

# KIGALI COMMUNIQUE

Decisions, Commitments and Investment Announcements

Kigali, Rwanda | September 2026

**Theme:** “Investing in Africa’s Agri-Food Systems:  
Growing Jobs, Nourishing Nations, Building Resilience”



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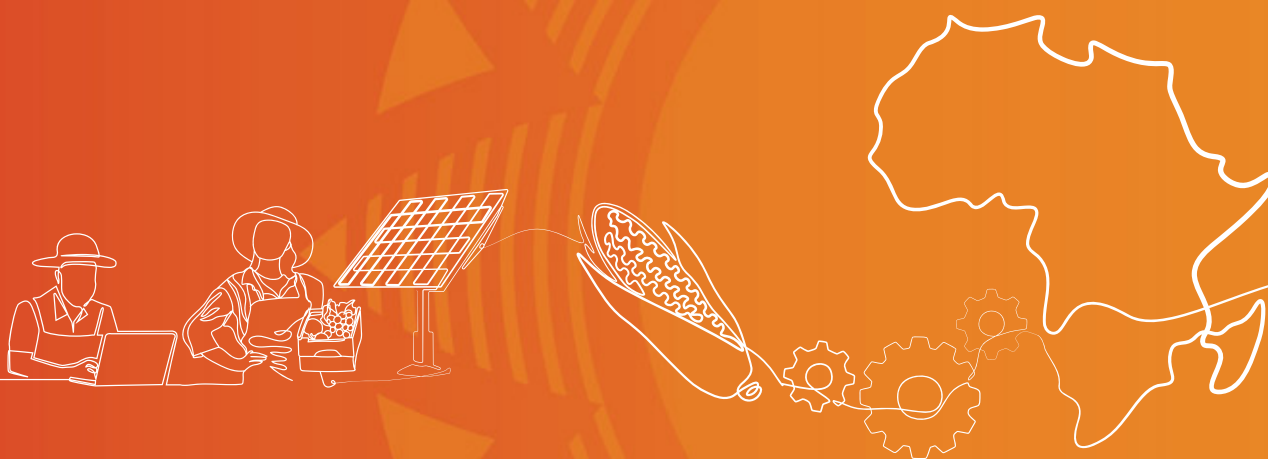
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# THE REPORT



# THE KIGALI COMMITMENT

The Africa Food Systems Forum 2026 marked the Forum's twentieth anniversary and the beginning of a new decade focused on delivery. Participants called for a decisive shift from knowledge to delivery, from pilots to scale, and from commitments announced to capital mobilized and results measured.

## TEN KIGALI COMMITMENTS

1. Mobilize USD 100 billion by 2035 for Africa's agrifood transformation, aligned with the Kampala CAADP Declaration.
2. Allocate at least 10% of annual public expenditure to agrifood systems, prioritizing sustainable production, research, innovation and nutrition-sensitive investments.
3. Operationalize the New African Financial Architecture to unlock domestic savings, pension funds, sovereign wealth, blended finance and private capital, with the stated ambition that at least 15% of agrifood GDP be reinvested annually into the sector.
4. Expand access to finance, land, skills, technology and markets for youth- and women-led enterprises, SMEs, smallholders and the 'hidden middle'.
5. Scale sustainable production, integrated land and water management, climate-smart agriculture and affordable nutritious diets.
6. Invest in irrigation, storage, cold chains, transport, energy, agro-processing and digital market systems to strengthen food corridors, regional integration and AfCFTA-enabled trade.
7. Develop pipelines of bankable, investment-ready country projects and convert political commitments into financed investments and implemented deals.
8. Mobilize climate finance and scale data, digital technologies, knowledge and innovation to build resilient and climate-ready food systems.
9. Strengthen institutions, inter-ministerial coordination, parliamentary action and responsible private-sector participation.
10. Track delivery at country and continental levels through stronger accountability mechanisms, measurable results and annual follow-up.



