems, an inclusive and coordinated approach is essential to ensure all stakeholders understand the Kampala framework, their roles, and the need for adequate resource allocation.

The Declaration further called upon Parliamentarians to:

1. Integrate the commitments into national policies, strategies, and budget frameworks, and operationalize them through **National Agrifood Systems Investment Plans (NASIPs)** with the necessary tools and implementation programs.
2. Support Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in the design and implementation of agrifood system policies and investment plans through appropriate legislation, financing, and oversight; and
3. Ensure that at least **10% of annual public expenditure** is allocated to agrifood systems, with mechanisms to monitor its effective use.

In response, the Africa Food Systems Parliamentary Network (AFSPaN), in partnership with the Parliament of Senegal, will convene a Parliamentarians Forum. This platform will facilitate structured dialogue to develop a Parliamentary Roadmap with actionable commitments, to be reviewed each year. A key focus will be inclusive dialogue aligned with Kampala's Commitment 4, bill approvals that are food systems sensitive by committees, promoting youth-informed policy recommendations and meaningful youth participation in advancing decent work across the agrifood value chain.

Venue: Oval Room

Moderators

- **Dr. Fadel Diame**, CEO, Food Systems Transformation Solutions
- **Mr. Robert Ouma**, CEO, Mezani Development Hub

Welcome Keynote Address and Chair of the Roundtable

- **Hon. El Malick Ndiaye**, President of the National Assembly of Senegal, Republic of Senegal

Opening Statement

- **Hon. Dr. Godfred Seidu Jasaw**, Member of Parliament, Republic of Ghana & Chairperson, African Food Systems Parliamentary Network (AFSPaN)

Setting the Stage

- **Dr. Hussaini Abdu**, President/CEO, Social Development Action Trust
- **Hon. Jeremy Lissouba**, Member of Parliament, Republic of Congo & Secretary General, African Food Systems Parliamentary Network (AFSPaN)

Presentation

- **Dr John Ulimwengu**, Senior Research Fellow, IFPRI

Discussants (as invited)

- **Hon. Ahmed Adamu Saba**, Member of Parliament, Federal Republic of Nigeria & Member, African Food Systems Parliamentary Network (AFSPaN)

- **Hon. Alice Muzana**, Member of Parliament, Republic of Rwanda & Member, African Food Systems Parliamentary Network (AFSPaN)
- **Hon. Carl Mihindou Mi-Zamba**, Member of Parliament, Republic of Gabon & Member, African Food Systems Parliamentary Network (AFSPaN)
- **Hon. Cernilde Mendonça**, Member of Parliament, Republic of Mozambique & Member, African Food Systems Parliamentary Network (AFSPaN)
- **Hon. Daniel Molokele**, Member of Parliament, Republic of Zimbabwe & Member, African Food Systems Parliamentary Network (AFSPaN)
- **Hon. David Muhumuza**, Member of Parliament, Republic of Uganda & Member, African Food Systems Parliamentary Network (AFSPaN)
- **Dr. Dora Siliya**, Member of Parliament, Republic of Zambia & Member, African Food Systems Parliamentary Network (AFSPaN)
- **Hon. Francoise Uwumukiza**, Member of Parliament, East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) & Member, African Food Systems Parliamentary Network (AFSPaN)
- **Hon. Inna Hengari**, Member of Parliament, Republic of Namibia & Member, African Food Systems Parliamentary Network (AFSPaN)
- **Hon. Melese Mena Gemeso**, Member of Parliament, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia & Member, African Food Systems Parliamentary Network (AFSPaN)
- **Hon. Meryem Ouhsata**, Member of Parliament, Kingdom of Morocco & Member, African Food Systems Parliamentary Network (AFSPaN)
- **Hon. Michelo Kasauta**, Member of Parliament, Republic of Zambia & Regional Coordinator (Southern), African Food Systems Parliamentary Network (AFSPaN)
- **Hon. Neema Lugangira**, Member of Parliament, United Republic of Tanzania & Vice Chairperson, African Food Systems Parliamentary Network (AFSPaN)
- **Hon. Olivier A. Bamenju**, Member of Parliament, Republic of Cameroon & Regional Coordinator (Central), African Food Systems Parliamentary Network (AFSPaN)
- **Hon. Rugiatu Kamara**, Member of Parliament, Republic of Sierra Leone & Member, African Food Systems Parliamentary Network (AFSPaN)
- **Hon. Safari Ayobangira**, Member of Parliament, Democratic Republic of the Congo & Member, African Food Systems Parliamentary Network (AFSPaN)
- **Hon. Yousef Mohamed Alfakhri**, Member of Parliament, State of Libya & Regional Coordinator (North), African Food Systems Parliamentary Network (AFSPaN)

Key Takeaways

- **Dr. Mwaka Namukonda**, Coordinator, CAYACC
- **Prof. Hamadi Boga**, Vice President – Program Delivery, AGRA
- **Dr. Wang Qiyang**, Member of the Standing Committee, CPC Hainan Provincial Committee & Secretary, Sanya Municipal Committee of the CPC
- **Hon. Neema Lugangira, Vice Chairperson**, African Food Systems Parliamentary Network (AFSPaN)

Reflections – Former Heads of State

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Hailemariam Dessalegn, Board Chair, AGRA & Former Prime Minister, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia • H.E. Lionel Zinsou, Former Prime Minister, Republic of Benin & Founder and Managing Partner, SouthBridge • H.E. Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Former Prime Minister, Republic of Niger & African Union Special Envoy for Food Systems (AUDA-NEPAD) • H.E. Mizengo Pinda, Former Prime Minister, United Republic of Tanzania • H.E. Mohamed Beavogui, Former Prime Minister, Republic of Guinea <p>Closing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon. Godfred Jasaw, Chairperson, AFSPAN
<p>16:30 – 18:00</p>	<p>Thematic session: Nutrition & Health</p> <p>Africa's food environments are at a critical time of transformation—shaped by rapid urbanization, market disruptions, climate stress, cultural preferences, and aggressive marketing of unhealthy foods. These factors influence what people eat, how they access food, and contribute to the rise of diet-related non-communicable diseases. With over 60% of Africa's population under 25, it is essential to centre youth in transforming food systems. This session will explore how to redesign food environments to make nutritious diets affordable, accessible, and desirable for all. It will highlight ways youth can drive innovation in agriculture, community food systems, and policy advocacy to foster inclusive and health-promoting food environments across rural and urban Africa.</p> <p>Venue: Hall A – Thematic Hall</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Lawrence Haddad, Executive Director, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) <p>Fireside Chat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon. Dr. Ibrahima Sy, Minister of Health and Social Action, Republic of Senegal • Hon. Dr. Ali Haji Abubakar, Minister of Health and Human Services, Federal Republic of Somalia • Hon. Daniel Simeon Kelema, Minister of Agriculture, Republic of Mali <p>Setting the Tone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Amadou Oury Diallo, National Focal Point of the Coalition on Agroecology, Institut Sénégalais de Recherches Agricoles (ISRA) • Ms. Aimée Wallin, Co-director, Ghana Food Movement • Dr. Djibril Bagayoko, Head of Nutrition Coordination Unit, Ministry of Health, Republic of Mali • Ms. Mwaka Namukonde, Executive Coordinator, CAYACC

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Paul Troy, Nutrition Lead, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ireland • Dr. Shailendra Mishra, Global Head of Sustainability – Grains, Oilseeds, Edible Oil, Wheat Milling, Feed & Freight, Olam Agri <p>Building on Case Studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Samson Ogbale, Lead Trainer, Soilless Farm Lab, Nigeria • Ms. Claudia Senghor, Agroeconomist & Founder, AGROBABE • Mr. Joseph Fashola, CEO & Co-Founder, Agrolinking • Mr. Oliver Oliveros, Executive Coordinator, Agroecology Coalition • Mr. Shawn Baker, Chief Program Officer, Helen Keller Intl • Ms. Efi Chatzinikolaou, Head of Partnerships, Access to Nutrition initiative (ATNi) <p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Paulin Basinga, Director – Africa, Gates Foundation
19:30 –	WAYA Gala Dinner (by invitation only)

DAY 3: Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 3rd, 2025

TIME	SESSION
10:00 – 10:30	<p>Teranga – Host Showcase & Facts of the Day</p> <p>Venue: Auditorium</p>
10:30 – 12:00	<p>PLENARY</p> <p>Governance of Food Systems</p> <p>Priority Actions and Investments to Implement CAADP</p> <p>Africa stands at a turning point and CAADP is the engine to drive its food systems transformation. This pivotal session will spotlight the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and its bold 2026–2035 Strategy and Action Plan, launched alongside the Kampala Declaration. With ambitious goals to mobilize \$100 billion in investments, boost food production by 45%, triple intra-African agri-food trade, and cut post-harvest losses in half, the future starts now. Join policymakers and food system actors to align around CAADP’s six core commitments, from scaling sustainable production to strengthening governance, key indicators to measures the implantation and accountability framework to investment and financing mechanisms needed. Expect a deep dive into game-changing reforms around regional integration, input access, and logistics that are designed to drive real impact. Be part of the movement to turn this ambitious strategy into concrete, on-the-ground results. It is time to act, invest, and deliver Africa’s food future, together.</p> <p>Venue: Auditorium</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Georgie Ndirangu, Director of Programs, Africa Leadership and Dialogue Institute (ALADI) & Media Personality <p>Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H.E. Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Former Prime Minister, Republic of Niger & African Union Special Envoy on Food Systems, AUDA-NEPAD Dr. Ousmane Badiane, Executive Chairperson, Akademiya2063 <p>Political Leadership – Charting the Future of African Food Systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hon. Dr. Mark Cyubahiro Bagabe, Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources, Republic of Rwanda Hon. Mabouba Diagne, Minister of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty, and Livestock, Republic of Senegal Hon. Fred Bwino Kyakulaga, Minister of State for Agriculture, Republic of Uganda <p>Partnering with Youth for Africa’s Agrifood Transformation</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Michael Kakande, Founder & Chairperson, Resilient 40 • Mr. Bond Tihagale, Secretary General, CAADP Youth Network <p>Investment, Innovation & Inclusivity – Mobilizing Resources for CAADP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Elizabeth Nsimadala, President, Eastern African Farmers Association (EAFF) • Ms. Arristine Mendes, Founder, Shaddaï Aquaculture, Republic of Senegal & Generation Africa Fellow • Dr. Donal Brown, Associate Vice-President, Programme Management Department, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) • Dr. Martin Fregene, Director, Department of Agriculture and Agro-Industry, African Development Bank (AfDB) <p>Reflections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Agnes Kalibata, Founder & Chair, Connect4Impact Advisory Group • Mr. Stefano Fatti, Director General for Development Cooperation – Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italian Republic <p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Moses Vilakati, Commissioner, Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment (ARBE), African Union Commission (AUC)
<p>12:00 – 14:00</p>	<p>Ministerial Roundtable (CAADP) (BY INVITATION ONLY)</p> <p>Africa stands at a pivotal moment in its journey toward food security, sustainable development, and resilience against global challenges. The intertwining of agri-food systems, energy, and climate offers a unique opportunity to reinvent the continent’s approach to feeding its growing population. These three aspects, when integrated, can serve as transformative forces to enhance productivity, reduce environmental stress, and empower communities.</p> <p>This High-Level inter-ministerial roundtable is open to Ministers of Agriculture, Energy and Climate as well as Multi- and Bilateral Development Agencies, Heads of International Organizations, Leaders of Private Sector and Investor Organizations to reflect on and share policy and investment insights on how to harness energy solutions and advance food systems transformation in the face of changing climate.</p> <p>Venue: Oval Room</p> <p>Facilitator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Ibrahim Cheikh Diong, Executive Director, Fund for responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD) <p>Keynote Speaker:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Alice Ruhweza, President, AGRA <p>Co-hosts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Hailemariam Dessalegn, Board Chair, AGRA & Former Prime Minister, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia • Hon. Mabouba Diagne, Minister of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty, and Livestock, Republic of Senegal <p>Special Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Former Prime Minister, Republic of Niger & African Union Special Envoy for Food Systems (AUDA-NEPAD) <p>Ministerial Roundtable (as invited)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prime Ministers • All confirmed Ministers of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries • All confirmed Ministers of Trade, Nutrition, Gender, Health • All confirmed Ministers of Environment and Climate • All confirmed Ministers of Economy and Finance • All Ministers of Energy • Senior invited Heads of Development Partner delegations • Heads and CEOs of Private Sector Partners • Heads of REC's <p>Key Takeaways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Arnold Puech d'Alissac, President, World Farmers' Organisation (WFO) • Dr. Simeon Ehui, Director General, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) & Regional Director, CGIAR • Mr. Nico Janssen, Programme Manager, Agricultural Livelihoods, IKEA Foundation • Prof. Jeffrey D. Sachs, University Professor & Director of the Center for Sustainable Development, Columbia University • Mr. Leonardus Vergütz, Chief Scientific Officer, OCP Nutricrops <p>Concluding Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Moses Vilakati, Commissioner, Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment (ARBE), African Union Commission (AUC)
<p>12:00 – 13:30</p>	<p>Thematic session: Sustainable Production</p> <p>Regenerating Africa: How are young agripreneurs are leading food systems transformation through agroecology for people and planet? This thematic session will highlight the role of African youth agripreneurs in advancing agroecology as a transformative pathway for sustainable food systems. Through an interactive dialogue format, real-world case studies, and cross-sectoral engagement, the session will demonstrate how agroecological</p>

principles—diversification, soil regeneration, circular economies, and local governance—are being put into action by young innovators. It will also unpack the enabling conditions needed—such as policy alignment, access to finance, and knowledge networks—to mainstream youth-led agroecological solutions across the continent.

Venue: Hall A – Thematic Hall

Moderator:

- **Dr. Susan Chomba**, Director of Vital Landscapes for Africa, World Resources Institute

Opening and Keynote

- **Dr. Marco Wopereis**, Director General, WorldVeg

3 Pitches (policy, investment, youth)

- **Ms. Crescentia Mushobozi**, Founder & CEO, MbeguNzuri BiotechFarms
- **Mr. Freddy Bob-Jones**, Managing Director, Aceli Africa
- **Mr. Ajuna Tadeo**, Country Representative, YPARD

Panel Discussion

- **Hon. Fred Bwino Kyakulaga**, State Minister for Agriculture, Republic of Uganda
- **Mr. Oliver Oliveros**, Executive Coordinator, Agroecology Coalition
- **Ms. Manei Naanyu**, Head of Programmes, PELUM Kenya
- **Dr. Ginya Truitt Nakata**, Global Director – Agriculture and Food Systems Policy, The Nature Conservancy
- **Dr. Kaushik Majumdar**, Director General, African Plant Nutrition Institute (APNI)
- **Ms. Kagwiria Koome**, Manager – Food Initiative, Rockefeller Foundation
- **Ms. Dongxin Feng**, Director, Joint Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)/International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- **Mr. Ibrahima Sow**, Special Advisor – Environment, Republic of Senegal

Call to Action

- **Mr. Nico Janssen**, Programme Manager, Agricultural Livelihoods, IKEA Foundation

Closing Remarks

- **Mr. Juan Lucas Restrepo**, Director General, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT

12:00 – 13:30

Thematic session: Agri-food Systems Leadership & Governance

The CAADP Strategy and Action Plan (2026–2035) and the Kampala Declaration identify weak implementation capacity and coordination as major obstacles to Africa’s agrifood

transformation. Strategic Objective 6 emphasizes strengthening agrifood systems governance through improved leadership, coordination, and mutual accountability.

This session co-organized by AGRA's Centre for African Leaders in Agriculture (CALA) and the African Food Fellowship (AFF) will highlight Food Systems Leadership (FSL) as a practical solution. It will showcase the importance of investing in experienced and emerging leaders across sectors to accelerate progress toward Kampala goals. Using evidence and models like, the session advocates for greater institutional recognition and funding for leadership development as a catalyst for capacity building, inclusion, and systemic change. By fostering collaboration among ministries and partners, the session aims to promote transparent, accountable, and adaptive governance for resilient, inclusive, and nutrition-sensitive food systems in Africa.

Venue: Press Conference Room

Moderator

- **Dr. Debisi Araba**, Visiting Research Fellow at the Centre for Environmental Policy, Imperial College London

Transformational Stories

- **Ms. Proscovia Alando**, Aquaculture Fellow, African Food Fellowship & Founder & CEO, SAMAKY Hub
- **Mr. Ledama Masidza**, Marine Conservationist, Impact Filmmaker & Global Advocate for Indigenous and Community-Led Food System Solutions

Building Food Systems Leadership

- **Prof. Kingsley Moghalu**, President & Vice-Chancellor, African School of Governance (ASG)
- **Mr. Jonathan Said**, Vice President for Technical Expertise, AGRA
- **Mr. Tony Nsanganira**, Rwanda Deputy Country Director, Tony Blair Institute for Global Change (TBI)
- **Mr. Abdrahamane Dicko**, Director of Programs and Impact, African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF)
- **Ms. Anushka Ratnayake**, Founder & CEO, MyAgro
- **Mr. Martin Bwalya**, Senior Food Systems Regional Consultant – Africa, UN Food Systems Coordination Hub

Stakeholder Reflections

- **Dr. Janet Edeme**, Head of Rural Economy Division, Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission
- **H.E. Carmen Hagenars**, Ambassador of the Netherlands to Senegal, Kingdom of the Netherlands
- **Mr. Enock Chikava**, Director – Agricultural Delivery Systems, Gates Foundation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Ali Badarneh, Chief – Food Security and Food Systems Division, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) • Mr. Peter Kaindaneh, Presidential Initiative on Climate Change, Renewable Energy and Food Security, Republic of Sierra Leone • Dr. Nteranya Sanginga, Emeritus Director General, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) & Board Member, Africa Food Prize <p>Call to Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Joost Guijt, Director, African Food Fellowship
<p>12:30 – 13:00</p>	<p>Press Conference</p>
<p>14:00 – 16:00</p>	<p>Ministerial Deep Dive: Energy</p> <p>Green Energy - Powering and Investing in Food Systems Value Chains</p> <p>Considering the majority of small holder farmers in SSA live in rural settings where there is often a concentration of off-grid or weak grid solutions, and where reliable energy access is severely limited or entirely absent, the role of distributed renewable energy (DRE) solutions has been highlighted as key in addressing energy deficits in food systems. This session will elevate cross-sector collaboration as a political priority, showcase leadership and innovations from African governments that are pioneering inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms, and catalyze high-level commitment to scale up investment in renewable energy technologies. The session will also present some of the latest DRE solutions, offering evidence-based research on commercially viable business models and experiences where such DRE solutions are proving transformative. In addition, the session will showcase methodologies and approaches by governments and development partners that are incentivizing the scaling up of a sustainable transformative market, promoting cross-sector coordination, and mobilizing high-level commitment through a shared Call to Action.</p> <p>Venue: Oval Room</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon. Dr. Seleshi Bekele Awulachew, Former Minister of Water, Irrigation and Energy, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia <p>Opening and Framing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Patrick Tonui, Head of Public Policy and Regional Strategy, GOGLA • Mr. Boaz Blackie, Director for Policy and State Capability, AGRA <p>Discussants (as invited)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon. Amadou Keita, Minister of Energy and Water, Republic of Mali • Hon. Paulin Akponna, Minister of Energy, Water and Mines, Republic of Benin

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon. Eloundou Essomba Gaston, Minister of Energy and Water, Republic of Cameroon • Mr. Ali Palouma, Counsellor for Water for the Minister of Water and Energy, Republic of Chad • Hon. Aboubacar Camara, Minister of Energy, Hydraulics and Hydrocarbons, Republic of Guinea <p>Conversation Among Stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Marilia Bezerra, Chief Programmes Officer, IKEA Foundation • Mrs. Annemieke Beekmans, Director Technical Expertise, SNV <p>Reflections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Bou Diarra, CEO, IBRIZ • Mr. Christopher Emmott, Associate Director, Investing in Energy Access, Acumen Fund (ACUMEN) • Mr. Hack Stiernblad, Chief Growth Officer, SunCulture • Ms. Hilary Murwisi, Research Engineer, Ministry of Energy, Republic of Zimbabwe • Ms. Martina Groenemeijer, Product Director, Futurepump • Mr. Rahul Srinivasan, Senior Energy Specialist, Sustainable Energy for All (SEforAll) • Mr. Martien van Nieuwkoop, Director, Agricultural Development, Gates Foundation & AGRA Board Member
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<p>14:00 – 16:30</p>	<p>PLENARY</p> <p>Food Systems Trade & Markets</p> <p>Connecting food corridors and food supply chains</p> <p>Let's solve a critical paradox: Africa grows enough food, but inefficient supply chains and siloed policies prevent it from reaching those who need it most. This high-energy plenary gathers bold leaders and youth innovators to shatter these barriers. Together, we will explore how to unlock the full promise of the AfCFTA, modernize logistics and storage, and harness digital tools to connect producers to markets with speed and fairness. Expect a session brimming with fresh ideas and real-world solutions to get food flowing across borders and onto tables. Discover how we can empower SMEs, youth, and women to transform food trade from farm to fork by aligning policies and forging powerful new partnerships that make our food systems efficient and future ready.</p> <p>Venue: Auditorium</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Femi Oke, Journalist & Media Personality <p>Opening Remarks</p>
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- **Hon. Claver Gatete**, Under-Secretary-General, United Nations & Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Panel Discussion

- **Facilitator: Dr. Agnes Kalibata**, Founder & Chair, Connect4Impact Advisory Group
- **Hon. Serigne Guèye Diop**, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Republic of Senegal
- **Hon. Dr. Godfred Jasaw**, Chairperson, African Food Systems Parliamentary Network (AFSPaN)
- **Mr. Mansoor Ahmad**, Deputy Head, Africa Economic Development; and Team Lead, Agribusiness Investment and Food Trade, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)

Panel Discussion

- **Facilitator: Mr. Daniel Njiwa**, Head – Regional Food Trade, AGRA
- **Mr. Baraka Chijenga**, Founder & CEO, Kilimo Fresh Foods
- **Mr. Alan Kessler**, CEO, African Food Security
- **Ms. Jacqueline Banda** – Founder & CEO, JEYIE Foods

Council of the Wise

Africa’s food future requires more than ambition; it demands bold leadership and a shared vision. This unique high-level plenary convenes the Council of the Wise, a powerhouse of seasoned African leaders, to chart a clear path toward unlocking intra-African food trade under the AfCFTA. The discussion will spotlight the urgent need for harmonized standards, smarter customs systems, and data-driven governance to break down barriers and build trust across borders. Leaders will explore how innovative financing, and digital tools can modernize supply chains and improve market access. With a strong focus on empowering youth, women, and SMEs, this session challenges decision-makers to champion a new era of trade that delivers resilience and prosperity for all.

Key Remarks

- **H.E. Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki**, Former Prime Minister, Republic of Niger & African Union Special Envoy for Food Systems (AUDA-NEPAD)

Youth Interrogators

- **Ms. Hannah Rotimi-Williams**, Founder, Carmella Farms, Federal Republic of Nigeria
- **Ms. Nafissatou Traore**, Founder & CEO, Debbo Enterprise, Republic of Senegal

Council of the Wise

- **H.E. Hailemariam Dessalegn**, Board Chair, AGRA & Former Prime Minister, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Lionel Zinsou, Former Prime Minister, Republic of Benin & Founder and Managing Partner, SouthBridge • H.E. Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, Former President, United Republic of Tanzania & Chair, Africa Food Prize Group • H.E. Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Former Prime Minister, Republic of Niger & African Union Special Envoy for Food Systems (AUDA-NEPAD) • H.E. Mizengo Pinda, Former Prime Minister, United Republic of Tanzania • H.E. Mohamed Beavogui, Former Prime Minister, Republic of Guinea • Mr. Elhadj As Sy, Board Chair, Kofi Annan Foundation & Former Secretary General, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
<p>16:30 – 18:00</p>	<p>Thematic session: Agri-Tech & Digitalisation</p> <p>This session will explore how digital agriculture services can become more economically viable, scalable, and broadly adopted through robust multistakeholder business models.</p> <p>Despite exciting innovation across Africa, adoption remains low and many services struggle to scale or remain financially viable. The session will highlight key challenges, including weak business models, and share examples of practical solutions.</p> <p>A multistakeholder, innovation-driven approach is essential to overcome adoption challenges and unlock the full potential of digital agriculture. By combining technology, inclusive business models, and strong partnerships, the sector can drive productivity, sustainability, and resilience in global food systems.</p> <p>Venue: Hall A – Thematic Hall</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Jonathan Said, Vice President for Technical Expertise, AGRA <p>Keynote Speaker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Amb. Muhammadou Kah, Ambassador of the Gambia to Switzerland and the Geneva-based international organizations & Member Malabo Montpellier Panel <p>Case Study Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Anne Dioh, Senior Director of Development, MyAgro, Republic of Senegal • Mr. Femi Adekoya, Founder & Director at Integrated Aerial Precision, Nigeria • Mr. Alexander Zanders, CEO and Founder, UfarmX, Republic of Nigeria <p>Panel Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Alioune Kane, Director General, Orange Finances Mobiles Senegal • Ms. Aisha Hadejia, Partner, Sahel Consulting

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Dayo Aduroja, Director – Youth & Tech Innovation, Africa, Heifer International • Mr. William Warshauer, President & CEO, TechnoServe • Mr. Cheikh Ahmadou Bamba Fall, Innovation, Entrepreneurship & Digitalization Expert, Enabel • Mr. Worlali Senyo, Country Manager – Ghana, Farmerline <p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon. Redouwane Ag Mohamed Ali, Minister Commissioner for Food Security, Republic of Mali
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<p>16:30 – 18:00</p>	<p>Thematic session: Regional Trade & Markets</p> <p>Building Inclusive Food Systems Transformation through innovative Food Baskets and Food Corridors</p> <p>Africa's food systems face mounting challenges from rapid population growth, climate change, urbanization, and global market disruptions. With the population projected to exceed 2.2 billion by 2050 and food demand rising over 50%, the continent must transition from fragmented, import-dependent systems to integrated, self-sustaining regional food economies. Currently, Africa spends \$60–80 billion annually on food imports, despite vast underutilized land and millions of farmers disconnected from formal markets.</p> <p>To tackle this, African leaders have endorsed the Kampala Declaration and revised CAADP Strategy, emphasizing coordinated action through the Food Baskets and Corridors Initiative. This framework aims to leverage regional strengths, boost investments, and connect surplus zones with demand centers via improved infrastructure, harmonized trade policies, and cross-border collaboration. The session will explore how these integrated food baskets and trade corridors can enhance intra-African trade, reduce losses, promote agro-industrial growth, and build climate-resilient value chains, focusing on smallholder farmers, women, youth, and regional bodies. It will also examine financing, governance, and policy models to attract investment and showcase successful value chain examples, fostering inclusive and resilient African food systems.</p> <p>Venue: Oval Room</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator • Mr. Daniel Njiwa, Head Regional Food Trade & Resilience <p>Creating Value through Markets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Alain Traore, Director of Agriculture and Rural Development, ECOWAS & Chairman, ECOWAS Rice Observatory • Mrs. Nunana Addo, Senior Policy Advisor, MOVE/ComCashew • Mr. Sapan Kumar, Country Head, Senegal, Olam Agri • Mr. Kweku Koranteng, Director, Head of West Region, AgDevCo
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Feeding Africa's Growing Demand for Protein

- **Dr. Babafemi Oyewole**, CEO, Pan-African Farmers Organisation (PAFO)
- **Mr. Ougfaly Badji**, Lead Global Food Security Expert, Islamic Development Bank
- **Mr. Ablaye Gaye**, President, Comite Local Thies de Racines
- **Ms. Filisters Gitau**, CEO, Farmers Choice

Closing Remarks

- **Mr. Mansoor Ahmad**, Deputy Head, Africa Economic Development; and Team Lead, Agribusiness Investment and Food Trade, FCDO, UK

DAY 4: Thursday, SEPTEMBER 4th, 2025

TIME	SESSION
10:00 – 10:30	<p>Teranga – Host Showcase & Facts of the Day</p> <p>Venue: Auditorium</p>
10:30 – 12:00	<p>PLENARY</p> <p>Biodiversity, Climate and Land</p> <p>Making the Conventions work for Africa</p> <p>Africa stands on the frontline of the world’s climate, biodiversity, and land crises, but it also holds the power to lead the world in solutions. This transformative plenary unites high-level leaders, technical experts, and passionate youth to align actions across the three Rio Conventions. Building on momentum from COP28, the session focuses on translating global commitments into integrated, continent-wide action. Through bold dialogue, speakers will reveal practical pathways for how coordinated governance and community-driven solutions can restore ecosystems and secure resilient food systems. A dedicated youth segment will spotlight the leadership of Africa’s next generation in a compelling fireside chat. Join this urgent call to unite the climate, nature, and land agendas under African leadership to build a sustainable future.</p> <p>Venue: Auditorium</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Femi Oke, Journalist & Media Personality <p>Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Ibrahima Cheikh Diong, Executive Director, Fund for responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD) <p>Driving the Agenda: African Leadership in Environmental Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon. Daouda Ngom, Minister of Environment and Ecological Transition, Republic of Senegal • Hon. Dr. Manal Awad, Minister of Environment, Arab Republic of Egypt • Dr. Richard Muyungi, Chair, African Group of Negotiators (AGN) • Hon. Mawunyo Mila Ami Aziabile, Minister of Water and Sanitation, Republic of Togo • Hon. Gilberto Silva, Minister of Agriculture and the Environment, Republic of Cabo Verde • Hon. Eric Opoku, Minister of Food and Agriculture, Republic of Ghana

