



# Impact

July - September 2017

Towards Africa's Agricultural Transformation

AFRICAN  
GREEN  
REVOLUTION  
FORUM 2017  
4-8 SEPTEMBER  
ABIDJAN  
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**Tapping the Potential: Youth Driving Africa's Agricultural Transformation**

**Going digital will keep us well fed and make our farmers rich**

**African Governments on a Race to Halt Armyworm Catastrophe**

**Africa's Hidden Drought: A Desert of Agriculture Policy**



## AGRA's Package of Interventions



### **Input Systems** - Strengthening agricultural input systems, technology & adoption

AGRA is supporting and partnering with both the public and private sectors to develop the systems that ensure sustained availability, delivery and adoption of improved seed and fertilizers, with a particular focus on getting these inputs into the hands of women farmers. AGRA believes that once a farmer can profitably invest in seeds, fertilizers and associated good agronomic practices, the market becomes the real driver of agricultural transformation.

Through our work in seeds and soil health, AGRA is building on its experience, expertise and partnerships to take innovative crop varieties and soil and crop management techniques to scale, to help farmers confront local constraints to production and emerging threats such as climate change.



### **Resilience Building** - Growth for structured markets for quality produce & operational capacity of output systems

AGRA is promoting interventions that enhance the resiliency of the production system to climate change and climate variability. This includes developing more efficient marketing systems, introducing post-harvest technologies to close yield gaps and ensure farmers can sustainably sell quality product to consumer markets.



### **Agribusiness Development & Innovation Finance** - Strengthening business growth and finance & risk management

AGRA is working to develop the capacity of local agri-businesses to access markets, support local and national financial institutions, this includes providing affordable financing to smallholder farmers and local SMEs in a bid to transform farms and businesses into sustainable and profitable enterprises. In its interventions AGRA catalyzes public investments impact in supporting farmers and leveraging private sector investment in agriculture to build sustainability and contribute to overall economic development.

Critical to this is the participation of both in providing solutions for Public Private Partnerships in the agriculture sector. AGRA has a clear role in catalyzing and facilitating the realization of public and private investments in specific value chains where the private sector has shown interest by helping to get these value chains functioning efficiently.



### **Policy & Country Support** - Strengthening national and regional level systems and reducing impact of agricultural volatility

AGRA has been and will continue to shape the continent's CAADP implementation through support to the African Union Commission for country National Agricultural Investment Plan (NAIPS) review as well as playing a critical role in supporting the biannual review process through technical assistance. we are building government capacity to strategize, fund and deliver on agricultural strategies while supporting sector coordination and accountability.

As agricultural development is significantly influenced by national level policies, investments, and institutional arrangements, AGRA has developed custom-tailored business plans for individual countries and within each agro-ecology. By analyzing and advocating for critical policy reforms, AGRA is working with governments to strengthen national capacities to deepen and sustain the gains made through policy decisions and encourage significant investments of public resources into the agriculture sector.





## AGRA is catalyzing Africa's agricultural transformation

AGRA is a partner of choice, the go-to-partner for agricultural transformation for sustainable development in Africa. We are sought after for our technical and innovative approaches

## AGRA is African-led

AGRA is an African led alliance delivering uniquely African solutions that help farmers sustainably boost production and connect to rapidly growing agriculture markets.

## AGRA is farmer centred

AGRA invests in Africa's family farmers - Millions of hardworking men and women typically farming on less than a hectare of land. They are the backbone of Africa's agriculture, economies and future.

## AGRA is partnership driven

All of AGRA's work is delivered through partnerships with governments, regional and continental bodies, farmers, community leaders, businesses, civil society groups, researchers, philanthropists and donors

## AGRA is leading a knowledge culture

AGRA is a thought leader influencing and inspiring the trust of leaders, donors and partners to model better ways to implement, deliver and account for sustainable development in Africa.



## Africa's Growth lies with Smallholder Farmers

**A**s the world's population surges towards 9 billion by mid-century, food production has failed to keep pace, creating rising food shortages and a global food crisis ahead, according to the United Nations. To avoid mass starvation, the world needs to produce 70 per cent more food by 2050.

The greatest potential to deliver that growth exists in Africa. The African continent is home to 25 per cent of the world's agricultural land. Yet it produces just 10 per cent of the world's food. That compares with China, which has just 10 per cent of the world's agricultural land, but produces 20 per cent of the global food supply.

If Africa can now rise to the challenge of upgrading its agricultural output, it will open the way to a takeoff in GDP, greater youth employment, and the potential of positive trade balances and rising currencies.

Yet, the continent faces two profound issues in delivering its own agricultural turnaround, with its agricultural industry both rural and fragmented, and built upon smallholder farmers. It is the continent's rural areas that have been most deprived of resources and investment: with the straight-line consequence that the continent's core industry continues to underperform, and underperform badly.

The allure of city living has left rural areas neglected and strained Africa's urban infrastructure and services, including health, water and sanitation, creating rising social problems and competition for city space. Indeed, Africa is now the fastest urbanizing continent in the world, with 60 per cent of all Africans forecast to be living in cities by 2050, according to UN Habitat.

But urban areas are dependent on rural populations for food. Moreover, agriculture holds more power in creating youth employment than any other sector, at a time when 10 million youth are entering the labor market each year in Africa, according to the 2015 Africa Agriculture Status Report (AASR).

In late April this year, at the G20 Conference in Germany, panelists at the ONE World no hunger meeting powerfully demonstrated the importance of attracting youth to the agricultural sector.

Rural youth are the future of the sector, with the capacity for innovation and entrepreneurship. Yet their participation has been hindered by the perception that the sector is unattractive due to risks, costs, low-profitability and agriculture's labor intensive nature.

Additionally, rural youth have limited access to educational programs that provide agricultural skills, often limited access to land, and a lack of financial services tailored to their needs, as well as poor infrastructure and utilities.

The outcome of the ONE World no hunger meeting was the Berlin Charter, which seeks to create opportunities for the younger generation and women in the rural world by mapping out a model for rural development to achieve food security, long-term jobs and improved livelihoods.

It calls on governments to put in place agricultural, nutrition and anti-poverty policies to "lift at least 600 million people out of hunger and undernutrition" and "cut youth underemployment at least by half" by 2025. The Charter with a core focus on smallholder farmers, was presented to the G20 leaders at their meeting in July in Hamburg,

# President's Note





Agriculture accounts for 32 per cent of Africa's GDP and employs more than 60 per cent of the continent's total labor force. But in order to realize its full potential, the political and economic environment needs to be conducive for smallholder farmers, who make up 70 per cent of the sub-Saharan Africa population. With smallholder output hampered by insecurity of land tenure and unequal access to land, land policy formulation and reforms are critical in Africa in order to boost agricultural production. Rwanda has provided a benchmark in this, with over 10 million land parcels now titled and owned individually.

Other problems smallholder farmers face include limited access to markets, finance, high-yielding seeds, farm inputs and mechanization, which, invariably, lead to low levels of productivity. External shocks such as climate change have further hampered agricultural production.

African countries urgently need to support smallholder farmers in order to capture the continent's \$300bn food market - projected to be worth US \$1 trillion by 2030. At present, only five per cent of Africa's imported cereals come from other African countries, with intra-African trade running consistently at around 15 per cent of Africa's total trade - which is amongst the lowest intra-regional trade levels in the world (UNECA). In fact, African governments have stepped-up efforts to transform agriculture over the last decade, delivering often exceptional results.

Ethiopia, for instance, has invested in extension workers, rural roads and modern market-building enabling cereal production to increase and increasing the number of calories its rural people consume by roughly 50 per cent. As a result, Ethiopia is now reducing poverty at the rate of four per cent a year (ONE.org, 2014).

Burkina Faso, a landlocked country, has also made remarkable progress in poverty reduction and food security with government investment in the sector averaging 17 per cent of total expenditure for the past 10 years (ONE.org, 2014). Ghana's agricultural transformation agenda has, likewise, remained a top priority for successive governments, spurring reforms and heavy investment.

Yet as these early investments now move these particular economies up the growth ladder, other African governments have been slower to prioritize agriculture, despite the demonstrable financial gains and growing consequences in protest on food shortages.

As the G20 now reviews its strongest commitment yet to African agriculture and rural development, African governments and investors, likewise, need to heed the clarion call to action, and move agricultural reform and smallholders to the center of the continent's political and economic debate.



**Dr. Agnes Kalibata**, President, AGRA  
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# Internet of Things

Technological development follows no physical or invisible boundaries and expands its roots in all directions. Likewise, the Internet of Things (IoT) has its applications in fields of home security, Industry (as Industrial Internet of Things) and smart cities. But technological development within the IoT has even sown its seeds in the agricultural sector, leading to the Agricultural Internet of Things (AloT). Call it precision agriculture in IBM's own words; it uses big data and the IoT to provide insights into current and predicted water and soil moisture levels to farmers and water service providers, who then act as necessary to respond to the situation. The information is delivered to end users through apps installed on smartphones and tablets.