# 1. PREAMBLE

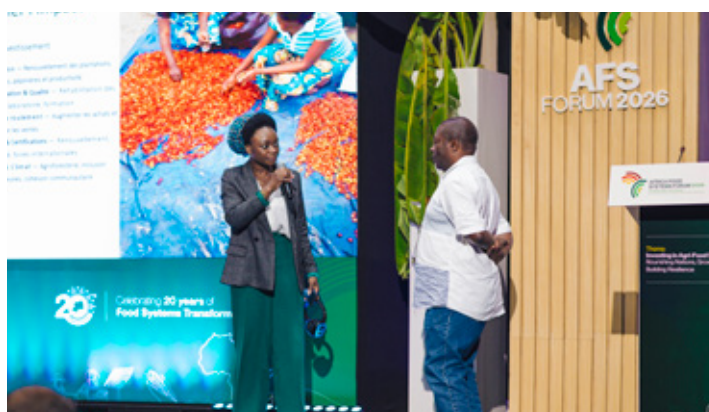


1. The Africa Food Systems Forum 2026 (AFSF 2026) convened in Kigali, Rwanda, in September 2026 under the leadership of H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda. The Summit marked the twentieth anniversary of the Forum and brought together leaders from government, business, finance, development institutions, research, civil society, farmer organizations, youth and women-led enterprises from across Africa and beyond.
2. More than 5,141 participants out of 5700 registered from 88 countries and broad representation from African and international stakeholders; of which 41.5% of attendees were women (based on 4,700 gender statuses recorded) and 44.8% were youth.
3. The Forum took place at a strategic moment as Africa entered the 2026–2035 implementation period of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), guided by Agenda 2063 and the Kampala CAADP Declaration.
4. Two decades after the Forum's origins in the African Green Revolution dialogue, AFSF has evolved into a continent-wide platform for public-private coordination, investment mobilization, policy dialogue, innovation and accountability around food systems transformation.
5. The Times Dinner at AFSF 2026 provided a distinguished evening for reflection, connection, and strategic dialogue among leaders shaping Africa's agri-food systems. Bringing together senior representatives from government, business, finance, research, development institutions, civil society, and the media, the dinner created an informal setting to strengthen relationships and exchange perspectives beyond the formal Forum programme. It highlighted the importance of sustained collaboration, informed public discourse, and collective leadership in mobilizing investment and accelerating practical solutions for Africa's food-systems transformation.
6. AFSF Gala Dinner marked the Forum's twentieth anniversary by celebrating two decades of progress, partnership, and leadership in advancing Africa's food-systems transformation. Bringing together senior leaders from government, business, finance, research, development institutions, and civil society, the evening recognized the people and partnerships that have shaped the Forum's journey. It also provided a celebratory yet forward-looking opportunity to renew a shared commitment to investment, innovation, inclusive growth, and practical delivery as Africa builds resilient agri-food systems for the next generation.
7. Participants recognized that Africa continues to face significant food and nutrition challenges, persistent productivity gaps, infrastructure constraints and a large food import bill. The Forum therefore called for a sharper transition from ambition to delivery, anchored in investment, leadership, accountability, partnership and measurable results.

## 2. STRATEGIC CONTEXT AND THE SIX CHALLENGES

Under the theme “Investing in Africa’s Agri-Food Systems: Growing Jobs, Nourishing Nations, Building Resilience,” AFSF 2026 organized its agenda around six interconnected challenges requiring coordinated public-private action:

- Strengthen partnerships and mobilize greater investment in agrifood systems as official development assistance declines.
- Unlock innovative public and private financing sources under a new African financial architecture.
- Invest in people, especially youth and women, to build inclusive value chains and create decent jobs.
- Scale sustainable agricultural production while ensuring nutritious food for all.
- Develop food corridors, markets and trade while closing infrastructure gaps in storage, transport, energy and processing.
- Build climate resilience and sustainability while deploying effective technologies, data and innovation.



## 3. CONSOLIDATED DECISIONS AND COMMITMENTS

### 3.1 Mobilizing Capital at Scale

- Governments, private sector actors, financial institutions and development partners committed to jointly mobilize USD 100 billion by 2035 to transform Africa's agrifood systems in line with the Kampala CAADP Declaration.
- Governments reaffirmed the commitment to allocate at least 10% of annual public expenditure to agrifood systems, prioritizing sustainable production, research, innovation and nutrition-sensitive investments.
- Participants called for stronger domestic resource mobilization and increased private-sector leadership in a tightening global financing environment.
- Stakeholders committed to strengthening institutional and technical capacity to design and deliver flagship, scalable investment programmes with measurable impact.
- AFSF 2026 called for stronger accountability mechanisms to track commitments, capital mobilization and delivery at country and continental levels.

