



AFRICA FOOD SYSTEMS FORUM 2026

Investing in Agri-Food Systems:
Nourishing Nations, Growing Jobs, Building Resilience



20th EDITION OF AFRICA FOOD SYSTEMS FORUM (AFSF)

Investing in Africa's Agri-Food Systems: Nourishing Nations, Growing Jobs, Building Resilience



SUMMIT BROCHURE



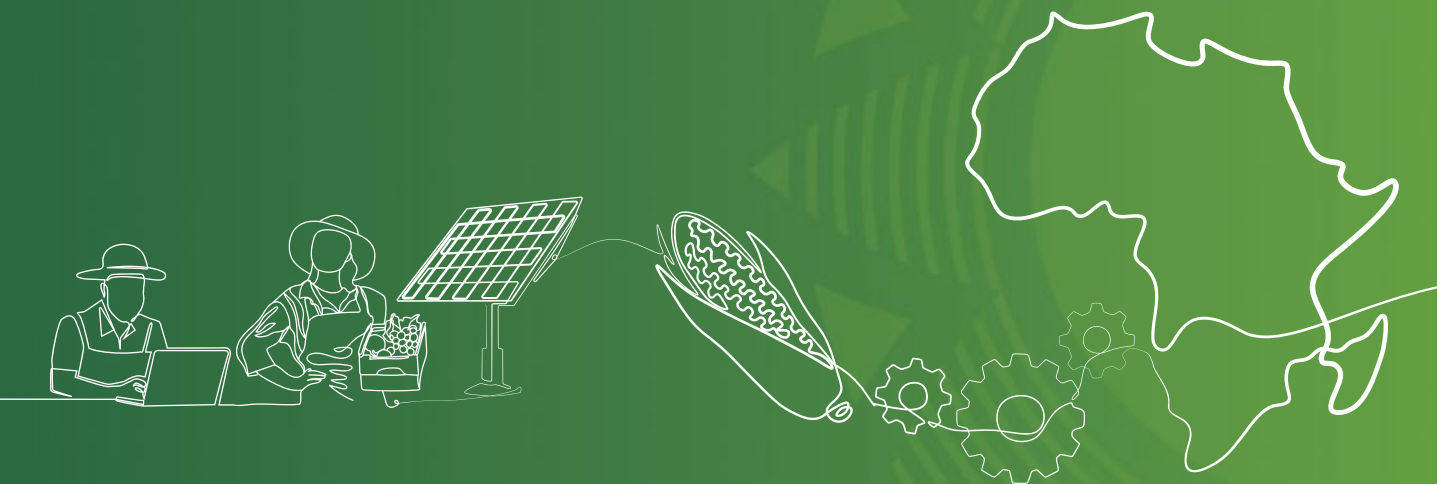
31 AUGUST - 4 SEPTEMBER 2026



KIGALI, RWANDA



From an investment conference in Agriculture to the world's largest forum on Agri-food systems in Africa.



AFSF
PARTNERS



Republic
of Rwanda



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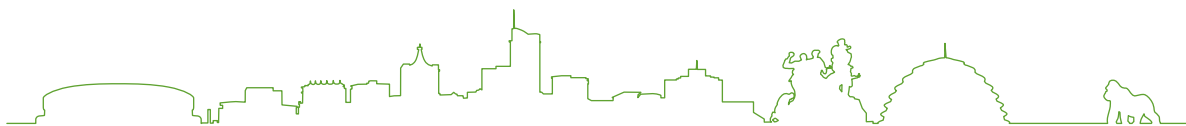
20th EDITION OF AFRICA FOOD SYSTEMS FORUM (AFSF)



Celebrating
**20 years of
Food Systems
Transformation**

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20 YEARS OF IMPACT

Celebrating Two Decades of Food Systems Transformation

Since its establishment in 2006 by Yara in Oslo, the Africa Food Systems Forum (AFSF) has been driven by a bold vision: collaboration and partnerships, innovation; and a shared commitment to advancing the Africa's food and nutrition security, sustainability and resilience; jobs opportunity for youth and women. This year we are celebrating 20 years of service, growth and transformation.