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Mohammed A. Ibrahim, CEO/Executive Secretary, National Agricultural Development Fund (NADF), Nigeria <p>Financing and Innovating: From Commitment to Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, Coordinator, Association for Fulani Women and Indigenous Peoples of Chad (AFPAT) & Co-Chair, FSC Indigenous Foundation • Dr. Peter Mbanda Umunay, Thematic Lead - Food Systems and Land Use, Global Environment Facility (GEF) • Ms. Nancy Rapando, Africa Food Future Leader, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) • Dr. Bram Govaerts, Director General, International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) • Dr. Daniel Elger, CEO, Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI) <p>Interacting with Youth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Maguette Ba, CEO, Kéw Gi Agency; Youth Climate Advocate, UNICEF; Cyber Security Student, UNCHK; Member, Youth Volunteers for the Environment (JVE) Senegal <p>Closing Reflections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Jean-Marc Pisani, Head of Delegation, Senegal, European Commission
<p>11:00 – 12:30</p>	<p>Press Conference</p> <p>Unveiling of the 2025 Africa Food Prize Winner</p>
<p>12:00 – 13:30</p>	<p>Roundtable: Civil Society Forum</p> <p>The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) has evolved as a cornerstone of Africa’s strategy to boost agricultural productivity, enhance food security, and foster inclusive economic growth. The Kampala CAADP Strategy and Action Plan (2026–2035) underscores a shift towards systemic transformation of food systems through sustainable practices, inclusive governance, and youth and women’s empowerment.</p> <p>Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have been pivotal in realizing these objectives through advocacy, accountability mechanisms, and innovative programming at community levels.</p> <p>The session would be run as a Roundtable dialogue that allows CSOs, smallholder representatives, youth groups and other stakeholders in the room to engage in the conversation.</p> <p>Venue: Oval Room</p> <p>Moderators</p>

- **Ms. Aggie Asimwe Konde**, Director of Communications, External Engagement, and Advocacy, AGRA
- **Mr. Robert Ouma**, CEO, Mezani Development Hub

Presentation

- **Dr. Tendai Murisa**, Executive Director & Founder, SIVIO Institute

Youth Scalability and Widespread Adoption

- **Ms. Arame Gueye Sène**, Executive Director, Social Change Factory
- **Ms. Elizabeth M. Namaona**, CEO, Civil Society Agriculture Youth Network, Malawi
- **Ms. Eva Mageni**, President, Rural Women Farmers' Forum (RWFF)
- **Ms. Princess Lisa Ogbechie**, Vice President of Operations, Farmz2U

Cultivating Sustainable Commitment Mechanisms for Transformative Change

- **Ms. Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim**, Coordinator, Association for Fulani Women and Indigenous Peoples of Chad (AFPAT) & Co-Chair, FSC Indigenous Foundation
- **Ms. Germaine Furaha**, Global Operations, Rikolto International
- **Mr. Trent McKnight**, Founder & President, AgriCorps
- **Mr. Ougfaly Badji**, Lead Global Food Security Specialist – Agriculture, Water Resource & Rural Development, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)

Capacitating CSOs for Effective CAADP Implementation

- **Mr. Ibrahima Coulibaly**, President, Network of Farmers' Organizations and Agricultural Producers of West Africa (ROPPA)
- **Ms. Chikondi Chabvuta**, Southern Africa Regional Advocacy Advisor, CARE International; & Chairperson, CAADP Non-State Actor (NSA)
- **Ms. Constance Okeke**, International Project Manager, ActionAid International & Executive Leader, CAADP Non-State Actor Group (CNG)
- **Mr. Joe Mizinga**, Farmer – NSA, Eastern and Southern African Small-Scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF)
- **Mr. Michael O. Onchabo**, Director Food and Land Use Coalition, Kenya Country Platform
- **Mr. Daan Wensing**, Chief Executive Officer, IDH
- **Mr. Nico Janssen**, Programme Manager, Agricultural Livelihoods, IKEA Foundation

Strategic Adaptation for Civil Society Organizations

- **Mr. Rowlands Kaotcha**, President & CEO, The Hunger Project
- **Ms. Belinda Bwiza**, CEO, One Acre Fund, Rwanda
- **Mr. Esubalew Dadi**, Africa Regional Director, Food Policy Program
- **Ms. Esther Cohen**, Board Chair, Heifer International
- **Ms. Fatoumata Diouf**, Managing Director – West and Central Africa, Helen Keller Intl
- **Ms. Wanjiku Wairia**, Board Chair, OXFAM Kenya

Closing Remarks

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Fatou Leigh, Senior Economic Advisor, UNDP Senegal
<p>12:30 – 14:00</p>	<p>PLENARY</p> <p>Healthy & Productive Ecosystems</p> <p>Africa Fertilizer & Soil Health Initiative</p> <p>How do we turn political promises into practical action to restore Africa's soils and feed its people? This dynamic session rallies African Union leaders and key stakeholders to unlock bold investments in fertilizer and soil health. Participants will dive deep into solutions that move beyond simple fertilizer access to focus on building truly resilient, nutrient-rich soils that can sustain future generations. The conversation will tackle persistent funding gaps, explore ways to de-risk procurement and distribution, and push for repurposing existing financing to better serve farmers. Expect candid reflections and a strong call to action to operationalize the Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan. Don't miss this opportunity to shape the future where policy meets investment and ambition meets action.</p> <p>Venue: Auditorium</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Femi Oke, Journalist and Media Personality <p>Political Leadership Panel: Driving Commitment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon. Dr. Girma Amente – Minister of Agriculture, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia • Hon. Marième Soda Ndiaye – Director General of the Food Security and Resilience Commission, Republic of Senegal • Hon. Ahmed El Bouari, Minister of Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries, Rural Development, and Water and Forests, Kingdom of Morocco • H.E. Paul Gulleik Larsen – Special Envoy, Ambassador-at-Large for Food Security, Norway • Dr. Ildephonse Musafiri, Special Advisor to the CEO on Agriculture and Food Systems, AUDA-NEPAD <p>Resource Mobilization Panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Aggrey Agumya – Executive Director, FARA • Mr. Mehdi Filali – Vice-President, West Africa, OCP Africa • Dr. Leigh Ann Winowiecki, Global Research Leader, CIFOR-ICRAF • Dr. Christian Witt – Senior Program Officer for Soil Health, Gates Foundation • Mr. Oystein Botillen – Stakeholder Relations and Business Development, Yara <p>Closing remarks</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Moses Vilakati, Commissioner, Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment (ARBE), African Union Commission
<p>12:30 – 13:00</p>	<p>Press Conference</p>
<p>14:30 – 16:00</p>	<p>Roundtable: Farmers Forum</p> <p>Climate change poses an unprecedented and escalating crisis for African farmers, who, despite contributing minimally to its causes, are disproportionately affected by its severe impacts. To combat and mitigate these dire effects, it's not just beneficial but imperative for farmers to rapidly adopt new, climate-resilient agricultural technologies and innovative practices.</p> <p>This dynamic Farmers' Forum dialogue at AFSF 2025 will directly address the critical issue of financial access for farmers and farmer organizations. We'll explore practical strategies and innovative mechanisms to enhance the availability of finance for agricultural development and growth. A key focus will be on unlocking climate finance opportunities, empowering farmers to invest in resilient and sustainable practices.</p> <p>Venue: Oval Room</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Babafemi Oyewole, CEO Pan-African Farmers' Organization (PAFO) <p>Keynote Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Alice Ruhweza, President, AGRA <p>Discussants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Ishmael Sunga, CEO, Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU) • Mr. Arnold Puech d'Alissac, President, World Farmers' Organisation (WFO) • Dr. Peter Mbanda Umunay, Thematic Lead - Food Systems and Land Use, Global Environment Facility (GEF) • Ms. Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, Coordinator, Association for Fulani Women and Indigenous Peoples of Chad (AFPAT) & Co-Chair, FSC Indigenous Foundation • Mr. Ibrahima Coulibaly, President, Network of Farmers and Producers Organizations in West Africa (ROPPA) • Dr. Simon Heck, Director General, International Potato Center (CIP) • Mr. William Warshauer, President & CEO, TechnoServe • Mr. Nadjirou Sall, Secretary General, Network of Farmers and Producers Organizations in West Africa (ROPPA) – Senegal • Ms. Rim Ferchichi Larbi, Secretary General, UMNAGRI

14:30 – 16:00

Thematic session: Climate Resilience

Empowering African Youth, Women, and Farmers for Climate Action in Food Systems

Increasing global temperature and more frequent, intense, and severe extreme weather events are causing more displacements and disrupting the livelihoods of millions, placing considerable stress on Africa's agriculture sector. African youth are recognised as both vulnerable to climate change and strong advocates for climate action.

At the upcoming 'Trio convention' in Brazil, youth are expected to present disruptive ideas, business opportunities, and investment plans for climate action. By exchanging policies, financing mechanisms, and innovations that address climate change mitigation and adaption, this session aims to well-equip African youth to negotiate for Africa food systems transformation on the global stage.

Venue: Hall A – Thematic Hall

Moderator

- **Mr. Adam Gerstenmier**, Managing Director, Africa Century Group

Opening Remarks:

- **Hon. Cheikh Diba**, Minister of Finance and Budget, Republic of Senegal

Fireside Chat

- **Dr. Wanjiru Kamau-Rutenberg**, Panel Member, Malabo Montpellier & Managing Director, Africa, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT
- **Mr. Amadou Thiam**, Community Actor, Republic of Senegal
- **H.E Claudia Mosquera Rosero**, Ambassador of Colombia to Senegal, Republic of Colombia

Round Table I: Setting Africa climate ambitions in the context of Three Rio Conventions

- **Ms. Rokiatou Traoré**, Founder and Executive Manager, Herou Alliance
- **Ms. Nachilala Nkombo**, Country Director, Bridges to Prosperity (B2P) Zambia; Founder, Women Leaders on Climate Action (WLCA); Member, Africa Food Prize
- **Dr. Rebbie Harawa**, Regional Director-East & Southern Africa, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)
- **Dr. Steven Crimp**, Research Director, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)
- **Dr. Shailendra Mishra**, Global Head of Sustainability – Grains, Oilseeds, Edible Oil, Wheat Milling, Feed & Freight, Olam Agri

Roundtable II: Localized climate finance for food systems, creating youth jobs and building climate resilience

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Jane Baldwin, Head of Agrifood System, Pan African Programs, Mastercard Foundation • Dr. Martin Fregene, Director, Department of Agriculture and Agro-Industry, African Development Bank (AfDB) • Mr. Cheikh Moubarak Wade, Director General, CAPEO • Dr. Mamadou Konate, Program Lead – Green Growth, Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) • Dr. Daouda Ndiaye, Manager of Climate Change and Environment, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) • Ms. Jean Muthamia-Mwenda, Global Lead – Youth Employment & Entrepreneurship, SNV <p>Call-to-Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Tilahun Amede, Head – Resilience, Climate & Soil Fertility, AGRA <p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Alice Ruhweza, President, AGRA
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<p>14:30 – 17:00</p>	<p>PLENARY</p> <p>Closing Ceremony</p> <p>The Africa Food Systems Forum 2025 wraps up on a high note, celebrating youth leadership, bold ideas, and game-changing commitments. The closing ceremony kicks off with a powerful spotlight on Africa’s next generation of agripreneurs and innovators. Experience inspiring moments as we honor the graduating Generation Africa Fellowship Program (GAFP) fellows and present the Africa Food Systems Impact Awards to true trailblazers. The Prime Ministers’ Panel then takes center stage, with top African leaders sharing concrete policy actions to unleash the full power of youth for food systems transformation. The Forum concludes with a clear and decisive call to action, highlighting headline investments and breakthrough partnerships in the Closing Communique. Let’s celebrate, reflect, and recommit to building a resilient, youth-led food future for Africa.</p> <p>Venue: Auditorium</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Georgie Ndirangu, Director of Programs, Africa Leadership and Dialogue Institute (ALADI) & Media Personality <p>Champion and Invest in the Future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Geneviève Dione, Researcher, ISRA-BAME, Republic of Senegal • Ms. Stella Kimani, Senior Manager in Policy, Food4Education
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- **Mr. Nana Kusi Appiah**, Co-Founder, GanaFert Limited & Mastercard Foundation Scholar alumnus
- **Mr. Tony Nsanganira**, Rwanda Deputy Country Director, Tony Blair Institute for Global Change (TBI)

Celebration of African Agripreneurs & GAFP Fellows Graduation

Award Presenters:

- **Ms. Alice Ruhweza**, President, AGRA
- **Ms. Atsuko Toda**, Senior Director, Entrepreneurship Development, Pan-African Programs, Mastercard Foundation
- **Ms. Adesuwu Ifedi**, Africa Senior Vice President, Heifer International; Ayute competitions
- **Ms. Yemisi Iranloye**, Founder & Managing Director, Psaltry International Company Limited

Closing Communique

- **Mr. Amath Pathe Sene**, Managing Director, The Africa Food Systems Forum

Prime Ministers' Reflections

- **Hon. Ousmane Sonko**, Prime Minister, Republic of Senegal
- **H.E. Salah Ahmed Jama**, Deputy Prime Minister, Federal Republic of Somalia
- **H.E. Temesgen Tiruneh**, Deputy Prime Minister, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

(as invited)

- **H.E. Amadou Oury Bah**, Prime Minister, Republic of Guinea
- **H.E. Jean-Emmanuel Ouédraogo**, Prime Minister, People's Republic of Burkina Faso
- **H.E. Ali Lamine Zeine**, Prime Minister, Republic of Niger
- **H.E. Robert Beugré Mambé**, Prime Minister, Republic of Cote d'Ivoire
- **H.E. Robinah Nabbanja**, Prime Minister, Republic of Uganda
- **H.E. Dr. Mohamed Juldeh Jalloh**, Vice President, Republic of Sierra Leone
- **H.E. Alexandre Barro Chambrie**, Vice President, Gabonese Republic
- **H.E. Sen. Kashim Shettima**, Vice President, Federal Republic of Nigeria

Closing Ceremony

- **H.E. Hailemariam Dessalegn** - Board Chair, AGRA & Former Prime Minister, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
- **Rt. Hon. Ousmane Sonko** - Prime Minister, Republic of Senegal for the closing ceremony

19:30 – 23:00

Africa Food Prize Award Ceremony & AFSF Gala Dinner (by invitation only)

AFSF PARTNERS



DAY 5: Friday, SEPTEMBER 5th, 2025 – EXPLORATION



**Visite hors programme -
FORUM AFRICAIN SUR LES SYSTEMES ALIMENTAIRES**

(VENDREDI 5 SEPTEMBRE 2025) – DESTINATION SENEGAL

Circuit 1						
	Musée des Civilisations Noires (MCN)	Découverte de la richesse culturelle et historique de l'Afrique. À convenir avec l'administration du musée pour la capacité.	Dakar – Plateau	Centre-ville de Dakar	50	1h
	Musée du prophète	Découverte de la richesse culturelle et historique de l'Afrique. À convenir avec l'administration du musée pour la capacité.	Dakar – Plateau	Meme site	50	30 min
	Île de Gorée	Visite de la Maison des Esclaves, tour guidé de l'île et possibilité de baignade et déjeuner	Dakar (accès via embarcadère)	Centre ville + traversée	50 personnes	4h 30
Circuit 2						
	Tour de ville de Dakar	Circuit culturel et touristique : Musée Ousmane Sow, Corniche, Marché des artisans, Palais présidentiel, centre-ville Monument de la Renaissance, Baie de Ngor- Ile de Ngor Rafraîchissements avec vue sur mer	Dakar	Département Dakar	50 personnes	7h
Circuit 3						

AFSF PARTNERS



	<p>Circuit Bandia suivi Lagune de Somone</p>	<p>La réserve privée de Bandia se situe à 65 km de Dakar et à 15 km de Saly-Portudal. Avec 3.500 ha, peuplés de grandes antilopes et de gazelles, buffles, crocodiles... La lagune de la Somone d'apprécier cette reserve de mangroves, visite en pirogue les oiseaux depuis l'eau, y compris des pélicans, hérons, aigrettes, flamants roses et autres...et déjeuner au niveau de l'estuaire</p>	<p>Bandian+Somone</p>	<p>Département de Thiès</p>	<p>70 personnes</p>	<p>8 H</p>
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YOUTH DOME

The Youth Dome is designed to serve as a powerful launchpad for youth-led solutions that drive sustainable and inclusive food systems across Africa. This dynamic, interactive space will empower young voices, foster innovation, and provide crucial pathways for youth employment and the growth of agribusiness. This youth platform will showcase youth-led agribusinesses, startups, and digital solutions, connecting them to resources through youth-focused dialogues, GoGettaz Live Pitches, capacity-building mentorships, an innovation showcase, and targeted networking opportunities.

DAY 0: Sunday, August 31st, 2025

TIME	SESSION
14:00 – 16:00	<p>Youth Dome: Youth Welcome Event (Agri-Youth Connect): Launch of a new Platform to connect all African youth working in Food Systems</p> <p>Building the momentum to kick off the Africa Food Systems Forum (AFSF) 2025 in Senegal, this 'Youth Welcome and Networking Event' is an inaugural event designed and curated to generate excitement and engagement among youth delegates. Hosted by the AFSF Secretariat, the networking event will welcome the youth delegates and high-level stakeholders from around the continent to the forum in Senegal to demonstrate and strengthen the objectives behind the theme of the AFSF 2025 on youth and inclusion, which addresses both gender and youth gaps within food systems.</p> <p>The Welcome Event embodies the forum theme by positioning young people as transformational leaders in the agri-food systems. The session will provide an interactive platform, presenting opportunities for youth engagement and intergenerational collaboration during and beyond the AFS Forum. Youths will have the chance to ask agrifood leaders specific questions during this session. The leaders will then engage in a discussion regarding the youths' enquiries, ideas, innovations, and proposals.</p> <p>Moderators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Nafi Solange Thiam, Managing Partner, Strategis • Mr. Thione Niang, Founder, JEUFZONE Farm <p>Scene Setting: Live Interactive Engagement</p> <p>Youth Speaks: Spotlighting Youth Role in Africa Food Systems Transformation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Iddi Mohamed Faried, Founder, Kodu Technology, Ghana & Generation Africa Fellow <p>Entertainment: Musical and Cultural Performance</p> <p>Sequence 1: Youth Event Opening</p>

Opening Remarks: Hon. Dr Mabouba Diagne, Minister of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Livestock, Republic of Senegal

Keynote Speakers

- **Hon. Ms Khady Diène Gaye**, Minister of Youth, Sports, and Culture, Senegal
- **Ms. Atsuko Toda**, Senior Director, Entrepreneurship Development, Pan-African Programs, Mastercard Foundation
- **H.E. Moses Vilakati**, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment (ARBE) at the African Union Commission

Sequence 2:

Interactive Panel Discussion between Youths and Leaders: Empowering Young Leaders in Agri-food Systems – Lessons from Senegal

Moderator: Ms. Nafi Solange Thiam, Managing Partner, Strategis

Panel Conversations

- **Hon. Dr. Mabouba Diagne**, Minister of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Livestock, Republic of Senegal
- **Mr. Amath Pathe Sene**, Managing Director, Africa Food Systems Forum
- **Mr. Elhadji Malick Sagne**, Founder of Cactus Innovation, Senegal & Generation Africa Fellow
- **Ms. Arristine Mendes**, Founder, Shaddai Aquaculture, Republic of Senegal & Generation Africa Fellow

Sequence 3: Panel Discussion

Sports and Culture to Foster Youth Inclusion and Engagement in Agri-food Systems

Moderator: Mr. Thione Niang, Founder, JEUFZONE Farm

- **Hon. Mrs. Khady Diene GAYE**, Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture, Senegal
- **Mr. Maide Hamit Lony**, Minister of Youth and Sports, Republic of Chad
- **Hon. Abdoul Kassim Ibrahim Fomba**, Minister of Youth and Sports, Responsible for Civic Education and Citizen Building, Republic of Mali
- **Mr. Amadou Gallo Fall**, President Basketball Africa League (BAL)
- **Mr. Farmer Ogbole Samson**, Team Lead for Eupepsia Place Limited (Soilless Farm lab)
- **Mr. Will Mbiakop**, Executive Chairman, African Sports & Creative Institute
- **Ms. Grace Adjoua Divine**, Youth Refugee Advocate, Togo

Sequence 4

Call for Youth Platform Sponsors and Collaborations

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Amath Pathe Sene, Managing Director, Africa Food Systems Forum Youth Dome Unveiling • Mr. Henry Lagat, Lead, Generation Africa, AGRA

DAY 1: Monday, SEPTEMBER 1st, 2025

TIME	SESSION
14:00 – 16:00	<p>Youth Agrifood Leadership Dialogue (Leadership Mentorship Session)</p> <p>The youth population is key to Africa’s future and the agrifood systems transformation agenda. The food and agriculture industry provide unique opportunities for young people to develop into strong leaders who will go on to lead agricultural transformation and development in Africa. Achieving the much needed food systems transformation on the continent requires harnessing the leadership, bold ideas, innovation and energy of young people. Evident in the youth-centric theme of this year’s Africa Food Systems Forum, the development of leadership skills and knowledge remains one of the most powerful instruments for engaging and empowering youth leaders in Africa to become champions of change and is fundamental for sustainable socio-economic development.</p> <p>This session aims to provide landscape insights into youth leadership in agrifood systems and explore how it can contribute to career success for youth-led agribusiness ventures and across the broader agricultural and economic sectors.</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Amanda Namayi, Global Moderator & Advocate for Zero Hunger & Climate Action</p> <p>Sequence 1: Agripreneurs On-the-Mic (The Youth Perspectives)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Akpem Terese Shadrach, Founder Vet Konect, Nigeria & Generation Africa Fellow • Ms. Inota Cheta, Founder, She Entrepreneur and Wattles and Combs, Zambia • Ms. Anthea Ibembe, Founder, APA Tea Company Limited, Uganda <p>Sequence 2: Dialogue Session</p> <p>Founder Fuel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Donal Brown, Associate Vice-President, Programme Management Department, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) <p>Disruptive Conversations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Hamadi Boga, Vice President Program Delivery, AGRA • Prof. Sule Ochai, Senior Policy Advisor, Agriculture, African Development Bank • Mr. Abdrahamane Dicko, Director of Programs and Impact, African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Anushka Ratnayake, Founder and CEO, myAgro • Mr. Maram Kaire, Director General, Senegalese Agency for Space Studies – Former NASA • Ms. Clarièce Ngumi, Founder, Arabuko Limited, Kenya <p>Sequence 3: Audience Interactive Dialogue</p> <p>An interactive session where the audience can ask questions directly to the speakers, and the youth stakeholders in the room can also share their perspectives.</p>
<p>16:30–17:30</p>	<p>You are What You Eat (Networking Event)</p> <p>Join this interactive youth networking session where youth delegates will explore the powerful connection between food, choices, and well-being. Through expert insights, engaging discussions, fun activities, food tasting and peer-to-peer sharing, the session will explore how our food choices impact health, carbon footprints, and the prosperity of farmers and communities. This networking session is curated for individuals passionate about nutrition, curious about food systems, or simply seeking to connect with like-minded peers. At the end of this session, delegates will have the opportunity to learn, reflect, and explore how their food choices can influence the food system.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Victor Mugo, Youth Strategy Lead, One Acre Fund</p> <p>Sequence 1: Nutrition Deep Dive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Mercy Lungaho, Lead – Food Security, Nutrition, and Health Program, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture • Mr. Pacifique Ishimwe, Act4Food Rwanda Youth Leader, Act4Food and the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition <p>Sequence 2: Nutrition Interactive Quiz</p> <p>Sequence 3: Networking and Interaction</p>

DAY 2: Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 2nd, 2025

TIME	SESSION
<p>10:15–11:15</p>	<p>No One Left Behind Dialogue (Interactive Discussion on Inclusion for Displaced Youth, Persons with Disabilities and Refugees)</p>

Africa is home to a substantial number of the world's displaced populations, including millions of refugees, youth, and individuals with disabilities who are systemically excluded from economic opportunities. An unprecedented number of individuals are being forcibly displaced worldwide as a result of numerous crises and unresolved conflicts in the current global landscape. This is generating a critical need for enhanced coordination and collaboration.

Despite agriculture being the continent's largest employer and a critical conduit to food security and rural development, these vulnerable groups remain underrepresented in agrifood systems due to barriers such as limited access to production resources, finance, education, and training, as well as inclusive technologies. The exclusion of these populations also weakens the resilience and productivity of agrifood systems, which undermines their dignity and potential. A key sustainable solution to support these vulnerable populations is to include displaced youth, people with disabilities, and refugees.

This session, hosted by the Mastercard Foundation, will spotlight the critical need for greater inclusion of refugees and displaced youth, and people with disabilities in Africa's agrifood systems, a sector central to food security, economic growth, and livelihoods.

Moderator: Ms. Sherrie Silver, IFAD Advocate for Rural Youth

Session framing and setting the scene with facts

Sequence 1: Keynote Remark, Interaction and Video Messages

- **Ms. Grace Adjoua Divine**, Young Refugee, Togo

Sequence 2: Youth Spotlight Stories

- **Ms. Bernice Yawo Agboada**, Farmer and Entrepreneur, Ghana
- **Ms. Stella Wangila**, Entrepreneur – Mombasa Fish Business

Sequence 3: Interactive Dialogue – 'In Their Words'

- **Ms. Stella Wangila**, Entrepreneur – Mombasa Fish Business
- **Mr. Fatawu Koniamu Bakari**, Advocate and public relations officer, Disabled Farmers Union Ghana
- **Ms. Margot van der Velden**, World Food Programme, Regional Director for West and Central Africa
- **Ms. Janetta Carlucci**, Social Policy Officer (Youth Employment), FAO Africa

Closing reflections: Ms. Atsuko Toda, Senior Director, Entrepreneurship Development, Pan-African Programs, Mastercard Foundation

11:30–13:00

GoGettag Agripreneur Prize Competition Live Final Pitches Show

The GoGetta Agripreneur Prize Competition, an initiative of AFSF Secretariat, is the premier platform in Africa for recognizing and supporting youth Agrifood entrepreneurs and innovators who are creating solutions and products addressing challenges across the Agrifood systems in Africa. Focusing on key thematic including innovation, sustainability, and real impact, the GoGetta Agripreneurs Prize Competition recognizes and empowers youth-led ventures that are revolutionizing Agrifood systems, awarding more than \$160,000 in prizes. This dedicated Live Final Pitch session at the Youth Dome will feature top finalists of young Agripreneurs and innovators from across the continent presenting their startups, ideas, innovations, and ventures to expert judges and a global audience. The pitch session will culminate in the selection of the two Grand Prize Winners (one male and one female) and recipients of the Impact Awards, who will be announced at the closing ceremony on Day 4 of the Forum.

Moderator: TBD

Sequence 1: Welcome & Opening Remarks

Sequence 2: Meet the Judges and Finalist

- **Meet the Judges**

Judging Panel:

- **Mr. Mashoko Chakanyuka**, Head, Youth Employment in Agriculture · AGRA
- **Ms. Bonolo Monthe**, Founder & MD Maungo Craft & Regional Director, MBC Africa
- **Ms. Jane Baldwin**, Head of Agrifood Systems, Pan African Programs, MasterCard Foundation
- **Ms. Theresa Randolph**, Country Manager, Yara Ghana
- **Dr. Tolbert Mucheri**, Head of Impact Measurement and IT, HigherLife Foundation
- **Mr. Tchegoun Koba**, Global Technical Advisor, Youth Employment & Entrepreneurship SNV

- **Meet the Finalists**

13 Finalists

Sequence 3: Final Pitches Begin

14:00–16:00

Making Money from Agribusiness
(Entrepreneurship Mentorship Session)

One common paradox is that young people don't see a career, business or future in agriculture. To create dignified and fulfilling work opportunities and wealth for African youth, there is a need to empower and invest in upskilling young people in business opportunities

across the agricultural value chains. Hence, this engagement will explore how they can identify profitable agribusinesses, transform their innovative ideas into thriving ventures, overcome the major hurdles of access to finance and market and importantly, manage successful agribusiness operations. This session aims to address the crucial question of how young people can be profitable in agribusiness. This session aims to address the crucial question of how young people can be profitable in agribusiness and in next-gen term “making money from agribusiness”. The discussion will focus on enhancing the profitability of young Agripreneurs to contribute to Africa’s food systems transformation and economic growth. The session is curated to facilitate interaction, youth-focused conversations, share inspirational youth perspectives, motivate and prepare young people to gain insights into the landscape of Agri-entrepreneurship opportunities across the agribusiness value chains.