### 3.2 Operationalizing a New African Financial Architecture

- The Forum identified financing and investment as central to delivering the CAADP Strategy 2026–2035.
- Participants called for the operationalization of the New African Financial Architecture as a vehicle to mobilize and coordinate capital for agrifood systems.
- The architecture should unlock domestic savings, pension funds and sovereign wealth for agrifood investment; align and scale blended-finance instruments; and build pipelines of bankable projects.
- Governments, development finance institutions, and partners were urged to ensure that at least 15% of agrifood GDP is reinvested annually into the sector.

- Financial institutions committed to expand de-risking, guarantees and tailored products for smallholders, SMEs and agripreneurs.

### 3.3 Investing in Youth, Women and Inclusive Job Creation

- Governments, investors and partners pledged to expand access to finance, land, skills and markets for youth- and women-led enterprises.
- Participants committed to institutionalize youth- and women-inclusive governance and decision-making across agrifood systems.
- Investment partners committed to scale blended-finance and tailored instruments for youth, women and SMEs to support decent work and entrepreneurship. A curated portfolio of promising African agrifood SMEs seeking investment, strategic partnerships, and market opportunities pitched for a total investment ask of more than 116.4 million USD.
- The Forum recognized smallholders, SMEs and the 'hidden middle' as critical but underserved drivers of inclusive growth.
- Participants supported the continued development of the Africa Youth Agrifood Academy as a recurring continental learning and action platform linking evidence, policy engagement and implementation.



- “As African leaders, we reaffirm the central role of agriculture in advancing food security, economic development, and inclusive growth. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is an AFSF longstanding partner and we recognize the Fund’s fourteenth replenishment (IFAD14) as a critical opportunity to scale investment, strengthen agricultural value chains, and accelerate progress towards the ambitions of the CAADP vision.”

### 3.4 Sustainable Production, Nutrition and Food Security

- The Forum called for nutrition-sensitive, sustainable production systems as a foundation for health, productivity and resilience.
- Stakeholders committed to channel investments toward integrated land and water management, climate-smart production and affordable nutritious diets.
- Evidence-based approaches and stronger data systems were recognized as essential for improving food security and nutrition outcomes.
- Development partners pledged support for scalable solutions that connect productivity gains with improved nutrition and health outcomes.

### 3.5 Food Corridors, Markets, Trade and Infrastructure

- Governments, private sector actors and development-finance partners committed to scale climate-resilient investment in irrigation, storage, cold chains, transport corridors, energy, agro-processing and digital market systems.
- Participants highlighted corridor-driven and market-oriented investment models as accelerators of regional integration, AfCFTA implementation and efficient regional trade.
- Private-sector actors pledged to increase investment in value-chain development, agro-processing, logistics and market expansion to reduce post-harvest losses and increase value addition.
- Development-finance partners committed to support pipelines of bankable infrastructure projects aligned with national and regional agrifood priorities.

### 3.6 Climate Resilience, Technology, Data and Innovation

- The Forum identified pathways to mobilize targeted climate finance, integrate food systems into national climate strategies and strengthen regional coordination for adaptation and mitigation.
- AFSF 2026 welcomed the operationalization of the Africa Knowledge and Innovation Hub as a continental platform to catalyze evidence-based solutions.
- Stakeholders committed to data-driven approaches and digital innovation to monitor progress, track system-wide impact and inform scalable interventions.
- Participants called for cross-sector coordination so that climate, knowledge and innovation investments are aligned with finance, infrastructure and policy frameworks.