On the downside however, McKinsey Global Institute recent research shows the agricultural sector as having the lowest digital penetration rate of any industry. Industries rated the highest, such as finance, have seen huge improvements in productivity and the addition of new services, while agriculture lags behind.

Nevertheless the future can be a different picture altogether. It is forecasted that by the year 2050, the Agricultural IoT will increase food production by 70% and be feeding up to 9.6 billion people. Product quality, higher crop productivity, resource conservation and cost control – these are just a few of the ways the AloT promises to transform farming and food production in the future.

AloT is transforming the agriculture industry and enabling farmers to contend with the enormous challenges they face. According to FAO, the industry must overcome increasing water shortages, limited availability of lands, difficult to manage costs, while meeting the increasing consumption needs of a global population that is expected to grow by 70% by 2050.

New innovative AloT applications are addressing these issues and increasing the quality, quantity, sustainability and cost effectiveness of agricultural production. Today's large and local farms can, for example, leverage IoT to remotely monitor sensors that can detect soil moisture, crop growth and livestock feed levels, remotely manage and control their smart connected harvesters and irrigation equipment, and utilize artificial intelligence based analytics to quickly analyze operational data combined with 3rd party information, such as weather services, to provide new insights and improve decision making.

Agriculture in Africa is bound to become a whole lot interesting as AloT begins to take root. For Africa the choice is not if but when we align with technology at the core, it could help change lives by raising food production in sub-Saharan region where 95% of arable land relies on rainfall-fed agriculture.

For Africa it is a 'Beam Me Up Scott' moment.

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The foundations and framework for a renaissance in Africa, are being put in place. Let's boost this momentum and uplift the lives of millions of smallholder farmers who are key to Africa's sustainable agricultural transformation.

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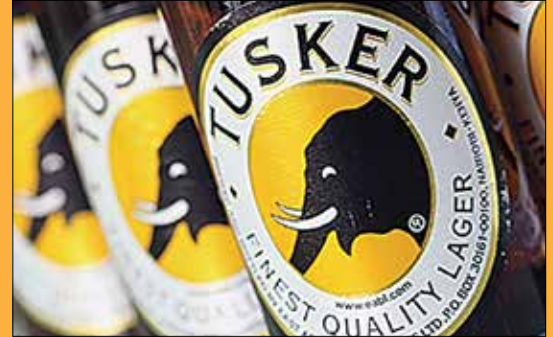
AGRA TO 2021  
Growing Africa's Agriculture

## 45,000 farmers to get East African Breweries deals in \$147 million investment in Kenya

Beer maker East African Breweries Limited (EABL)'s planned Sh15 billion factory in Kisumu will see up to 45,000 farmers contracted to supply sorghum which the firm uses to produce Senator keg, a low-cost beer.

EABL has contracted 30,000 farmers in Siaya, Migori, Kisumu, Homa Bay, Kitui, Makueni and Tharaka Nithi to meet the 20,000 metric tonnes annual demand of the cereal. Construction of the new brewery started in July with operations expected to commence within 18 to 24 months.

Speaking about the initiative, President Uhuru Kenyatta said "The multi-billion shilling commitment by EABL is projected to grow demand for sorghum to 40,000 metric tonnes in the next five years. As a result, gross additional farmer earnings are expected to reach over Sh6 billion annually over the next decade," he said during an address at State House".



## AfDB President predicts Dangote will become largest world rice exporter

In April 2017, The President of the African Development Bank (AfDB), Mr. Akinwumi Adesina, predicted that Africa's richest man, Aliko Dangote, will become the largest exporter of rice in the world by 2021. He said Africa should focus on agriculture to drive growth and employment on the continent. Adesina, according to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), recalled that during his tenure as Nigeria's Minister of Agriculture, Dangote decided to invest in local production of rice due to government's import substitution policies.

He said Dangote initially planned a \$300 million investment in production and processing of rice in Nigeria but later changed it to \$1 billion three months after. "If they continue that policy, he would probably be the single largest producer of rice in the world in about four years. The reason I was so excited about that is that agriculture is cool; agriculture is a business and agriculture pays," Adesina said.

Dangote, the Chairman of Dangote Group, said he ventured into rice cultivation because of government's interest to revive agriculture as the mainstay of the economy and reduce importation of food that could be produced locally.



## Uganda to stop export of unprocessed cereals to East Africa

A major shift in the cereals trade in the region is in the offing as Uganda implements a policy on value addition that will compel dealers to process commodities before export.

Ugandan traders have been exporting grain to Burundi, Rwanda, Kenya, DR Congo and South Sudan, and importing maize bran and other feeds processed from cereals, particularly from Kenya. But a reversal is expected where these countries will import only flour and byproducts from the grains like maize, soybean, groundnuts, peanuts and tubers like cassava.

The latest development is intended to solve a livestock feed shortage, ensure feed quality, control contamination and build a strong livestock and poultry feeds industry in Uganda. Uganda has close to 73 million heads of livestock but these largely depend on foraging, which is often affected by prolonged dry spells. Contribution from the livestock subsector has stagnated at 4.4 per cent of revenues for over a decade. The increasing demand for livestock products such as milk, meat and eggs, provides an opportunity for growing the agro-industry.



## Sahel Capital raises \$66 million to boost Nigeria's agricultural transformation

Sahel Capital on Wednesday announced the closure of a \$66million debut funding process aimed at driving agricultural growth in Nigeria. Sahel is the manager of the Fund for Agricultural Finance in Nigeria (FAFIN).

According to the company, the funding process saw the African Development Bank (AfDB), CDC Group and the Dutch Good Growth Fund, collectively committing \$31million to FAFIN. With this additional capital, it plans to invest in 9-10 additional firms that would establish over 4,000 direct and indirect jobs. A move which would improve the lives of more than 36,000 farmers across Nigeria.

KfW Development Bank has also offered to raise its commitments to FAFIN by another \$10million. This would increase the fund size to \$76million by December 2017. FAFIN is a private equity fund which provides financial, capacity building and technical assistance to selected SMEs in the Nigerian agribusiness sector.



## Flour crisis as maize yield to fall 5.1 million bags in Kenya



The current dry spell in agriculturally rich counties of North Rift is projected to hit maize production by 20 per cent, adding to another problem of armyworm invasion that has threatened to cut the yields in this year's crop. The ministry forecasts harvests to be 20 per cent less than the projected 40 million 90-kg bags or 32 million — which is 5.1 million bags less than last year's harvest of 37.1 million.

This will mark the second year in a row that production of the staple has declined, and points to worse food crisis next year compared to the ongoing maize crunch should Kenya not consider early imports next year.

The price of a two-kilogramme packet of maize flour jumped by nearly half to Sh150 in April from the similar period last year,

prompting the introduction of a Sh6 billion subsidy that lowered the cost to Sh90. Maize crop in the North Rift has reached the tussling stage where the cob requires rain to allow grain filling.

The erratic rain comes as the regions smart from the crop-eating caterpillars known as fall armyworms that ravaged parts of North Rift, especially Trans-Nzoia.

The pest threatens production at a time when Kenya is battling effects of the drought that has pushed the cost of maize flour and other foods to record levels and driven up inflation to a five-year high of 11.70 per cent last month from 11.48 per cent in April.

## **Banks warm to agrifinance as government sends right signals in Ghana**

Bankers are increasingly becoming amenable to agriculture financing, which they have long avoided for its unduly risky nature, on the back of recent attempts by government to inject confidence into the sector.

The central bank, in October 2016, announced a GH¢100 million guarantee to banks that lend to the sector, whilst the Akufo-Addo administration has given indication it is going big on agriculture, with its flagship Planting for Food and Jobs Programme that seeks to create some 750,000 jobs by its second year of implementation.

The banks have found confidence in government's decision to take a lead role in bolstering agricultural productivity, and have given indication they are ready to support.

Managing Director of Royal Bank, Osei Asafo-Adjei, noted that banks are finally looking at agric differently because the government is leading the conversation and is acting, including guaranteeing loans, subsidising inputs and training experts to support farmers across the country.

Already, the Agricultural Development Bank (ADB) has announced a total of GH¢450 million to, among other initiatives, support the government's 'Planting for Food and Jobs' programme. Before this programme, the bank supported agric with only GH¢500million between 2010 to 2015.



## **Northern Region records high grain output in Kenya**

The Northern Region saw high grain production in the 2016 farming season, with farmers expressing gratitude to government and other donor agencies for their support.