Moderator: Ms. Wambui Chege, Director of Agriculture, Pan-African Programs, Mastercard Foundation

Sequence 1: Agripreneurs On-the-Mic (The Youth Perspectives)

- **Ms. Toh Salimata**, Founder of Agri Banana, Ivory Coast & Generation Africa Fellow
- **Ms. Sokayna Bellam**, Founder of Jadoor, Morocco & Generation Africa Fellow
- **Ms. Hannah Rotimi-Williams**, Founder, Carmella Farms, Nigeria

Sequence 2: Dialogue Session

Founder Fuel:

- **Mr. Thione Niang**, Founder, ZEUFZONE Farm

Disruptive Conversations

- **Mr. Mads Krogsgaard Thomsen**, CEO, Novo Nordisk Foundation
- **Ms. Affiong Williams**, CEO & Founder, ReelFruit
- **HE. Patrick Achi**, Former Prime Minister, Center for International Development Senior Fellow, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Harvard University
- **Mr. Mashoko Chakanyuka**, Head, Youth Employment in Agriculture, AGRA
- **Dr. Nomathemba Mhlanga**, Rwanda Country Representative, FAO
- **Mr. Jermaine Armah**, Investment Manager, Adenia Partners
- **Ms. Sidee Dlamini**, Chief Ecosystem and Partnership Officer, Delta40 Venture Studio
- **Ms. Bernice Yawo Agboada**, Farmer and Entrepreneur, Ghana
- **Mr. Emmanuel Mwanza**, Founder, Go Jet Investments, Malawi

Sequence 3: Audience Interactive Dialogue

	<p>An interactive, high-impact learning dialogue where youth gain real-world knowledge through practical tools, success frameworks, and personal insights. The audience can ask questions directly to the speakers, and the youth stakeholders in the room can also share their perspectives and build on different opinions from others.</p>
<p>16:30-17:30</p>	<p>Networking Event: Scaling Youth-Led Agricultural Transformation through Social Media</p> <p>Young Agripreneurs continue to leverage digital platforms to address challenges in the food systems. This session aims to equip young people with the mindset, skills, and tools to strategically use social media to grow their agricultural ventures, build trusted brands, access markets, strengthen communities, and generate income. Delegates will explore how social media and AI can be applied in the day-to-day realities of farming, agribusiness, and digital extension. The session will also demonstrate how ecosystem actors can collaborate with AgrilInfluencers and youth-led enterprises to amplify their reach, strengthen agricultural systems, and foster innovation. The session also targets ecosystem actors, including policymakers, development partners, training institutions, agritech companies and farmer cooperatives, interested in understanding how social media and AgrilInfluencers can be engaged to deepen their impact on the agriculture sector through the voices, creativity, and lived experiences of youth.</p> <p>Welcome & Framing Sequence 1: Interactive Warm-Up: "Raise Your Hand/ your glass for Your Story" Sequence 2: Lightning Talks & Interactive Q&A Wrap-Up & Call to Action</p>

DAY 3: Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 3rd, 2025

TIME	SESSION
<p>10:15-11:15</p>	<p>Youth, Culture, and Agriculture (Showcase of Indigenous Youth in Agri-food Systems and Resilience through Heritage)</p> <p>Indigenous peoples in Africa possess rich intellectual rights and agricultural knowledge systems that are rooted in their community-led approach, cultural heritage, sustainability, and biodiversity. Nevertheless, these systems are becoming more vulnerable to the effects of climate change, land degradation, and socio-economic marginalization. Indigenous youth, in particular, face the dual challenge of preserving ancestral practices while navigating contemporary agrifood economies and practices. In addition, indigenous youth and women have limited development and opportunities in rural settings.</p> <p>This dedicated session aims to emphasize the significance of indigenous youth as innovators in sustainable agriculture and their fundamental role in strengthening indigenous peoples' food and knowledge systems. The session will converge discussions on the potential of</p>

	<p>heritage-based practices, including agroecology, seed preservation and indigenous food systems, to support climate adaptation, food sovereignty, and resilience.</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Gifty Hodey Manye, Farmer & Agricultural Journalist</p> <p>Opening Remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, Coordinator, Association for Fulani Women and Indigenous Peoples of Chad (AFPAT) & Co-Chair, FSC Indigenous Foundation • Mr. Elhadj As Sy, Former Secretary General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) <p>Sequence 1: Voices from the Ground</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Fatimatou Rabidine Hiyar, African Indigenous Youth • Mr. Mahamat Oumarou Malloum, African Indigenous Youth • Ms. Sanago Litya, African Indigenous Youth • Ms. Christina Ayubu Haule, Youth Leader, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition <p>Sequence 2: Open Discussion</p>
<p>11:30-13:00</p>	<p>Youth Ag Innovation Showcase</p> <p>Africa's agrifood systems' future is in the hands of its young people, who are innovators, bold thinkers, entrepreneurs, and innovative problem solvers, redesigning the continent's agrifood systems. The growing concerns about food insecurity remain a serious challenge on the continent. However, embracing bold innovation can play a significant role in achieving food security by boosting agricultural productivity, creating and facilitating market-driven products and linkages, improving holistic food systems, and offering value and business opportunities across the value chains. The key question is how stakeholders can lead systemic change by engaging and supporting youth-led innovations in agrifood systems. This session is not just a conversation; it is a call to action that builds on this year's theme of the Africa Food Systems Summit - "Africa's Youth: Leading Collaboration, Innovation, and Implementation of Africa's Food Systems Transformation". This Youth Dome innovation showcase, jointly organized with key partners, aims to provide a dynamic platform for young Agripreneurs and innovators to showcase and pitch their groundbreaking ideas and startups, ranging from farmer-focused projects to climate-smart agricultural and agritech solutions, among other innovative solutions. The innovation showcase will be a learning platform that demonstrates how youth-led innovations are addressing real problems and driving Africa's transformation of its agrifood systems.</p> <p>Moderators:</p>

- **Ms. Jean Muthamia-Mwenda**, Global Lead, Youth Employment & Entrepreneurship, SNV Netherlands Development Organization
- **Mr. Victor Mugo**, Youth Strategy Lead, One Acre Fund

Sequence 1: Dialogue Session

Keynote Remarks:

- **Ms. Jane Baldwin**, Head of Agrifood System, Pan African Programs, Mastercard Foundation
- **Dr. Claus Felby**, Senior Vice President, Novo Nordisk Foundation
- **Ms. Princess Anita**, Vice President of Business Growth and Partnerships, Farmerline

Panel Discussion: Supporting youth to build and scale innovations past the 'valley of death' and disrupt global agri-value chains

Moderator: **Ms. Jean Muthamia-Mwenda**, Global Lead, Youth Employment & Entrepreneurship, SNV Netherlands Development Organization

- **Mr. Dayo Aduroja**, Director – Youth & Tech Innovation, Africa, Heifer International
- **Mr. Maram Kaïre**, Director General, Senegalese Space Studies – Former NASA
- **Mr. Deogratius Magero**, Youth Manager, CABI
- **Ms. Janetta Carlucci**, Social Policy Officer, FAO Africa
- **Dr. Noel Mulinganya**, Deputy Head of the IITA Youth in Agribusiness Office
- **Ms. Nyifamu Manzo**, Founder, Farmatrix Agro Allied and Technology Company
- **Mr. Eliud Rugut**, Founder, Silo Africa

Sequence 2: Showcase – Youth Ag Innovators

Youth innovators shaping the future of agriculture will showcase and pitch their agrifood innovations, projects and startups. Youth innovators from across: Smart Agriculture, Last-mile Solution, Digital Solutions, Livestock, Market Linkage, Agri-Fintech, Post-Harvest and Value Addition.

Moderator: **Mr. Victor Mugo**, Youth Strategy Lead, One Acre Fund

8 Youth Ag-innovators from Africa:

- **Mr. Femi Adekoya** (FlyingFarmer) Founder, Integrated Aerial Precision
- **Mr. Ahouandjinou Oswald Alida**, Founder & Agripreneur Champion, Oyayi and IYBA Seed Benin
- **Ms. Miriam Agbo**, CEO and Founder, Anatsor Ltd
- **Ms. Carolyne Mwangi**, Founder & CEO, Kimplanter Seedlings

- **Ms. Latifa Diedhou**, Founder, NUTRIVIE, Senegal
- **Mr. Benson Wando**, Founder, Soko Kijiji, Kenya
- **Mr. Nana Kusi Appiah**, Founder, GanaFert, Ghana
- **Mr. Watson Matsa**, Founder, eSusFarm Africa, South Africa & Generation Africa Fellow

14:00-16:00 Empower Her: Next-gen Women in Agri-food
(Cross-Generational Mentorship Session)

Evidence-based data and studies highlight the significant and growing role of women, particularly young women, in agriculture and across its value chains in Africa. The often-overlooked yet crucial role of young women in Africa's agricultural sector remains a significant concern, underpinned by several factors, including socio-cultural and ideological barriers, limited access to and control over productive resources, low capacity building, institutional and financial constraints, among other limiting factors.

A new generation of young women in African agrifood systems is emerging with innovative ideas, increased control over decision-making, and breaking down barriers to accelerate gender equality and youth participation in agrifood systems. The new generation of young women looks up to older women who have set a precedent as role models in their agribusiness ventures, leadership, family, personal development and growth. This intergenerational engagement and knowledge transfer are helping to drive the transformation of food systems and shape a sustainable future.

Building on the momentum of the global goals to enhance gender equality and youth empowerment in agriculture, this session will provide a platform for intergenerational dialogue, enabling delegates to challenge the status quo, share their experiences, and exchange insights on the role of Africa's young women in transforming Africa's agrifood systems.

Moderator: Ms. Sidee Dlamini, Chief Ecosystem and Partnership Officer, Delta40 Venture Studio

Sequence 1: Live Opinion Poll

- All Delegates

Sequence 2: Agripreneurs On-the-Mic (The Youth Perspectives)

- **Ms. Dora Shimbwambwa**, Youth AgriChampion, Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens & Research Officer at CABI
- **Dr. Fresnellia SAGBO**, President & Agripreneur Champion, African Women Entrepreneurs Program

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Youma Thierno Deme, HAYFA FOOD, Senegal <p>Sequence 3: Dialogue Session</p> <p>Founder Fuel: Dr. Aline Mugisho, CEO, Youth In Agribusiness; International Institute of Tropical Agriculture</p> <p>Disruptive Conversations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Sylvia Rotta, President & Founder, Team Creatif Group • Ms. Esther Dassanou, Gender Director, Mastercard Foundation • Ms. Adesuwa Ifedi, Africa Senior Vice President, Heifer International • Ms. Phyllis Ombonyo, Global Director, Strategy & Engagement, CABI • Dr Mercy Lungaho, Lead – Food Security, Nutrition, and Health Program, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture • Ms. Chidinma Mary Ezeh, FarmCAS Team Lead & YPARD Nigeria Country Representative <p>Sequence 4: Audience Interactive Dialogue</p> <p>An interactive session where the audience can ask questions directly to the speakers, and the youth stakeholders in the room can also share their perspectives.</p>
<p>16:30–17:30</p>	<p>Food, Culture, and Youth Power (Networking Event)</p> <p>The session is curated to immerse delegates in the vibrant culture of Senegal. This dynamic networking session offers young and other delegates a unique experience of Senegalese arts, culture and tradition. Through the rhythms of sabar drumming and the voices of youth, discover how Senegalese heritage and culture inspire young people to shape a more connected and resilient future. In addition, the networking session will also feature knowledge sharing and technical insights from agrifood stakeholders.</p>

DAY 4: Thursday, SEPTEMBER 4th, 2025

TIME	SESSION
<p>10:30–12:30</p>	<p>Honouring African Agripreneurs (Celebration of the African Agripreneurs and GAFP Fellows Graduation)</p> <p>The Generation Africa Fellowship Program (GAFP) continues to build on the vision to strengthen the ecosystem for youth entrepreneurs in the agri-food sector across Africa. Since its launch, GAFP has remained a signature program, empowering young people with the skills</p>

and knowledge, as well as tailored coaching and mentoring, vital to succeeding in agribusiness and enhancing their leadership as catalysts for change and innovation. GAFP has successfully graduated two cohorts of youth fellows at previous editions of the Africa Food Systems Forum (AFSF) since 2023. Through this forum, the youth fellows are provided with a networking opportunity, learn from a diverse range of perspectives, and establish investor linkage. The session is curated to honour and celebrate the dedication, commitment and hard work of the youth fellows who have completed the GAFP fellowship. The session will feature transformational stories from the fellows and industry partners, youth-centric conversations and the certificate award ceremony.

Moderator: Ms. Sophie Nabuliri, Youth Entrepreneurship Growth Coordinator, Generation Africa, AGRA

Sequence 1: Session Opening

Opening Remarks: H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Former Chairperson, African Union Commission & Former Prime Minister, Republic of Chad

Keynote Remarks

- **Ms. Surita Sandosham**, President & CEO, Heifer International
- **Mr. Kazuki Kitaoka**, Director, Office of Youth and Women, FAO
- **Mr. Mashoko Chakanyuka**, Head, Youth Employment in Agriculture, AGRA

Sequence 2: Developing a Pipeline for Impact - Insights into Generation Africa Fellowship Program

Generation Africa Fellowship Program Presentation:

- **Mr. Henry Lagat**, Lead, Generation Africa, AGRA

Generation Africa Fellowship Program 2025 Fellow Testimonials

- **Ms. Irene Simon Ivambi**, Founder, Mrembo naturals Limited & Generation Africa Fellow
- **Mr. Elhadji Malick Sagne**, Founder of Cactus Innovation, Republic of Senegal & Generation Africa Fellow

Sequence 3: Panel Discussion – Transforming Agrifood Systems through Youth Empowerment

- **Mr. Dickson Naftali**, Head Thematic Platforms & Innovation Program, AFS Forum
- **Dr Nteranya Sanginga**, Immediate Past Director General of IITA and President of the Africa Agricultural Leadership Institute (AALI)
- **Hon George Opare Addo Esq.**, Minister for Youth Development and Empowerment, Ghana

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Jean Muthamia-Mwenda, Global Lead, Youth Employment & Entrepreneurship, SNV Netherlands Development Organization • Ms. Janetta Carlucci, Social Policy Officer, FAO Africa • Mr. Deogratius Magero, Youth Manager, CABI <p>Sequence 4: Graduation Ceremony and Awards of Certificates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GAFP 2025 Fellows <p>Presentation of Certificates by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Mashoko Chakanyuka, Head, Youth Employment in Agriculture, AGRA • Mr. Dickson Naftali, Head Thematic Platforms & Innovation Program, AFS Forum • Ms. Surita Sandosham, CEO and President, Heifer international • Mr. Kazuki Kitaoka, Director, Office of Youth and Women, FAO
<p>14:00–16:00</p>	<p>Youth Prize Winners' Announcement (Award Ceremony of GoGettaz Prizes and Impact Awards)</p> <p>During the Youth Governance plenary, a segment will be dedicated to celebrating the GoGettaz Award Ceremony, where the two winners of this year's GoGettaz Agripreneur Prize - one woman and one man will be announced, awarding more than \$160,000 in prizes. The GoGettaz Award Ceremony will also spotlight and celebrate the Impact Award winners for the impact made by young Agripreneurs in Africa in transforming the continent's food systems.</p>

INVESTMENT ROOM

The Investment Room hosts, throughout the week, the high-impact Deal Room, a matchmaking platform linking governments, SMEs, and investors to drive agricultural financing and partnerships. In parallel, Legacy Programs serve as flagship platforms for investment pledges, showcasing scalable national strategies and priority projects.

Day 1: Monday, September 1st, 2025

TIME	SESSION
14:00 – 15:30	<p>Investment Room Opening Session</p> <p>Location: Hall C – Investment Room – Main Stage</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Frank N.J. Braeken, Chairman of the Board, Feronia Inc & AGRA Board Member <p>Panelist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Alpha Ba, State Minister, Cooperatives, Minister of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Livestock (MASAE), Republic of Senegal H.E. Ambassador Berik Aryn, Director General, Islamic Organization for Food Security Mr. Amadou Gallo Fall, President, Basketball Africa League (BAL) Ms. Fiona Hofmann, Director of Growth, PULA Mr. Peiman Milani, Director, Food Initiative, Rockefeller Foundation Ms. Sefora Kodjo, Board Chair; Member of the Civil Society Committee, Foundation Sephix; AFDB Group Mr. Robert Mwanamanga, Director for Debt and Aid, Republic of Malawi
16:00 – 17:30	<p>Investing in Youth</p> <p>Location: Hall C – Investment Room – Main Stage</p> <p>In partnership with the MasterCard Foundation and aligned with the theme of AFSF 2025, this session brings together youth leaders and senior experts to explore how Africa can foster an environment that accelerates investment in young people. These bright young entrepreneurs will share firsthand experiences on what it takes to build successful ventures. Financiers, thought leaders, and policymakers will frame the work of the Investment Room, including deal rooms, B2B spaces, and national incentive programs that advance agri-food sectors. Whether you're an investor, policymaker, or emerging founder, this session offers valuable insights and opportunities to scale youth-led innovation across the continent.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H.E. Lionel Zinsou, Former Prime Minister, Republic of Benin & Founder and Managing Partner, SouthBridge

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mohamed Beavogui, Former Prime Minister, Republic of Guinea
16:30 – 17:30	<p>Invest Ghana Location: Hall C – Investment Room – Deal Room 1</p> <p>The Government of Ghana, in collaboration with AGRA, welcomes you to the Invest Ghana Session. This session highlights bold initiatives to boost employment, strengthen value-added food chains, and improve access to nutritious food. Central to the discussion is the INVEST in Ghana platform, featuring high-potential, investment-ready opportunities driving agricultural innovation and economic growth. Join national leaders and partners to discover how Ghana is building a resilient food system that benefits farmers, consumers, and investors. Whether you're seeking strategic partnerships or impact opportunities, this session opens a window into one of West Africa's most promising investment frontiers.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Bayella Thiam, Regional Director, West Africa, Technoserve

DAY 2: Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 2nd, 2025

TIME	SESSION
09:00 – 12:30	<p>Global Future Foods – UAE/Africa Investment in Food Systems Location: Hall C – Investment Room – Main Stage</p> <p>Join this special event advancing UAE-Africa collaboration in food systems transformation. Building on the Global Future Foods Forum 2024, the session highlights bold investments and innovative initiatives to develop integrated, sustainable food systems. It emphasizes aligning innovation with regulatory goals while fostering dialogue among key stakeholders shaping long-term strategies. The half-day engagement will conclude with a landmark signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Africa Food Systems Forum (AFSF) and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), marking a major step toward cross-regional cooperation and a shared commitment to a more resilient food future.</p>
09:00 – 13:30	<p>Heifer Ayute SME's Pitching Sessions Location: Hall C – Investment Room – Deal Room 1</p> <p>The Heifer AYuTe SME Pitching Session will spotlight businesses from across sectors that are poised to transform food systems in their countries. In partnership with Heifer International, these businesses have been selected from a cross-section of standout operations through its AYuTe Africa Challenge, one of the continent's most ambitious agriculture competitions. AYuTe (Agriculture, Youth, and Technology) empowers young agritech innovators who are</p>

	<p>supporting smallholder farmers across Africa to grow their businesses and boost incomes. Join this session to engage with Africa's next generation of agri-entrepreneurs and explore how they're transforming food systems, creating jobs, and advancing tech-driven agriculture.</p>
09:00 – 12:00	<p>WHH SME's Zero Hunger Pitching Sessions Location: Hall C – Investment Room – Deal Room 2</p> <p>Join this dynamic pitching session to meet standout African entrepreneurs transforming food systems. These investment-ready SMEs, selected in partnership with Welthungerhilfe (WHH), are tackling hunger and driving sustainable impact. From across the continent, they bring innovative solutions and are seeking support through grants, equity, debt, or blended finance. Whether you're a financier, policymaker, or ecosystem builder, this is your opportunity to invest in Africa's development through the lens of bold, future-focused entrepreneurship.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Former Prime Minister, Republic of Niger & African Union Special Envoy for Food Systems (AUDA-NEPAD) • H.E. Mohamed Beavogui, Former Prime Minister, Republic of Guinea
14:00 – 15:30	<p>Senegal Legacy Program Location: Hall C – Investment Room – Main Stage</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Lionel Zinsou, Former Prime Minister, Republic of Benin & Founder and Managing Partner, SouthBridge • Mr. Bayella Thiam, Regional Director, West Africa, Technoserve • Mr. Sapan Kumar, Country Head – Senegal, Olam Agri
14:00 – 16:00	<p>AFSF SME Pitching Sessions Location: Hall C – Investment Room – Deal Room 1</p> <p>Entrepreneurship is the promise of food systems. Come and see it in action at the AFSF SME Pitching Sessions! Hosted in the dynamic Investment Room, these sessions spotlight innovative, scalable businesses driving change across sectors, from climate-smart farming to nutrition tech. Each entrepreneur has been rigorously selected and prepared in partnership with AFSF. Join us to discover high-impact ventures, champion Africa's next generation of business leaders, and help build inclusive, sustainable agri-food systems across the continent.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mizengo Pinda, Former Prime Minister, United Republic of Tanzania
14:00 – 18:00	<p>CLIC Climate Pitching Sessions Location: Hall C – Investment Room – Deal Room 2</p>

	<p>Climate-smart innovation is leading the way in this session. Join in to hear from businesses with bold ideas and scalable solutions. These entrepreneurs come from a cross-section of sectors and are working to advance food systems in their countries while addressing climate challenges. Carefully selected and prepared for investment readiness in partnership with the ClimateShot Investor Coalition (CLIC), these ventures are primed for growth. They're seeking visionary investors open to grants, equity, debt, or blended finance to help scale high-impact solutions. This is an opportunity to support climate-forward entrepreneurship, expand employment, and accelerate development across the continent.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Peter Mbanda Umunay, Thematic Lead - Food Systems and Land Use, Global Environment Facility (GEF) • Dr. Peter Mbanda Umunay, Thematic Lead - Food Systems and Land Use, Global Environment Facility (GEF) • H.E. Mohamed Beavogui, Former Prime Minister, Republic of Guinea • Ms. Nachilala Nkombo, Country Director, Bridges to Prosperity (B2P) Zambia; Founder, Women Leaders on Climate Action (WLCA); Member, Africa Food Prize
<p>16:00 – 17:30</p>	<p>Liberia Legacy Program Location: Hall C – Investment Room – Main Stage</p>
<p>16:30 – 17:30</p>	<p>Invest Ethiopia Location: Hall C – Investment Room – Deal Room 1</p> <p>The Government of Ethiopia, in collaboration with AGRA, welcomes you to the Invest Ethiopia Session. This session highlights bold initiatives to boost employment, strengthen value-added food chains, and improve access to nutritious food. Central to the discussion is the INVEST in Ethiopia platform, featuring high-potential, investment-ready opportunities driving agricultural innovation and economic growth. Join national leaders and partners to discover how Ethiopia is building a resilient food system that benefits farmers, consumers, and investors. Whether you're seeking strategic partnerships or impact opportunities, this session opens a window into one of East Africa's most promising investment frontiers.</p>

DAY 3: Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 3rd, 2025

TIME	SESSION
<p>08:30 – 10:00</p>	<p>Uganda Legacy Program Location: Hall C – Investment Room – Main Stage</p>

AFSF PARTNERS



<p>09:00 – 16:00</p>	<p>AFSF SMEs Pitching Sessions Location: Hall C – Investment Room – Deal Room 1</p> <p>Entrepreneurship is the promise of food systems. Come and see it in action at the AFSF SME Pitching Sessions! Hosted in the dynamic Investment Room, these sessions spotlight innovative, scalable businesses driving change across sectors, from climate-smart farming to nutrition tech. Each entrepreneur has been rigorously selected and prepared in partnership with AFSF. Join us to discover high-impact ventures, champion Africa’s next generation of business leaders, and help build inclusive, sustainable agri-food systems across the continent.</p>
<p>09:00 – 12:00</p>	<p>WHH Zero Hunger SMEs Pitching Sessions Location: Hall C – Investment Room – Deal Room 2</p> <p>Join this dynamic pitching session to meet standout African entrepreneurs transforming food systems. These investment-ready SMEs, selected in partnership with Welthungerhilfe (WHH), are tackling hunger and driving sustainable impact. From across the continent, they bring innovative solutions and are seeking support through grants, equity, debt, or blended finance. Whether you're a financier, policymaker, or ecosystem builder, this is your opportunity to invest in Africa's development through the lens of bold, future-focused entrepreneurship.</p>
<p>10:30 – 12:00</p>	<p>Nigeria Legacy Program Location: Hall C – Investment Room – Main Stage</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Mohammed A. Ibrahim, CEO/Executive Secretary, National Agricultural Development Fund (NADF), Nigeria • Ms. Adesuwa Akinboro, Country Director, Nigeria, Technoserve
<p>12:30 – 14:00</p>	<p>CEO Chat Location: Hall C – Investment Room – Main Stage</p> <p>The CEO Chat experience offers practical guide for investment and business growth. Join us for an engaging conversation with leading CEO, Delphine Traoré, as she shares her personal journey in the food systems space and the lessons she’s learned along the way. This session provides a unique opportunity to hear firsthand insights on what it takes to build a successful business. It also includes interactive time with the audience, allowing young entrepreneurs and aspiring leaders to ask questions and gain tailored advice. Come ready to ask questions, take notes, and be inspired by leaders who’ve walked the road and are now lighting the way.</p>

	<p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Delphine Traoré, Chief Executive General Insurance, SanlamAllianz • Ms. Ruramiso Mashumba, CEO & Founder, Mnandi Africa
<p>13:00 – 15:00</p>	<p>AGRA/AFSF GoGettaz SMEs Pitching Sessions Location: Hall C – Investment Room – Deal Room 2</p> <p>Step into the Investment Room and Deal Room to hear from brilliant businesses with bold ideas and real potential. Representing a cross-section of sectors, these investment-ready entrepreneurs are driving innovation to advance food systems in their countries. With support from the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and the Africa Food Systems Forum (AFSF), these SMEs have been carefully selected and prepared to engage with investors across grants, equity, debt, or blended finance. This is a chance to connect with scalable solutions that foster employment, development, and impact across the continent.</p>
<p>14:30 – 16:00</p>	<p>Zimbabwe Legacy Program Location: Hall C – Investment Room – Main Stage</p>
<p>15:30 – 17:30</p>	<p>WISHH SMEs Pitching Sessions Location: Hall C – Investment Room – Deal Room 2</p> <p>Join this session to hear from brilliant small and medium enterprises (SMEs) with bold ideas and scalable models designed to advance food systems in their countries. These businesses come from a cross-section of sectors and are seeking the right investors, whether through grants, equity, debt, or blended finance. In collaboration with World Initiative for Soy in Human Health (WISHH) and the Africa Food Systems Forum (AFSF), each enterprise has been selected and prepared for investment readiness, with a particular focus on advancing Zero Hunger. Their stories reflect the potential to expand employment, improve nutrition, and foster development across Africa.</p>
<p>16:30 – 17:30</p>	<p>Invest Mali Location: Hall C – Investment Room – Deal Room 1</p> <p>The Government of Mali, in collaboration with AGRA, welcomes you to the Invest Mali Session. This session highlights bold initiatives to boost employment, strengthen value-added food chains, and improve access to nutritious food. Central to the discussion is the INVEST in Mali platform, featuring high-potential, investment-ready opportunities driving agricultural innovation and economic growth. Join national leaders and partners to discover how Mali is building a resilient food system that benefits farmers, consumers, and investors. Whether you're seeking strategic partnerships or impact opportunities, this session opens a window into one of West Africa's most promising investment frontiers.</p>

DAY 4: Thursday, SEPTEMBER 4th, 2025

TIME	SESSION
09:00 – 10:00	<p>CEO Chat Location: Hall C – Investment Room – Main Stage</p> <p>The CEO Chat experience offers practical guide for investment and business growth. Join us for an engaging conversation with leading CEO, Felisters Gitau Mutugu, as she shares her personal journey in the food systems space and the lessons she’s learned along the way. This session provides a unique opportunity to hear firsthand insights on building a successful business. It also includes interactive time with the audience, allowing young entrepreneurs and aspiring leaders to ask questions and gain tailored advice. Come ready to connect, ask questions, and be inspired by leaders who’ve walked the road and are now lighting the way.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Felisters Gitau Mutugu, CEO, Farmers Choice
09:00 – 11:00	<p>AFSF SMEs Pitching Sessions Location: Hall C – Investment Room – Deal Room 1</p> <p>Entrepreneurship is the promise of food systems. Come and see it in action at the AFSF SME Pitching Sessions! Hosted in the dynamic Investment Room, these sessions spotlight innovative, scalable businesses driving change across sectors, from climate-smart farming to nutrition tech. Each entrepreneur has been rigorously selected and prepared in partnership with AFSF. Join us to discover high-impact ventures, champion Africa’s next generation of business leaders, and help build inclusive, sustainable agri-food systems across the continent.</p>
09:00 – 14:00	<p>AFSF/GoGettaz Pitching Sessions Location: Hall C – Investment Room – Deal Room 2</p> <p>Join the Investment Room and Deal Room to hear from brilliant businesses with bold ideas and real potential. Representing a cross-section of sectors, these investment-ready entrepreneurs are driving innovation to advance food systems in their countries. With support from the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and the Africa Food Systems Forum (AFSF), these SMEs have been carefully selected and prepared to engage with investors across grants, equity, debt, or blended finance. This is a chance to connect with scalable solutions that foster employment, development, and impact across the continent.</p>

AFSF PARTNERS



<p>11:00 – 12:30</p>	<p>Somalia Legacy Program Location: Hall C – Investment Room – Main Stage</p>
<p>12:00 – 13:00</p>	<p>Invest Tanzania Location: Hall C – Investment Room – Deal Room 1</p> <p>The Government of Tanzania, in collaboration with AGRA, welcomes you to the Invest Tanzania Session. This session highlights bold initiatives to boost employment, strengthen value-added food chains, and improve access to nutritious food. Central to the discussion is the INVEST in Tanzania platform, featuring high-potential, investment-ready opportunities driving agricultural innovation and economic growth. Join national leaders and partners to discover how Tanzania is building a resilient food system that benefits farmers, consumers, and investors. Whether you're seeking strategic partnerships or impact opportunities, this session opens a window into one of East Africa's most promising investment frontiers.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Agnes Kisaka Meena, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, United Republic of Tanzania • Ms. Katerina Ntep, Senior Managing Director, Corus International
<p>14:00 – 16:00</p>	<p>AFSF Youth Pitching Sessions Location: Hall C – Investment Room – Deal Room 1</p> <p>Young entrepreneurs are the future of food systems. Join us in the Investment Room for the AFSF Youth Pitching Sessions, where brilliant young entrepreneurs from across Africa present bold, climate-smart, and tech-driven ventures. These future leaders have been selected and equipped through AFSF for investment readiness. Whether you're looking to fund through grants, equity, debt, or blended finance, this is your chance to discover scalable, impact-focused businesses reimagining the future of food.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Younes Addou, Vice President Agribusiness & Sustainability Solutions, InnovX
<p>14:30 – 15:30</p>	<p>Invest Zambia Location: Hall C – Investment Room – Deal Room 2</p> <p>The Government of Zambia, in collaboration with AGRA, welcomes you to the Invest Zambia Session. This session highlights bold initiatives to boost employment, strengthen value-added food chains, and improve access to nutritious food. Central to the discussion is the INVEST in Zambia platform, featuring high-potential, investment-ready opportunities driving agricultural innovation and economic growth. Join national leaders and partners to discover</p>

how Zambia is building a resilient food system that benefits farmers, consumers, and investors. Whether you're seeking strategic partnerships or impact opportunities, this session opens a window into one of Southern Africa's most promising investment frontiers.