## 4. INVESTMENT AND PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

AFSF 2026 recorded over 90 commitments, including investment announcements, partnerships, policy actions, technical support and capacity-building commitments.

| Organization / Partnership              | Amount                  | Purpose / Status                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>IFAD</b>                             | <b>USD 200 million</b>  | Blended-finance facility to expand climate-adaptation financing for farmers in Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>IFAD / Bank of Kigali</b>            | <b>USD 21 million</b>   | Blended-finance facility for farmer organizations, cooperatives, smallholders, agri-SMEs and agricultural value-chain participants in Rwanda.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>IFAD / AgDevCo</b>                   | <b>USD 10 million</b>   | Facility to support the growth of small agribusinesses across Africa.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Norway</b>                           | <b>USD 60 million</b>   | Earmarked for food-security investments, with knowledge transfer and capacity building, including through multilateral channels.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Equity Bank</b>                      | <b>USD 180 million</b>  | ARCAFIM covers Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda. It has two components, a loan facility and a Technical Assistance (TA). The blended finance loan facility leverages international concessional capital to crowd-in local private capital to finance Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) investments. Funders include IFAD, the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Government of Finland, the Nordic Development Fund, and Equity Bank Group. |
| <b>ECOWAS</b>                           | <b>USD 100 million</b>  | Financial investment / funding pledge                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Equity Bank</b>                      | <b>USD 90 million</b>   | Financial investment / funding pledge                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund</b> | <b>USD 4 million</b>    | Financial investment / funding pledge.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>The Rockefeller Foundation</b>       | <b>USD 2.25 million</b> | Financial investment / funding pledge.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Government of Zimbabwe                  | <b>USD 1.4 million</b>  | Financial investment / funding pledge.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Government of Rwanda                    | <b>USD 0.9 million</b>  | Financial investment / funding pledge.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

*Additional commitments include technical support, infrastructure development, policy development, market development and partnerships involving the Africa Extension Coalition, African Food Fellowship, BPR, CIMMYT, FAO, governments of Rwanda, Tanzania and Zambia, Green Climate Fund, Netherlands Embassy, Phipps Africa, Solid'Africa, The Rockefeller Foundation and the World Agriculture Forum.*

## 5. SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS FOR RWANDA (HOST COUNTRY)



Various discussions highlighted four priorities for Rwanda's food systems including: Food Basket Sites, Greenhouse-Enabled Horticulture, the Food Innovation Ecosystem, and the continuation of the 2024 Legacy value-chain investments which are avocado, chili, potato, poultry and beef.

Specifically, the continuation of the 2024 legacy program will focus on Scaling investment across priority agricultural value chains and innovative finance with the objective of moving beyond individual agricultural projects toward large-scale, commercially viable investments across production, processing and markets. It covers 6 key areas: Chili, Avocado, Poultry, potato, Beef and innovative finance. It represents a total investment ambition of approximately US\$1.6 billion. Partners at the summit were invited to engage in co-investment and blended finance, genetics and feed, processing and pack house capacity, market access and offtake, standards and certification.

As an innovation, Greenhouse-Enabled Horticulture will focus on expanding modern, protected and export-oriented horticulture production. The ambition is linked to growing Rwanda's agricultural exports with a target of US\$1.1 billion in agricultural exports in FY 2025/26, representing 24% year-on-year growth. Partners were invited to engage in Capital for greenhouse infrastructure, greenhouse and irrigation technology, agronomy and certification, cold chain and logistics, export offtake agreements.

The Food basket sites (FOBASI) will focus on consolidating agricultural production into larger, better-managed and market-oriented production sites. The target is 13,000+ sites; Around 490,000 hectares and 50% increase in productivity by 2029. Partners were invited to engage in inputs and mechanization, extension and digital advisory, aggregation and storage, market linkage, cooperative finance and capacity building.

The recently conceptualized Food Innovation Ecosystem will focus on building an ecosystem that enables food and agri-food innovations to move from ideas and research into scalable businesses and markets. The priority is anchored around the Rwanda Food Innovation Ecosystem Strategy (RFIES) 2026–2035. The ambition is to generate 30,000 youth jobs and agri-food exports above US\$ 650M by 2035. Partners were invited to engage in anchor and co-funding for the four accelerators, venture and SME pipeline, research and skills partnerships, regulatory and standards expertise.