AFSF's active engagement and commitment has been central to this unique world platform's progress, and we sincerely thank our partners and friends for a continued trust and partnership.

The next decade ahead calls the forum to focus on a deeper engagement, commitment to strengthening the African Agri-food ecosystem, policy dialogue, Agri-food market intelligence, and global partnership for greater impact.



MESSAGE OF THE **MANAGING DIRECTOR**



Amath Pathe Sene
Managing Director,
Africa Food Systems Forum

Twenty years ago, the AFSF was founded on a simple but powerful belief: that food and nutrition security, shared prosperity through agricultural transformation is possible when people, African institutions, partners and communities work together through a continental convening platform on food systems.

Over the past two decades, we grew, have evolved, adapted, and responded to emerging challenges while remaining true to our core mission: food systems transformation for food and nutrition security, jobs creation for youth and women and prosperity for all African nations. As the forum celebrate its 20th edition, this milestone is not just a celebration of time passed, but of lives impacted, systems strengthened, and futures shaped.





OUR ORIGINS

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN



A Timeline of Progress



Knowledge grows

2006-2009:

In 2006, Yara International organized the first African Green Revolution Conference in Oslo. From 2007 to 2009, it was held as an annual event focused on fostering public-private partnerships and mobilizing investments in agriculture.



AGRF

2010 – 2021:

In 2010, the African Green Revolution Conference shifted from an investment conference to a forum to become the African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF). It has since been convened on different themes and in different African regions, gathering heads of state, ministers, business leaders, development partners, farmers, youth, women, and many other stakeholders to work together on measures, actions, and policies to advance the continental agenda on food system development. Throughout this period, the AGRF was consolidated as a pivotal platform for propelling the growth of Africa's agricultural sector.



2022 to date:

Following the 2021 World Food Systems Summit, AGRF was rebranded as the **Africa Food System Forum (AFSF)**, in alignment with our partners' vision on comprehensive food system transformation, which goes beyond the agriculture sector to also look at nutrition, trade, infrastructure, digital technologies, governance, and other key issues. The Forum's work now extends beyond the annual summit to promote discussion and actions to follow through on pivotal decisions on food systems and food security year-round. Our goal is to foster ongoing stakeholder engagement in measures and policies that are crucial for achieving our continent's food security objectives throughout the entire year. Since its rebranding, the Forum has tripled in size and diversity, bringing its annual attendance up to close to 6,000 delegates.

20 YEARS IN FIGURES

IMPACT AT A GLANCE



104

countries represented
in summits



3,000+

More than **3,000**
sessions organized



54,000

delegates recorded
in attendance



50

From 3 partners to 50
partners in 2025



50%+

Youth participation
reaching **15% of**
speakers and more
than **50% of delegates**



200
billion +

More than 200
billion of investments
ask presented from
countries and SMEs



300+

More than 300 SMEs
supported to pitch to
investors



30+

More than 30
countries that have
presented bankable
programs at the forum

20 YEARS IN PICTURES





H. E. Hailemariam Desalegn
AFSF

AFSF Board chair,
H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn

INTRODUCTION



Africa Food Systems Forum (AFSF) is widely recognized as **the world's premier forum for African agriculture and food systems**. Under the leadership of **H.E. Paul Kagame**, President of the Republic of Rwanda, the 20th **edition of the AFSF Annual Summit which marks the 20 years anniversary of the forum** will be held in Kigali, Rwanda from **1st to 5th September 2026** under the theme **“Investing in Africa’s Agri-Food Systems: Nourishing Nations, Growing Jobs, Building Resilience”**. The Summit will bring together more than 4,500 stakeholders from across the agri-food systems community to share lessons and take practical action to accelerate food systems transformation on the continent.

As AFSF enters its third decade, AFSF 2026 will discuss Africa's new Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) decade and precedes COP32 in Addis Ababa and the rollout of the New African Financial Architecture (NAFA), a framework to coordinate fragmented financial systems and mobilize domestic capital at scale. The Forum will rally leaders to champion a bold shift toward nutrition focused food systems, act decisively to build climate and conflict resilience, and deliver the investment and accountability needed to unlock transformation at scale. The journey continues—with renewed ambition and shared purpose.