A total of 142,027 metric tonnes (MT) of rice was produced in the region from the 78,188 hectares of land cultivated by rice farmers in 2016, according to data sourced from the Statistics, Research and Information Directorate (SRID), of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA) titled "Northern Regional Production Data for rice production 2016".

Also, about 227,541 metric tonnes of maize, 117,524 metric tonnes of sorghum and 113,631 metric tonnes of soya bean were produced in the region.

While an average yields of the grains of maize, rice, sorghum and soya bean were 1.61, 1.84, 1.69 and 1.68 metric tonnes per hector respectfully.

This was due to the technical support provided to the rice farmers and also linking them to the market to sell their produce helped the farmers generate some revenue to continue with their rice farming this year.





## Agriculture experts fine-tune METASIP III (2018-2021) in Ghana

Another phase of developing the agriculture medium term development plan (2018-2021) ended in Accra in April 2017 with stakeholders' input which has become imperative since the Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA II 2014-2017) ends this year.

The two-day workshop dubbed: "Domestication of Malabo Commitments into the 2nd Generation National Agriculture Investment Plan" (NAIP), provided a platform for stakeholders to validate the national agricultural development framework which is to guide the development and implementation of the Medium Term Agriculture Sector Investment Plan (METASIP III).

It also provided the platform for stakeholders to assess progress made on the roadmap for the development of the METASIP III. Sixty participants representing senior level government officials, policymakers, technical experts working on different aspects of agriculture development across the food chain, representing private sector associations, and representatives of research and development institutions, CSOs, farmer associations and agriculture finance institutions took part.



## The Lid is Off for Nigerian Agriculture

Without a doubt, the Feed Nigeria Summit (FNS) held in May 2017, set a new standard for agricultural convocations in Nigeria. Given the quality of discourse and the connection to practical realities, it is not in doubt that the Summit provided the Nigerian agricultural sector with the much needed instigation for enhanced productivity.

Pitched against the backdrop of the current economic challenges facing the nation, the FNS could not have come at a better time. Nigeria is in dire need of a bail-out and no Sector of the economy is better suited to provide such value than agriculture. As the primal communications platform of the Sector, which has provided hands-on promotional value to NaijaAgric, AgroNigeria recognized the country's determining role in ensuring that Africa becomes food secure and as such, we set out to plot a message which would resonate, not just with local stakeholders, but with regional players as well. And so, the Feed Nigeria Summit was birthed.

Given the "homegrown impetus" of the HGSFP, the High Level Session resolved that agricultural productivity should be leapfrogged through the promotion of farm practices and techniques using regenerative agriculture and agro ecological practices. This, when viewed from the prism of the HGSFP, requires intense public-private partnership, robust legislative engineering, long term fiscal and institutional financing as well as strong commitments of sub-national stakeholders.

The Summit brought to the fore, the tremendous work being done by development partners in the "food and nutrition" space and it was quite refreshing to hear the likes of The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition; the Scale-Up Nutrition Business Network and Synergos all connect the dots between food security and improved post-harvest handling practices.





# Tapping the Potential: Youth Driving Africa's Agricultural Transformation

By H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo



**T**here is a deepening consensus among economic experts in Africa and around the world that agriculture is Africa's golden ticket to prosperity. To cite one example, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) contends that growth in the agricultural sector is 11 times as effective at reducing poverty as growth in other sectors in sub-Saharan Africa. Ironically, African youth, who stand to gain the most from a prosperous continent, hold a diverging view about the potential of agriculture.

If you were to conduct a survey to determine the attitudes of African youth towards agriculture, you would be surprised to learn that many youth believe agriculture is anything but lucrative. This is illustrated by the fact that the average age of farmers in sub-Saharan Africa is 60, despite the fact that 60 per cent of Africa's population is Under 24 years of age, according to UN data.

Most young Africans think of farming as backbreaking labour that pays peanuts. This view, though largely inaccurate, is to some extent understandable. There are many negative perceptions about farming in Africa that discourage the youth from going to the farms. It is public knowledge, for instance, that smallholder farmers are the image of African poverty in the public imagination. This is a view that has for decades been perpetuated and reinforced in the press and in African literature.

Admittedly, African farmers were historically disadvantaged, particularly during and the immediate post-

colonial era. Furthermore, poverty among peasant farmers is still an issue today in many parts of the continent.

Nevertheless, a growing number of farmers are turning around their fortunes by embracing improved seeds and inputs, value addition and plugging into global value chains. Farmers are increasingly viewing farming as a business and not just a way to subsist.

Agribusiness, which is the business of agriculture and all aspects of agriculture and food production, is gaining momentum and we need to bring the youth onboard by promoting this narrative at every turn. Agribusiness must be made to be seen as a profitable, glamorous and dignifying business just like many other businesses.

If the youth, who comprise an estimated 65 per cent of Africa's population, don't venture into agribusiness, then there is little chance that agriculture will have a transformative impact on the continent's fortunes.

The youth need to view agriculture from an entrepreneurial perspective. They need to proactively identify and create markets for fresh produce and processed food products. For instance, many young Africans are excited by the cultural, economic and political transformation that the prevailing wave of urbanisation has brought about. But are they also excited by the opportunity that urbanisation presents for those willing to roll up their sleeves and work in the farms? They should be. Urban areas are a key drivers of demand for food products.





The World Bank estimates that by 2030, demand for food in our rapidly growing urban areas will create a market worth US \$1 trillion. This underlines the opportunity for youth in areas like value addition and agro-processing.

Furthermore, youth who get into value addition and agro-processing will ultimately plug into global value chains and access key markets in continents like Europe and North America. Presently, most of our agricultural exports are raw produce, which essentially means that we are exporting food processing jobs abroad. These are jobs that, if kept in Africa through local food processing, would have mitigated the escalating youth unemployment rate in Africa.

Evidently, agriculture is an area that could transform the fortunes of African youth. We therefore need to encourage them to appreciate the reality that the farm is also a viable route to wealth and prosperity.

However, it is important to note that the buck does not stop with the youth. African governments also have a role to play. Budgetary support for agriculture to the tune of at least 10 per cent of GDP, as required by the 2003 Maputo Declaration, is of great importance. Many African governments are yet to meet this target.

Equally important is the need for African governments to reach out to private sector and civil society to forge partnerships that can benefit farmers in Africa. Platforms such as the annual African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) are providing opportunities for such. For example, the 2016 AGRF secured commitments worth US \$30 billion from private sector, governments and donors towards Africa's agricultural sector.

Even as we speak about the challenges in Africa's agricultural sector, it is equally important that we highlight the success stories and, in a special way, the people and institutions behind them. Recognizing and rewarding trailblazers in Africa's agricultural sector will prompt more meaningful contributions to Africa's agricultural sector.

In this regard, the Africa Food Prize, whose selection committee I chair, has been instrumental in rewarding individuals who have positively contributed to making African farms more productive, profitable and resilient. The US \$100,000 prize celebrates Africans who are taking control of Africa's agriculture agenda. It also puts a spotlight on bold initiatives and technical innovations in individual African countries that can be replicated across the continent to create a new era of food security and economic opportunity for all Africans.



**H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo** is the Chair of the Africa Food Prize Committee and Former President of Nigeria.





## African Governments on a Race to Halt Armyworm Catastrophe

By Joe DeVries

**W**hen my team and I visited Felix Jumbe, of Peacock Seeds, a hybrid seed grower in Salima, Malawi, in March this year, we were shocked by the destruction caused by the fall armyworm. Virtually every plant in every row of the 20 Ha hybrid section of the Peacock Seeds farm had been severely damaged.

Jumbe and his farm manager had sprayed the field four times with pesticides, but to no avail, triggering losses of \$150,000 on just that one 20 Ha field.

The scale of the damage in Malawi prompted AGRA to issue a call to action that has since drawn together scientists from across the agricultural sector. But the worm has continued to spread, now to Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, and most recently to Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

It has so far destroyed over 300,000 hectares of maize across Africa, which is the staple food to more than 200 million people in the region.

Kenya's Trans Nzoia County, considered the country's food basket, has, alone, lost 103,876 hectares of maize, in destruction that is set to cause serious maize shortages ahead and comes hard on the heels of a drought-triggered shortfall.

Authorities have reported that in Rwanda, the pest has infested maize and sorghum crops across a full quarter of the country's cropped land. The worm has similarly infested 90,000 hectares of maize in Zambia, 17,000 hectares in Malawi, 130,000 hectares in Zimbabwe, approximately 50,000 hectares of maize and millet in Namibia, over 40 per cent of the crops in Uganda, and over 20,000 hectares of maize in northern and south-eastern Tanzania.

The Center for Agricultural and Biosciences International (CABI) estimates the losses to Africa's maize could cost the continent \$3bn in the coming year.