IFAD, Aceli Africa and the Bank of Kigali signed a \$12 million financing agreement to expand access to finance for Rwanda's farmers' organizations. This is a blended finance initiative that is mobilizing a total of US\$21 million, combining the US\$12 million in IFAD financing with an additional US\$9 million in co-financing from Bank of Kigali. The initiative is expected to strengthen approximately 215 farmers organizations, provide financing to around 172 of them, and benefit more than 35,000 smallholder farmers, particularly women and youth, across key agricultural value chains such as maize, rice, cassava, dairy, and horticulture. IFAD's US\$12 million financing package comprises a US\$9 million loan, a US\$1.8 million grant for risk sharing and a US\$1.2 million technical assistance grant that will strengthen the governance, financial management and digital capacity of farmers' organizations, while equipping Bank of Kigali to build the tools and expertise needed to serve these organizations sustainably.

The initiative benefitted from a US\$6 million allocation to IFAD from the Business Investment Financing Track (BIFT) – a financing tool of the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) that offers multilateral development finance institutions access to flexible grant and concessional finance to implement financial innovations that address the unique investment needs of smallholder farmers and early stage micro-, small- and medium-sized agribusinesses in low-income countries.

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## 6. STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND CONTINENTAL INITIATIVES

- PepsiCo and TalusAg announced a partnership to advance fertilizer decarbonization through low-carbon ammonia environmental attributes, complementing physical low-carbon fertilizer pilots with market-based mechanisms.
- The Islamic Organisation for Food Security (IOFS) and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) Memorandum of Understanding signed at the forum will advance livestock initiatives in common Member States, particularly in Africa, where the two organizations are already implementing a joint Africa Livestock Resilience Program (ALRP).
- The Government of Argentina announced the Second Summit of Ministers of Agriculture of Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean and the relaunch of the Latin America, Caribbean and Africa Agri-Innovation Platform, building on World Bank-supported results including mobilization of USD 21 million, more than 80 collaborative projects, over 170 technologies and training of 2,200 specialists.
- The Forum recognized IFAD14 as an important opportunity to scale investment, strengthen agricultural value chains and accelerate progress toward CAADP ambitions, with approximately 60% of IFAD core resources currently invested in Africa.
- The inaugural Africa Youth Agrifood Academy brought together 80 young African leaders - farmers, agripreneurs, innovators, researchers, advocates and youth-led organizations - through a partnership of the African Union Commission, AUDA-NEPAD and AGRA.
- AUDA NEPAD, AGRA , AFSF and signed a MoU to support food systems transformation in Africa
- Under their partnership, the UAE and AFSF agreed that AFSF would serve as a platform to mobilize African leaders to participate in the Global Food Security Summit (GFSS) in Abu Dhabi. In return, GFSS will provide a dedicated platform for African leaders to engage in high-level discussions, showcase Africa's food security priorities, and strengthen partnerships and investment opportunities. AFSF will provide a pavilion at the GFSS





## 7. AGRI-FOOD INVESTMENT FORUM: FROM PIPELINE TO DEALS

The Agri-Food Investment Forum played an elevated role in 2026, connecting investors, governments, youth and women entrepreneurs, and private-sector actors. It showcased scalable, bankable agrifood innovations aligned with national and continental priorities and expanded opportunities for blended finance and investment in youth-, women- and SME-led solutions.

### Country Legacy Programmes

Ten countries — Ethiopia, Malawi, Uganda, Liberia, Zambia, Tanzania, Nigeria (States), Sierra Leone, Rwanda, and Somalia — presented Legacy Investment portfolios collectively targeting nearly USD 9.6 billion. The initiatives span sorghum, rice, maize, soybean, edible oils, avocado, horticulture, livestock and fisheries value chains, and share a common ambition: turning production surpluses and underutilized land and irrigation capacity into bankable, export-ready platforms through integrated processing, greenhouse-enabled enterprise, anchor farm models and performance-driven irrigation systems. Each is structured to link smallholder farmers to reliable offtake, unlock regional and international trade corridors, and create employment at scale for youth — demonstrating strong government commitment and alignment with CAADP and AfCFTA.

| No.          | Country                 | Investment Requested (USD) |
|--------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1            | <b>Liberia</b>          | \$1,000,000,000            |
| 2            | <b>Uganda</b>           | \$1,730,000,000            |
| 3            | <b>Zambia</b>           | \$1,000,000,000            |
| 4            | <b>Tanzania</b>         | \$370,000,000              |
| 5            | <b>Nigeria (States)</b> | \$210,000,000              |
| 6            | <b>Sierra Leone</b>     | \$16,000,000               |
| 7            | <b>Malawi</b>           | \$2,400,000,000            |
| 8            | <b>Ethiopia</b>         | \$2,830,000,000            |
| 9            | <b>Rwanda</b>           | \$2,600,000                |
| 10           | <b>Somalia</b>          | \$1,380,000                |
| <b>TOTAL</b> |                         | <b>\$9,559,980,000</b>     |

Total investment requested: US\$9.56 billion across 10 countries.