This year's Summit will span sectors and disciplines to build bridges between the **most pressing elements** on the continent's food systems agenda under the **Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) 2026-2035**, national food systems policies, investments needed and accountability systems to monitor change and progress



INNOVATIVE INVESTMENTS AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Implementation of CAADP will require not only commitment but investments and financing under the New African Financial Architecture (NAFA, knowledge, and concrete plans for action). This year's forum participants will have to **explore ways to unlock more sustainable investment to implement CAADP. The Food systems sector represents a huge business and investment opportunity equivalent to more than 16 % of global GDP, yet investments in the sector are still less than 10% of countries' GDP and in most countries the banking investment in agriculture is less than 5%.**

Today the way food is produced, packaged, transported and consumed requires investments of more than 10% of countries' GDP to align with objectives of the various Development Goals (Paris Climate Deals, SGDs, CAADP) and calls for more innovative FDIs and PPPs to feed African people and create decent jobs for youth and women. These investments will drive food systems transformation particularly in rapidly changing development landscapes in a predominantly young continent, global crisis (climate, conflict, economic crisis) and an intelligent age.

Innovative investments and financing adapted to the Africa Food Systems context and realities must drive change in land use and productivity in a continent where 60% of arable land are untapped, innovation in food value chains in a digital era and a predominantly young continent, more decent jobs for youth and women, affordability of nutritious food, building of farmers' resilience, and in overcoming institutional and regular barriers.



Strategic partnerships will remain key to powering and accelerating African food systems transformation, trading and markets, derisking investments and strengthening collaboration with youth, governments, re-searchers, media and cooperatives, local businesses and MSMEs. The forum will feature financing solutions and pathways towards inclusive, sustainable, nutritious, and resilient food systems.

The Forum will also feature the launching of partnerships for cutting-edge policy initiatives, financing instruments, investments programs, knowledge, and science products designed to drive sustainable investments in food systems transformation in Africa and beyond. Whether in the corridors, cafés, or reserved one-on-one meeting spaces, B2B networking opportunities abound at the Summit, allowing participants to explore new partnerships and collaborative opportunities, expand their contact base, close deals, and raise capital and sustainable investment to accelerate the development of the agri-food sector, create jobs for youth and women, and improve the lives of millions of African people.

Co-hosted by the Government of Rwanda, this year's summit's program is being developed by the AFSF Partners Group, which is comprised of 36 leading players in African agri-food sectors committed to putting farmers, women and youth at the helm of the movement to transform food systems across the continent.



ADDRESSING MULTIFACETED CHALLENGES IN FOOD SYSTEMS

Today, **Africa is considered a land of opportunities for agri-food systems development and a top investment destination.** The youngest and fastest growing continent in the world, Africa is home to 60% of the world's uncultivated land, abundant water resources, a vibrant market, and a population that is projected to increase to 2.5 billion people by 2050 and produce a massive youth dividend. This means that there is great potential in the region to transform agri-food systems, ensure food and nutritional security, and create jobs and wealth for all.

Even so, **about one-third of sub-Saharan Africans still suffer from hunger.** Current food production falls well short of demand, fueling migration, insecurity, and political instability in various parts of the continent. Instead of being a net exporter of food, the continent is a net importer, spending at least USD 70 billion of scarce foreign exchange annually on imports. It is estimated that the number of young people in the labor force will increase to 375 million by 2030. This is mainly due to limited investment and financing to accelerate food systems transformation on the continent.



Although Africa has consistently received the largest share of external development financing for food systems (38 to 42%), this proportion has increased only marginally over time. Private investments, particularly from the banking sector is less than 5% than all other sectors. Under the previous CAAP, limited countries have reached the 10% budget allocation for the Malabo Declaration

The new **Kampala CAADP agenda provides Africa's strategic direction for agrifood transformation over the next decade**, calling for bold leadership, coordinated action, and measurable delivery through massive investments. With African countries off track on Malabo commitments and over one billion Africans unable to afford a healthy diet, the 2026 AFSF must accelerate implementation across the six CAADP strategic objectives: food and nutrition security, resilience, sustainable production, inclusive livelihoods, financing, and governance, investment with a focus on Africa's youth that form 70% of the population.