Nor is maize the sole casualty. The fall armyworm feeds on more than 80 plant species, including rice, rice, sorghum, sugarcane and vegetable crops.

Little is known, however, about how it came to Africa. Scientists suggest the insect may have arrived in imported food from America. Or it might have crossed the Atlantic in wind currents, with the wind borne adult moths capable of covering vast distances.

But its subsequent spread has been ferocious. The worm was first reported in West Africa in January last year. It quickly



spread to Central Africa, before reaching Zambia and spreading across all of southern Africa.

Farmers and governments have scrambled to respond. Ghana, for instance, declared a state of emergency as the worm swept through its crops. The Zambian government deployed its national air force to transport pesticides across the country for spraying. Likewise, Rwandan soldiers have been diverted to spraying fields. But the impact has been limited, often because the treatment has been applied too late in the worm's life cycle.

There is hope a biological agent could help in future. Lancaster University professor Kenneth Wilson found a virus that killed the loosely related African armyworm. Replicating the same virus in the fall armyworm could create a viable pesticide against the insect.

Lessons can also be drawn from Brazil, which has grappled with the worm for decades, even as the pest has developed resistance to a growing range of pesticides. The country spends some \$600m a year in the battle, but has benefitted from the worm's vulnerability to freezing temperatures, meaning that turning soils in the cold season can kill the pupae and larvae between harvests.

In Africa, cold is not a ready tool, with rising temperature levels further fueling the worm's spread.

Curbing the damage ahead, therefore, requires concerted action, in which the farmer is placed at the heart of the fight.

It is vital to generate a massive awareness campaign to educate farmers on early detection signs, so that infestations are tackled early and at speed. To be effective, farmers also need to know exactly what they need to do - which pesticides are effective, and how they need to be applied. They also need to access supplies, and may require support in applying control measures rapidly enough.

Enabling our agricultural communities with quick and coordinated responses is now essential, to ensure the continent stays ahead of the plague.

African governments are urgently identifying capacity and building strategic alliances with key stakeholders in the agricultural sector to achieve both short and long-term action plans to address this pest.

This drive offers the hope, over time, of delivering an integrated management strategy that can save Africa's agricultural sector, which feeds the continent and is key to Africa's economic transformation.

Other parts of Africa can draw lessons from Southern Africa. Despite major infestation by the worm, the region has recorded bumper harvests this season. Although this greatly attributed to

increased acreage under cultivation and higher use of improved seed varieties and fertilizer as a response to the devastating drought, this may also point to greater resilience against the worm.



**Dr. Joe DeVries** is the Vice President for Program Development and Innovation at the Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA).





**AFRICA  
FOOD  
PRIZE**

Securing our future

## Over 600 Nominees for the 2017 Africa Food Prize

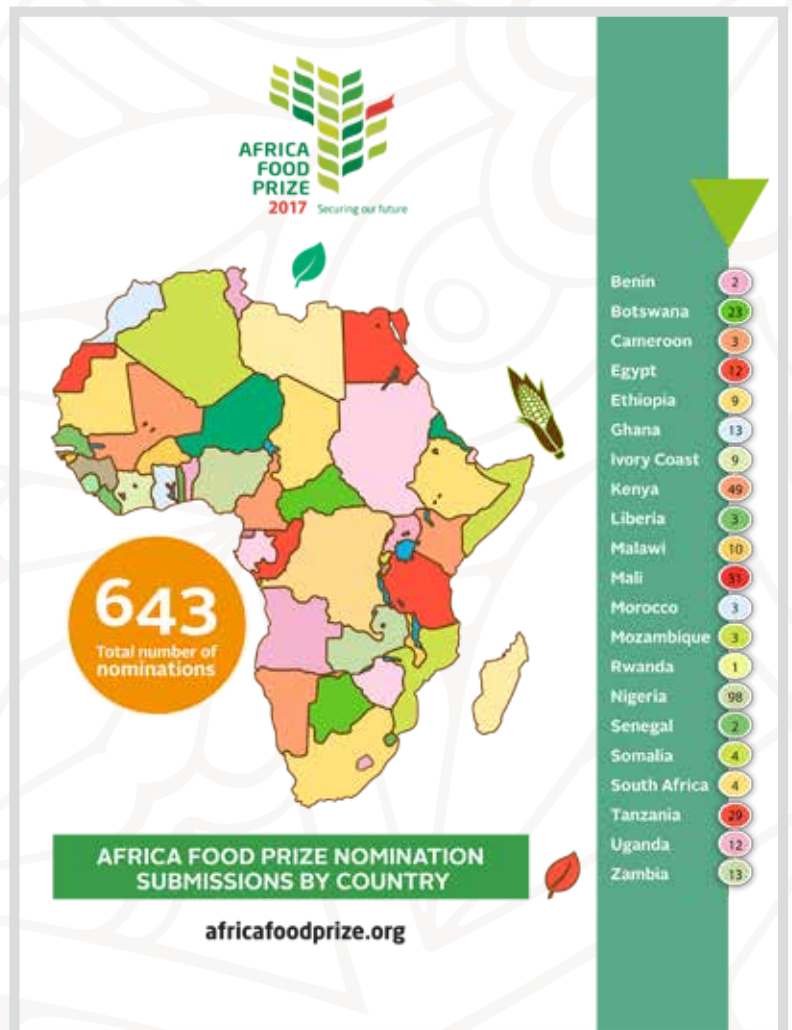
**A**s the curtains closed on the nomination period for the 2017 Africa Food Prize, a total of 643 outstanding individuals, projects and institutions were put forward for consideration for the prestigious Prize. This represents a 100 per cent growth in the number of nominees from last year when the prize was inaugurated.

The nominations came from over 20 African countries in Africa as well as from countries outside the continent. Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, Mali and Botswana led with the highest number of nominees per country.

Now in its second year, the US \$100,000 prize recognizes innovative individuals or institutions that are leading the effort to change the reality of farming in Africa from a struggle to survive to a business that thrives. It puts a bright spotlight on bold initiatives and technical innovations that can be replicated across the continent to create a new era of food security and economic opportunity for all Africans.

In 2016, the inaugural Prize was awarded to Dr. Kanayo F. Nwanze of Nigeria, the immediate former President of the Rome-based International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), for his outstanding leadership and passionate advocacy in putting Africa's smallholder farmers at the center of the global agricultural agenda.

The 2017 winner will be chosen by the Africa Food Prize Committee, an independent body of preeminent leaders that is chaired by the former Nigerian President, H.E Olusegun Obasanjo. The other committee members are Dr. Vera Songwe, Dr. Eleni Z. Gabre-Madhin, Prof. Joachim von Braun and Amb. Sheila Sisulu. The winner will be unveiled at a high-profile gala dinner at the African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) on Wednesday 5 September 2017 in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.





# Elevating heroes of agriculture



The Africa Food Prize is the preeminent award recognizing an outstanding individual or institution that is leading the effort to change the reality of farming in Africa—from a struggle to survive to a business that thrives. **The US \$100,000 prize celebrates Africans who are taking control of Africa's agriculture agenda.** It puts a spotlight on bold initiatives and technical innovations that can be replicated across the continent to create a new era of sustainable food security and economic opportunity for all Africans.

**The Winner for the Africa Food Prize 2017 will be awarded at a Gala Dinner on 6th September 2017 during AGRF in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire**



Dr. Kanayo Nwanze, Former President, IFAD makes his remarks after receiving the 2016 Africa Food Prize Award.



Pres. Paul Kagame, Rwanda and Pres. Uhuru Kenyatta, Kenya, award Dr. Kanayo Nwanze with the 2016 Africa Food Prize as the Award's Committee Chairman, H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo and his committee members look on.

Founding Partners



Knowledge grows

To find out more, please visit the website: [africafoodprize.org](http://africafoodprize.org)



# AGRF 2017



**After Seizing the Moment at the 2016 AGRF and securing political, policy, and financial commitments of more than US \$30 billion, African leaders must move decisively to harness this surge of support for agriculture and ensure it creates jobs and drives economic growth across the continent—particularly for 300 million young Africans coming into the job market over the next 15 years.**

No region of the world has developed a diverse, modern economy without first establishing a successful agriculture sector. Producing food on small family farms has always been at the heart of the African experience. Now, we are embracing the agriculture of our future. Agriculture is beginning to enrich Africa with a series of compelling economic opportunities on and off the farm that can be tapped across the continent to set us free—from high unemployment, poverty, and an over-reliance on oil and other commodities. The family farm can now be the source and hub for a new generation of young entrepreneurs delivering innovations across the food system, from field to table. African agriculture is open for business.