**Note:** These figures represent investment requests, not confirmed financing commitments.

AFSF partners will continue to support country-level investment pipelines and investment-ready projects, connecting governments and enterprises with financiers, investors and technical partners and moving projects from origination to financing and implementation.

## 8. THEMATIC HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUES: A CALL TO ACTION

The Forum elevated thematic platform sessions into interactive plenaries designed to define concrete solutions and priority actions. The thematic call to action covered youth, climate resilience, deals and financing, digitalization, nutrition and health, policy and state capability, sustainable production, trade and markets, and women in food systems.

- **Youth:**  
Scale enterprise finance, skills, market access, leadership pathways and participation in decision-making.
- **Climate Resilience:**  
Mobilize climate finance, mainstream adaptation and mitigation, and invest in resilient infrastructure and production systems.
- **Deals and Financing:**  
Scale blended finance, guarantees, de-risking and investable pipelines to convert commitments into transactions.
- **Digitalization:**  
Use data, digital tools and innovation to raise productivity, strengthen market access and track system-wide impact.
- **Nutrition and Health:**  
Link agricultural productivity with food quality, dietary diversity, affordability and improved health outcomes.
- **Policy and State Capability:**  
Strengthen institutions, coordination, implementation capacity and accountability for CAADP delivery.
- **Sustainable Production:**  
Scale climate-smart, resource-efficient production while improving soil, land and water management.
- **Trade and Markets:**  
Invest in corridors, logistics, processing and market systems to accelerate regional trade and value addition.
- **Women in Food Systems:**  
Expand access to finance, assets, markets, technology, leadership and enterprise opportunities for women.



## 9. LEADERSHIP, INSTITUTIONS AND ACCOUNTABILITY



- The Presidential Summit reaffirmed leaders' commitment to the CAADP and Kampala Declaration and to mobilizing public and private financing for youth- and women-led enterprises, infrastructure and value-chain development. The final number of participating 1 Head of State, 2 Head of Government (Prime Ministers), 3 former Heads of State, 7 former Heads of Government (Prime Ministers), 40 Ministers, Deputy Ministers, State Ministers and Permanent Secretaries, 23 Parliamentarians, 24 High Commissioners and Ambassadors, more than 300 CEO and heads of international institutions and more than 700 speakers, 8 chefs from various African countries, +2000 youth
- The Council of the Wise emphasized visionary and accountable leadership, stronger institutions, financing mobilization and innovation as foundations for investment-led transformation.
- The Ministerial Roundtable emphasized inter-ministerial coordination and cross-sector alignment to mobilize and channel finance and investment.
- The Parliamentarians Forum committed to use legislation, budgeting and oversight to deliver CAADP commitments, strengthen public

investment, enable responsible private-sector participation and ensure equitable and lasting benefits.

- AFSF 2026 reaffirmed the Forum's role as a platform for public-private coordination, investment facilitation and accountability, bringing together leaders, investors, development partners, research institutions, youth, women and farmers.

The AFSF 2026 Presidential Summit and Youth Townhall provided a high-level platform for African leadership to discuss how to accelerate the transformation of the continent's agrifood systems, with particular attention to investment, jobs, food and nutrition security, resilience, and implementation of the Kampala CAADP agenda.

A central message was the need to move from commitments to implementation and investment. Africa has significant agricultural potential, but realizing it requires stronger national investment pipelines, greater domestic resource mobilization, private-sector participation, blended finance, improved infrastructure and policies that make agrifood businesses competitive.

The Summit also emphasized youth as a driving force for transformation. In the engagement with President Paul Kagame, young people were positioned not simply as beneficiaries but as entrepreneurs, innovators and future leaders of Africa's food economy. The discussion highlighted the importance of access to finance, technology, skills, markets and an enabling environment, while also stressing young people's own responsibility to innovate, take initiative and build viable enterprises.