The **New African Financial Architecture (NAFA)**, championed by the African Development Bank and African Union, is a strategic framework designed to mobilize domestic capital, reduce reliance on foreign funding, and foster financial sovereignty. It seeks to unify fragmented systems to fund Agenda 2063 projects, leveraging, for example, a new Alliance of African Multilateral Financial Institutions (AAMFI).

2026 SUMMIT THEME



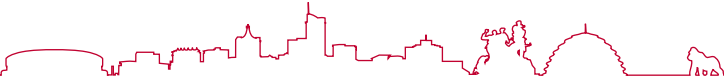
The 2026 theme **“Investing in Africa’s Agri-Food Systems: Nourishing Nations, Growing Jobs, Building Resilience”** signals a continental commitment to leadership, action, and delivery—moving beyond declarations toward measurable, system wide impact. The 2026 theme positions the Forum as a bridge into the new CAADP era, mobilizing collective public and private investment and transforming commitments into results particularly in the context of The New African Financial Architecture (NAFA),

The Forum will aim to strategically bring contributions to solving the multi-faceted challenges of food systems on the continent, including access to investment and finance to address climate vulnerability and low resilience, the spread of malnutrition and weak nutrition, jobs unemployment. This year's forum will build on the experience of its past **20 years of existence** to capitalize on opportunities and gains as it builds resilient and sustainable Agri-food systems that support Africa's continued economic and social progress. The forum has always adopted a holistic agri-food systems approach, recognizing the interconnectedness of investment along the food systems value chains with health, environment, trade, infrastructure, and other sectors.

The forum will continue to **emphasize in financing key players alongside food systems** (decision makers, youth and farmers, women and agri-food enterprises), to achieve profitable markets as a key to unlocking the agri-food system's potential. Investments in improved inputs, technologies, and practices will boost production, reduce risks, and create more jobs across value chains. This in turn will transform agriculture into a stronger economic activity that fuels the entire agri-food system, improving food availability, access, and affordability as well as stability for consumers, leading to better continental food security and nutritional outcomes.

The AFSF 2026 Summit will call on all parties to **join forces in mobilizing investments and implementing the CAADP**, food systems policies and boost financing in innovative ideas through domestic resource mobilization, private investments and PPP, scaling up of best practices, business models, and knowledge products.

The Summit will launch **a global call for more investment to support youth-led agri-food start-ups and MSMEs, provide a space to AfDB and partners to share more about** The New African Financial Architecture (NAFA), and provide a unique platform at the Forum for Young African Innovators to showcase their trailblazing solutions, innovations, and technologies. Youth at the Forum will have the opportunity to engage directly with global and African investors, pitch their transformative concepts and projects, and have access to the forum's deal room and B2B spaces. The best projects and solutions will be recognized at the AFSF competitions and awards programs (GoGetta Agripreneur Prize Competition, Africa Food Prize, and Women Agripreneurs of the Year Awards, among others).



OUR SUCCESS FACTORS



Our thematic platforms engage throughout the year to shape the summit's agenda, mobilize key speakers and players, and work with countries, MSMEs and investors to make the summit an annual unmatched 'rendez-vous' for thousands of participants.



Stakeholder engagement year round to drive change in agri-food systems: The Summit's secretariat runs platforms who work year around with global key players in the food systems to craft various ways of turning bold ideas on food systems into reality, providing spaces to discuss the challenges of attracting young people to the industry, and identifying opportunities to mobilize strategic investments that lead to the transformation of food systems. Our thematic platforms engage throughout the year to shape the summit's agenda, mobilize key speakers and players, and work with countries, MSMEs and investors to make the summit an annual unmatched 'rendez-vous' for thousands of participants.



Careful selection of relevant topics for our sessions including innovative investment and finance , and artificial intelligence, powering agrifood industries soil health and fertilizer use; nutrition and health; youth and women in agri-food systems; value addition and industrialization; sustainable production; climate infrastructure development, agricultural related services, agricultural machinery, cold chain technology, irrigation, policy and programs implementation mechanisms, among others. We believe these are topics that will continue to shape the future of food and agriculture in Africa.