It is in this context that the 2017 AGRF will come together with a focus on, “Accelerating Africa’s Path to Prosperity: Growing Inclusive Economies and Jobs through Agriculture.” It will intensify the spotlight on agriculture as the key driver of African economies and establish what it will take to ensure agriculture and agribusiness are driving inclusive and sustainable rural development. What has been true for the rest of the world is especially relevant for Africa today: Economic diversification and lasting wealth creation begins with a vibrant agriculture sector. In many African countries, agriculture still accounts for more than 70 percent of employment and a significant portion of GDP. It is essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and building a better future for all Africans.

Under the leadership of the Government of Cote d'Ivoire, and co-hosted by the AGRF Partners and the African Development Bank, the 2017 AGRF is shaping up as a premier platform that builds on last year’s success with similar leadership from across the continent and the globe. The Forum is expected to be attended by over 750 delegates and high level dignitaries including African Heads of State, Agriculture and Finance Ministers, business leaders, thought leaders, senior donor representatives, and other important delegates.



# AGRF 2017

AFRICAN  
GREEN  
REVOLUTION  
FORUM 2017

## The 7th African Green Revolution Forum

4th - 8th September, 2017,  
Sofitel Hotel Ivoire, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire

### Accelerating Africa's Path to Prosperity: Growing Inclusive Economies and Jobs through Agriculture



The AGRF has grown into a platform where partners and delegates showcase progress towards agriculture transformation year after year. It inspires world leaders, the private sector and civil society to the common objective of turning smallholder farming in Africa into profitable businesses.

It is time for all of us—entrepreneurs, governments, donors, financiers and families—to put Africa on a proven path to prosperity. That requires coming together at AGRF 2017 to create a new agenda for action, one that delivers on the promises secured in 2016 by pushing the boundaries of what's possible in the fields and markets of African agriculture.

[www.agrf.com](http://www.agrf.com)  
[#agrf2017](https://twitter.com/agrf2017)

# Africa's Hidden Drought: A Desert of Agriculture Policy

By Boaz Blackie Keizire

I recently visited farmers in Limuru, a town outside of Nairobi, Kenya, where I met Angella, a 35-year-old single mother of three school-age children who lost her husband in a car accident seven years ago.

For many seasons, Angella planted seed recycled from the previous year's crop. Her harvest was never large enough to feed her family or generate a surplus she could sell to pay for school fees or medicine. Her one-hectare farm would yield just three 100-kilo bags of maize and two bags of beans each year.

But after planting new seeds from a certified dealer—for crop varieties developed to perform well in her local growing conditions—and applying fertilizer, the turn-around was dramatic. On the same piece of land, she harvested 10 bags of maize and four bags of beans. She is now selling her surplus at a local market. Her children are in school, everyone in the family has health insurance, and she's built a three-bedroom house. With the additional income she makes, she has invested in four cows and 15 goats.

When I asked her what prompted the shift to better farm inputs, her answer was simple. Angella said it was now much easier to get better seed and fertilizer from a nearby shop. She used to walk over 18 miles to the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) seeking advice about new seeds. But her five trips to KALRO every two months did little to improve her farm. Now there is an agro-dealer store launched by a local entrepreneur less than half a mile away

where she shops and consults with the staff about the best seeds to plant and how to apply fertilizer.

Imagine the impact on farmers' yields and on economic development across the African continent if, like Angella, every grower had access to higher-quality seeds and fertilizers. It seems like a straightforward solution. But changing Angella's fortunes required a series of deliberate policy decisions and interventions. And it's the lack of such action in many areas that is preventing millions of farmers across Africa from realizing their economic potential.

A recent World Bank report on policies that drive economic success on farms found that most governments in Africa are not doing nearly enough. Only a few of the 22 Africa countries in the study scored above 50 on a 100-point scale. So what exactly are the policies that lead to growth?

In Angella's case, her success can be traced to government actions that encouraged seed companies to produce high-quality, professionally certified seeds adapted to local conditions, and to sell them to local markets. For example, the government made it easier for private sector companies to obtain improved crop varieties developed by KALRO. That's important, because sales-driven private sector companies tend to move much more quickly and efficiently than government-backed organizations when it comes to monitoring farmer demand and preferences, as well as making the seeds they need available.





In a related move, the government also encouraged fertilizer companies to register their brands. Registration kicks in oversight activities that can give farmers greater confidence that they are purchasing quality fertilizers, rather than the shoddy and even counterfeit products that sometimes appear on the market. Meanwhile, costly fees that made it hard to operate a small, local agro-dealership were eliminated. And the government directed the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service to intensify inspection work to ensure market liberalization did not lead to a flood of fake seeds and fertilizers.

Finally, the government issued special guarantees to support commercial banks that provide low-interest loans to smallholder farmers like Angella to finance seed and fertilizer purchases.

What this experience demonstrates is that boosting yields on small farms requires a package of reforms implemented in concert. Angella's efforts to increase production probably would not have been successful in the many countries in Africa where the majority of smallholder farmers lack access to affordable financing. Options like rural micro-finance or privately arranged advances either fail to provide enough money or offer loans at prohibitively high interest rates, which makes farming as a business nearly impossible to sustain.

For Africa's smallholder farmers, policies are often a hidden menace, doing as much damage to production as more obvious challenges like drought. Over the long term, policy hurdles constitute a major factor perpetuating cycles of food insecurity and poverty—and many Africans suffer as a result.

Farming in Africa does not need to be a daily struggle for survival. It actually offers a proven path to prosperity. As Angella discovered, even gaining access

to fertilizers and seeds can transform a farm into a vibrant, entrepreneurial venture that can change a family's fortunes. To enable millions of farmers in Africa to send their children to school, buy medicine when they get sick, and buy and grow more nutritious food, we need to confront policy environments that limit their ability to develop their businesses. Agriculture policies should not be designed to deliver benefits to governments through licensing fees and monopolies on items like seeds. They should be working for farmers and local shops instead.

Angella's story is still uncommon in many parts of Africa. We must commit to creating conditions on the continent that make it no longer exceptional to see a young single mother of three find success in farming.



**Boaz Blackie Keizire** is the Head of Policy and Advocacy at the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and a 2017 Aspen Institute New Voices Fellow.





## Unlocking challenges of financial inclusion in the Agricultural Sector

By Ronald Ajengo

According to the United Nations, while the proportion of undernourished people in developing regions decreased from 23.2 per cent in 1990–1992 to 14.9 per cent in 2010–2012, there are still 870 million people, one in eight worldwide suffering from hunger. With such a number of undernourished people and a growing global population, it is expected that the demand for food will continue to increase. At the same time, food price spikes in recent years have intensified global concerns about current levels of agricultural production. These trends have increased the general interest on agricultural development, and in particular on smallholder farmers, which lay a key role in increasing food supply in poor countries, more than large farms, and increasingly supply large companies and corporations with inputs for their products.

Smallholders generally constitute the vast majority of farmers in most countries, and they account for 60% of global agriculture, provide up to 80% of food in developing countries, manage vast areas of land (farming some 80 per cent of farmland in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia) and represent the largest share of the developing world's undernourished.

Despite their socioeconomic importance, studies show that out of the 2.6 billion people living on less than \$2 a day, about 600 million people are smallholder farmers. Smallholder farmers face a myriad of challenges, key amongst them, access to finance. Facilitated access to capital and other financial products, plays an important role in the overall strategy to improve the productivity of smallholders, their livelihood and food security while promoting improved agricultural yields. In addition, other financial services such as insurance and saving products may reduce the risk of external shocks, smooth cyclical cash flows of farmers and help them manage their farm as a viable business.

In Kenya, enhancing farmers' access to affordable credit packages, is proposed as an intervention in the Agricultural Sector Development Strategy (ASDS) 2010–2020 by the Government. For productivity to be raised, and for smallholders to see farming as a business, access is needed to short term facilities for fertilizers, seeds and agrochemicals, as well as long term facilities for capital investment, farm development, irrigation and investments in value addition. Private sector investments in innovations in agricultural value chains is a key pillar in the implementation of the ASDS. ASDS also proposes legislation to encourage commercial banks and MFIs to extend credit to small scale agricultural producers.

The potential for the Kenyan Financial Sector to provide the much needed agricultural financial services is huge if right strategies are employed. The Kenya financial sector has undergone tremendous development in the last 20 years. During this period, there has been significant divestiture from state owned banks and moves to liberalization. The government also moved away from price controls on commodities and liberalized interest rates as well (save for the interest rate capping law in 2016).

More recently the Government's policy efforts in the financial sector have targeted expanding outreach but also maintaining stability and efficiency in the system. Key elements of this policy approach include the enactment of the Microfinance Act (2006), the SACCO Regulatory Authority Act (2010) and Microfinance Amendment Act (2013) and Banking Amendment Act (2016). In addition, the CBK and the National Treasury have been at the forefront in encouraging innovation in the sector for example, support for the very successful digital finance initiatives as well as agency banking and credit reference bureau regulations.