AFSF PARTNERS



KNOWLEDGE HUB

The Knowledge Hub at AGRF 2025 is a curated learning space providing delegates with access to the latest reports, data dashboards, technical briefs, and research findings from across Africa and beyond. It serves as a dynamic platform where experts translate data into actionable insights to support food systems transformation. Central to the Hub are masterclasses and training sessions designed to build practical skills for young people, entrepreneurs, startups, and governments. Each masterclass features 2 to 4 workshop leaders, live assignments, interactive Q&A, and screen-sharing, creating an engaging, hands-on learning environment.

Participants are encouraged to come prepared with laptops and enthusiasm to fully benefit from a blend of sessions, workshops, and networking opportunities focused on agri-food system transformation. Reflection pages allow attendees to share key takeaways, which are compiled into a word cloud presented at the following year's Forum. The Knowledge Hub also offers opportunities for future training and follow-up sessions, fostering continuous learning beyond the Africa Food Systems Forum.

Join us at the Knowledge Hub and take your learning to the next level!

DAY 2: Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 2nd, 2025

TIME	SESSION
10:30–11:30	<p>Knowledge Hub Event: Location: Stage 1</p> <p>Title: NextGen Agri-Food Leaders: Catalyzing Youth-Driven Transformation in Africa Organizer: AKADEMIYA2063, icipe & African Development Bank (AfDB)</p> <p>This side event will showcase and accelerate youth-led transformation in Africa’s agri-food systems. Drawing on the 2024 YOUTH AHEAD report by the Malabo Montpellier Panel, it will feature innovative policy recommendations and real-world successes empowering young Africans. Proven models like AGRODEP and the Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund will be spotlighted for equipping youth with cutting-edge skills. Bringing together youth innovators, policymakers, and development partners, the event will co-create strategies to scale youth engagement and catalyze investment in education, entrepreneurship, and digital infrastructure thus promoting inclusive policy processes that position youth as planners, decision-makers, and investors in resilient agri-food systems.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Katrin Glatzel, Director of Global Strategy and Programs, AKADEMIYA2063

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Dorothy Okello, Dean School of Engineering, Makerere University; Africa Food Prize Committee Member & Member Malabo Montpellier Panel • Dr. Julius Ecuru, Principal Scientist and Manager, Research Innovation Coordination Units at icipe • Prof. Amb. Muhammadou Kah, Ambassador of the Gambia to Switzerland and the Geneva-based international organizations & Member Malabo Montpellier Panel • Dr. Augustin Wambo Yamdjeu, Director Knowledge Systems and AGRODEP coordinator, AKADEMIYA2063 • Dr. Rose Omari, Science, Technology and Policy Research Institute/CSIR, Ghana • Dr. Frejus Ariel Sodedji, Universite d'Abome Calavi, Benin • Prof. Aminata Sall Diallo, Cheikh Anta Diop University and Chair PASET Executive Board • Dr. Damian Ihedioha, Manager of the Agribusiness Development Division, AfDB
<p>10:30-12:30</p>	<p>Masterclass Location: Stage 2</p> <p>Title: Empowering Youth Leaders to Unlock Africa's Potential</p> <p>Organizer: Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), Act4Food, AGRA in partnership with Wageningen University & Research (WUL) and Africa Leadership University (ALU), Africa Food Fellowship</p> <p>For young leaders committed to unlocking Africa's potential through food system transformation, this masterclass is your next strategic step. It's carefully curated to provide you with the skills, knowledge, and confidence necessary to lead impactful efforts. Informed by the GAIN Youth Leadership Initiative and the Africa Food Fellowship, the session offers a rich and practical learning environment, connecting robust theory with actionable insights.</p> <p>If you are a young person aiming to create significant change on the continent, this session is for you. Equally, if you are an organization or experienced individual looking to foster meaningful youth engagement, you'll find this session invaluable.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GAIN – Stephanie Sargeant • GAIN – Tatenda Tsorai • GAIN – Innocent Cosmas Msoka
<p>12:00-13:00</p>	<p>Knowledge Hub Event Location: Stage 1</p> <p>Title: Gender, Youth & the Future of Food Systems</p> <p>Organizer: CGIAR Gender Equality and Inclusion Accelerator & Consortium of African Youth in Agriculture and Climate Change (CAYACC)</p>

As we build momentum toward the 2026 Year of the Woman Farmer, this dialogue aims to make a strong case for increased and sustained investment in young women and youth as catalysts for equitable, resilient, and sustainable food, land and water systems. Through showcasing successful gender-responsive, youth-led innovations, participants will explore actionable models and pathways for impact. The event also provides a platform for fostering inclusive dialogue on financing, policy, and research approaches that prioritize equity and representation. By amplifying young women’s voices in agricultural research for development (AR4D), this convening will generate concrete outcomes to inform and influence agendas at national, regional, and global levels.

Speakers

- **Dr. Nicoline de Haan**, Director, Gender Equality and Inclusion Accelerator, CGIAR
- **Malama Malama**, Membership Coordinator, Consortium of African Youth in Agriculture and Climate Change, CAYACC
- **Fatoumata Camara**, Farm Manager, Sahel Agribusiness
- **Gentile Colotta, Lorenzo**, World Food Forum, Head of Operations (Office of Youth and Women)
- **Francine Picard Mukazi**, Co-founder and Director of Partnerships, Shamba Centre for Food and Climate
- **Vivian Atakos**, Global Engagement and Policy Lead, CGIAR (Moderator)

13:00-15:00

Masterclass

Location: Stage 2

Title: The Business Case for Nutrition – An Entrepreneurship Masterclass

Organizer: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) & Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)

The session will sensitize young people on the business case for tackling Africa’s nutrition challenges. It will equip youth agripreneurs with practical insights and guide them through key steps to start or scale nutrition-sensitive enterprises. Participants will engage in at least one hands-on activity or assignment, ensuring real-time application of concepts. The Masterclass will inspire and empower youth to drive change across food systems by integrating nutrition into their business models for improved health and economic impact.

Moderator: **Mr. Caesar Valley**, Youth Employment Specialist, FAO Regional Office for Africa

Speakers

- **Ms. Aimé Garlas Kwizera**, Programme Lead – Nutrition Enterprise Development, GAIN
- **Ms. Stephanie Sargeant**, Global Youth Campaigns Coordinator, GAIN
- **Mr. Mujuni Dickson**, Founder & CEO, Mujuni Venture Limited

<p>13:30-14:30</p>	<p>Knowledge Hub Event Location: Stage 1</p> <p>Title: Poultry and Livestock Value Chain Opportunities for Africa</p> <p>Organizer: National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA)</p> <p>This high-level roundtable will convene U.S. state leaders, the U.S. Dairy Export Council, the World Initiative for Soy in Human Health, and key African livestock stakeholders for a dynamic discussion on advancing Africa's livestock value chain. The conversation will spotlight innovative approaches to improving productivity, focusing on feed efficiency, advanced genetics, poultry, and dairy production. Participants will also explore critical enablers of growth, including credit access and stronger market connections essential for sustainable growth in the sector. The session will conclude with an interactive Q&A, fostering rich dialogue and cross-sector knowledge exchange.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretary Wes Ward, Secretary of Agriculture, State of Arkansas & President, NASDA • Ms. Krysta Harden, President and CEO, U.S. Dairy Export Council (USDEC) • Ms. Gena Perry, Executive Director, World Initiative for Soy in Human Health (WISHH) • Dr. Siboniso Moyo, Deputy Director General Partnerships & Impact, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) • Mr. Ted McKinney, Chief Executive Officer, National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA)
<p>15:00-16:00</p>	<p>Knowledge Hub Event Location: Stage 1</p> <p>Title: Indigenous seed systems – insights from Columbia and Africa</p> <p>Organizer: IDRC, Embassy of Columbia in Senegal, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Columbia</p> <p>While global agrobiodiversity is decreasing at an alarming pace, indigenous and local communities are taking action to preserve and multiply the seeds they have been relying on for centuries. From Columbia to Senegal, peasants have developed community-owned seed systems that not only contribute to biodiversity, food security, and climate and economic resilience, but are means to protect their rights and celebrate their food cultures and identities. Showcasing seasoned and youth seed system actors from Columbia and Africa, this South-South learning exchange will provide a unique opportunity to share perspectives, challenges, and strategies to build thriving indigenous seed systems in an agroecological perspective.</p> <p>Moderator: Geneviève Laroche, IDRC</p>

	<p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E Claudia Mosquera Rosero, Ambassador of Colombia to Senegal, Republic of Colombia • Carol Yohanna Rojas Vargas, seed keeper and leader of the National Network of Seed Keepers of Columbia • Mariama Sonko, President, We are the Solution Movement, Senegal • Diana Marcela Burbano Benavides, member of Macizo Joven Initiative, Columbia • Jean-Paul Sikeli, coordinator, Coalition pour la Protection du Patrimoine Génétique Africain (COPAGEN), Côte d'Ivoire
<p>15:30-17:30</p>	<p>Masterclass Location: Stage 2</p> <p>Title: Youth-Led African Local Food Systems</p> <p>Organizer: AeTrade; Ghana Food Movement, AGRA, FAO, Ghana Ministry of Food and Agriculture, CGIAR Urban Food Systems program, Senegalese food movement partners</p>
<p>16:30-17:30</p>	<p>Knowledge Hub Event Location: Stage 1</p> <p>Title: Green and Low Carbon Transformation of Agrifood Systems in China and Africa</p> <p>Organizer: Academy of Global Food Economics and Policy (AGFEP), China Agricultural University (CAU) & Sanya Yazhou Bay Science and Technology City Administration</p> <p>This session will convene youth leaders, government officials, and academic experts from China, Africa, and beyond to explore innovative pathways for green and low-carbon transformation of agrifood systems. The discussion will highlight cutting-edge practices and foster cross-regional collaboration to build resilient and sustainable food systems, with an emphasis on climate action, nutrition, and inclusive development.</p> <p>Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Ting Meng, Associate Professor, Academy of Global Food Economics and Policy (AGFEP), China Agricultural University</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Shenggen Fan, Chair Professor & Dean, Academy of Global Food Economics and Policy (AGFEP), China Agricultural University (CAU) • Dr. Wang Qiyang, Member of the Standing Committee, CPC Hainan Provincial Committee & Secretary, Sanya Municipal Committee of the CPC • Dr. Mamou Ehui, Executive Director, Global Phosphorus Institute • Dr. Ousmane Badiane, Executive Chairperson, AKADEMIYA2063

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Appolinaire Djikeng, Director General, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) • Dr. Issa Ouedraogo, Senior Scientist, Alliance of Bioversity International & CIAT • Prof. Yumei Zhang, Professor, AGFEP, Academy of Global Food Economics and Policy (AGFEP), China Agricultural University (CAU)
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DAY 3: Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 3rd, 2025

TIME	SESSION
10:30–11:30	<p>Knowledge Hub Event Location: Stage 1</p> <p>Title: The Role of Biotechnology in Transforming African Food Systems: Best Practices in Africa Organizer: Hailemariam & Roman Foundation (HRF) & African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF)</p> <p>This side event explores the transformative role of biotechnology in strengthening African food systems, recognizing that the continent has yet to fully harness its potential. Despite ongoing challenges—ranging from food insecurity to climate vulnerability—biotechnology offers powerful tools to boost productivity, enhance nutrition, and build resilience. The session will showcase best practices and actionable insights from African countries that have successfully integrated biotechnology into national agricultural strategies, along with opportunities to scale its use across the continent in line with Agenda 2063. It will bring together policymakers, researchers, development partners, and farmer representatives to foster dialogue on enabling regulatory frameworks and promote inclusive engagement—particularly of youth.</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Anne Obize MacAnne, Founder & Executive Director, Teens Connect Africa</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Hailemariam Dessalegn, Board Chair, AGRA; Former Prime Minister, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia; Board Chair, Hailemariam & Roman Foundation (HRF) • Dr. Canisius Kanangire, Executive Director, African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) • Dr. Ismahane Elouafi, Executive Managing Director, CGIAR • Ms. Onyaole Patience Koku, CEO, 1hectarefamily Limited & Regional Lead, Africa Global Farmer Network • Dr. Birama Sidibé, Founder, Agrobiotech • Dr. Ijeoma Akaogu, Program Officer–COWPEA, African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF)

<p>10:30–12:30</p>	<p>Masterclass Location: Stage 2</p> <p>Title: Food System Supply, Trade & Markets Organizer: AGRA; Wageningen University & Research (WUL) and Africa Leadership University (ALU)</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Brian N. Neza, Mission Curator – Agriculture, African Leadership University (ALU) • Mr. Sapan Kumar, Country Head – Senegal, Olam Agri
<p>12:00–13:00</p>	<p>Knowledge Hub Event Location: Stage 1</p> <p>Title: Investing in the Red Meat Market: A High-Impact Opportunity for Climate, Nutrition & Economic Growth in Africa Organizer: Gates Foundation</p> <p>This session will spotlight the untapped potential of Africa’s pastoral red meat value chains to drive climate-smart, gender-transformative, and economically viable food systems. Through case studies from different countries, speakers will showcase how strategic investments—across breeding, feed, traceability, and market access for pastoralists—can reduce emissions intensity, enhance pastoral livelihoods, and boost GDP. The panel will also explore pathways to crowd in private and blended finance, whilst making the case for scaling formal offtake and integrating pastoral systems into regional food agendas.</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Chloe Stull-Lane, Director, Gatsby Africa</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Huyam Salih, Director, African Union InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) • Prof. Ruth N. Kiraka, Associate Professor of Management (Strategy and Entrepreneurship), Strathmore Business School • Ms. Felisters Gitau Mutugu, CEO, Farmer’s Choice • Ms. Doreen Gacheri, Founder & CEO, GENCO Livestock & Fresh Meat Export Ltd
<p>13:00–15:00</p>	<p>Masterclass Location: Stage 2</p> <p>Title: Unlocking Technical Assistance in Africa Organizer: IFAD, SNV, DFCD, CLIC, PARM</p>

Join us for a dynamic masterclass designed to demystify Technical Assistance (TA) and its power to unlock growth for African agribusinesses!

Tailored for SMEs and youth and delivered by investors and development actors grounded in practice, this interactive session will explore how TA supports investment readiness, drives inclusive business growth, and de-risks finance in climate-resilient value chains.

Through real-world case studies, funding insights, and practical guidance, participants will discover how to access TA, what it involves, and how to equip businesses with the tools they need to effectively access and leverage technical assistance. Participants will also gain insight into the roles and responsibilities of participating in Technical Assistance.

If you're aiming to scale your business impact in agri-food systems, this is your roadmap to smarter, more sustainable investment. Don't miss it!

Speakers

- **Ms. Sara Mbago-Bhunu**, Director – Eastern and Southern Africa, International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD)
- **Ms. Diane Potey**, Regional Lead for West Africa, Dutch Fund for Climate & Development (DFCD)
- **Ms. Vandana Thottoli**, Business Origination Advisor – East Africa, DFCD & SNV
- **Dr. Jean-Claude Bidogeza**, Technical Specialist, Platform for Agriculture Risk management (PARM)
- **Ms. Wen E Chin**, Manager, ClimateShot Investors Coalition (CLIC)
- **Ms. Nadine Manzi Umunyana**, Senior Global Technical Specialist – Private Sector, IFAD
- **Ms. Dorcas Mayala Ntumba**, Knowledge Management, Communication and Partnership, PARM
- Ms. Janice Wong, Impact Analyst, ClimateShot Investor Coalition (CLIC)
- Ms. Liz Kirk, Senior Manager – Climate Policy Initiative, ClimateShot Investor Coalition (CLIC)

13:30–14:30

Knowledge Hub Event

Location: Stage 1

Title: Connecting Agricultural Innovation Systems with AG-Tech Initiatives for Widespread Technology Adoption in Africa

Organizer: World Bank Group & CORAF

The event is designed to establish a structured framework for promoting the widespread adoption of innovative solutions by fostering collaboration between the Agricultural Innovation System (AIS)—specifically the Regional Research Centers (RCEs) and National Centers of Specialization (NCOS)—and Agri-Tech solution developers, including emerging startups. This event will bring together key stakeholders from African AIS, coordinated by

	<p>CORAF, alongside Agri-Tech businesses, to highlight recent achievements and foster connections aimed at enabling the widespread adoption of innovative solutions. By leveraging digital technologies and artificial intelligence, the goal is to address challenges related to sustainable agricultural productivity and production, while making the sector more attractive to young people in response to the dual imperatives of food security and job creation.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. El Hadj Adama Toure, Practice Manager Agriculture and Food Security, World Bank. • Dr. Moumini Savadogo, Executive Director, CORAF • Dr. Ousmane Badiane, Executive Chairperson of AKADEMIYA2063 • Driss Lahlou Kitane, CEO, Ground Truth Analytics (a UM6P/MIT venture)
<p>15:00–16:00</p>	<p>Knowledge Hub Event Location: Stage 1</p> <p>Title: Advancing Kampala–CAADP Implementation by Leveraging Local Expertise and Youth-led Initiatives</p> <p>Organizer: AKADEMIYA2063, African Union Commission (AUC), African Union Development Agency, NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD), Consortium of African Youth in Agriculture and Climate Change (CAYACC)</p> <p>Africa’s agrifood systems are undergoing profound changes, driven by the effects of climate change, a fast growing youthful and urbanizing population, and evolving food demand. In response, African leaders recently adopted the Kampala CAADP Declaration to accelerate efforts to transform Africa’s agrifood systems. To be successful, the transformation requires inclusive approaches that center youth as innovators and leverage local expertise with deep contextual understanding. As countries move to implement the Kampala Declaration, this side event will convene diverse stakeholders to identify concrete pathways for harnessing local expertise and youth-led initiatives to support a successful CAADP implementation and agrifood system transformation.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Moses Vilakati, Commissioner, AUC-DARBE (TBC) • Hon. Dr. Dora Siliya, Former Minister of Agriculture, Zambia and Project Promoter, Greenville Agro Park Development Company • Dr. Nteranya Sanginga, Emeritus Director General, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), and Board Member, Africa Food Prize (TBC) • Dr. Debisi Araba, Visiting Research Fellow, Imperial College London • Ms. Nana Amoah, Director, Gender, Youth & Inclusiveness, AGRA • Dr. Mwaka Namukonde, Executive Coordinator, CAYACC

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Tadeo Ajuna, Program Coordinator and Co-country Representative for Uganda, Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD) • Mr. Odd Eirik Arnesen, Senior Adviser, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation and Co-Chair, CAADP Development Partner Coordination Group (DPCG) (TBC) • Ms. Tsitsi Makombe, Director, External Relations, AKADEMIYA2063
<p>15:30-17:30</p>	<p>Masterclass Location: Stage 2</p> <p>Title: Risk Analysis and Management for Africa Small Businesses Organizer: CGIAR's Food Systems Accelerator (CFSA), Accelerating Impact of CGIAR Climate Research of Africa (AICCRA), Enabling Market Intelligence and Building Engagement (EMBE) project, ClimateShot Investor Coalition (CLIC)</p> <p>This Masterclass brings together insights from CGIAR's Food Systems Accelerator, AICCRA, EMBE, and CLIC to explore how agribusinesses can manage risks, scale climate-smart innovations and evidence their attract investment. Participants will gain practical knowledge on managing internal and market risks, improving last-mile distribution, and assessing climate and nature impacts to unlock funding. The session targets SMEs and offers science-based tools to strengthen resilience and commercial viability.</p> <p>Be part of a transformative conversation shaping the future of Africa's food systems.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Liz Ogutu, Policy Manger and Lead East and Southern Africa, Climate Action, Alliance Bioversity-CIAT • Dr. Nate Peterson, Senior Scientist, Behavioral Economist & Private Sector Support, Alliance of Bioversity-CIAT • Dr. Millicent Omala, Climate Finance specialist, Alliance of Bioversity-CIAT • Ms. Diane Afuma, Associate, Climate Action, Alliance of Bioversity-CIAT • Ms. Janice Wong, Impact Analyst, ClimateShot Investor Coalition (CLIC)
<p>16:30-17:30</p>	<p>Knowledge Hub Event Location: Stage 1</p> <p>Title: Public Incentives and Information Systems for Africa's Soil Health Organizer: GIZ, CIFOR-ICRAF/Coalition of Action 4 Soil Health, World Bank, AUDA-NEPAD, NORAD, AICCRA, YPARD</p> <p>This session will spotlight the central role of soil health and the need to provide appropriate incentives through public policy and support programs in advancing Africa's food systems transformation. Framed within the CAADP Kampala Strategy and Action Plan, the event will</p>

	<p>explore how enhanced soil health information systems can support African Union Members in integrating soil health into national planning processes.</p> <p>Robust soil data systems are essential for designing and implementing effective public support programs that deliver inclusive and sustainable outcomes. Central to this is the repurposing of fertilizer subsidies to increase long-term agricultural productivity and improve soil health in the fiscally constrained environment. This includes better targeting, providing soil specific recommendations, and providing incentives for adoption of site-specific integrated soil management practices.</p> <p>This session will highlight global issues around soil health, with a focus on regional (continental) processes with specific country examples. Stakeholders leading soil policy reform at each of these levels will share their experiences. The session will facilitate dialogue on aligning national and continental frameworks, strengthening institutional and technical capacities, enhancing soil information systems, and enabling the uptake of incentive mechanisms that promote sustainable and equitable food systems.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Sophia Baumert, Project Manager, GIZ • Dr. Leigh Winowiecki, Soil and Land Health Global Research Lead, CIFOR-ICRAF, Co-lead of the Coalition of Action 4 Soil Health and Daan Schuttenbelt, Impact Evaluation Specialist, Clim-Eat • Manyewu Mutamba, Head of Agriculture, AUDA-NEPAD • Jenice Achieng, YPARD Kenya Country Representative • Simon Muchigiri, Head of Farm-Input, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD), Government of Kenya • Ingvild Langhus, Senior Advisor, Department for Climate, Nature and the private, Norad
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DAY 4: Thursday, SEPTEMBER 4th, 2025

TIME	SESSION
10:30–11:30	<p>Knowledge Hub Event Location: Stage 1</p> <p>Title: From the Ground Up; Scaling Soil Health Solutions for Planet and People. Organizer: TP: Sustainable Production</p>
10:30–12:30	<p>Masterclass Location: Stage 2</p> <p>Title: Investment & Financing for Resilient Food Systems</p>

Organizer: AGRA; Wageningen University & Research (WUL) and Africa Leadership University (ALU); Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT & Accelerating Impact of CGIAR Climate Research of Africa (AICCRA); ClimateShot Investor Coalition (CLIC)

Governments are increasingly prioritizing climate-smart and climate-resilient agriculture by integrating it into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Agriculture Investment Plans (NAIPs). However, translating these commitments into bankable investments and business cases that attract public and private finance requires strategic planning, innovative financial instruments, and coordinated action among key stakeholders. Programs such as the Food System Resilience Program (FSRP) and the CGIAR Food Systems Accelerator (CFSA) have demonstrated the potential of private sector engagement and financial innovation in driving transformation, yet more needs to be done to scale these efforts.

This Master Class aims to bridge the gap between policy commitments, investment planning, and implementation by leveraging practical tools and methodologies such as Climate-Smart Agriculture Investment Plans (CSAIPs). It will equip participants with the knowledge and skills needed to identify investment opportunities, align them with climate finance mechanisms, and facilitate multi-stakeholder collaboration to drive food system resilience.

Speakers

- Facilitator: **Ms. Liz Ogutu**, Policy Manager and Lead Eastern & Southern Africa, Climate Action, Alliance of Bioversity – CIAT
- Trainer/co-lead scientist: Dorcas Jalango, Research and Programs Specialist – Finance and Investments, Alliance of Bioversity – CIAT
- Co-lead/Scientist: **Dr. Issa Ouedrago**, Senior Scientist and Country Manager, Senegal, Alliance of Bioversity-CIAT
- Researcher/rapporteur: **Mr. Siagbé Golli**, Senior Research Associate, Alliance
- **Mr. Djibril Diagne**, Counselor, Director of Agriculture & President, Climate-Smart Agriculture Coordination Framework (CCASA)
- **Dr. Mbay Diop**, Secretary General, Institut Sénégalais de Recherches Agricoles (ISRA)
- **Mr. Brian N. Neza**, Mission Curator – Agriculture, African Leadership University (ALU)

12:00–13:00

Knowledge Hub Event

Location: Stage 1

Title: Powering Africa's Food and Nutrition Goals: Introducing Off-Grid Solar technologies and solutions

Organizer: GOGLA, GIZ, GAIN

The agriculture sector consumes 30% of global energy, yet in sub-Saharan Africa, many farmers lack reliable electricity, limiting productivity and resilience. Decentralized Renewable Energy (DRE), such as off-grid solar, can meet up to 80% of off-grid agricultural needs but is

	<p>often overlooked in favor of large-scale grid projects. DRE can power irrigation, refrigeration, and processing, supporting nutrition and smallholder livelihoods. Integrated energy planning that aligns centralized and decentralized solutions with agricultural needs is essential. This session introduces off-grid solar in agriculture, showcasing real-world cases and exploring how DRE can improve food systems, incomes, and nutrition in rural communities.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Brenda Marbaniang, Policy Manager, GOGLA • Ms. Sowrya Kilaru, Programme Manager, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) • Mr. Samwel Naimasia, Project Manager, EnDev & Regional Project Coordinator, GIZ • Ms. Sarah Alexander, Global Technical Advisor, Off Grid Electrification, SNV • Mr. Hack Stiernblad, Chief Growth Officer, SunCulture
<p>13:00–15:00</p>	<p>Masterclass Location: Stage 2</p> <p>Title: Governance & Leadership for Food Systems</p> <p>Organizer: GAIN/A4F; AGRA; Wageningen University & Research (WUL) and Africa Leadership University (ALU)</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Abdrahamane Dicko, Director of Programs and Impact, African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) • Ms. Stephanie Sargeant, Global Youth Campaigns Coordinator, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) • Mr. Innocent Cosmas Msoka, Tanzania Youth Leader, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) • Mr. Brian N. Neza, Mission Curator – Agriculture, African Leadership University (ALU)
<p>13:30–14:30</p>	<p>Knowledge Hub Event Location: Stage 1</p> <p>Title: Organizer: ENABEL</p>
<p>15:00–16:00</p>	<p>Knowledge Hub Event Location: Stage 1</p> <p>Title: Mobilizing Local Leadership for Food Systems Transformation Organizer: The Hunger Project (THP)</p>

Strong local civil society organizations are driving the transformation of Africa’s food systems from the ground up. This session will spotlight community-led solutions—particularly those led by women and youth—that place nutrition, WASH, and citizen accountability at the heart of food policy and practice. Drawing on the expertise of the Right2Grow consortium and the Global Alliance for Sustainable Nutrition, participants will engage with scalable strategies and participate in an interactive role-play that introduces a locally developed budget monitoring tool. Attendees will leave with actionable insights, tools, and examples to advocate for essential services, influence investment decisions, and ensure that food systems transformation is inclusive, locally led, and equity-driven.

Speakers

- **Mr. Rowlands Kaotcha**, President & CEO, The Hunger Project
- **Ms. Ramata Sy**, Farmer & Community Partner from Guédé-Village, Republic of Senegal
- **Ms. Adam Dicko**, Malian activist & Executive Director, Association des Jeunes pour la Citoyenneté Active et la Démocratie (AJCAD)
- **Mr. Dieudonné Lankoandé**, National Coordinator, Réseau de la Société Civile pour la Nutrition (RESONUT)

15:30–17:00

Knowledge Hub Event

Location: Stage 2

Title: Investing in Africa’s Coffee Value Chains through Youth and Innovation

Organizer: The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Coffee is the most widely traded tropical product, with up to 25 million farming households globally accounting for 80 percent of world output. Production is concentrated in developing countries, where coffee accounts for a sizeable share of export earnings and provides a key source of livelihood for households. However, there is still much to be done to ensure that the benefits of the coffee sector contribute to reducing poverty among these small producers and other actors in the chain, and that labour conditions are adequately met.

This high-level event at the *Africa Food Systems Forum 2025* will focus on the regional dimension and will align with the Summit’s theme by spotlighting youth-led innovation, collaborative financing, and implementation strategies to transform Africa’s coffee sector.

Moderator: Dr. Lauren Phillips, Deputy Director, Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Speakers

- **Dr. Maximo Torero Cullen**, Chief Economist & Assistant Director General for the Economic and Social Development, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

- **H.E. Addisu Arega**, Minister for Agriculture, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
- **Hon. Dr. Mark Cyubahiro Bagabe**, Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources, Republic of Rwanda
- **T.H. Dr. Wycliffe Ambetsa Oparanya**, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Co-Operatives and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Development, Republic of Kenya
- **Dr. Sidi Ould Tah**, President, African Development Bank (AfDB)
- **Mr. Ethiopis Tafara**, Vice President for Africa, International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- **Mr. Giulio Dal Magro**, Head of Financing, Funds and Blending, Cassa Depositi e Prestiti, Italian Republic
- **Mr. Mario Cerutti**, Chief Institutional Relations and Sustainability Officer, Lavazza Group
- **Mr. Brent Malahay**, Group Chief Strategy Officer, Equity Bank

AGRI-FOOD EXPO

The Agri-Food Expo is the Forum’s vibrant exhibition zone, featuring the Senegal Pavillion, private sector showcases, innovation pods, and startup booths. It is a space for networking, discovery, and collaboration—where ideas come to life through technology demonstrations, product launches, and interactive displays. In the center, the Expo also hosts a stage for the Culinary Village and Arbre à Palabres.