High-level officials and leading experts are strategically targeted to participate in the 2026 summit to take stock of agri-food system progress on the continent (policies, investments, initiatives, etc.). Heads of states, Government ministers, parliamentarians, fast rising industry leaders, youth leaders, entrepreneurs, investors and visionary speakers are expected to share insights on the CAADP agenda, The New African Financial Architecture (NAFA) and ways to invest; the varied and complex food and nutritional security challenges faced by different regions of the world; the investment ecosystem, and opportunities in Africa.



Deals development and investment facilitation platforms where African start-ups and MSMEs will present promising innovative agri-food systems policies, pathways, and business models to hundreds of investors and capital providers. African MSMEs will make pitches to investors and capital providers showcasing their compelling investment opportunities, and countries will present large-scale investment opportunities, including their Legacy Programs. Prior investment facilitation support will have been provided to MSMEs and countries to ensure investment readiness and meaningful interactions take place during the summit.



Doing business at the summit's Agri-food Expo and Exhibition grounds remains one of the busiest and most visited spaces at the summit. The area will offer companies, MSMEs, start-ups, and innovators the chance to exhibit and sell the latest technologies, equipment, and innovative solutions that promise to revolutionize food production. This is the summit's practical way of promoting business, enhancing the visibility of companies in food systems, facilitating trade, increasing exports, breaking fragmentation within value chains and catalyzing new and non-traditional partnerships.



Interactive and innovative engagements:

The summit has put in place reputable platforms and crafted spaces to ensure every participant at the summit can be heard, engage, speak out or do business. From plenaries, high level closed discussions, open debates, pitching sessions, culinary demonstrations, masterclasses, B2B engagements, knowledge hub, TED talks, youth dome activities, exhibition stands to corridors informal greet and meet, the summit has a the best combination for meaningful engagements.



Accountability of commitment:

The summit's secretariat tracks all discussion and commitments at each summit to ensure that beyond the annual gatherings actions are being imple-mented and measured for accountability towards the transformation of food systems in Africa.



PREVIOUS SPEAKERS











ABOUT THE HOST COUNTRY: RWANDA

Welcome to Rwanda — a nation globally recognized for bold leadership, innovation, and results-driven transformation.

Known as the **‘Land of a Thousand Hills’**, Rwanda has become one of Africa’s most compelling examples of how strategic vision can translate into inclusive growth. In food systems, Rwanda is not just participating in the conversations of the summit — it is actively shaping them.



H.E. Paul Kagame,
President of the Republic
of Rwanda

Since 2018, Rwanda hosts the AFS Summits every other year and continues to demonstrate its leadership in Agricultural Transformation and strong policy direction as well as measurable results.

Through its agricultural transformation agenda, including the ambitious PSTA 5 (2024–2029), the country is advancing climate-smart agriculture, youth-led agribusiness, nutrition-sensitive programming, and private sector investment at scale. From digital farmer services to resilient value chains, Rwanda demonstrates how policy, partnerships, and people can align to deliver impact. As host of the Africa Food Systems annual summit 2026, Rwanda offers more than a venue — it offers a living laboratory of resilience, nutrition advancement, and smart investment in action, and where Africa's food future accelerates.



OUR VALUED PARTNERS

The AFSF is built on the strength and commitment of institutional partnerships. Our valued partners — spanning governments, development finance institutions, multilateral organizations, research bodies, philanthropic foundations, and private sector leaders — form the backbone of the Forum's impact.

Their sustained commitment enables high-level dialogue, mobilizes investment, strengthens policy alignment, and accelerates implementation across Africa's food systems. Year after year, these institutions return not only to participate, but to shape the agenda — advancing solutions that improve nutrition, build resilience, and unlock sustainable growth.

Through shared vision and coordinated action, our partners continue to demonstrate that meaningful food systems transformation is achieved through collaboration, accountability, and long-term investment.

Together, we move from dialogue to delivery.

AFSF MULTI-YEAR PARTNERS



Republic
of Rwanda



Knowledge grows



Canada



Gates
Foundation



McKinsey
& Company



Hosted by



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of Rwanda



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