Another key takeaway was that Africa's food security must increasingly be linked to economic sovereignty and industrialization. Producing more food is not sufficient: countries need to strengthen processing, storage, logistics and intra-African trade, reduce food loss and waste, and retain greater value within African economies. The Presidential Summit ultimately reinforced a simple direction for the Forum: translate political ambition into investment, businesses, jobs and measurable results, with governments, the private sector, development partners and Africa's young generation sharing responsibility for delivery.

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## 10. MAJOR FORUM OUTCOMES AND PLATFORMS

- AFSF 2026 delivered 219 plenaries, roundtables and forums, alongside hub programming, side events and breakthrough sessions focused on jobs, nutrition and resilience.
- Curated investment roundtables - 'The Table' - brought together strategic partners, investors, financiers and development partners ready to deploy capital into Africa's agrifood systems.
- Breakthrough events showcased flagship initiatives and scalable solutions demonstrating how coordinated partnerships can unlock finance, accelerate innovation and expand market opportunities.
- The TEDx show: brought 16 high profile speakers. The TEDx stage was intended to provide a platform for ideas and conversations on Africa's food systems, innovation and transformation.
- The Agri-Food Expo showcased 69 international and Rwandan agrifood enterprises, SMEs and youth- and women-led startups, including innovations in agro-processing, digital tools and climate-smart solutions.
- The inaugural Africa Food Fair, hosted by the African Food Fellowship, AFSF and the City of Kigali, connected food, culture, music, crafts and food business with investment and market opportunity.
- The Culinary Village was a featured experience at the Africa Food Festival, organized alongside the Africa Food Systems Forum (AFSF) 2026 in Kigali. It brought together 8 African chefs, farmers, food entrepreneurs, scientists and young leaders to celebrate African cuisine while promoting healthier and more sustainable food systems



## 11. COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA REACH



- AFSF 2026 major innovations were the 360 media room and the launch of the AFSF radio through the set-up of the radio podcast studio in partnership with Farm Radio International
- AFSF 2026 achieved strong media interest & visibility, being covered by more than 150 accredited local, pan-African and international journalists over the 5 days.
- Coverage was extended by 8 social media influencers and 25 content creators representing 10 different nationalities. Combined, they produced over a hundred (100) original pieces of content throughout the Summit week while also amplifying AFS Forum content.
- During the Forum week, 70 voxpops were filmed, capturing perspectives from delegates.
- Through the partnership with Farm Radio, 43 interviews were conducted on the ground, 10 in French and 33 in English. These will be aired over the next months through the over 1,000 radio stations that Farm Radio partners with across Africa.
- 26 podcast episodes were recorded during the Forum with approximately 80 delegates participating in the sessions and sharing their insights.
- Daily newsletters were issued from Day 0 through Day 5, keeping partners and the AFSF stakeholder ecosystem informed.
- CNBC Africa's coverage, as part of its official media partnership included a dedicated panel discussion, focus interviews with Amath Pathé and H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn, and more than 16 editorial interviews with partners including FPRI, IDRC, PepsiCo, IFAD, the UAE Delegation and ACIAR, among others.
- Earned media coverage extended well beyond CNBC Africa, with more than 15 interviews secured across outlets including CGTN, Nation Media Group, Devex, RFI, The New Times, Africa24, Africa Business, New Business Ethiopia, Tribune Nigeria, Global Issues Zimbabwe, Africa Brief Malawi and a range of Rwanda-based media outlets. Partner press releases were also syndicated across these channels, extending the Forum's reach further still.

## 12. AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

AFSF 2026 recognized leadership, innovation and entrepreneurship across Africa's food systems.