DAY 0: Sunday, AUGUST 31st, 2025

TIME	SESSION
15:30 – 18:30	<p>Special Event Location: Arbre Stage</p> <p>Organizer: TEDx</p>

DAY 1: Monday, SEPTEMBER 1st, 2025

TIME	SESSION
13:00 – 16:00	<p>Culinary Village Location: Arbre Stage</p> <p>Title: Organizer: GAIN</p> <p>At the Culinary Village, tradition meets innovation. Attendees enjoy live cooking demonstrations, tastings, and chef-led showcases of African ingredients and culinary heritage. It’s a celebration of food culture that highlights the nutritional, economic, and environmental importance of local diets and cuisines and links with sustainable production and consumption.</p>
14:00 – 16:00	<p>Senegal Pavillion Session Location: Senegal Pavillion</p> <p>Title: « Lessons Learnt – How did you do it? » Organizer: Ministère de l’Agriculture et APIX</p>

	<p>This event highlights the agricultural successes of 15 countries that have excelled in specific sectors from Brazil's large-scale production and agro-environmental innovations to Ireland's dairy production. Rapid-fire showcases will highlight examples from China, Brazil, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, India, Ireland, Italy, Morocco, the Netherlands, Rwanda, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, and Vietnam.</p> <p>Each country will have 10 minutes to share its experiences, challenges, and the strategies that have enabled it to achieve significant results. This event aims to promote South-South cooperation and strengthen shared knowledge for sustainable agriculture.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Paul Troy, Nutrition Lead, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ireland
<p>16:30 – 17:30</p>	<p>Senegal Pavillion Session Location: Senegal Pavillion</p> <p>Organizer: APIX</p>
<p>17:30 – 20:30</p>	<p>Special Event Location: Arbre Stage</p> <p>Organizer: TEDx</p> <p>[</p>
<p>18:00 – 19:00</p>	<p>Senegal Pavillion Session Location: Senegal Pavillion</p> <p>Title: La jeunesse Sénégalaise face aux défis de la souveraineté alimentaire en lait et produits dérivés</p> <p>Organizer: Interprofession Laitiere du Senegal- Interlait/ Senegal</p> <p>The event aims to outline a vision, missions, values, and principles that are firmly focused on the development of the local dairy sector in Senegal and across Africa. It is primarily oriented toward the social inclusion of youth through innovation and the creation of sustainable jobs, by making optimal use of local milk to contribute to economic development, improved food security for the population, and the generation of national wealth. It also aims to showcase strategies for engaging young people in dairy production through a national industry in agropastoral areas, as well as the tangible results achieved in this regard.</p>

DAY 2: Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 2nd, 2025

AFSF PARTNERS



TIME	SESSION
08:30 – 10:00	<p>Senegal Pavillion Session Location: Senegal Pavillion</p> <p>Organizer: APIX</p>
08:30 – 11:00	<p>Arbre à Palabres Session Location: Arbre Stage</p> <p>Title: Insights from the Field Organizer: Africa Food Systems Forum (AFSF)</p> <p><i>Genius from the Field</i> celebrates the ingenuity, resilience, and leadership of African farmers, agripreneurs, and grassroots innovators who are transforming food systems from the ground up. This dynamic session spotlights practical, scalable solutions born in the field—ranging from climate-smart practices and indigenous knowledge to youth-led agri-tech innovations. Through powerful storytelling and live demonstrations, the session honors homegrown talent and emphasizes the critical role of local champions in driving sustainability, food security, and economic opportunity. Join us to be inspired by real- world change agents and explore how their insights can shape national and continental food systems transformation.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Ted McKinney, CEO, National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) • Ms. Fatema Almulla, Project Study and Development Specialist – International Affairs Office, Presidential Court, United Arab Emirates • Mr. Kristofer Hamel, UAE-Gates Foundation Partnership on Ag. Innovation, Presidential Court, United Arab Emirates • Mr. Quentin Rukingama, Managing Partner, JBQ Africa • Ms. Abbie Phatty-Jobe, Research and Engagement Manager, Caribou Digital • Dr. MJ Khan, Executive Director, World Agriculture Forum (WAF)
10:30 – 11:30	<p>Senegal Pavillion Session Location: Senegal Pavillion</p> <p>Title: Exemples de réussite en matière d'intégration socio-économique des jeunes ruraux au Sénégal Organizer: IFAD & FIDA</p>

	<p>This session demonstrates how rural youth can improve their socioeconomic conditions through well-designed programs that have a long-term impact on the lives of young boys and girls living in rural areas of Senegal.</p> <p>By sharing the experiences of beneficiaries of AGRIJEUNES and other successful programs, the session emphasizes the importance of involving communities, investing in training, and providing start-up capital so that young people can launch activities that generate monthly income. The session will also highlight the impact of such initiatives on the well-being of communities, including keeping young people in rural communities (combating rural exodus), thanks to the new employment opportunities offered.</p> <p>Young people will be the main speakers at this interactive session. Videos of the project will be shown during the event. The audience will have the opportunity to ask questions. The session will be moderated by an IFAD representative or an IFAD partner.</p>
<p>12:00 – 15:00</p>	<p>Senegal Pavillion Session Location: Senegal Pavillion</p> <p>Title: Mettre à l'échelle les potentialités des exploitations agricoles familiales pour garantir des systèmes alimentaires durables en Afrique Organizer: Dynamique pour une Transition Agroécologique au Sénégal (DyTAES)</p> <p>This session explores partnership models that promote local knowledge, agroecological practices, and the central role of family farms in building sustainable food systems. Through the combined perspectives of farmers, policymakers, researchers, and private sector actors, it will highlight the political, economic, and institutional conditions conducive to scaling up these partnerships. The panel will also examine the levers that support these agricultural models and emphasize the importance of multi-stakeholder approaches for a just and inclusive transition. The goal is to identify concrete courses of action to make family farms a pillar of food and climate policies on the continent.</p>
<p>12:00 – 15:00</p>	<p>Culinary Village Location: Arbre Stage</p> <p>Organizer: GAIN</p> <p>At the Culinary Village, tradition meets innovation. Attendees enjoy live cooking demonstrations, tastings, and chef-led showcases of African ingredients and culinary heritage. It's a celebration of food culture that highlights the nutritional, economic, and environmental importance of local diets and cuisines and links with sustainable production and consumption.</p>

<p>13:30 – 14:30</p>	<p>Senegal Pavillion Session Location: Senegal Pavillion</p> <p>Title: Céréales sèches et légumineuses : valorisation, innovation et goût au cœur des systèmes alimentaires Villages climato-intelligents : renforcer la résilience locale face au changement climatique Organizer: Institut Sénégalais de Recherches Agricoles (ISRA)</p> <p>This cross-disciplinary activity led by CERAAS will highlight dry cereals and legumes through a series of highlights: discussions with researchers and innovators, live cooking demonstrations, and tastings of processed products. It aims to bring together science, nutrition, and food culture to illustrate the central role of these crops in sustainable, resilient, and inclusive food systems. By combining scientific approaches, local knowledge, and culinary creativity, this session will offer an immersive and sensory experience accessible to all audiences.</p>
<p>15:00 – 16:00</p>	<p>Senegal Pavillion Session Location: Senegal Pavillion</p> <p>Title: School Meals – Transforming Local Food Systems Organizer: Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale (IPAR)</p> <p>Co-organized by IPAR, IFPRI, and IDRC, this side event explores how school meal programs can serve as powerful levers for building resilient and inclusive agrifood systems in Africa. By creating demand for indigenous, climate-resilient crops and promoting regenerative agriculture, school meals offer a unique opportunity to improve both nutrition and environmental outcomes. The session will showcase evidence and case studies from multiple African countries, demonstrating how school feeding initiatives are being used to advance gender equality, youth empowerment, and local procurement at national scale. It will also provide a platform for dialogue among stakeholders from research, policy, civil society, and the private sector to identify concrete pathways for scaling up sustainable school meals across the continent. Ultimately, the event aims to foster collective action and policy innovation to transform food systems from the ground up—starting with schools.</p>
<p>15:30 – 16:00</p>	<p>Arbre à Palabres Session Location: Arbre Stage</p> <p>Title: Delicious, Nutritious, Culturally-Rooted Food: What does it take to transform Food Systems? Organizer: Tailored Food</p>

	<p>What if the future of the African food system could honor culture, nourish communities, empower youth, and delight the palate? In this TED-style session and debate, thought leaders from ProVeg, Tailored Food, and Globis explore how innovation driven by young people, tradition, and sustainability intersect. Through bold ideas and real-world solutions, they'll unpack the challenges and opportunities of creating food systems that are climate-smart, health-driven, and rooted in local identity. Join us for an inspiring conversation on the role of food in shaping Africa's future, deliciously, nutritiously, and authentically.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Taylor Quinn, Executive Director, Tailored Food • Mr. Hakeem A. Jimo, Country Director, ProVeg Nigeria & Founder and CEO, Veggie Victory • Ms. Juliette Tronchon, Head of UN Affairs, ProVeg International • Chef Bola Adeyanju, Program Manager, ProVeg Nigeria & Founder and Executive Director, Veggie Victory • Ms. Anna A. Touré, Co-Founder, GLOBISIS
<p>16:30 – 17:30</p>	<p>Senegal Pavillion Session Location: Senegal Pavillion</p> <p>Title: Le sol, racine invisible de notre sécurité alimentaire Organizer: Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD)</p> <p>This panel will discuss the often invisible but essential role of soil health in African food sovereignty. It will bring together researchers, farmers, processors, entrepreneurs, and public decision-makers to discuss the links between soil, agricultural practices, processing, and access to sustainable food. Moderated by a student, it will be introduced by a short video filmed in the field. The aim is to highlight a key issue for food security, climate, and economic resilience, while illustrating the concrete contribution of young scientists and South-South collaborations.</p>
<p>16:30 – 17:00</p>	<p>Arbre à Palabres Session Location: Arbre Stage</p> <p>Title: China-Africa Agricultural Cooperation for Food Security in Africa Organizer: Tshwane University of Technology & Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS)</p> <p>This session will focus on two core topics. Join Professor Yinsuo Jia's discussion on corn breeding research, covering short stalk, density tolerance, stress resistance, high yield directions, as well as high protein corn breeding for African staple food demand. In addition, Professor Felix Dakora will present research on nitrogen fixing bacteria, which utilizes rhizobia to fertilize African soils and alleviate their fertilizer deficiency dilemma. The two together will</p>

	<p>constitute a comprehensive and informative overview of research studies in nitrogen fixation and maize breeding.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Felix Dapare Dakora, Plant Biologist, Tshwane University of Technology & Former President, African Academy of Sciences (AAS) • Prof. Yinsuo Jia, Fellow and Vice President, African Academy of Sciences & Executive Dean, Modern Agricultural Innovation Institute, Hubei University
18:00 – 19:30	<p>Senegal Pavillion Session Location: Senegal Pavillion</p> <p>Organizer: ENABEL</p>

DAY 3: Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 3rd, 2025

TIME	SESSION
08:30 – 10:00	<p>Senegal Pavillion Session Location: Senegal Pavillion</p> <p>Title: Agro entrepreneuriat féminin et investissement sensible au genre Gender-Smart Agro business pitch</p> <p>Organizer: Alliance Bioversity International and CIAT</p> <p>This pitch session will give entrepreneurs the opportunity to present their projects, their financing needs, and their expected financial results and impacts in five minutes, followed by a five-minute question-and-answer session with a panel of judges composed of impact investors and local banks. Participants will have been prepared in advance through a boot camp on climate-smart agriculture and sustainable practices and will have received support in integrating these elements into their business plans. With the help of a presentation template and targeted coaching, they will be ready to capture the attention of the jury and partners in attendance. The goal: to promote solid, inclusive projects and create concrete opportunities for financing and collaboration around sustainable agricultural solutions.</p>
09:00 – 09:30	<p>Arbre à Palabres Session Location: Arbre Stage</p> <p>Title: MasAgro Means More: How Agricultural Innovation Hubs Create Youth Jobs and Climate Resilience in Africa</p> <p>Organizer: CIMMYT</p>

	<p>From the drylands of Mexico and Senegal to the varied climates across Latin America and Africa, the award-winning MasAgro model can transform agriculture through improved seed systems, regenerative agronomy, mechanization, and market linkages. In this dynamic session, CIMMYT's Director General, Bram Govaerts, will share how these principles can empower Africa's youth and women to lead climate-smart transformation. Govaerts will engage in a live conversation with a Vision for Adapted Crops and Soils (VACS) Fellow, bringing the vision to life, showcasing innovation, resilience, and the path to food sovereignty.</p>
<p>10:00 – 10:30</p>	<p>Arbre à Palabres Session Location: Arbre Stage Title: Wildlife & Agriculture Organizer: AGRA</p>
<p>10:30 – 11:00</p>	<p>Senegal Pavillion Session Location: Senegal Pavillion Title: Café Entre Pros Jeunes Organizer: Réseau National des clubs de jeunes entrepreneurs du Sénégal (RENCJES)</p> <p>Organized in the form of open discussions, inspiring experience sharing, and meetings, it will bring together 50 young entrepreneurs from the region brought together by RENCJES. It will take place in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Youth, CONFEJES, and several economic actors already identified. By creating a stimulating and structured space, the Entre Pros Jeunes café complements the forum's technical and institutional panels by giving actors in the field the opportunity to discuss business opportunities (young entrepreneurs, investors, start-ups, etc.). It thus promotes the co-construction of concrete responses to the challenges of agri-food and sovereignty. This activity contributes to strengthening the local agricultural entrepreneurial ecosystem by facilitating connections between entrepreneurs, project leaders, and support actors (investors, institutions, etc.).</p>
<p>11:30 – 12:00</p>	<p>Senegal Pavillion Session Location: Senegal Pavillion Title: Jeunes innovateurs pour une transformation durable des systèmes alimentaires : plaidoyer pour les investissements dans les projets « One Health » Jeunesse, innovation et approche One Health : l'expérience des SOHIC pour transformer durablement les systèmes alimentaires en Afrique Organizer: Students One Health Innovations Club (SOHIC)</p>

	<p>This event, scheduled to take place in the Senegal Pavilion, aims to strengthen advocacy for the mobilization of domestic resources, in line with Strategic Objective 2 of the Malabo Declaration of the CAADP 2026–2035: “Stimulate investment and financing to accelerate the transformation of agri-food systems.” It will highlight three multisectoral projects focused on food safety, which offer decent employment opportunities for women and young people, but are also attractive to investors. These projects illustrate the impact of funding gaps in the dairy sector and inadequate production, storage, processing, and marketing practices. The proposed multisectoral and integrated solutions require greater commitment from the national private sector. The aim is to initiate a strong partnership to support the government in mobilizing local resources to achieve the food sovereignty ambitions set out in Senegal 2050.</p>
<p>12:00 – 15:00</p>	<p>Culinary Village Location: Arbre Stage</p> <p>Organizer: GAIN</p> <p>At the Culinary Village, tradition meets innovation. Attendees enjoy live cooking demonstrations, tastings, and chef-led showcases of African ingredients and culinary heritage. It’s a celebration of food culture that highlights the nutritional, economic, and environmental importance of local diets and cuisines and links with sustainable production and consumption.</p>
<p>12:30 – 13:00</p>	<p>Senegal Pavillion Session Location: Senegal Pavillion</p> <p>Title: Quels leviers pour agir sur les environnements alimentaires pour un accès universel à des régimes alimentaires sains au Sénégal ?</p> <p>Organizer: CRES</p> <p><i>La réflexion sur les interrelations entre les facteurs contribuant à la prévalence plus élevée des formes de malnutrition chez les femmes mettra en évidence l’importance de la perspective genre dans la compréhension des questions nutritionnelles au Sénégal et en Afrique. La forte participation des jeunes et des femmes présentateurs assurera la diversité des opinions et des points de vue sur les questions qui seront abordées. La diversité des personnes invitées (acteurs publics, représentants d’organisations de la société civile, associations de personnes souffrant de maladies chroniques comme le diabète, l’hypertension, etc.) assurera une pluralité des opinions.</i></p>
<p>13:30 – 14:30</p>	<p>Senegal Pavillion Session Location: Senegal Pavillion</p>

	<p>Title: Données satellites et modélisation hydrologique : anticiper les crises climatiques pour une agriculture irriguée résiliente Villages climato-intelligents : renforcer la résilience locale face au changement climatique</p> <p>Organizer: MEOSS, BWI, la SAED et Geomatica</p> <p>This workshop will highlight a joint initiative between MEOSS, BWI, GEOMATICA, and SAED aimed at improving water management for irrigated agriculture in Senegal through the use of satellite data, climate models, and artificial intelligence. The project enables the monitoring of water resources, the forecasting of river flows, and the anticipation of droughts and floods in order to optimize agricultural planning. The event will give a voice to young professionals involved in the initiative, highlight the contributions of satellite technologies to climate resilience, and pave the way for regional replication.</p>
<p>15:00 – 16:00</p>	<p>Senegal Pavillion Session Location: Senegal Pavillion</p> <p>Title: Transformation des systèmes alimentaires : quel rôle pour les politiques publiques? Jeunesse et femmes Africaines en Agroforesterie : Innover pour transformer les systèmes agroalimentaires au Sénégal</p> <p>Organizer: Institut Sénégalais de Recherches Agricoles (ISRA)</p> <p>This event will highlight the decisive role of African youth and women in transforming agri-food systems in Senegal, with a focus on agroforestry and climate resilience. Co-organized by ISRA and Tree Aid, it will showcase innovative initiatives led by young people as part of the PROMUVER-SL project and other local actions. Through an interactive panel bringing together young leaders, experts, and community representatives, the session will promote a dynamic exchange on the challenges and opportunities related to youth engagement in agroecology and food security. The event will also emphasize gender inclusion, ensuring balanced representation. This platform will aim to inspire concrete actions to mobilize youth and strengthen their role in the sustainable development of rural areas in Africa.</p>
<p>15:30 – 16:00</p>	<p>Arbre à Palabres Session Location: Arbre Stage</p> <p>Title: Crop Production Estimation Using Satellite Data and Machine Learning for Regional Food Balance and Security Monitoring</p> <p>Organizer: University of Maryland & XylemLab-NASA Harvest</p> <p>Join Prof. Catherine Nakalembe for an inspiring conversation around the Arbre about how satellites and artificial intelligence are revolutionizing African agriculture, with youth at the center of this transformation. This session complements the technical discussions by focusing</p>

	<p>on the human stories behind the technology – from young farmers using satellite data to predict harvests, to innovators developing AI solutions that feed into AGRA’s regional food balance sheets for better food security planning. Through engaging presentation and interactive dialogue, we’ll explore how ag-tech is democratizing agricultural knowledge and empowering a new generation of African agricultural leaders to build food-secure communities.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Catherine Nakalembe, Director, XylemLab-NASA Harvest & Assistant Professor, University of Maryland
<p>16:30 – 17:30</p>	<p>Senegal Pavillion Session Location: Senegal Pavillion</p> <p>Title: Les bénéfices multiples des espèces sous-utilisées pour la souveraineté alimentaire en Afrique Organizer: International Society for Horticultural Science</p> <p>Local and traditional species are at the heart of African countries' sovereignty: seed, food, and nutritional sovereignty. The collapse of biodiversity makes access to these forms of sovereignty even more difficult, because it mainly affects local species that are deeply rooted in dietary, social, and cultural habits and traditions. Horticultural species, fruits, vegetables, spices, aromatic and medicinal plants are among the most useful and most affected. Beyond genetic heritage, it is intangible heritage, knowledge, and know-how that are disappearing: the knowledge, experience, cultivation, association, conservation, and preparation practices that promote soil and climate adaptation and socio-economic roles. The round table provides an opportunity for various stakeholders in research, development, and higher education to illustrate the benefits for younger generations of good material and intangible management of these traditional species.</p>
<p>16:30 – 17:00</p>	<p>Arbre à Palabres Session Location: Arbre Stage</p> <p>Title: Systems-based Policy Tools in Action Organizer: FAO in collaboration with Governments of Zambia and Rwanda (TBC), University College London</p>

DAY 4: Thursday, SEPTEMBER 4th, 2025

TIME	SESSION
08:30 – 10:00	Senegal Pavillion Session

AFSF PARTNERS



	<p>Location: Senegal Pavillion</p> <p>Title: De-Risking Food System Resilience through an Institutionalized National Agricultural Insurance Agenda</p> <p>Organizer: UNDP Senegal, UNDP Insurance and Risk Finance Facility & Ministry of Finance and CNAAS</p> <p>Translating Africa commitments into national impact goes beyond ambition- it requires structured strategies, robust institutional coordination, and practical frameworks to manage complex agricultural and financial ecosystems. A whole-of-government approach is critical to effectively de-risk investments, promote market-driven insurance solutions, and build integrated agri-finance systems that drive resilient food system transformation.</p> <p>The panel session will feature senior government officials from Senegal, Ethiopia, Uganda, and Zambia who are leading efforts to de-risk food systems through agricultural insurance fully institutionalized and embedded in national policies and regulations, alongside a global case from India to share valuable lessons and best practices.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Enock Sing'oei, Agricultural Insurance Specialist, UNDP</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Dr. Sofia Kassa, State Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia • Mr. Moustapha Fall, Director General, Compagnie Nationale d'Assurance Agricole du Sénégal (CNAAS) • Mr. Musa Lukwago, Senior Economist, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Republic of Uganda • Mr. Zandonda Tembo, Senior Agricultural Economist & Assistant National Coordinator, Administration of the Farmer Input Support Program (FISP), Republic of Zambia
<p>09:00 – 09:30</p>	<p>Arbre à Palabres Session</p> <p>Location: Arbre Stage</p> <p>Organizer: Global Environment Facility (GEF)</p>
<p>10:00 – 10:30</p>	<p>Arbre à Palabres Session</p> <p>Location: Arbre Stage</p> <p>Title: Are you listening?</p> <p>Organizer: CABI & Farm Radio International (FRI)</p>

	<p>Digital tools provide the opportunity for youth voices to be heard and accounted for in agricultural development through participatory approaches including mobile opinion polling and farmer voices on the radio. This provides the opportunity to listen to young people.</p> <p>Digital tools and technologies can also significantly enhance youth involvement in agriculture and food systems. These tools and technologies make agriculture more appealing to young people through easy access to relevant knowledge, decision support tools, automation, and precision systems, enabling young farmers to produce more and lose less with less labour, making agriculture a more attractive and sustainable career option. This provides the opportunity for young people to learn and earn.</p> <p>This session will focus on the power of digital tools as communication tools facilitating agricultural development, showcasing an example of a digital tool for listening, and a tool supporting learning, and opening out to discussion about their applications across agriculture. We will include some interactive radio recordings from programmes across the region.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Walter Hevi, Scientist – Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS), CABI • Mr. Benjamin Fiafor, Senior Country Representative – Ghana & Nigeria, FRI • Ms. Gertrude Nalubinga Mwebaza, Program Officer – East and Southern Africa, FRI
<p>10:30 – 11:00</p>	<p>Senegal Pavillion Session Location: Senegal Pavillion</p> <p>Title: Agri-Food Jobs for Youth, Women Organizer: Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale (IPAR)</p> <p>Co-organized by IPAR, IFAD, Senegal’s State Secretariat for SMEs and MSMEs and DER/FJ this side event explores concrete pathways to boost youth and women’s employment in agri-food value chains in Senegal. It will highlight barriers such as access to land, finance, and markets, and showcase innovative initiatives and partnerships that support entrepreneurship, green jobs, and inclusive growth. Bringing together young entrepreneurs, policymakers, and development partners, the event aims to share solutions, foster collaboration, and lay the groundwork for a flagship initiative to scale decent and sustainable agri-food employment.</p>
<p>12:00 – 13:00</p>	<p>Senegal Pavillion Session Location: Senegal Pavillion</p> <p>Title: Pastoralisme, changement climatique et souveraineté alimentaire : Quels rôles pour la jeunesse africaine ? Organizer: Pôle Pastoralisme et Zones Sèches (PPZS)</p>

	<p>This event will bring together researchers, young pastoralists, civil society representatives, and decision-makers to discuss the key role of pastoralism in African food sovereignty in the face of climate change. Led by PPZS in partnership with CNCR, Enda Pronat, and IED Afrique, it will highlight the experiences of young pastoralists in arid areas and their ability to innovate despite constraints. Through testimonials, field exchanges, and forward-looking discussions, the panel will aim to identify levers for action to support inclusive, sustainable pastoralism that creates jobs for rural youth.</p>
<p>12:00 – 12:30</p>	<p>Arbre à Palabres Session Location: Arbre Stage</p> <p>Title: How are Smallholder Innovations Leading Africa’s Climate Resilience? Organizer: ECOBRISTO</p> <p>African farmers grapple with soil degradation, pesticide resistance, and export market rejections due to residue levels, the need for clean, scalable, and local solutions is urgent. This session explores how farmer-led innovations—like solar-powered insect traps and biochar and other biofertilizers—are enhancing climate resilience, reducing input costs, and improving market access. By grounding innovation in farmer realities, we ask: Can small, locally engineered technologies help African farmers thrive ecologically and economically?</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Amanda Namayi, Co-Founder, State of the Farms</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Betty Kibaara, Director – Food Initiative, Rockefeller Foundation • Mr. Mutuma Muriuki, Founder & CEO, Eco Bristo Limited • Mr. Royford Mutegi, Co-Founder & Managing Director, Vermi-Farm Initiative • Mr. Tajudeen Yahaya, CEO, Extension Africa • Ms. Adjaratou Kosse Faye, Founder, FOROBA Agriculture • Ms. Elizabeth Oladepo, Founder, 07 Foods

SIDE EVENTS

AFS Forum offers space for in-depth engagement on emerging topics, new partnerships, and sector-specific innovations. Hosted by thematic platforms as well as partners across government, business, academia, and civil society, these sessions enable targeted exchanges that contribute to the broader agenda while offering practical insights, launches, and collaborative opportunities.

DAY 0: SUNDAY, AUGUST 31st, 2025

TIME	SESSION
14:30 – 16:00	<p>Side Event</p> <p>Title: Facing climate change with improved nutrition: policy challenges and opportunities to protect and develop traditional food systems</p> <p>Organizer: SNV, AGRA, Global Citizens, CGIAR, HKI, Kick-Start, Tufts and Cornell University, SDC</p> <p>Location: Oval Room</p> <p>This session explores the investment challenges and opportunities for transformation while protecting indigenous and traditional food systems under climate change to support optimal nutrition. As climate impacts intensify, these systems, rich in biodiversity and local knowledge, face disruption, threatening both nutrition and cultural heritage. The discussion will highlight the critical need for localized climate information and understanding of the interconnections of climate and nutrition for adaptation of food practices to conditions never seen before, and the risks of scaling solutions without grounding them in local realities. Participants will examine how locally derived knowledge can inform resilient, nutrition-sensitive adaptation strategies and how policy, program and finance frameworks must evolve to support bottom-up approaches. The session will foster cross-sectoral dialogue to bridge local action with national and global processes, ensuring nutrition is recognized as a climate imperative.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Namukolo Covic, ILRI – Keynote speaker • Claude Arsène Sawadogo, Bioprotect • Vivian Maduekeh, FHS Africa • Dr. Fabio Cresto Aleina, for Global Citizens • Evans Ochuto, Community seed bank Vihiga county, Kenya

- Kindie Fantaye, AGRA RE-GAIN
- Youth leader (to be confirmed)
- Annemieke Beekmans, SNV

Side Event

Title: Increasing access to "quality" seeds for sustainable and resilient food systems in West and Central Africa

Organizer: ISRA, CORAF, AfricaRice

Location: Thematic Room

L'écosystème semencier ouest et centre africain traverse une période de transformation majeure caractérisée par l'émergence simultanée d'innovations technologiques à fort potentiel et d'une nouvelle génération d'entrepreneurs agricoles particulièrement créative. Cependant, ces deux forces transformatrices évoluent encore trop souvent en parallèle, sans créer les synergies nécessaires à une transformation efficace et durable de l'agriculture africaine.

AfricaRice, CORAF et ISRA ont développé des innovations semencières de pointe qui couvrent l'ensemble de la chaîne de valeur, de la création variétale à l'utilisation finale par les producteurs. Fruits de longues années de recherches appliquées et d'exploration des ressources phytogénétiques endogènes, ces découvertes et avancées sont spécifiquement adaptées aux réalités africaines et aux défis climatiques et environnementaux de la région. Parallèlement, l'Afrique dispose d'un vivier exceptionnel de jeunes entrepreneurs agricoles dynamiques qui possèdent l'énergie, la créativité et la compréhension fine des marchés locaux – autant de qualités indispensables pour convertir ces innovations technologiques en solutions commerciales viables.