The impact of these changes however have been mixed: on the one hand, the financial sector has seen rapid growth and expansion since the late 90's early 2000's mainly through private sector investment and the entry of new dynamic local banks into the market. Less successful have been efforts to reduce interest rates and expand access to the poorest segments of the Kenyan population, particularly those in rural areas and specifically in the agricultural sector. An overview of the Kenyan financial sector landscape shows a number of gaps as concerns rural areas and the provision of financial services for agricultural activities: unequal access (lack of breadth); exclusion of the poor (lack of depth), narrow range of services (limited variety), products do not match demand and circumstances (poor quality), non-optimal interest rates plus high transaction costs (high cost), and fragile institutional sustainability (lack of permanence).

Recent surveys by the Financial Sector Deepening Trust show that although access has increased considerably over the past years to 75%, this is mainly driven by mobile money and a considerable proportion of the adult population still does not have access to formal banking services (FinAccess surveys, 2010, 2016). Rural access is even more acute with over 40% of the population in rural areas accessing only informal financial services. Given this scenario, initiatives focused on expanding rural access to finance are a big priority for the Kenyan Government.

It is against this backdrop that the Kenyan Government and AGRA are partnering to implement the IFAD funded Program for Rural Outreach of Financial Innovations and Technologies Program (PROFIT). PROFIT's intervention is based on three key rationale: Firstly, a major constraint to increasing efficiency in smallholder enterprises in rural areas is the limited access to financial services. Lack of working capital for traders in rural areas inhibits the purchase, trade and processing of agricultural produce. This limits the amount of produce a farmer can market and acts as a disincentive to reaching his/her productive potential.

Secondly, while finance is a key constraint for agricultural and rural growth, so is technical assistance for business services in helping the smallholder farmers to enhance their productivity, linkages with markets and market intermediaries. Similarly, market intermediaries (SMEs) need similar

help to enhance the scope of their operations which can then enable them to procure surpluses from farmers.

Thirdly, assessment of Kenya's financial sector reveals that it faces some key constraints, in spite of its vibrancy and rapid growth. The commercial sector has considerable liquidity but its risk perception of small-scale stakeholders in the agricultural and rural sectors is very high. This is particularly the case for women and youth. There is a need to enhance the commercial bank sector's risk appetite for agricultural and rural lending. In the Microfinance subsector, while the Microfinance Banks (MFBs) have attempted to go downstream with financial services, savings mobilization has been a challenge. The newly licenced MFBs are initiating deposit mobilization as a source of financing. This is a costly and time consuming process that requires staff re-orientation and systems development. In the short to medium term, lack of funds is a key constraint for these MFBs which have a strong commitment to expanding their services to rural areas. Furthermore, most financial institutions lack a value chain approach to financing and are unable to remove the financial constraints along specific value chains. Appropriate financing services along the value chain can help to enhance the productivity and profitability of various small-scale rural stakeholders.

PROFIT's Intervention is therefore focused on the following areas: de-risking the agricultural sector and incentivizing the financial institutions to offer a broad range of financial services to smallholder farmers and SMEs; technical assistance to financial institutions to develop appropriate agri-finance strategies and demand driven products and; capacity building on the demand side to SMEs and smallholder farmers to improve their business and financial literacy skills and hence visibility to financial institutions.

The program is beginning to register exciting results. The Participating Financial Institutions (PFIs) under the credit guarantee scheme have received \$3.4 million for leveraging. Since January 2017, the PFIs have disbursed loans in excess of \$14 million reaching approximately 1,800 smallholder farmers and 100 SMEs under the program priority value chains of cereals, dairy, livestock and horticulture. In addition, its estimated that over 4,000 smallholder farmers have indirectly benefited through financing extended to the SMEs and other value chain actors.

On the technical assistance front, support has been rolled out to five financial institutions in the areas of agri-finance strategy development; understanding value chain finance and emerging opportunities; products review and development and; capacity enhancement of staff. 50 rural Savings and Credit Co-operative Organizations (SACCOs) are also receiving technical assistance in development of agri-finance products targeting their members who operate in the program priority value chains. On the demand side capacity building in the areas of entrepreneurship, business management and financial literacy is being extended to 33,000 smallholders farmers with the aim of linking them to financial services. In addition, 300 market intermediaries (SMEs) with linkage to smallholder farmers are being supported to enhance the scope of their operations and financial linkage to enable them offer better services to farmers both in the input and output markets.

This innovative model of blending de-risking facility with supply and demand side technical assistance is promising good results. The PFIs are willing to engage with farmers and SMEs who have gone through the capacity building program. Besides, the PFIs are adopting value chain financing as a more secure way of lending as this approach enables them to identify where the financing needs are, and how they can address the financing gaps relative to their risk appetite and internal capabilities. The program aims to reach over 280,000 smallholder farmers and its expected that a larger proportion shall be beneficiaries that would otherwise not been reached by the traditional collateral-based lending.



**Ronald Ajengo** is a Program Officer  
Innovative Finance & PROFIT Program Manager  
at the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)

# Going digital will keep us well fed and make our farmers rich

By Raphael Wolf

Can Africa become a self-sufficient food producer within a decade? Dr Akinwumi Adesina, president of the African Development Bank (AfDB), announced this goal at a recent AfDB meeting in May. It's a bold vision considering that Africa's annual food import bill of \$36 billion could rise to \$110 billion by 2025.

Africa's success in achieving food self-sufficiency rests in large part with its smallholder farmers. The majority of the food produced comes from small farms that are under-resourced and under-financed. To achieve the AfDB's bold goal, we must invest in the systems that will enable farmers to produce and earn more from their farms while feeding the continent. Globally, the demand by smallholder farmers for financing outstrips supply tenfold. In Africa, the gap is even greater. Bridging this gap requires not only stronger policies and action from governments, but also a paradigm shift in how we view and serve farmers.

New financing models and technologies can help us bypass many challenges, such as the limited credit history of farmers and inefficient processes. Sustainable, innovative use of digital technology can also help small farmers.

In Tanzania, for example, smallholder farmers produce nearly 70 per cent of the country's food, yet only half of

them produce enough to sell because they cannot invest in the tools, seeds and other inputs needed to modernise their farms and increase their production.

The challenge: Less than 6 per cent of bank credit goes to smallholder farmers, forcing them to either borrow from mostly unscrupulous lenders or dig into their meagre savings.

## Innovative financing

In both cases, they are forced to buy low-quality inputs that keep them trapped in a vicious circle of under-production and poverty.

But what if farmers did not have to amass all the funds they need at the beginning of the planting season? Grameen Foundation, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (Agra) and Positive International Ltd are testing a new approach that will enable farmers to purchase inputs on a digital layaway plan.

It comes complete with crop management plans and taps into Tanzania's fast-evolving mobile money network. And by mapping savings to the seasonality of earnings, farmers gain greater purchasing power and control over their farming decisions.

Innovative financing can also transform inefficient processes. For example, Musoni Kenya no longer requires farmers to visit

branches to apply for its signature Kilimo Booster agricultural loan.

Instead, loan officers visit farmers to collect the required information digitally on tablets, along with photos of the farms and other details that give Musoni insight into farmers' operations. Loans are approved within 72 hours, ensuring that farmers get cash infusions when they need them, and Musoni also customises repayment terms to match farmers' production cycle.

Kilimo Booster, which Grameen Foundation co-designed, takes advantage of Kenya's almost universal access to mobile phones and ubiquitous network of mobile money agents, easing the burden for farmers who often cannot afford the lost time and money spent traveling to a branch office.

At the recent World Economic Forum in Africa, a panellist noted that only 20 per cent of farmers in Africa were using the correct seed and agri-input combination needed to reap maximum benefit from their farms.

Access to financing is certainly one challenge, but insufficient agricultural training and education also play a significant role. Government-run agricultural extension services are simply too overstretched to support smallholder farmers' need to increase production of market-quality produce.







But high-calibre extension services are essential to Africa's food self-sufficiency because they not only help farmers increase production of cash crops, they also help them stabilise their income, improve family nutrition through diversification, improve post-harvest handling practices and achieve the certification required by larger buyers.

### Extension services

Technology offers the greatest potential for connecting millions of rural farmers to the information they need to improve productivity. When well designed, these new systems also enable farmers to get timely market price reports, weather updates and alerts about pests and disease.

As stated by the African Agriculture Status Report (AGRA 2016), expanding and improving public extension services, connecting complementary private extension services to government programmes, and increasing the use of information and communication technologies are all vital.

In our experience, these programmes are most beneficial when technology is integrated with the expertise and know-how of field agents. In Ghana, for example, field agents from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture use the AgroTech app to collect information on local farming practices and to create personalised farm

management plans that allow farmers to invest strategically in their farms.