- **AGRA@20 Awards:** Recognized individuals and institutions whose contributions have shaped Africa's agriculture and AGRA's journey over the past two decades.
- **VALUE4HER Women Agripreneur of the Year Award (WAYA):** Recognized women agripreneurs, including Marina Kamanzi (Rwanda), Ifeoma Mary Okonkwo, Doreen Jean Nsasiirwe (Uganda), Peserverance Muzeya (Zimbabwe), Cherotich Rutto (Kenya), and Sakalé Traoré (Mali).
- **GoGetta Agripreneur Prize:** The competition attracted more than 4,250 entries from 47 African countries. Nabakka Sandra of Sandi AI Technologies (Uganda) and Israel Smart Obidah of Smartel Agri-tech (Nigeria) were listed as grand-prize winners, receiving USD 50,000 each. The Impact Award Category recorded a total of USD 60,000 for four winners who include: Jolis Nduwimana, Wege Company, Burundi, Josiane Mujawaye-zu, Amazing Insect Ltd, Rwanda, Baba Djibo, Djibo Services, Mali and Olivia Okinyi, Econasi Limited, Kenya. Finally the Catalytic Award category recorded a total USD 6,000 of six winners who include: Nancy Githumbi, Sincy Group Holdings, Kenya, Chaimae Sqalli Adoui, Foodeals, Morocco, Zalalem Endalew, ZTN PLC, Ethiopia, Godfrey Noel, Kilimora, Kenya, Daouda Faye, B2C Agribusiness, Senegal, and Uche Keneth, Smokeless Briqs Energy Solutions, Nigeria.



### 13. THE KIGALI DELIVERY AGENDA: FROM COMMITMENTS TO RESULTS

The Forum agreed that the value of AFSF 2026 will be measured not by the number of announcements alone, but by the quality of implementation that follows. The next phase should therefore organize follow-up around a delivery agenda that links commitments to capital, projects, implementation and measurable outcomes.

| Delivery Step      | Action                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Consolidate</b> | Finalize and validate the AFSF 2026 commitments register, including financial amounts, policy commitments, partnerships, technical assistance and country-specific actions. |
| <b>Match</b>       | Connect country investment pipelines and enterprises with investors, development-finance institutions and technical partners.                                               |
| <b>Finance</b>     | Advance bankable projects through blended finance, guarantees, de-risking and tailored financial instruments.                                                               |
| <b>Implement</b>   | Support governments and partners to move flagship initiatives from announcement to execution.                                                                               |
| <b>Track</b>       | Establish a transparent mechanism to monitor delivery at country and continental levels, with clear ownership and measurable milestones.                                    |
| <b>Report</b>      | Provide regular progress updates through AFSF platforms and report on delivery at the next Annual Summit in 2027                                                            |



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## 14. CLOSING DECLARATION

AFSF 2026 reaffirmed that Africa's food future will be shaped by the decisions made today: how the continent mobilizes and deploys capital, how it invests in its young people and women, how it builds infrastructure and markets, how it adapts to climate change, and how it holds institutions and partners accountable for delivery.

From Kigali, participants called for a new decade of implementation - one in which Africa moves from potential to productivity, from fragmentation to partnership, from commitments to investment, and from investment to measurable transformation.

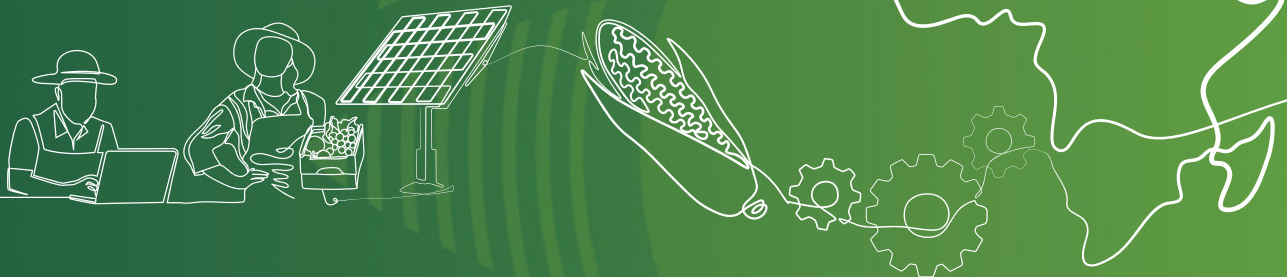
**GROWING JOBS • NOURISHING NATIONS • BUILDING RESILIENCE**





# AFRICA FOOD SYSTEMS FORUM 2026

Investing in Agri-Food Systems:  
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