À l'horizon 2030, l'arrivée attendue de 375 millions de jeunes sur le marché africain du travail appelle une offre massive d'innovations prêtes à être déployées à travers des projets entrepreneuriaux. Ce contexte crée une fenêtre d'opportunité historique pour catalyser la convergence entre excellence scientifique et entrepreneuriat jeune. C'est dans ce cadre que les trois institutions de recherche partenaires, en l'occurrence, AfricaRice, CORAF et ISRA, saisissant l'opportunité du Forum Africain sur les Systèmes Alimentaires 2025, organisent un événement spécialement conçu pour offrir une compréhension pratique et concrète des innovations semencières portées par les trois institutions et de jeunes innovateurs africains, tout en

	<p>explorant leur capacité à transformer le secteur grâce à l'entrepreneuriat de la jeunesse africaine. Cet événement interactif servira également de prélude à leur session parallèle stratégique intitulé « Accroître l'accès aux semences pour des systèmes alimentaires durables et résilients en Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre » qui aura lieu le lundi 01 septembre 2025.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autorités AfricaRice, CORAF, ISRA • Mame Codou Gueye, ISRA • Gorgui Alioune Mbow, AfricaRice • Caroline Sobgui, CORAF • Mamadou Lamine Ndiaye / Moussa Fall, ENSA • Amy Kebe Sylla, Jokalante • Ouvert (Public) • Emmanuel Njukwe, CORAF
	<p>Side Event</p> <p>Title: On the road to the 2026 UN Water Conference- Building Water-Resilient Food Systems</p> <p>Organizer: Ministry of Foreign Affairs - United Arab Emirates & Senegal</p> <p>Location: Knowledge Hub Stage 1</p>
	<p>Side Event</p> <p>Title: Unlocking the Power of Policy: Building Resilient, Inclusive, and Sustainable Food Systems in Africa</p> <p>Organizer: Synergos</p> <p>Location: Investment Room</p> <p>This dynamic panel explores how effective policy can transform Africa's food systems to become more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable. With the continent facing mounting challenges—climate change, conflict, rapid urbanization, and food insecurity—there is an urgent need for policy frameworks that address systemic inequalities while promoting innovation and sustainability. The discussion will bring together policymakers, researchers, agribusiness leaders, and civil society actors to examine strategies for aligning national and regional policies with the goals of food security, climate resilience, and economic inclusion. Panelists will delve into</p>

	<p>best practices for empowering smallholder farmers, supporting women and youth in agriculture, and leveraging public-private partnerships to scale impact. Attendees will gain insights into how evidence-based policymaking, cross-sector collaboration, and investment in agri-food systems can drive equitable and lasting change. This session aims to catalyze bold policy actions that ensure Africa's food systems are fit for the future.</p>
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DAY 2: Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 2nd, 2025

TIME	SESSION
08:30 – 10:00	<p>Side Event</p> <p>Title: Public sector financing in 15 countries (based on AGRA report)</p> <p>Organizer: AGRA</p> <p>Location: Oval Room</p>
	<p>Side Event</p> <p>Title: The AfCFTA Agri-Trade Action Plan: Unlocking Inclusive Agri-Food Trade</p> <p>Organizer: AfCFTA Secretariat, AGRA, UK Aid Direct</p> <p>Location: Thematic Room</p> <p>To address persistent trade barriers and unlock the potential of Africa's agricultural sector, as mandated by the Council of Ministers, the AfCFTA Secretariat, in collaboration with the Government of Rwanda and with support from the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), has developed a continental Agri-Trade Action Plan. This Plan provides a practical and actionable framework for advancing the agricultural trade dimensions of the AfCFTA, with a focus on accelerating intra-African trade in agri-food products, enhancing regional value chains, and promoting agro-industrial development. It operationalizes the AfCFTA Private Sector Strategy by identifying priority value chains with high potential to improve food security, promote import substitution, and deepen regional market integration.</p> <p>The plan seeks to (i) strengthen the enabling environment for intra-Africa trade and progressively eliminating tariffs and non-tariff barriers (NTBs) to trade including addressing sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) constraints, (ii) accelerating the development of regional value chains, and (iii) spurring the</p>

industrialization of food production and distribution. The Plan is designed to support the AfCFTA's goal of enhancing intra-African trade and strengthening Africa's global trading position. Its vision is of a thriving, interconnected agri-food market that fosters sustainable growth, food security, and improved farmer livelihoods across Africa. The plan prioritized seven value chains: maize, rice, soya, fruits and vegetables, palm oil, meat, and fish, on the basis of their (i) economic potential, i.e., job creation potential and contribution to the economy; (ii) trade potential, i.e., import substitution, demand, value addition; (iii) and impact potential, i.e., food security, nutritional value, climate resilience, inclusivity (women, youth, SHFs), as well as (iv) other aspects, such as strategic importance (alignment with government / regional priorities) and geographic diversity.

Developed through an evidence-based and consultative process with Regional Economic Communities and private sector actors, the Plan also aims to align with existing African Union frameworks to ensure that agricultural trade contributes meaningfully to sustainable development and inclusive economic transformation across the continent.

This event will seek to popularize the plan as well as mobilize funding and investments towards the implementation of the plan.

Moderator: Mr. Komla Bissi, Senior Advisor, Agriculture, Office of the SG, AfCFTA Secretariat

Speakers

- **Antoine KAJANGWE**, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Rwanda
- **Watipaso Mkandawire**, Regional Food Trade Adviser – Africa Programmes and Expertise Department (APEX), Africa Directorate, FCDO
- **Dr. Edeme, AUC**
- **Dr. Gagan Gupta, ARIISE**
- **Dr. Baboucarr Manneh**, Regional Director, West and Central Africa, CGIAR & Director General, Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice)
- **Mr. Dave Beer**, CEO of TMA
- **Mr. Daniel Njiwa**, Head, Regional Food Trade, AGRA

Side Event

Title: Empowering Smallholder Farmers through Access to Sustainable Inputs: Seeds, Bio-Solutions and Mechanization

Organizer: IFAD, AGRA, UPL, SNV

Location: Knowledge Hub Stage 1

Join key policymakers, industry leaders, and agricultural experts for a dynamic session on advancing *access to quality* seeds, bio-solutions and farm mechanization in Africa. This side event will spotlight innovative technologies and approaches to sustainable agricultural inputs as a driver of youth employment and rural transformation in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). This high-impact discussion will explore innovative bio-solutions to boost productivity, mechanization coalition to enhance smallholder farmer access to machinery, and scalable solutions to strengthen local production of quality seeds. It will bring together development partners, private sector actors, and youth representatives to share lessons, explore scalable models—such as youth-led mechanization hubs—and identify investment and partnership opportunities. The session will also provide a platform to validate and launch a call to action for inclusive policies and programs that promote access to agro-inputs services, skills, and entrepreneurship for Sub-Saharan Africa.

Moderator: Ms. Mbago-Bhunu Sara, Regional Director East and Southern Africa Division, IFAD

Speakers

- **Mr. George Marechera**, Head – Digital Systems and Solutions for Agriculture, AGRA
- **Mr. Florent Clair**, Global Sustainability Manager, UPL Corp – AgriSolutions
- **Mr. Hubert Ehouman**, Cocoa/Banana/Mango & Cashew and Vegetables Lead W&CA, UPL Corp – AgriSolutions
- **Mr. Séchoga Sanhouekoua Sahgui**, President of a communal cooperation of soybean producers in Benin
- **Mr. Moctar Ndiaye**, Director of Agriculture, Government of Senegal

Side Event

Title: Re-Imagine the Future of Leadership and Catalysts for Food Systems Transformation

Organizer: SNV (Session Lead); IFAD; Netherlands Food Partnership (NFP) and Young Expert Program (YEP); UN Food Systems (UNFS) Coordination Hub, and Erasmus Centre for Entrepreneurship (ECE)

Location: Knowledge Hub Stage 2

In this session entitled: *re-imagine the future of leadership and catalysts for food systems transformation*; youth leaders and multi stakeholders will unpack the four critical catalysts for food Systems Transformation: Ecosystem Coordination, Economic Opportunities for Youth, Intergenerational Dialogue and Youth Leadership.

Through this interactive speed dating, panel discussion and strategic foresight workshop featuring youth partners and experts from SNV, IFAD, ECOJES (Senegal Rural Youth Alliance), UN Food Systems (UNFS) Coordination Hub, Netherlands Food Partnership (NFP), the Government of Senegal, and Erasmus Centre for Entrepreneurship (ECE), youth leaders, experts and more experienced experts (investors, policymakers, corporates, private sector, academia, development partners) will come together to *re-imagine the future of leadership in food systems, facilitate dialogue and create the connections needed to foster sustainable systems transformation*.

Moderator: Mr. Martin Bwalya, Senior Food Systems Regional Consultant – Africa, UN Food Systems Coordination Hub

Speakers

- **Aïnina Aïdara**, Technical Specialist, Social Inclusion & Youth Employment, IFAD
- **Ms. Jean Muthamia-Mwenda**, Global Lead – Youth Employment & Entrepreneurship, SNV
- **Marjan Riepma**, Project Manager, Young Expert Programmes (YEP Agrofood), Netherlands Food Partnership
- **Ms. Wampie Libon**, Director of Inclusive Green Growth, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of the Netherlands
- **Cissé Safoura Ousmane**, Founder of Health Secret and Youth Green Business Coach, SNV
- Bernard Hien, Regional Director for West and Central Africa (WCA), IFAD
- Moderator: Lena Savelli, Deputy Director, UN Food Systems Coordination Hub
- Mamadou Diop, Youth Projects Officer at CNCR and Technical Facilitator, ECOJES (Senegal Rural Youth Alliance)
- Michael Nkonu, Head of Portfolio – Agricultural Livelihoods, IKEA
- Jip Dresia, Education and Partnerships Lead, Erasmus Centre for Entrepreneurship (ECE)
- **Mr. Daouda Seck**, Government of Senegal

Side Event

Title: Feeding Futures: How School Meals Drive Nutrition, Markets, and Equity

Organizer: SNV, AUDA-NEPAD, AGRA, Rockefeller, Food 4 Education, AUDAD / NEPAD, Regional SMC, Welthungerhilfe (WHH)

Location: Press Conference Room

School feeding programs play a crucial role in advancing nutrition, while simultaneously strengthening local agricultural markets and promoting equity. By sourcing food from local farmers, these programs not only ensure that children receive nutritious meals but also support the agricultural community. This approach fosters sustainable farming practices, boosts local economies, and creates a more equitable food system. Through school feeding initiatives, we can build a healthier future for our children, creating demand for underutilized nutritious foods, and a more resilient agricultural sector.

Speakers

- **Dr. Pierre Kadet**, Director – Climate-Resilient Food Systems, International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
- Minister of Agriculture and animal resources Rwanda - Pending
- Bibi Giyose, NEPAD
- Dr. David Ojwang, Agri-Food Sector Leader, SNV
- Stella Kimani
- **Ms. Betty Kibaara**, Director – Food Initiative, Rockefeller Foundation

Side Event

Title: Inclusive agri-food business models: Empowering youth and women for sustainable food systems transformation

Organizer: Rikolto

Location: Youth Dome

Africa faces challenges in achieving sustainable food systems, with youth unemployment and gender inequality as key barriers. In the face of population growth, urbanization, and climate change, youth and women are eager to contribute to agri-food transformation, but limited access to resources and business development services hinders their potential. This session will highlight Rikolto’s Generation Food approach, a roadmap that

has supported development of inclusive agri-food business models in East Africa for youth and the Franchise model for women parboilers in West Africa, and demonstrate evidence on how inclusive business models are empowering youth and women in ensuring sustainable food systems transformation.

Speakers

- Margreth Antony Magubila, Young Horticulture Entrepreneur, Tanzania
- Ms Ouedrago Alimatou – Secretary of UNIREZ
- Josephine Ecklu – Global Inclusive Business Manager, Rikolto
- Kebba Colley – Global Director,
- Dr. Birungi Korutaro – CEO, Kilimo Trust
- Hildagard Okoth – Programme Coordinator, Rikolto East Africa

18:00 – 19:30

Side Event

Title: Fortifying and Cultivating Nourishing Futures: Building nutritious food systems for mothers and children in vulnerable households

Organizer: Helen Keller International

Location: Oval Room

This dynamic panel will explore how nutrition-focused innovations, standards, and policies can transform African food systems to better serve women and young children in vulnerable populations. It will highlight strategies across large-scale food fortification (LSFF), SME-led complementary food production, nutrition-sensitive agricultural interventions, and regulatory frameworks. Speakers and panelists from government, private sector, and civil society will share challenges, successes and evidence that are helping scale impact and catalyze investment. Emphasis will be placed on inclusive, gender-sensitive, climate-resilient solutions that align with the N4G Commitments, CAADP 2026–2035, and Senegal’s National Nutrition Strategy.

Speakers

- Dr Tom van Mourik, Global advisor Food Systems – Helen Keller Intl.
- Shawn Baker, Chief of Programs – Helen Keller Intl.
- Ndeye Yaga Sy Moderator, Nutrition Policy & Advocacy Advisor, – Helen Keller Intl. Sénégal.
- Dr Ndèye Fatou NDIAYE, COSFAM Coordinator – Institute de Transformation Alimentaire, Sénégal.

- Habib Ndaw, Directeur Général des Ventes et des Opérations – OLAM. Public-Private Partnerships for Scalable Fortified Products.
- Mr. Assane Pam, Chef de Projet Normalisation et Certification – Association Sénégalaise de Normalisation, Sénégal.
- Mariama Diallo, SME director, Maria Distribution.

Side Event

Title: Future-Proofing West African Food Systems: Unlocking the Potential of Climate Adaptation for Empowering Africa's Youth

Organizer: SNV, AGRA, CGIAR, ILRI, AICCRA

Location: Thematic Room

Responding to climate change challenges in African agriculture and food systems requires a paradigm shift from business-as-usual to a transformative approach that yields actionable solutions and outcomes. This session will present a transformative approach illustrated with cases of gender and youth inclusion in the scaling of climate-smart agriculture and climate information services across scales in West and Central Africa. It will present how science-based solutions and innovative partnerships have been conducive to successful development outcomes and discuss lessons learned for scaling across Africa. The ultimate goal is to inform the wider AR4D communities, development practitioners, and funders of agricultural research in Africa.

Empowering Africa's youth with digital tools is key for food system transformation. This dynamic side event explores how cutting-edge digital climate adaptation services revolutionize African agriculture. Discover how farmers, especially youth, leverage weather forecasts, climate insights, and bundled services delivered via digital platforms to manage risks, adapt to climate change, and build resilient livelihoods. Hear from experts, innovators, and practitioners from across the continent, showcasing real-world examples of how these tools boost yields, create jobs, and foster a new generation of climate-smart agricultural leaders. Don't miss this opportunity to learn how digital innovation shapes a more secure and sustainable food future for Africa.

Moderator: Pierre C. Sibiry Traore

Speakers

- **Dr. Robert Zougmore**, Director, AICCRA

- **Ms. Nadine Kone**, Deputy Country Director & Agri-Food Sector Leader, SNV Burkina Faso
- **Ms. Ndeye Amy Kébé**, Founder & CEO, Jokalante
- **Dr. Kindie Tesfaye**, Head – Climate Adaptation and Resilience, AGRA
- **Ms. Safoura Ousmane Cissé**, Founder, Health, Youth Go-Green COACH
- **Mr. Bas Evers**, Program Manager Africa, Rabo Foundation
- **Ms. Stéphanie Piers de Raveschoot**, Sectoral Policy Advisor, SDC, Government of Switzerland

Side Event

Title: Artificial Intelligence Driven Agricultural Advisory

Organizer: YARA, IFAD, CABI, AGRA, FAO, Gates Foundation

Location: Knowledge Hub – Stage 1

ChatGPT was the fastest growing digital platform in human history and AI is rapidly transforming how the globe accesses knowledge. At the same time, small-scale producers do not receive relevant, timely advice to deal with extreme events of climate change and market shocks. AI is a promising new tool that can be made easily accessible. Natural language interfaces can overcome digital and language divides. AI reasoning can improve decision making. Integration of localized weather, soil information, input and market services enable tailored advice for individual farmers. There are risks such as trust, biases, hallucinations, and costs for scalability and sustainability. However, with robust governance and guardrails in place, AI can improve small-scale producer profitability and agricultural productivity across Africa. Join us for a dynamic side event to learn the latest AI developments, see examples of successful AI solutions and discuss the pressing governance issues around AI in African food systems.

Moderator: Stewart Collis, Gates Foundation

Speakers

- Parvathy Krishnan, World Bank AI for Ag Report or **Parmesh Shah**, Digital Agriculture Global Platform Lead
- Virtual Agronomist – **Jamie Collinson**, iSDA
- Farmer.Chat – **Rikin Gandhi**, Digital Green
- Martine Nesperwa, Chief Digital Officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources, Rwanda
- **Salim Kinyimu**, Director of ICT, KALRO or Gium Ketema, Director, Digital Agriculture and Finance, Agricultural Transformation Institute

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Fatema Almulla, Project Study and Development Specialist – International Affairs Office, Presidential Court, United Arab Emirates • Ameen Jauhar, CABI, Data Governance Lead • Aisha Walcott-Bryant, Head of Google Research or Jawoo Koo, Deputy Director, CGIAR-IFPRI Digital Transformation Accelerator • Kate Kallot, CEO, Amini AI or Seema Gohil, Director, Safaricom, DigiFarm
	<p>Side Event</p> <p>Title: Addressing the costs of transition to regenerative agriculture</p> <p>Organizer: Rockefeller Foundation</p> <p>Location: Knowledge Hub – Stage 2</p> <p>This side event explores the often-overlooked economic realities of transitioning to regenerative, agroecological, and climate-smart agriculture in East Africa. Drawing on empirical data analysis from smallholder farmers who already in medium or deep transition, In Kenya, Tanzania, and Rwanda, the session presents evidence on the financial costs, trade-offs, and long-term benefits of regenerative practices for smallholder farmers.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof Alex Awiti • Mr. Simon Kimenju • Tim Mwangi • Manei Naanyu
	<p>Side Event</p> <p>Title: Empowering Farmers Through Customized Support / Supporting Soil Health Solutions for Sustainable Crop Productivity / Precision Agriculture for Sustainability and Profitability” and “Innovating Insurance for Climate Resilience</p> <p>Organizer: OCP Africa</p> <p>Location: Investment Room</p>
	<p>Side Event</p> <p>Title: Shaping Africa's inclusive agribusiness through public-private partnerships (PPPs) for a resilient future</p>

Organizer: 2SCALE

Location: Youth Dome

This side event will explore how public-private partnerships (PPPs) are catalyzing inclusive agribusiness transformation across Africa. Through youth-led case studies, innovative financing models, and practical examples of inclusive business approaches, the session will highlight how collaboration between government, the private sector, and development actors is unlocking opportunities for young people in agri-food systems. By positioning youth as co-creators and strategic partners, not just beneficiaries, the discussions will emphasize the pivotal role of PPPs in shaping resilient, market-driven and sustainable agribusiness ecosystems across the continent.

Moderator: Theophile Mudenge- 2SCALE Youth Inclusion Specialist

Speakers

- Ramata Ndiaye – Director, ImpactHub Bamako, Mali
- **Ms. Yemisi Iranloye**, Founder & Managing Director, Psaltry International Company Limited
- Birhanu Bogale Angessa, General Manager, Jacob’s Integrated Farm, CME
- **Ms. Angela Brefo Yeboah**, 2SCALE youth champion & CEO, Angy Farms
- Alana Sebit – 2SCALE Country Team Leader, South Sudan
- Mahamadou Halilou Abdoul Aziz – CEO Founder, Goroubi Organic Moringa Company
- Marina Diboma, 2SCALE Program Director

DAY 3: Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 3rd, 2025

TIME	SESSION
08:30 – 10:00	<p>Side Event</p> <p>Title: Scaling Circular Food Systems: Youth Action</p> <p>Organizer: WRI, AGRA, GAIN, SDSN, KASA, Regen Organics, CIRF Rwanda</p> <p>Location: Oval Room</p> <p>This event will be highlighting the transformative impact of the role of youth and showcase circular solutions led by youth and MSMEs circular agrifood</p>

practices in regenerative agriculture, food loss and waste reduction, health diets and productive use of waste and general resource use efficiency. Through interactive dialogue and case presentations, the event will promote inclusive partnerships and policy alignment to scale circular food system innovations across Africa, especially among the youth. It will centre on gender-inclusive FLW solutions and strengthen youth agency in transforming agri-food systems, policy, and sustainability in Africa.

Moderator: Susan Onyango - Director for Communications and Engagement, WRI

Speakers

- Dr. Robert Mbeche – Director Food Program, WRI Africa
- Ms. Annette Muindi – Project Officer Influencing and Advocacy, GAIN
- Mr. Amani Twagirayezu- Managing Director, Triumvirate Food
- Ms. Melody Mukami – Finance and Partnerships, Regen Organics
- Prof. Tilahun Amede, Head – Resilience, Climate & Soil Fertility, AGRA
- **Ms. Sowrya Kilaru**, Programme Manager, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)

Side Event

Title: Women, Work and Wealth: Driving Inclusive Systems

Organizer: Consortium of African Youth in Agriculture and Climate Change (CAYACC)

Location: Thematic Room

Putting women at the center of agrifood transformation is an urgent imperative that aligns with global goals for gender equality, decent work, and zero hunger. This session will spotlight how gender gaps affect agrifood systems and how we can address these gaps. Discussions will focus on three main pillars including: enhancing women’s access to productive resources and services; promoting decent work and entrepreneurship opportunities; and strengthening women’s voice in policy and governance. This session will contribute to reimagining agrifood systems as engines of opportunity—where women’s work creates wealth for all.

Moderator: Ms. Dorine Odongo, AWARD

Speakers

- Dr. Maureen Miruka, Director, GESI, CIMMYT
- Ms. Elena Ruiz Abril, Regional Policy Advisor, Women's Economic Empowerment, West and Central Africa Regional Office, UN Women
- Dr. Marame Cissé, IPAR, Senegal.
- Rokiatou Traore, Malian entrepreneur, Executive Manager and Co-founder and CEO of Herou Alliance Sarl enterprise.
- Ms. Winnie Osulah, AGRA
- Dr. Nomathemba Mhlanga, Agribusiness Officer, FAO Subregional Office for Eastern Africa
- Dr. Michèle Mbo'o-Tchouawou, AWARD

Side Event

Title: Launch of IFPRI's Global Food Policy Report

Organizer: IFPRI & AGRA

Location: Knowledge Hub Stage 1

This high-level side event at the 2025 African Food Systems Forum will launch IFPRI's 2025 Global Food Policy Report and convene African ministers, policymakers, researchers, and food systems leaders to explore lessons from past policy choices and priorities for the future. Anchored in the 2025 Kampala Declaration's call for resilient and inclusive agrifood systems, the event will focus on advancing equitable livelihoods—particularly for youth, women, and vulnerable groups—while also addressing broader challenges around sustainability, governance, and investment. Through keynote speeches, report presentations, and a ministerial panel, the session will spotlight emerging approaches, cross-sector coordination, and the strategic pivot to a food systems approach across the continent.

Moderator: Dr. Ousmane Badiane, Executive Chairperson, Akademiya2063

Speakers

- **H.E. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete**, Former President, United Republic of Tanzania
- **Ms. Esther Kimani**, CEO, Farmer Lifeline Technologies
- **Prof. Chris Barrett**, Stephen B. & Janice G. Ashley Professor of Applied Economics and Management International Professor of Agriculture, Cornell University & co-editor of the 2025 GFPR
- **Prof. Jo Swinnen**, Director General, International Food Policy Research

	<p>Institute (IFPRI) & co-editor of the 2025 GFPR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Steven Were Omamo, Director for Africa and Director of Development Strategies and Governance, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) & coauthor of the GFPR regional chapter on Africa • Dr. Claudia Ringler, Director – Natural Resources and Resilience (NRR), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) • Ms. Alice Ruhweza, President, AGRA
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	<p>Side Event</p> <p>Title: POST-DAKAR 2: From Pledges to Plates: Financing Africa's Agriculture Food and Systems</p> <p>Organizer: AfDB</p> <p>Location: Knowledge Hub Stage 2</p> <p>This high-level side event will showcase tangible achievements in implementing Dakar 2 Delivery Compacts, identify mechanisms to sustain momentum and mobilize further investment, and highlight innovations in financing smallholder agriculture. The session will facilitate public-private dialogue on policy alignment and strengthen institutional delivery platforms such as Presidential Delivery Councils to accelerate Africa's food systems transformation.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mabouba Diagne, Minister of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty & Livestock of Senegal • H.E. Prosper Dodiko, Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock of Burundi • H.E. Dr. Henry Musa Kpaka, Minister of Agriculture and Food Security of Sierra Leone • H.E. Dr. Girma Amente, Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia • H.E. Dr. Cyubahiro Marc Bagabe, Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources of Rwanda • Mr. Vinay Kumar Vutukuru, Program Leader, Sustainable Development, World Bank • OPEC Fund • Ms. Sara Mbago-Bhunu, Director of East and Southern Africa Division, International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) • Dr. Ougfaly Badji, Lead Global Food Security Specialist
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- Dr. Godwin Atser, Country Director Kenya, Sasakawa Africa Association
- Mr. Cedrick Montetcho, Chief of Business Development, Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA)
- Ms. Gwen Mwaba, Director and Global Head, Trade Finance, Afreximbank

Side Event

Title: Wired for Impact: Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) Engine for Agri Food Systems Transformation

Organizer: AGRA, IFAD, GF, CABI, FAO, YARA

Location: Press Conference Room

Join us for a dynamic side event where we will discuss on DPI which is the bedrock for transformative agriculture development for Africa. DPI refers to foundational digital systems such as digital identification, payment platforms, and data exchange networks that enable secure and inclusive access to services. In agriculture, DPI is transformative because it is an enabler of population scale, empowering farmers with real-time information regarding weather and market prices. It improves access to finance through digital credit and insurance, and it streamlines supply chains through e-traceability, and e-marketplaces. By reducing inefficiencies, bridging gaps in rural connectivity, and fostering transparency, DPI enhances productivity, resilience, and increases efficiency and income for smallholder farmers. For Africa, where agriculture employs over 60% of the population, investing in DPI is critical to driving food security, climate adaptation, and economic growth in a rapidly digitizing world.

Moderator: Brenda Mulele Gunde, IFAD

Speakers

- Emmanuel Khisa (Gates Foundation)
- Farmer Registries in Kenya (KIAMIS), Salim Kinyimu, KALRO
- **Mr. George Marechera**, Head – Digital Systems and Solutions for Agriculture, AGRA
- DigiFarm CEO: Seema Gohil
- Ernst and Young: Amit Vatsyayan Partner and Leader: Social, Skills and Sustainability Sectors, Government and Public Sector
- Ms. Sara Mbago-Bhunu, Director of East and Southern Africa Division, International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Bank – Parmesh Shah • VISTARR representative – OpenAgriNet – Jagadish Babu • Aaron Cheruiyot – (Yara) Africa Digital Product Deployment
	<p>Side Event</p> <p>Title: Local Food Culture as Currency – From Dependence to Abundance</p> <p>Organizer: Ghana Food Movement powered by ACIAR</p> <p>Location: Youth Dome</p> <p>This side event reveals how West Africa’s culinary and agricultural systems hold the keys to profound societal transformation. West African youth are turning ingredients into opportunity and showing how food culture can increase job opportunities, nutrition, and build new economies. Now they need the tools, visibility, and backing to do more. This movement of young farmers, entrepreneurs, and chefs are leading the way, and it is time to hear from them. Through discussion, shared food, and audience interaction, we explore best practices and co-create new solutions.</p> <p>We ask ourselves and the audience: <i>How do we use our food culture to build thriving communities? And what support is needed for those already leading the way?</i></p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amina Auwudu, Agroutourism, Ghana • Armande Lo, Founder Manda Bio, Senegal • Abdallah Ekow Manuar Smith, Ghana Food Movement
<p>18:00 – 19:30</p>	<p>Side Event</p> <p>Title: Unlocking Africa’s Resilience Through Finance and Policies for Agricultural Innovation –Toward COP30 and beyond</p> <p>Organizer: GIZ, Gates Foundation, Clim-EAT, One Acre Fund, ACRE Africa</p> <p>Location: Oval Room</p> <p>In preparation for COP30, countries and funders are collaborating on deployment pathways to take food/agricultural innovations to scale that maximize development, resilience, growth, and gender equality. This event will feature initial views on innovations from around the world to</p>

promote at COP30, as well as outline early policy and financial support, with a view to youth-and-gender-sensitization and skilling. Given the increasing climate challenges on Africa's agricultural sector, this session will include a deep dive into current financial tools to strengthen farmer climate-resilience, including agricultural insurance, a tool with great potential but currently underutilised in most African countries. The session will present how innovations, policies and finance can contribute to building a resilient next generation of African farmers.

Speakers

- **Mr. Wiebe Smit**, Policy & Impact Innovator, Clim-Eat
- **Dr. Stella Kimani**, Chief Operations Officer, ACRE Africa
- **Mr. Kennedy Anahinga**, Assistant Director, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Republic of Kenya

Side Event

Title: Scaling soil health and sustainable production in fragile settings, realizing the 3 Rio conventions

Organizer: WHH and IFDC

Location: Thematic Room

The collapse of Overseas Development Assistance will lead to a sharp spike in hunger, malnutrition and livelihood impoverishment on the African continent. At the same time, soil degradation and the climate crisis increasingly risk derailing African food systems. Political, social, economic and environmental fragility will rise, particularly in critical nutrition security, land degradation, climate and biodiversity hotspots such as the Congo Basin, the Sahel zone and other regions in SSA.

Given that far less funds are available, humanitarian assistance should only be sustained where it is inevitable (e.g. war, disasters) and be replaced by effective long-term development strategies that promote zero hunger and a healthy planet synergistically. Such a paradigm shift is urgently needed toward strengthening the resilience and the ability of local food systems to deliver food and nutrition security for all at all times in a way that benefits both people and the planet.