That knowledge is spread even farther when agents appear on the AgroTech radio programme - a great example of how new and old technology can complement each other.

Calls for self-sufficiency and greater investment in African agriculture have become more urgent as the continent has faced rising food insecurity and regional famines. Tightened national budgets have made it difficult but the benefits are clear.

According to AGRA, the countries that met the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme goal of investing 10 per cent of their annual budgets to modernise their agricultural sector, saw a 6 per cent yearly increase in productivity and up to a 4.3 per cent increase in their GDP.

Progress towards making Africa master of its own food production will certainly be boosted and expanded by the AfDB's pledge of \$24 billion over the next decade, but only if we invest in the future of our smallest producers.



**Raphael Wolf** is a Grameen Foundation programme leader in Tanzania.

## Digital Toolkit to Give Tanzania Smallholder Farmers Access to Inputs & Training



Smallholder farmers in Tanzania will soon have access to a unique digital saving plan for inputs, coupled with timely, tailored farming advice, that will help to solve several major problems confronting farmers in poor areas: access to finance, to inputs, and to agricultural training.

The programme to deliver this plan was in May, 2017 by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), Positive International Limited (PIL), and Grameen Foundation at an event attended by government officials, farmers' associations, financial institutions, seed companies, agro-dealers, and agribusinesses.

The digital toolkit will allow farmers to gradually pre-pay for the inputs they need via mobile money, at discounted prices. It will also provide them with a customized inputs package based on their crop and production goals, and deliver mobile-phone based farming advice to ensure the best use of those inputs.

"One of the greatest challenges faced by farmers is that they rarely have cash at the beginning of the planting season, forcing them to seek credit to buy inputs which increases their risks," said Ms. Hedwig Siewertsen, the Smallholder Financial Inclusion Lead at AGRA. "The Digital Inputs Financing Toolkit is a first-of-its kind solution. It will build farmers' resilience by enabling them to put aside cash through their mobile wallets, so they can buy quality inputs in time, with discounts up to 30%."



## Berlin Charter for the G20 Launched at the 'One World No Hunger' Forum

In preparation for the G20 Summit held in Hamburg, Germany in July, the German Government convened the G20 Conference “ONE World No Hunger. Future of the Rural World” where an international and independent group of experts led by Dr. Agnes Kalibata, President, AGRA and Prof. Joachim von Braun of The Center for Development Research, Germany unveiled the Berlin Charter.

The Charter is a modern guiding vision for forward-looking rural development. It shows the challenges, but above all possible solutions for rural areas: strategic dissemination of new technologies, access to innovations, improved infrastructure, good governance, closer ties between urban and rural areas, rigorous protection of resources, adaptation to climate change and, above all, creating new jobs.

The Charter was developed through a consultative process with young people and drafted by an advisory committee composed of experts on rural development, civil society, and the private sector. It was developed in a process aimed at creating consensus on key messages and demands for rural development. It brought together development experts, civil society and the private sector and opened up a fresh discussion with the global public and hundreds of conference participants.

It maps out a model for rural development that seeks to enhance the productivity and sustainability agri-food sector in rural areas as vital drivers of long-term jobs and income.

It specifically calls on the G20 governments to:

- Lift at least 600 million people out of hunger and undernutrition by 2025 with appropriate agricultural, nutrition and anti-poverty policies.
- Take concerted political and humanitarian actions to immediately end the food crises situations in East Africa, the Horn of Africa and other locations of acute suffering; support agriculture actions that address droughts and climate change and the agenda of the African Malabo declaration on agriculture.
- Facilitate access to education and youth training for all by 2025 by increased investments in rural education, including vocational training for young entrepreneurs;
- Cut youth underemployment at least by half by 2025 through increased support of investment in rural infrastructure and services in rural areas combined with job creating active labour market policies at a large scale;
- Provide equitable and affordable access for all, especially youth in rural areas, to information and communication technologies (ICTs) and provide opportunity for peer to peer learning.

Close to 150 young people from Africa and G20 countries were at the Berlin Conference with a resounding message that they know what they want; empowerment and participation, innovation, access to finance, effective connections between rural and urban areas, access to markets and capacity building.





## AGRA Supported Companies Recognized by the London Stock Exchange

Private sector companies are increasingly playing a crucial role in the transformation of Africa's agricultural sector. As part of its catalytic role, the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), has supported many start-up private companies across the continent. This has been particularly successful in the seed production sector where, together with its partners, AGRA has grown the number of seed companies from 10 in 2006 to over 600 today.

Three of these companies: Comptoir 2000 (Mali), Faso Kaba (Mali) & Nafaso (Burkina Faso) received global recognition with a listing on the London Stock Exchange Group's (LSEG) inaugural 'Companies to Inspire Africa' (CTIA) report. The pioneering report showcases Africa's leading private companies, with the most inspiring stories and strongest growth potential.

The Rt.Hon. Priti Patel, MP Secretary of State, Department for International Development (DFID), UK lauds Companies to Inspire Africa as a product that showcases some outstanding stories of innovation, bravery and growth across the continent. "It brings Africa's entrepreneurial spirit to an international audience", she said.

The report creates a database of the fastest growing companies, showcasing vast investment opportunities and facilitating these companies' advancement to their next stage of development. In order to be featured, companies had to be active, privately held and demonstrated growth over the past three years, with headquarters or their primary operations in Africa, and with less than \$1 billion revenue per annum. The companies delivered impressive average compound annual growth rate (revenue) of 16% over a three year period 2013-2015

A total 343 companies from 42 African countries identified as the continent's most exciting and dynamic small businesses were listed coming from in all regions of Africa, with highest concentration of companies from West Africa (31%), closely followed by East Africa (26%) and Southern Africa (22%). Kenya, South Africa and Nigeria are the countries with the most companies in the publication, each represented by over 50 companies.

These companies represent a wide range of sectors, including industry (23%), financial services (16%), consumer services (14%) and agriculture (13%) and were identified through a collation of nominations by key partners as well as Development Finance Institutions, Venture Capitalists, Private Equity Firms and Impact Investors.





## Agro-Dealer Businesses Thriving in Kenya

The journey to Beatrice Nkatha's shop in Tharaka Nithi, North East of Kenya's capital nearly never happened. The only dry-weather road leading to this great story of success was almost impassable with the current rains that are pounding most parts of Kenya. The 4X4 vehicle that we used skidded and swerved for the better part of the 40-kilometer journey from Meru town on the slopes of Mt. Kenya.

“Welcome to Mukothima, the heart of sorghum farming”, said the very cheerful Beatrice when we finally arrived as she quickly gave instructions to her 5 workers in the shop to continue serving the swelling group of customers.

Beatrice's testimony is indicative of the huge business potential that agriculture has. Starting off as a local tailor mending clothes of struggling farmers in this largely arid to semi-arid area, she got involved in agriculture almost by accident. She was first contracted by “wealthy” businesswomen from Nairobi as their local contact buying maize from local farms and collecting it in her small tailoring shop for a small commission. Gradually, she gained the trust of the businesswomen who would send

her money to pay the farmers and the trucks to transport the maize to Nairobi.

As maize yields in her area continued dropping due to the ever-intensifying drought conditions, the businesswomen shifted to other more productive areas. Armed with the basic business skills she had acquired and a resolve to improve the wellbeing of the farmers, Beatrice converted her store into an agro-shop in 2009.

She contacted local and international seed and agro-chemical companies who stocked her shop. She mainly specialized in seeds adapted to the local conditions. She also started offering farmers information on best farming practices which she had acquired from the inputs companies.

Gradually, productivity in her region started improving. Farmers also diversified and started growing cow peas, green grams and sorghum. Beatrice saw an opportunity to link them directly to the market by aggregating the produce in her store and transporting them to markets in the major towns.

In 2014, her business received a major boost from the Strengthening

Agricultural Input and Output Markets in Africa (SAIOMA) program which supported her to improve her agro-dealer business by partially meeting the business improvement costs including store refurbishment. It also trained her in business management, in product knowledge and in the safe handling of agro-inputs.

The programme also supported the growth of her new business by linking her to program-supported farmers by holding exhibitions and field days, where Beatrice and other agro-dealers promoted their services and products. Program support to farmers, specifically in post-harvest management and crop aggregation played a crucial role helping them to meet market quality and volume requirements.

Recognizing Beatrice's business acumen and access to capital, SAIOMA worked to further develop her business into a wholesale agro-dealer that now services 13 retail agro-dealer outlets, with each serving about 150 rural farmers.