In this session, we will showcase how organizations such as IFDC, WHH and partners scale soil health, sustainable agricultural production and seed system development as a way to boost the resilience and ability of

African food systems to deliver on the Rio conventions synergistically (biodiversity, climate change and desertification) which improve livelihoods and support zero hunger.

Speakers

- Henk van Duijn, CEO, International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC)
- Bettina Iseli, Chief Program Officer, Welthungerhilfe (WHH)
- Dr. Moumini Savadogo, Executive Director, Conseil Ouest et Centre Africain pour la Recherche et le Développement Agricoles (CORAF)
- Priscilla Wakarera, CEO, Rhea
- Zeinaba Narabene, President, Network of Young Sahelians for Climate
- Prof. Joachim von Braun, President, Pontifical Academy of Sciences, former head of Center for Development Research at the University of Bonn
- Prof. Alain Sy Traoré, Director of the agricultural department, ECOWAS

Side Event

Title: Rooted in Action: The GEF and Youth Building Sustainable Food Systems

Organizer: GEF

Location: Knowledge Hub Stage 1

Africa has the world’s largest youth population, yet young people remain underrepresented in agrifood systems. This session highlights how the Global Environment Facility’s investments, across Small Grants, Integrated Programs, and private sector initiatives, empower youth as innovators, leaders, and negotiators. Through first-hand stories and interactive dialogue, participants will learn how the GEF’s bottom-up, whole-of-society approach is unlocking youth potential, advancing climate-smart agriculture, and making food systems more innovative, equitable, and sustainable across the continent.

Speakers

- Peter Umunay, GEF Secretariat, Senior Environment Specialist
- Genna Tesdall, Director of Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD), TBC
- Young Entrepreneur Grantee from Small Grants Program, TBC
- IFAD / FAO Rural Youth Representative, TBC
- Youth delegate from AGRA Innovation Window Program, TBC
- FOLUR Global Coordination Platform, TBC

Side Event

Title: Accelerating Food System Transformation

Organizer: GAIN, AGRA, Akademiya 2063, GIZ, Netherlands Food Partnership, SUN, Act4Food

Location: Knowledge Hub Stage 2

Food System Transformation (FST) is happening, but not quickly enough. It faces new headwinds in the shrinking of aid, disruptions to trade and threats to multilateralism. This session will explore the enablers and barriers to faster FST and will introduce a multiparter initiative—the Accelerator—designed to accelerate FST by (a) partnering with governments to quickly turn their policy priorities into investible actions that leverage the private sector and (b) mobilising and connecting DFIs to FST policy and capacity to help finance these actions to accelerate food system transformation. The Accelerator aims to partner with 50 countries globally by 2030.

Chair: H.E. Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Former Prime Minister, Republic of Niger & African Union Special Envoy for Food Systems (AUDA-NEPAD) – TBC

Moderator: Dr. Lawrence Haddad, Executive Director, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)

Speakers

- **Mr. Boaz Blackie**, Director for Policy and State Capability, AGRA
- **Ms. Stephanie Sargeant**, Global Youth Campaigns Coordinator, GAIN & Youth Leader Alumni and Mentor, Act4Food
- **Ms. Maren Lieberum**, Team Lead – Global Programme on Food Systems Transformation, GIZ
- **Dr. Ousmane Badiane**, Executive Chairperson,

Side Event

Title: Scaling Inclusive Finance for Youth-led Agribusinesses

Organizer: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), CGIAR Gender Equality and Inclusion Accelerator, 2SCALE

Location: Press Conference Room

Despite the rising number of innovative young men and women agripreneurs, access to finance remains a critical bottleneck, particularly

among the "missing middle"– SMEs too large for microfinance but unable to access loans from commercial banks. The session will examine innovative financing mechanisms to boost youth-led agribusiness development including value chain financing, market linkages, private equity, and venture capital. It will also explore the role of a conducive business environment, including PPPs, for delivery of inclusive finance.

The session will bring together youth, private and financial sector players, and other stakeholders to unpack gaps and opportunities in fostering a more youth-inclusive, sustainable agribusiness sector.

Speakers

- **Dr. Nicoline de Haan**, Director, Gender Equality and Inclusion Accelerator, CGIAR
- **Ms. Ena Derenoncourt**, Gender-Smart Investment Specialist, CGIAR Hub for Sustainable Finance
- **Mr. Theophile Mudenge**, Youth Program Lead, 2SCALE
- **Ms. Angela Brefo Yeboah**, 2SCALE youth champion & CEO, Angy Farms
- **Ms. Grace Njoroge**, Technical Director, Mercy Corps AgriFin
- **Mr. Mark Fynn**, Policy Officer, FAO Regional Office for Africa

Side Event

Title: Youth and Innovation as the Architect for Africa's Agricultural Transformation

Organizer: Heifer International

Location: Youth Dome

Africa's agricultural transformation depends on its greatest untapped asset, its youth. This side event will spotlight the innovations, energy, and resilience of young Africans creating disruptive solutions for food systems. From climate-smart agriculture to access to finance and markets, the session will showcase youth-led models driving transformation and resilience. Participants will hear directly from young entrepreneurs and ecosystem builders about the structural shifts required to support youth innovation, from policy to capital access to mentorship. Designed as a dynamic, unfiltered dialogue, this side event will build cross-sectoral momentum for youth inclusion in shaping Africa's agri-future, placing them at the heart of policy, investment, and implementation strategies to achieve resilient, self-determined, and prosperous food systems across Africa.

	<p>Side Event</p> <p>Title: Financing Nutrition for Impact: Scaling Investment through Private Sector Innovation</p> <p>Organizer: AGRA, AUDA-NEPAD, SNV, ATNi, GAIN, FAO</p> <p>Location: Investment Room</p> <p>Africa faces a growing nutrition crisis with one-third unable to afford healthy diets. As donor aid declines, private sector innovation and investment become vital. This session explores how the African private sector is responding. It also touches upon post-N4G financial commitments and generates solutions for inclusive nutrition financing through investment in youth entrepreneurs and positive innovation.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greg Garrett, Executive Director, Access to Nutrition initiative (ATNi) • Freddy Bob-Jones, Managing Director, Aceli Africa • Nadine Gbossa, Director, Food Systems Coordination, External Relations and Governance Department, IFAD • Neil Watkins, Deputy Director for Global Policy and Advocacy, The Gates Foundation • Arnaud Dagbenon – Coordinateur du centre de l'employabilité et l'entrepreneuriat des étudiants de l'UAC – Université d'Abomey Calavi • Polly Mwongera, Manager, Nutritious Foods Financing (N3F) Technical Assistance and Innovative Finance, GAIN • Bertha Mkandawire, Nutrition Lead, AGRA

DAY 4: Thursday, SEPTEMBER 4th, 2025

TIME	SESSION
08:30 – 10:00	<p>Side Event</p> <p>Title: From Margins to Mainstream: Recognizing the role of pastoralism in food systems transformation</p> <p>Organizer: ILRI; AU-IBAR; SNV; IFAD; GIZ</p>

Location: Oval Room

It is almost impossible to overstate the importance of pastoralist systems in Africa. Pastoralist systems are a critical source of income and nutrition for over 268 million people across 36 countries. In West Africa, pastoralists produce about 65% of the region's beef and 75% of its milk. Beyond food, these systems offer social, cultural, and environmental benefits.

The inclusion of livestock in the CAADP 2026–2035 Strategy and the Kampala Declaration marks a shift toward greater policy recognition. The Nouakchott+10 declaration further identified priority actions: integrating pastoralism into public policy, improving animal health and infrastructure, enabling cross-border trade, and strengthening social resilience.

Strengthening pastoralist systems in West Africa offers an opportunity simultaneously address livelihoods and food security efforts, climate mitigation, adaptation, peace, and economic stability in the region.

This session will make the case for investing in pastoralist food systems, showcase innovations in West African livestock systems and opportunities for the youth and women to contribute, and examine the policy and financing shifts required. It will offer concrete recommendations for AFSF and the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralism.

Speakers

- Stephane Tuina, Country Director, SNV Benin
- Dr. Abdoulaye Mouhamadou, Executive Secretary of CILSS (TBC)
- Astou Diao Camara, Directrice BAM
- Amadi Coulibaly, MOPSS
- Paterne A. Peftipe, Mercy Corps, FCDO-funded JASS program
- Baba Ba, Researcher, ILRI
- Appolinaire Djikeng, Director General, ILRI
- Ibra Toure, Regional Director for the Sahel, CIRAD, (TBC)
- Dr. Huyam Salih, Director, AU-IBAR, (TBC)
- Baghore Bathily, the director, LA LAITERIE DU BERGER (TBC)
- Blamah Jallo, the Regional Technical Coordinator of RBM (TBC)
- Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, AU Special Envoy for Food Systems (TBC)
- Mare Ena Derenoncourt, Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT (ABC)
- Franck Berthe, World Bank (TBC)

Side Event

Title: Empowering Young Women in Agri Food Systems: The Entrepreneurship Pathway

Organizer: AGRA, AWARD, IDRC, CGIAR Gender Impact Platform

Location: Thematic Room

Entrepreneurship has become a proven route for young African women to generate income, build assets and influence decisions that shape food-system priorities. The next frontier is scale. Digital input marketplaces, gender-smart supply contracts and shared-value off-take agreements are already delivering larger and more consistent pay-outs to thousands of female founders. Replicating these models continent-wide could unlock billions in productivity gains. This side event is meant to spotlight this momentum. We intend to use data, lived experiences and demonstrations to ensure the session presents a curated portfolio of scalable solutions. Participants will leave with a clear picture of what works, why it works and how to plug in, whether as investors, policymakers, ecosystem builders or next generation agripreneurs. This will not be just another 'talk-shop' but a conversation that will make one clear point: when entrepreneurship is treated as a systemic lever rather than a side project, it builds an empowered generation of women who can (and are) driving Africa's inclusive food-system transformation.

Speakers

- **Ms. Nana Amoah**, Director, Gender Youth & Inclusiveness, AGRA
- **Ms. Wambui Chege**, Director, Agrifood Systems, Mastercard Foundation
- **Ms. Adesuwa Ifedi**, Africa Senior Vice President, Heifer International
- **Ms. Aisha Raheem**, CEO, Farmz2U
- **Ms. Claudia Senghor**, Agroeconomist & Founder, AGROBABE
- **Ms. Karine Kouacou**, Economist, World Bank Gender Innovation Lab

Side Event

Title: Powering Agriculture, Accelerating Action for Decentralized Renewable Energy in Food Systems

Organizer: GOGLA, SNV, and IKEA Foundation

Location: Knowledge Hub Stage 1

As per the recent Kampala Declaration by the CAADP, agriculture requires a complementary approach that integrates energy, market access, among others. This session explores the potential of Renewable Energy (RE), particularly the decentralized renewable energy (DRE) solutions, to power transformative change in African food systems. With climate risks intensifying and energy access still limited, particularly in rural areas, integrating solar and other DRE solutions into food systems offers a path to sustainability, resilience, and inclusive growth.

For this to happen, multi-stakeholder coordination and collaboration efforts by ministries need to align with international and local development and financial actors, which equally need to embed their energy efforts into their programmatic agricultural interventions, hence de-risking their interventions and increasing investment into the DRE sector. This is only possible when championing countries and institutions take the lead and showcase avenues, mechanisms, good practices, and learnings. The HOW turns therefore crucial to sustainably boost the deployment of DRE solutions into the food systems transformation agenda.

Drawing on insights and experiences from leading countries, the event will spotlight innovative financing mechanisms, cross-sector partnership models, and coordinated strategies that align (D)RE solutions with food system transformation. Rather than treating energy and agriculture in isolation, the session will emphasize the importance of joint planning, investment, and implementation to scale equitable energy access and drive resilient, inclusive, and climate-smart food systems.

Speakers

- Hon. Brame Soulèye Diop, Minister of Energy, Petroleum, and Mines, Republic of Senegal (TBC)
- **Mr. Patrick Tonui**, Head of Policy and Regional Strategy, GOGLA
- **Mr. Jakob Vrka**, Senior Research Lead – Energy Access, Energy

	<p>Saving Trust</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Judith Jacobs, Multi-Country Project Manager – Power of Food, SNV • Dr. Christopher Emmot, Associate Director, Investing in Energy Access, Acumen • Mr. Richard Midikira, Senior Manager, Innovation & Partnerships, Aceli Africa • Mr. Nico Janssen, Programme Manager, Agricultural Livelihoods, IKEA Foundation • Mr. Boaz Blackie, Director for Policy and State Capability, AGRA • Mr. Hilary Murwisi, Research Engineer, Ministry of Lands and Agriculture, Republic of Zimbabwe • Mr. Wilson Kariuki, Senior Superintending Engineer, State Department for Energy, Ministry of Energy & Petroleum, Republic of Kenya
	<p>Side Event</p> <p>Title: Regenerating Africa: How young agriprenuers can and are shaping food systems for planet and people.</p> <p>Organizer: WorldVeg</p> <p>Location: Knowledge Hub Stage 2</p>
	<p>Side Event</p> <p>Title: Crop Production Estimation Using Satellite Data and Machine Learning for Regional Food Balance and Security Monitoring</p> <p>Organizer: University of Maryland, XylemLab-NASA Harvest, COMESA</p> <p>Location: Press Conference Room</p> <p>This session addresses critical agricultural monitoring challenges by combining technical innovation, including satellite Earth observations and AI, with practical country implementation. Co-presented with XylemLab/NASA Harvest, COMESA, and AGRA's RFBS team, we showcase how machine learning-based yield estimation approaches can improve monitoring and early warning while highlighting data gaps across commodities and countries in Africa. Partner countries will demonstrate their remote sensing implementations for crop monitoring, emphasizing country ownership and practical adaptations. Through interactive</p>

discussions, we explore solutions to data challenges, share lessons learned from real-world applications, and develop frameworks for sustainable regional monitoring systems, fostering peer learning and identifying scalable approaches.

Moderator:

- **Prof. Catherine Nakalembe**, Director, XylemLab-NASA Harvest & Assistant Professor, University of Maryland

Speakers

- Dr. Sixbert Maurice (Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania)
- Edrick Bwambale (Sustainable Agri-Food Initiative, Uganda)- Youth Org
- Dr. Albert Novas Somanje, Principal Agricultural Officer for Field Crops (MOA, Zambia)

Side Event

Title: De-risking investments through agri-risk management

Organizer: IFAD, Platform for Agricultural Risk Management (PARM), INSURED, Université Cheikh-Anta-Diop (UCAD), Coopérative d'Épargne et de Crédit du RESOPP (COOPEC/RESOPP), Centre National de Formation des Techniciens de l'Élevage et des Industries Animales (CNFTEIA)

Location: Youth Dome

The dynamic session will explore how strategic agri-risk management can unlock investments in Africa's agri-food systems, with a focus on youth-led enterprises. We will spotlight innovative tools and partnerships that reduce exposure to climate, market, and financial risks, while also emphasizing the importance of building long-term capacity. The session will also advocate for the institutionalization of agri-risk management in university curricula and private sector practices to ensure sustainability, innovation, and resilience in food systems, particularly targeting youth preparing to enter the market and investment landscape.

Moderator: Ms. Dorcas Mayala Ntumba, Knowledge Management, Communication and Partnership, PARM

Speakers

- Nadine Ngbossa, IFAD (Opening remarks) – TBC
- Jean-Claude Bidogeza, PARM (Speaker)
- Manzi Nadine Umunyana, IFAD (Speaker)
- Tara James, INSURED (Speaker) – TBC
- Assane Faye, COOPEC/RESOPP (Speaker)
- Dr Fatou Ka, CNFTEIA (Speaker)
- Dr Ablaye Ngom, ISAE-UCAD (Speaker)

SPECIAL EVENTS

[Description]

DAY 0: SUNDAY, AUGUST 31st, 2025

TIME	SESSION
9:00–12:00	<p>Special Event</p> <p>Title: From Research to Impact: Aligning CGIAR and TAAT Innovation Pathways with CAADP</p> <p>Organizer: CGIAR</p> <p>Location: Thematic Hall</p> <p>This event will highlight the transformative impact of CGIAR and TAAT in advancing agri-food innovations that align with the CAADP agenda and the Six Strategic Objectives of the Kampala CAADP Strategy. Attendees will discover successful examples of scaling agricultural solutions that promote food security, sustainable development, and agricultural transformation across Africa. The program will feature high-level discussions to strengthen partnerships, share innovation pathways, and accelerate collective progress towards inclusive growth and resilience in African agri-food systems.</p>
12:00 – 14:00	<p>Special Event</p> <p>Organizer: PASGR</p> <p>Location: Knowledge Hub – Main Stage</p>
12:30 – 14:00	<p>Special Event</p> <p>Title: Transformative impact through youth and insects</p> <p>Organizer: ICIPE</p> <p>Location: Knowledge Hub – Classroom</p>

At the forefront of agrifood systems transformation, icipe is leveraging insect-based, nature-positive innovations to create inclusive, resilient and sustainable food systems in Africa. Working with partners, the Centre has developed innovation bundles across sectors—including pest control, disease vector management, pollination, insect-based food and feed, beekeeping, sericulture and bioprospecting. These efforts have built robust value chains and generated green jobs across the continent. A core focus is empowering youth and women through training, research, and entrepreneurship. Over 40% of icipe’s early-career researchers and entrepreneurs are young Africans leading change. These initiatives are not only improving livelihoods and food security but also driving rural economic renewal by nurturing a new generation of scientists and innovators. At the Africa Food Systems Forum Summit 2025, icipe will showcase youth-led implementation of insect-based innovations, highlighting their role in scaling climate-smart, environmentally sustainable solutions across Africa’s agrifood systems.

Speakers

- Dr Abdou Tenkouano, Director General, icipe
- Winnie Wambui (Kenya), Co-Founder, Harcourt Agri-Eco Farm
- Kwame Oppong Hackman (Ghana), Senior Scientist, West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL)
- Rehemah Gwokyalya (Uganda), Postdoctoral Scientist, icipe
- Seid Zewdu Yimer (Ethiopia), youth partner and enterprenuer, Mass Youth Employment in Apiculture (MaYEA)

16:30-19:30

Special Event

Title: ScaleUp Africa: Youth Innovation Challenge

Organizer: CGIAR Scaling for Impact Science Program

Location: Investment Room

The ScaleUp Africa: Youth Innovation Challenge, hosted by CGIAR’s Scaling for Impact programme, amplifies youth-led innovations from across Africa showcasing transformative, high-impact, high potential solutions that are ready to scale. Selected finalists will compete for derisking grants and receive six months of tailored science-based technical assistance and business support spanning gender inclusive business models to investor readiness coaching. Aligned with CGIAR’s flagship themes, the event

	accelerates youth driven pathways toward resilient, equitable agrifood systems.
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DAY 1: Monday, SEPTEMBER 1st, 2025

TIME	SESSION
9:00 – 12:00	<p>Special Event</p> <p>Title: Unlocking Youth Potential in Agri-Food System Transformation</p> <p>Organizer: McGill University</p> <p>Location: Knowledge Hub - Classroom</p> <p>The "<i>Unlocking youth potential in agri-food system transformation</i>" is a high-impact platform designed to position young Africans as strategic leaders in transforming the agri-food sector. The event will spotlight scalable projects and innovative business models that integrate agriculture, nutrition, and health, while highlighting opportunities for youth-led entrepreneurship in the food value chain. Through expert panel discussions, curated exhibitions, and targeted networking sessions, participants will exchange insights, forge strategic partnerships, and collaboratively develop actionable solutions to strengthen food system resilience and inclusivity. With a strong focus on capacity building, innovation, and policy influence, the event seeks to elevate youth as key stakeholders in sustainable development across the continent.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Valerie Orsat, Interim Dean, Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, McGill University • Dr. Salwa Karboune, Associate Dean Research, Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, McGill University • Dr. Anja Geitmann, Vice President Global Engagement, McGill University • Dr. Fadel Ndiame, CEO, Food Systems Transformation Solutions (FSTS) • Dr. Patrick Cortbaoui, Director, Institute for Global Food Security, McGill University
9:00 – 12:00	<p>Special Event</p> <p>Title: Transforming rice seed systems for food and nutrition security in Africa</p>

	<p>Organizer: AfricaRice, CARD, Gov. of Senegal</p> <p>Location: Knowledge Hub – Main Stage</p>
<p>12:30 – 14:00</p>	<p>Special Event</p> <p>Title: Advancing Food Systems Transformation in Kenya through the Utafiti Sera Model: Evidence-Informed Policy action by the Nairobi City County Government</p> <p>Organizer: PASGR</p> <p>Location: Knowledge Hub – Classroom</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Fadel Ndiame – Executive Director, PASGR • Ms. Winfred Katumo – Ag. Director food systems, Nairobi City County Government • Dr. Sam Oando – Programmes Manager – Research, PASGR
<p>14:00 – 15:30</p>	<p>Special Event</p> <p>Title: Launch of World Bank Group Publications : “Reboot Development-The Economics of Livable Planet ” and “ Working with Smallholders: A Handbook for Firms Building Sustainable Supply Chains”</p> <p>Organizer: World Bank Group</p> <p>Location: Knowledge Hub – Main Stage</p> <p>“Reboot Development: The Economics of a Livable Planet” is a forthcoming flagship report from the World Bank’s Planet Vice Presidency. It explores how three key systems – land, air, and water – are under growing threat. Using new data, the report demonstrates that the depletion of natural resources has immediate economic consequences especially for low-income countries. The report also provides practical solutions showing how change is possible and worth it: for instance, many sectors with low-pollution footprints generate more jobs per dollar invested than polluting ones. The third Edition of IFC’s ‘Working with Smallholders: A Handbook for Firms Building Sustainable Supply Chains’ shows agribusinesses how to develop</p>

more sustainable, resilient, and productive supply chains and the substantial impact of doing so on development. The book compiles innovative solutions and cutting-edge ideas to meet the challenges and illustrating these points through a variety of case studies from initiatives around the world.

Speakers

- Axel van Trotsenburg, Senior Managing Director, The World Bank (Video Recording)
- Keiko Miwa , The World Bank, Division Director, West and Central Africa Region,
- Olivier Buyoya Regional Director, International Finance Corporation /West Africa.
- Elhadji Adama Toure, Practice Manager, Agriculture & Food, West and Central Africa Region
- Daouda Ngom, Minister of Environment and Ecological Transition for Senegal (TBC)

14:00 – 15:30

Special Event

Title: From Humanitarian Aid to Thriving Economies: Driving Inclusive and Resilient Food Systems in Fragile Contexts

Organizer: MADR, WHH – CAR, IKEA Foundation, Mercy Corps Kenya, Genco Livestock & Fresh Meat Export LTD, Extension Africa

Location: Press Conference Room

Fragile contexts across Africa remain largely underserved by multi-year food system financing, despite their centrality to regional food production, and market potential. Also, most biodiversity hotspots and carbon stocks are found in fragile contexts. Even though the number of fragile contexts has been steadily increasing in the past 20 years, they remain at the margins of agricultural policy discourse and private sector investment and are largely reliant on cycles of humanitarian relief. Women and youth often bear the brunt of stifled economic opportunity and recurring food insecurity, despite their critical role in driving more resilient and sustainable food systems as well as supply and demand of food. This event will spotlight policy, development and private sector-led solutions to resilient and sustainable food systems in fragile contexts, while highlighting their central role and potential in advancing co-benefits of inclusive economic growth, food and nutrition security, and climate resilience. Drawing on examples from the

Central African Republic, Nigeria, and Kenya, this session will examine the enabling policies, leverage points, and investments required to support food systems transformation in fragile contexts – grounded in local capacities, seed systems, markets systems, and community assets – to foster inclusive economic development and climate resilience.

Speakers

- Arno BRATZ, Head of Sector Strategy, Knowledge & Learning – Welthungerhilfe (WHH)
- Armelle SIOPATHIS, Director of Food Security and Nutrition, Focal Point on Food Systems at the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Central African Republic
- Abdou SAIDOU, Expert Programme and Food Security Cluster coordination, WHH CAR
- Doreen Gacheri, CEO of Genco Livestock & Fresh Meat Export LTD
- Tajudeen Yahaya, CEO Extension Africa
- Michael Nkonu, Head of Agriculture, IKEA Foundation
- OLGA PETRYNIAK, Senior Director, Africa Resilience Programs – Mercy Corps Kenya

14:30 – 16:30

Special Event

Title: Women and Youth Leading the Transformation of Agri-Food Systems in Africa

Organizer: IOFS & UN Women

Location: Knowledge Hub – Classroom

This special event will present a joint initiative between the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) and UN Women focused on empowering women through climate-resilient cassava value chains in West and Central Africa. The event is a multi-stakeholder discussion that will showcase the approaches being implemented in Nigeria and Sierra Leone, demonstrating how women’s economic empowerment in agriculture contributes to food security, climate adaptation, and sustainable development. Featuring diverse speakers, including young women entrepreneurs, policymakers, and technical experts, the session will explore scalable solutions for addressing gender gaps in agriculture while building climate resilience.

Moderator: Elena Ruiz Abril, Regional Policy Advisor for Women’s Economic Empowerment, UN Women WCARO

Speakers

- Dr Ismail Abdelhamid, Director of Projects Department, Islamic Organization of Food Security (TBC);
- Ms Jaha Dukureh, UN Women Regional Goodwill Ambassador for Africa (TBC)
- Mr Flaubert Mbiekop, Senior Program (TBC) Specialist, Sustainable Inclusive Economies, IDRC (TBC);
- Ms Juliet Laverley, President of Women in Agriculture Network (WiAN) Sierra Leone (TBC)
- Ms. Titilope Akosa, Executive Director, Centre for 21st Century Issues and GCF Alternate CSO Active Observer for Global South (TBC)

16:00 – 17:30

Special Event

Title: FASA Catalytic capital empowers agri-entrepreneurs

Organizer: FASA, ImpactSF, I&P

Location: Knowledge Hub – Main Stage

Strategic investments in African agricultural SMEs are pivotal to empower this sector in becoming more climate resilient. Despite this, there is a consistent funding gap, which the African Development Bank estimates at \$75 billion per year. This is particularly true for young entrepreneurs, who face significant challenges in attracting capital.

As a fund of funds, Financing for Agricultural SMEs in Africa (FASA) aims to shift this dynamic, providing funds operating in the continent with catalytic capital and technical expertise to strengthen the financial sector and create an ecosystem where young entrepreneurs can thrive. During the panel speakers will explore some of the challenges of mobilizing capital in this context, such as the difficulty in collecting and reporting reliable impact data, and will discuss practical solutions to address them. They will also highlight their experience in working with young entrepreneurs, and how to best support them.

Moderator: Martina Melchiori, Senior Impact Officer, CGIAR Hub for Sustainable Finance (ImpactSF)

Speakers

- Ada Osakwe, Agrolay Ventures Founder and Managing Director, FASA AIC Member

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amb. Paul Gulleik Larsen, Special Representative for Climate and Food Initiatives, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs • Godefroy Grosjean PhD., Co-Lead CGIAR Hub for Sustainable Finance (ImpactSF) • Ismahane Elouafi (TBC), Executive Managing Director of CGIAR • Jen Marshall Haugen, Deputy Director of Global Food Security Hub, FCDO (TBC) • Mamadou Ndao, FASA Investment Director Investisseurs Et Partenaires (I&P) • Rouffahi Koabo, EY4 Program Director, Teranga Capital • Speaker from FMO TBC
<p>15:30 – 19:00</p>	<p>Special Event</p> <p>Title: Advancing the momentum of the Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan</p> <p>Organizer: AUDA NEPAD, AGRA & YARA</p> <p>Location: Oval Room & Baobab Restaurant</p> <p>This special event is hosted by AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, FARA, AGRA and the AFSH coalitions to discuss the implementation of the Africa Fertiliser and Soil Health Nairobi declaration. An action-oriented interaction will address the technical needs to implement the Plan, the progress made so far and will highlight the ongoing initiatives. The session will discuss the key role of the Coalitions and regional hubs as emphasised in the Action Plan including the private sector in driving the implementation of the Africa Fertiliser and Soil Health Action Plan. Emphasis will be placed on the progress of the implementation so far at continental, regional and more importantly at countries level as well as the diverse nature of all players including the private sector and the need to tailor appropriate modalities for partnerships. The key role of governments in formulating and implementing enable policies and improving the ease of doing business as part of their commitment for CAADP and the AFSH-AP implementation will also be highlighted.</p>
<p>16:00–17:30</p>	<p>Special Event</p> <p>Title: The future of Opportunity crops in Africa</p> <p>Organizer: Alliance of BIOVERSITY and CIAT, FARA (tbc), IFAD, CIHEAM</p>

Location: Thematic Hall

This side event will be a panel and interactive dialogue session, featuring presentations, a panel discussion, and a tasting of traditional and innovative recipes made from neglected and underutilized species (NUS). The session aims to showcase youth-led innovations in agriculture, promote agrobiodiversity and Slow Food initiatives, and highlight the role of research in advancing sustainable food systems. Key speakers include youth and women entrepreneurs and innovators as well as representatives from IFAD and Bioversity, FARA, and Slow Food.

Moderator: Dr. Wanjiru Kamau Ruttenberg – Managing Director Africa – Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT

Speakers

- Africa Union and/or FARA (representative tbc)
- Fatunbi Oluwale FARA
- IFAD – TBC
- Dr. Beatrice Egulu – African Union – African Seed and Biotechnology Program
- Andrew Mushita – Community Technology Development Trust – Zimbabwe
- AICS – Italian Agency for Development Cooperation – TBC
- Alliance of Bioversity International

17:00 – 18:30

Special Event (By-invitation only)

Title: Youth Scaling Sustainable Climate-Smart Agriculture: How Young People, Digital Tools & Smart Inputs Are Growing Africa’s Food Future

Organizer: OCP Africa & Smach Foundation

Location: Knowledge Hub - Classroom

Africa is rich in agricultural potential and has a growing youth population. However, the impacts of climate change and limited access to technology and inputs continue to challenge food production. Young people are playing an important role in introducing new solutions in agriculture, especially by using digital tools, sustainable climate-smart practices and innovative technologies. This session brings together SMACHS Foundation, which supports youth-led agriculture projects and OCP Africa, which provides smart agricultural inputs and digital farming tools, to discuss how young people can drive sustainable agriculture across the continent.

	<p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charlene Ruto , SMACH foundation • Akintunde Akinwande, Head of Digital OCP Africa • AGRA Representative TBC • FAO representative TBC • Young Entrepreneur TBC
<p>17:30 – 19:30</p>	<p>Special Event</p> <p>Title: Breaking Silos: Implementing the CAADP Kampala Strategy</p> <p>Organizer: AU-IBAR, ILRI, AGRA, Government of Ethiopia, CGIAR, IDRC</p> <p>Location: Press Conference Room</p> <p>Delivering on the bold ambitions of the CAADP Kampala Declaration requires systems thinking and a shift towards a more holistic approach on agri-food transformation, emphasizing diets and nutrition as important outcomes of improved livelihoods, resilience, and sustainability, by responding effectively to poverty, climate, and environmental challenges. This transformation depends on breaking down long-standing silos across sectors, such as crops, livestock, and fisheries, health, climate, water, and environment, spanning multiple sectors, and bridging the gap between research, policy, and society.</p> <p>Despite the progress highlighted in the 4th CAADP Biennial Review, significant implementation gaps remain, particularly in cross-sector coordination, effective use of evidence to direct progress and investment gaps.</p> <p>This session will bring together Member States, regional institutions, research and policy actors, technical partners, and the private sector to explore practical ways to operationalize the CAADP Kampala Declaration and ensure that the mutual accountability from the CAADP-BR process practically informs and directs the progress needed.</p> <p>Drawing on country experiences such as Feed Salone in Sierra Leone and the Ethiopia Food Systems Transformation and Nutrition (whole of government and society approaches to drive food system transformation) and examples drawn from Zambia, Rwanda and Tanzania, the session will highlight how integrated governance, coordinate technical cooperation, and aligned monitoring systems can support transformative food systems action.</p> <p>The session will also highlight the importance of high-quality, demand-driven support, collaboration, and coordination approaches that can drive visible, accountable progress toward national and continental agrifood transformation goals.</p>

	<p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PS/Member of Parliament - Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Tanzania • Martin Fregene, Director, Agriculture and Agro-industry • Boaz Keizire, Director, Policy and State Capability, AGRA • Hon. Reuben Mtolo Phiri, Minister of Agriculture, Zambia • Siboniso Moyo, Deputy Director General, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) • Huyam Salih, Director African Union - Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) • Prof. Kaleab Baye, Addis Ababa University, Former Director, Center for Food Science & Nutrition • Namukolo Covic, Director General Representative, Ethiopia, ILRI, • Chaina Frost, Associate Partner, McKinsey & Company
<p>18:00 – 19:30</p>	<p>Special Event</p> <p>Title: AGRA+20 High-Level Flagship Event</p> <p>Organizer: AGRA</p> <p>Location: Thematic Hall</p>
<p>18:00 – 19:00</p>	<p>Special Event (By-invitation only)</p> <p>Title: IDRC and Global Affairs Canada Partners Reception</p> <p>Organizer: IDRC</p> <p>Location: Hall F</p> <p>The International Development Research Centre (IDRC), in collaboration with Global Affairs Canada (GAC), invites grantees and strategic partners to a reception celebrating shared achievements and fostering collaboration. This by-invitation-only event will provide a platform for knowledge exchange, networking, and informal dialogue among researchers, development partners, and policy leaders. IDRC will highlight its work in promoting and supporting climate resilient food systems across Africa, and as Chair of the G7 Food Systems Working Group, Canada will contribute insights on aligning donor support with African-led food systems transformation.</p>

DAY 2: Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 2nd, 2025

TIME	SESSION
<p>9:00 – 11:00</p>	<p>Special Event (By-invitation only)</p> <p>Title: McKinsey B20: Investments for transformation</p> <p>Organizer: McKinsey & Company</p> <p>Location: Hall F</p> <p>Hosted by McKinsey & Company in collaboration with AGRA and B20 South Africa, this CXO invite-only breakfast convenes senior leaders from the private sector, development finance institutions, and multilateral organisations to explore what investments in technology, trade and infrastructure can drive Africa’s food system transformation and build resilience. Building on insights from the B20 Sustainable Food Systems & Agriculture Task Force, the session will highlight Africa’s unique opportunities to attract investment, scale innovation, and strengthen regional trade to enhance food security and resilience. Through a focused dialogue, participants will unpack the barriers to mobilising capital at scale, priority investments for accelerating transformation, and discuss pathways to embed food system priorities into national and regional agendas. This session will provide insights that will feed into further B20 deliberations.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debra Mallowah, Bayer • Alice Ruhweza, AGRA • Chania Frost, McKinsey & Company
<p>10:30 – 12:00</p>	<p>Special Event</p> <p>Title: From Idea to Investment: How Technical Assistance and Finance Unlock Youth-Led Innovation</p> <p>Organizer: Rabo Bank, SNV, Dutch Embassy, APIX, Agiterra, Invest International</p> <p>Location: Press Conference Room</p> <p>Young entrepreneurs across West Africa are leading innovative agri-food solutions in the face of compounding challenges including climate change, food insecurity, and economic inequality. Yet access to finance remains a persistent barrier. This session, explores how targeted support – particularly</p>

technical assistance – can bridge the gap between promising ideas and investment readiness. Co-organized by Rabo Foundation and SNV, and featuring Investisseurs & Partenaires, APIX, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Agriterro, the event will feature real-world examples of youth-led businesses using innovation to scale impact. Speakers will share practical experiences on building capacity, improving bankability, and unlocking blended finance. Youth voices will be at the heart of the conversation, while ecosystem actors reflect on how enabling environments and public-private partnerships can help de-risk early-stage enterprises. The session aims to catalyse new collaborations and mobilise inclusive investment across the region.

Moderator: Diane Potey, Regional Lead West Africa, DFCD/SNV

Speakers

- Bas Evers, Program Manager Africa, Rabo Foundation
- Rasmey Chuun, Investment Manager, I&P
- Marine Umukunzi, Senior Cooperative Advisor, Agriterro
- Fanta Sakho, Chef du Bureau Orientation, APIX Senegal (TBD)
- Eddah Makinia Nang'ole, Senior Manager Impact and Learning, Aceli (TBD)
- Nelson Ayala, SNV/IYBA
- Wampie Libon, Head of IGG, Dutch MFA (TBD)

10:30 – 12:00

Special Event

Title: Sahel Government-UN Food Systems Transformation Alliance

Organizer: UNDCO Africa, OSCDS, WFP, FAO, IFAD, UNOWAS, UNDP, ECA, UNRCO, UNFPA

Location: Thematic Hall

The Sahel Government-UN Alliance for Food System Transformation event will embody a Sahel-wide and One UN spirit, showcasing the collective leadership of the governments of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger, in partnership with the United Nations, to transform food systems as a driver of stability, resilience, and sustainable growth. Co-led by UN agencies (FAO, WFP, IFAD, UNDP, OSCDS, UNOWAS), and aligned with the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS), the flagship initiatives emphasize food security, youth employment, climate-smart agriculture, and regional integration. By spotlighting investment-ready initiatives and building on the momentum of the Sevilla Conference and the UN Food Systems Summit

Stocktake (UNFSS+4) the event will advance innovative financing, private-sector engagement, and amplify the leadership of national governments, positioning the Sahel as a hub of transformative food systems solutions and mobilizing support for inclusive, sustainable, and locally anchored programmes.

Speakers

- Claver Gatete – Under-Secretary-General (USG), Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
- Leonardo Santos Simão- Under-Secretary-General (USG), Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel.
- Hon. Ousmane Sonko – Prime Minister, Republic of Senegal
- Redouwane Ag Mohamed Ali – Minister Commissioner for Food Security, Republic of Mali
- Colonel Mahaman Elhadj Ousmane – Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, Republic of Niger
- Major Ismaël Sombié – Minister of Agriculture, Animal and Fisheries Resources, Burkina Faso
- Mariama Cire Sylla– Minister of Agriculture, Republic of Guinea
- Ousmane Diagana – Vice President for West and Central Africa, World Bank
- Makhtar Diop – Managing Director, International Finance Corporation
- Francesco Lollobrigida, Italy's Minister of Agriculture

12:00 – 13:30

Special Event

Title: Navigating Agritech Start-up Investment

Organizer: GSMA

Location: Hall F

'Agritech innovations launched by youth/female founders play a pivotal role in delivering smallholder-focused agricultural transformation in Africa. Yet, the agritech sector remains fragmented, hindering progress. Limited partnerships and investments hamper the growth of digital agriculture initiatives and create barriers for youth/female entrepreneurs to create inclusive access for smallholder farmers. Youth/female founders are particularly affected because while their technical and agricultural knowledge may be strong; their lack of commercial investment experience can lead to costly mistakes. Addressing these challenges requires a deeper

	<p>understanding of emerging trends, investor priorities, and the factors that influence investment decisions in digital agriculture.</p> <p>In this engaging session, we will examine the critical role of agritech investing in the expansion of the digital agriculture ecosystem. We will unveil valuable insights for youth/female founders into what drives investors' focus and examines the fundraising efforts of digital agriculture innovators.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matthew Strickland -Director, GSMA AgriTech Accelerator Programme • Ndeye Amy Kebe - Founder, Jokalante • Kevin Genga -Senior Market Engagement Manager, GSMA AgriTech
<p>14:00 – 15:00</p>	<p>Special Event</p> <p>Title: Resilient Agriculture Through Young Farmers</p> <p>Organizer: IOFS</p> <p>Location: Press Conference Room</p> <p>This session will bring together young agri-preneurs, researchers, and regional organizations to showcase successful adaptation strategies in agriculture led by youth in West Africa. Through an interactive panel, it will highlight challenges and breakthroughs in climate-smart farming, especially those addressing land tenure, financing, and inclusive policy-making. The event will spotlight innovations in water management, renewable energy, and seed systems, and emphasize the leadership role of youth in driving resilient food systems. It aims to catalyze regional dialogue and actionable policy recommendations.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Abdelaziz HAJJAJI, IOFS Program Manager • Mr. Lorenzo Rovelli, Programme Specialist: Gender and Green Economy UN Women West and Central Africa Regional Office • Dr. Agali Alhassane, Expert Agronome • Dr. Mohamed Abdellahi OULD BABAH, Senior Advisor at CILSS
<p>14:30 – 17:30</p>	<p>Special Event</p> <p>Title: Youth as Innovators and Entrepreneurs in African seed Systems</p> <p>Organizer: AGRA</p>

	<p>Location: Hall F</p> <p>Africa's youth can leverage their unique perspectives and technological fluency to create entrepreneurial ventures within seed systems. Startups led by young people are already emerging in seed production, processing, packaging, and distribution. By identifying gaps—such as the lack of certified seeds for orphan crops, indigenous varieties, or climate-resilient seeds—youth can create businesses that both generate income and contribute to food security. The event will give an opportunity for the participants to explore the potential of the Youth in driving the present and future agenda in transforming seed systems in Africa and providing an opportunity for creation of decent jobs in the entire seed value chain.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Jane Ininda, Director CESSA, AGRA • Dr. Yacouba Diallo, SG AFSTA • Dr. Chris Ojiewo, Partnerships & Seed Systems Lead – AVISA, CIMMYT • Dr. Joe DeVries, President SSG
<p>14:30 – 16:00</p>	<p>Special Event</p> <p>Organizer: AKADEMIYA2063 & GAIN</p> <p>Location: Thematic Hall</p>
<p>16:00 – 19:00</p>	<p>Special Event (By-invitation only)</p> <p>Title: ISDB-CGIAR: Accelerating Agricultural Transformation and Impact Through Innovation and Partnership</p> <p>Organizer: ISDB, ICRISAT, ILRI, CIP, Africa Rice, IITA, CIFOR-ICRAF</p> <p>Location: Press Conference Room</p> <p>The ISDB-CGIAR Program Showcase Special Event aims to strengthen collaboration, investment, and innovation in food value chains across Africa. Building on the ISDB Food Security Response Program, the event will showcase successful initiatives and emerging programs that enhance food security, resilience, inclusivity, productivity and regional trade. It serves as a platform to share best practices, align strategies with member countries'</p>

	<p>priorities, and mobilize support from governments, donors, and partners. Through interactive dialogues and networking, the event seeks to accelerate sustainable agricultural transformation, promote climate-smart solutions, and foster partnerships for scaling impact across IsDB member states.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hon. Raphael Magyezi, Minister of Local Government, Republic of Uganda
<p>18:00 – 19:30</p>	<p>Special Event</p> <p>Title: Cultivating Partnerships: Africa-U.S. Reception</p> <p>Organizer: NASDA</p> <p>Location: Hall F</p> <p>The reception aims to deepen connections and strengthen the agricultural partnership between the U.S. and countries throughout the continent of Africa. The reception will provide a vital platform for NASDA members, government leaders and private sector professionals to exchange knowledge and insights, including opportunities, needs and collaboration, thereby facilitating increased partnership and trade with the U.S. in the future.</p>

DAY 3: Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 3rd, 2025

TIME	SESSION
<p>9:00 – 11:00</p>	<p>Special Event</p> <p>Title: The True Value of Intra-Regional Food Trade in West Africa</p> <p>Organizer: The Sahel and West Africa Club (OECD/SWAC)</p> <p>Location: Hall F</p> <p>Intra-regional food trade in West Africa likely exceeds USD 10 billion annually—far more than official figures suggest—and provides up to 25% of regional calories. It plays a vital role in feeding urban populations, strengthening value chains, and generating private sector and youth employment. Yet with up to 85% of this trade going unrecorded, it remains undervalued in policy and investment decisions, hindered by regulatory and business environment challenges. This event will unveil a new OECD Sahel</p>

	<p>and West Africa Club report featuring groundbreaking data that reframe the scale and value of this trade. It will highlight the need for stronger monitoring of this trade, particularly under the AfCFTA and Kampala CAADP Declaration, and explore how intra-regional food trade can drive regional integration, inclusive growth and job creation for Africa's youth.</p> <p>Speakers – As Invited</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nana Touré, Director, OECD/SWAC • Massandje Touré-Litsé, Commissioner of Economic Affairs and Agriculture, ECOWAS • Hon. Serigne Guèye Diop, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Republic of Senegal • Hon. Sahr Hemore, Deputy Minister II for Agriculture, Republic of Sierra Leone • Philipp Heinrichs, Head of Division, Food, Urbanisation and Cities, OECD/SWAC • Mr. Ibrahim MAYAKI, Special Envoy for Food Systems, African Union • Dr. Martin Fregene, Director, Department of Agriculture and Agro-Industry, African Development Bank • Siny Samba, CEO, Le Lionceau
<p>10:30 – 12:00</p>	<p>Special Event (By-invitation only)</p> <p>Title: Building 25,000 Food Systems Leaders</p> <p>Organizer: Wasafiri hub</p> <p>Location: Press Conference Room</p> <p>An invite only meeting for stakeholders interested in strengthening food systems leadership as an essential enabler to achieve the Kampala Declaration goals</p>
<p>11:30 – 13:30</p>	<p>Special Event</p> <p>Title: Launch of Partnership for Root and Tubers Crops in Africa</p> <p>Organizer: CIP</p> <p>Location: Hall F</p>

Launch of Partnership for Root and Tuber Crops in Africa aims to position Root and Tuber Crops (RTCs) as key drivers of sustainable agricultural transformation in Africa. RTCs have the potential to improve diets, build resilience to climate change, grow markets, and strengthen local economies. The vision of the framework is to mobilize global science, strategic partnerships, innovations, and investments to accelerate the development and scaling of RTC-based agrifood systems across the continent. This will be achieved through inclusive, evidence-based programs that are tailored to national and regional needs. The launch event will feature keynote addresses and a panel discussion with representatives from national and regional development organizations, the private sector, and development partners.

Speakers

- Dr. Joyce Maru- Regional Director for Africa, CIP- Moderator
- Dr. Simon Heck-Director General, CIP
- Prof. Yaye Kene Gassama – CIP Board Member, Senegal
- Dr. Simeon Ehui, IITA
- Jabula Arlindo- National Director for Agriculture at the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Fisheries Maputo, Mozambique
- Martin Fregene, AfDB
- Dr. Wachira Kaguongo, NPCK

14:00 – 17:30

Special Event

Title: Financing Digital Agriculture and Agroecology

Organizer: CAADP-XP4 consortium partners & GGGI

Location: Press Conference Room

This session aims to accelerate agroecological transition by unlocking smart finance to scale youth-led digital private Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services (AEAS). We'll bring together key stakeholders to explore innovative financing mechanisms and investment opportunities for youth agripreneurs providing digital services. The session will feature a keynote address, expert panel discussions, and a training on the use of the CGIAR Africa Agriculture Adaptation Atlas Tool enabling youth to promote climate resilient agriculture and sustainable development.

Speakers

- Dr. Joshua Okonya, Program Officer – Agricultural Technology and Innovation at the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA)
- Ms. Paques Sidonie Kouam-Gwet, Regional Investment Lead at the Africa Regional Office, Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)
- Dr. Aggrey Agumya, Executive Director at the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)
- Mr. Alain Sy TRAORE, Director of Agriculture and Rural Development at the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
- Mr. Matteo Marchisio, Head of Hub and Country Director, West and Central Africa at the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- Amb. H.E. Mr Jean-Marc Pisani, Head of the Delegation of the European Union in Senegal
- Ms. Brenda Gunde, Global Lead for Information and Communication Technologies for Development (ICT4D) at IFAD
- Mr. Abrhame Endrias, the MD and Founder of Green Agro Solution PLC,
- Mr. Tajudeen Yahaya, the CEO of Extension Africa
- Mr. Jehiel Oliver, the CEO and Founder, Hello Tractor
- Francis A. Obirikorang, the CEO & Co-founder, AgroCenta Technologies
- Mr. Jamie Collinson, the CEO and Founder, iSDA-Africa
- Jonathan Mockshell, Lead Agrifood System and Policy Environment, The Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT
- Mr. David Ivanovic, Senior Operations Officer, IFC – International Finance Corporation, Senegal
- Dr. Lilian Lihasi, Executive Director, African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services – AFAAS, Kenya
- Ms. Marietou Seck, Head of Climate Action, Mastercard Foundation
- Dr. Nicole Nkoum, Climate Finance Consultant, GGGI
- Dr. Moumini SAVADOGO, the Executive Director of CORAF

14:00-15:30

Special Event (By-invitation only)

Title: Women Agripreneurs Business Speed-Networking: Investors, Buyers & Mentors Meet WAYA Finalists

Organizer: AGRA

Location: Thematic Hall

This speed-networking session connects the 17 WAYA finalists with investors, buyers, and mentors already attending the Africa Food Systems Forum. It's been developed in response to direct feedback from 2024 finalists around more targeted, practical engagements beyond WAYA and the main AFS

	<p>agenda. The session is fully bilingual (English and French) to ensure accessibility and meaningful dialogue. Each finalist will hold multiple short, focused meetings with relevant stakeholders, with clear next steps for continued engagement. Hosted by AGRA through the VALUE4HER platform, the event is designed to open concrete opportunities for women-led agribusinesses, especially those led by young entrepreneurs, to access markets, partnerships, and support they need to grow.</p>
<p>15:00 – 17:00</p>	<p>Special Event (By-invitation only)</p> <p>Title: AGRA-CGIAR DG Roundtable</p> <p>Organizer: CGIAR, AGRA</p> <p>Location: AGRA Board Room</p>
<p>15:30 – 19:00</p>	<p>Special Event (By-invitation only)</p> <p>Title: Celebrating 50 Years of Impact: IFPRI and the Future of African Food Systems</p> <p>Organizer: IFPRI</p> <p>Location: Hall F</p> <p>IFPRI's 50th anniversary offers an opportunity to reflect on the Institute's enduring contributions to food systems thinking and transformation—globally and across Africa. From early work on food security measurement and agricultural policy reform to today's cutting-edge research on food systems, governance, trade, resilience, and nutrition, IFPRI has helped shape how food systems are analyzed, understood, and improved. Africa has always been central to IFPRI's mission. With active country strategy support programs, regional initiatives, and growing partnerships across the continent, IFPRI continues to play a vital role in helping African governments, institutions, and communities navigate urgent challenges—from climate shocks, economic disruptions, and conflict to urbanization, malnutrition, and agrifood modernization.</p>
<p>16:30 – 18:30</p>	<p>Special Event</p>

	<p>Organizer: ILRI</p> <p>Location: Baobab Restaurant</p>
<p>17:30 – 19:00</p>	<p>Special Event (By-invitation only)</p> <p>Title: Biodiversity Bites: Rediscovering Opportunity Crops for Climate, Nutrition & Soil Health</p> <p>Organizer: Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, Chef’s Manifesto, Africa Food Price</p> <p>Location: Arbre à Palabres & Culinary Village</p> <p>Despite its rich agricultural heritage and ecological diversity, Africa’s food systems remain heavily dependent on imports and struggle with persistently high levels of hunger and malnutrition. Yet, the continent is home to a wealth of resilient, nutritious, and culturally significant crops that can help transform the continent into a global leader in sustainable food production. Often sidelined by industrial commodities, crops like Bambara groundnut, nutrient-dense superfoods such as fonio, and vitamin-rich leafy vegetables like amaranth are deeply embedded in local traditions and adapted to Africa’s varied ecologies – capable of thriving in harsh conditions like drought or poor soils where major staples struggle. Many also provide off-season food supplies and are packed with nutrients, contributing vitamins, minerals, and protein that bolster nutrition security. Despite their benefits, these traditional crops remain underused due to systemic underinvestment in agronomy, market access, and supportive policy frameworks. Revitalizing these crops is more than a return to tradition—it’s a forward-looking strategy for advancing nutrition, climate adaptation, and food sovereignty across Africa and beyond. Hosted by the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, in collaboration with the Chefs’ Manifesto, this curated tasting experience at the Africa Food Systems Forum 2025 invites guests to rediscover the richness of Africa’s opportunity crops through flavor, storytelling, and culinary creativity. Set in a vibrant atmosphere that weaves together taste, sound, and narrative, the event will showcase how reviving these diverse, nutrient-rich crops can nourish both people and planet—helping to shape a more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive food future for Africa and the world.</p>

DAY 4: Thursday, SEPTEMBER 4th, 2025

TIME	SESSION
<p>10:30 – 13:30</p>	<p>Special Event</p> <p>Title: Using Evidence to Advance Food Systems</p> <p>Organizer: IDInsight</p> <p>Location: Thematic Hall</p> <p>This session explores how diverse forms of evidence—quantitative and qualitative—can be used to design, adapt, and scale food system interventions. It will showcase practical experiences using evidence for agricultural and food security programming, particularly on youth, gender inclusion.. Panelists will share how different stakeholders (governments, NGOs, donors) define and use “useful evidence,” highlight examples from IDInsight’s collaborations across Africa, and discuss persistent evidence gaps and how tailored research partnerships can help close them</p>
<p>13:30 – 17:00</p>	<p>Special Event</p> <p>Title: Food Security for most vulnerable</p> <p>Organizer: Partners in Food Solutions</p> <p>Location: Press Conference Room</p> <p>Our event will demonstrate how interventions can be designed to address the nutritional needs of the current youth and also prepare future youth for optimum performance by ensuring that they have access to safe and nutritious diets. We will also demonstrate how including farmers especially women are critical in addressing Food System challenges in Africa. Finally, we will showcase the critical role that small businesses play in addressing the nutrition needs of the most vulnerable in the society to ensure that they are included in far reaching policies.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Johnson Kiragu, Partners in Food Solutions

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Kamau, Fortified Whole Grain Alliance • Caroline Mugo, Concern Worldwide • Adesuwa Akinboro, TechnoServe
<p>13:00 – 14:30</p>	<p>Special Event</p> <p>Title: Nourishing Youth Job Creation in Agrifood Systems</p> <p>Organizer: GAIN & Mastercard Foundation</p> <p>Location: Investment Room</p> <p>This special event will explore how to strengthen African agrifood systems as engines of meaningful job creation for young rural women, focusing on three enablers: opportunity, awareness, and capacity.</p> <p>Opportunity: FAO research shows most job growth will occur between the farmgate and consumer—sectors like processing, transport, storage, and retail—dominated by MSMEs. The challenge is enabling these enterprises to start, survive, and scale, with young women at the forefront.</p> <p>Awareness: key to shifting outdated perceptions of rural agrifood jobs. Policymakers must recognize these systems not just for food and income, but for employment potential. Consumers, too, must shift toward nutritious diets to drive demand and MSME job growth.</p> <p>Capacity building through education, training, and apprenticeships is vital. The session will highlight intersections with nutritious food demand—an expanding, labor intensive sector—and aims to raise awareness, spotlight synergies with food systems goals, and identify practical actions to support young women in job creation and nutrition.</p> <p>Moderator: Eleni Gabre Madhin, CEO blueMoon</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ndidi Nwuneli, President of the ONE Campaign • Ms. Wambui Chege, Director, Agrifood Systems, Mastercard Foundation • Aida Yazew, Act4Food youth leader, Ethiopia • Dr. Teshale Berecha, State Minister of Labor and Skills, Ethiopia • Hon. Hussein Bashe, Minister of Agriculture, Tanzania • MSMEs (2) • Nancy Iraba, CEO, Healthy Seaweed Co. Tanzania. GoGettaz Finalist. • Gugu Zulu, Bee Tree Farms & Academy, South Africa. • Ms. Christine Wanjira, Co-Founder of Soko Kijiji, Kenya. • Ms. Sharon Kanyana, Founder, MD of Ishyo Foods Limited, Rwanda.
<p>14:00 – 16:00</p>	<p>Special Event (By-invitation only)</p>

Title: Agri-Energy in Focus: Aligning for Greater Impact

Organizer: GOGLA

Location: AGRA Board Room

To transform food systems and improve livelihoods across Africa, energy access for agriculture must move from the margins to the center of the conversation. Yet, while decentralized renewable energy (DRE) solutions are proving their value in powering irrigation, agro-processing, storage, and more—scaling these solutions remains a challenge. Recognizing this, GOGLA and partners launched the Agri-Energy Coalition to better connect efforts across the energy, water, environment, nutrition, agriculture, and development sectors. This roundtable at the Agri-Energy Forum provides a timely opportunity to bring coalition members and cross-sectoral stakeholders interested in the nexus energy-agriculture agenda together to share updates, identify synergies, and begin aligning around a joint roadmap. The session will focus on practical collaboration: identifying what's working, where support is needed, and how the Agri-Energy Coalition or/and other movements/partnerships can grow stronger as a coordinated platform for impact.

15:00 – 17:00

Special Event

Title: Building Resilient Agri-Food Systems through Innovative and Inclusive Green Transition Policies and Financing Mechanisms for Women and Youth

Organizer: UN Women & GGGI

Location: Hall F

A special event, co-moderated by UN Women and the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), will spotlight practical strategies and best practices for advancing inclusive green transition policies and climate finance that empower women and youth in agricultural value chains and other green sectors. It will showcase innovative approaches and scalable solutions at both policy and programmatic levels that drive gender equality, youth participation, and sustainable transformation. The event will feature presentations and a panel discussion with regional experts, government representatives, development partners, and women- and youth-led

	<p>enterprises actively engaged in green finance and climate-smart agri-food systems.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elena, Ruiz Abril, UN Women, WCRO WEE Regional Policy Advisor • Representative of women in agriculture (TBC) • Mr Shane Keenan, Head of Mission a.i., Embassy of Ireland in Senegal (TBC) • Ms Madeleine Diouf Sarr, Director of DCCTEFV (TBC) • Mme Fatma Fall DIEYE, DG, La Banque Agricole (TBC) • GGGI Regional Representative
<p>15:30 – 17:00</p>	<p>Special Event</p> <p>Organizer: ECOWAS</p> <p>Location: Investment Room – Main Stage</p>
<p>16:00 – 18:00</p>	<p>Special Event (By-invitation only)</p> <p>Title: Bridging the Cooling Access gap: Powering Climate-Resilient Food Systems</p> <p>Organizer: GOGLA, SEforAll, Energy Saving Trust/Efficiency for Access</p> <p>Location: AGRA Board Room</p> <p>In a warming world, access to sustainable cooling is critical for food preservation, health, and human well-being—especially for low-income populations in off- and weak-grid areas. This session will explore how improved access to cooling can reduce food loss, enhance nutrition, and protect vulnerable populations from heat stress. It will bring together experts from the agriculture, energy, and development sectors to identify key barriers and opportunities for scaling sustainable cooling solutions in low-income, off- and weak-grid communities.</p> <p>The event will also serve as a sounding board for a proposed Access to Cooling Working Group, an initiative by SEforAll, GOGLA, and Energy Saving Trust. The group aims to foster multi-sectoral collaboration, develop a shared definition and measurement framework for access to cooling, and support countries, subnational governments, and practitioners in designing effective policies and programmes.</p>

	<p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jakub Vrba – Research Lead on Energy Access, Energy Saving Trust / Efficiency for Access TBC • Rahul Srinivasan – Senior Energy Specialist, SEforAll TBC • Carlos Sordo – Director of Policy and Partnerships, GOGLA TBC
<p>16:30 – 18:30</p>	<p>Special Event (By-invitation only)</p> <p>Title: The Nexus Game: Powering Food, Climate & Equity Trade-offs in Real-Time</p> <p>Organizer: GOGLA, GAIN, SNV, WUR, and IMWI</p> <p>Location: Thematic Hall</p>