As a result, her agro-shop has grown extensively and now serves close to 200 farmers a day. She has also been contracted by the East African Breweries to supply them with Sorghum for the new “Senator” beer meant for the low





end market. This has created a steady market for sorghum and consequently uplifted the economic status of the farmers. She has also been appointed by the Kenya Commercial Bank and the Equity Bank as their agent offering financial services to the 14,000 farmers that are part of her network. She is now providing all-round services to farmers including the supply of agro-inputs, over the counter-extension services, produce purchases from farmer, input and other emergency loans to some farmers while paying cash for crop purchases. Her business aggregates produce for onward sale to large buyers and millers. She has also purchased 2 tractors and threshers that provide mechanized labour to farmers at a fee

Beatrice's business now employs 12 full-time employees working in the shop, produce stores and to operate the machines. She also employs about 40 casual labourers. Last season, for instance, she sold 12.5MT of seed and fertilizer and bought over 800MT of sorghum, green grams and cowpeas. Her network of agro-input shops reduced the average distance covered by farmers to purchase quality inputs from 70 to 18kms.

The visit to her thriving business, 7 months after the SAIOMA project was completed, clearly demonstrates sustainability and that African-owned agri-businesses can prosper. Local entrepreneurs only need initial support to get them started. Public investment especially in transport infrastructure remains a critical component.

SAIOMA implemented the input and output marketing agro-dealer model across Kenya, Malawi and Zambia which aimed to increase availability of, and access to improved seed varieties and fertilizers for smallholder farmers, and to integrate these farmers into structured trade. The programme was designed to improve operational capacities of farmer organizations, with a specific focus on developing women's skills and opportunities in agribusiness.

In Kenya, SAIOMA operated in the semi-arid areas in the Eastern region of the country where improved farm inputs are needed most, and was implemented by the Agricultural Market Development Trust (AGMARK), the Cereal Growers Association (CGA) and the Cooperative Consultancy and Insurance Agency (CCIA).

## AGRA Appoints Dr. Lindiwe Majele Sibanda to Strengthen Support to African Countries' Inclusive Agricultural Transformation Potential



**A**GRA has announced Dr. Lindiwe Majele Sibanda as its new Vice President for Country Support, Policy, and Delivery with effect from 1 July 2017. The recruitment of Dr. Sibanda reflects a significant move to build on AGRA's vast expertise and knowledge of the continent by strengthening its abilities to support governments - particularly ministers of agriculture and related institutions - that are prioritizing inclusive agricultural transformation in order to drive food and nutrition security and economic growth.

As Vice President for Country Support, Policy, and Delivery, Dr. Sibanda will directly engage with ministers and other partners in AGRA's focus countries that are advancing the plans, policies, investments, and programs for inclusive agricultural transformation, first at a country level, but with an ambition for the whole continent.

She joins AGRA from the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN), where she has held the position of Chief Executive Officer and Head of Mission since 2004.

Dr. Sibanda, the YARA prize in 2013, has over 25 years of trans-disciplinary experience in agriculture and rural development, public and private sector reforms and management. She is an alumnus of the University of Reading, UK and the University of Alexandria, Egypt and holds BSc, MSc. and PhD degrees in Agriculture.





## Calls for Stronger Accountability on Continental Commitments made

**A**frican Union (AU) Member States have been urged to enhance mutual accountability for results and impact towards CAADP and the AU 2014 Malabo Declaration on Africa Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation (3AGT).

The call was made at the 13th Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Partnership Platform themed, 'Strengthening Mutual Accountability to Achieve CAADP/Malabo Goals and Targets.'

The 13th CAADP PP intended to: Create increased awareness on the outcomes of the Malabo Biennial review and reporting process as a drive for mutual accountability platforms, subsequently build a shared understanding of country, regional and continental needs and expectations to roll out motivated and sustainable accountability mechanisms to foster implementation of the Malabo Declaration; Promote understanding of Malabo compliant National Investment Plans (NAIPs) and Regional Investments Plans (RAIPs) as foundation of adequate and more accurate planning for results

for delivering on targets set in the Malabo Declaration, and promote coordinated approaches for financing agriculture in Africa; and Unveil necessary multi-stakeholders platforms while reaching consensus on approaches, tools, instruments, mechanisms and pathways for their institutionalization, operationalization and animation for productive as well as results-oriented mutual accountability and dialogue in fostering implementation for achieving goals set in the Malabo Declaration. Mutual accountability for results and impact is a key determining factor for Africa's development as pointed out in the Malabo Declaration which contains seven key commitments on agricultural transformation, which the AU Heads of State and Government committed to at their 2014 AU Heads of State and Government Summit.

The African Union Commission (AUC) and NEPAD Agency, working with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and technical partners developed a set of 43 indicators based on the Malabo commitments that will enable Member States to report progress biennially. Consequently, the AUC and NEPAD

Agency have been capacitating Regional Economic Communities by holding training workshops to provide information on the Biennial Review Mechanism and to train Member States on the technical guidelines to track progress towards the Malabo targets, involving standard country performance-reporting templates.

The Biennial Review Mechanism aims to provide a platform for mutual accountability, and peer review that will motivate increased performance by AU Member States to deliver on targets set by the Malabo Declaration, through a well-designed, transparent and performance based Monitoring and Evaluation and Biennial Sector Reporting to the AU Assembly that will in turn trigger evidence based planning and implementation for the expected agricultural growth and transformation in Africa; and ultimately lead to the Africa We Want, as embodied in the African Union's Agenda 2063 and in particular, to Aspiration 1 of Africa's Agenda 2063; a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development. The first report to the African Leadership will be presented in January 2018.



## Daudi Sumba Joins AGRA as Head of Monitoring, Evaluation and Knowledge Management



Daudi joins AGRA from the Africa Wildlife Foundation (AWF), where he has spent the last 25 years building his career in international conservation - from being an economist and data management specialist to Vice President.

Daudi spent the first decade of his time with AWF growing as an M&E professional within the system and then serving as its Director for Performance Measurement and Capacity Building. He then went on to hold roles as Regional Program Director for Eastern and Southern Africa across 12 countries and the VP for Program Operations.

Since 2013, Daudi has served as Vice President for Program Design and Government Relations, where he uses M&E data and analytics to develop organizational strategy, shape and refine AWF's programs, scale up support from government, donor, and implementing partners, and drive thought leadership around the continent.

Daudi is responsible for providing strategic, technical, and operational leadership for AGRA's Monitoring, Evaluation and Knowledge Management functions.

He supports evidence-based analysis, decision making, strategic planning and execution, strategy performance management and risk management within a philosophy of continuous learning and improvement.

## AGRA President Lauds The 2017 World Food Prize Winner

**D**r. Akinwumi Adesina, President of the African Development Bank, was announced as the 2017 World Food Prize Laureate at a ceremony at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Hon. Sonny Perdue gave keynote remarks and applauded the selection.

Through his roles over the past two decades with the Rockefeller Foundation, at the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), and as Minister of Agriculture of Nigeria, Dr. Adesina has been at the forefront of galvanizing political will to transform African agriculture through initiatives to: expand agricultural production, thwart corruption in the Nigerian fertilizer industry and exponentially increase the availability of credit for smallholder farmers across the African continent.

Drawn to action in terms of policy reform, financial innovation and enhanced agricultural production, Dr. Adesina organized the 2006 Africa Fertilizer Summit, and as part of the Rockefeller Foundation; led a major expansion of commercial bank lending to farmers as Vice President of the nascent Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA);

and as Minister of Agriculture in Nigeria, introduced the E-Wallet system which broke the back of corrupt elements that had controlled the fertilizer distribution system for 40 years, earning him the reputation as the "farmer's Minister." His reforms over five years led to dramatic increases in Nigerian food production and farm incomes.

Awarded by the World Food Prize Foundation, the \$250,000 prize honors Nigerian Dr. Adesina for his leading role over the past two decades in: significantly expanding food production in Nigeria; introducing initiatives to exponentially increase the availability of credit for smallholder farmers across the African continent; and galvanizing the political will to transform African agriculture.

At the announcement of his win, Dr. Agnes Kalibata noted, "I received the news of Dr. Adesina's announcement as the winner of the 2017 World Food Prize with immense delight. We at AGRA, an institution he helped build from scratch, attest that there could not be a more deserving person for the honour. On behalf of the AGRA Board and the entire AGRA staff, I send him our hearty congratulations."



## Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund (AECF) Launched as a new Entity

**T**he Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund (AECF) limited - a spin-off of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) - was relaunched at an event held in Nairobi.

While making the announcement during the launch, AECF's Board Chair, Lord Paul Boateng, said, "the launch of AECF Ltd. as a separate legal entity marks the next step in the growth of the Fund. We are redoubling our efforts to highlight agriculture, agribusiness and renewable energy in Africa's development with an exciting new emphasis on youth, women and equitable growth in Africa's rural heart land. We plan to empower young people and women by giving them relevant skills to the market place"

Boateng said the fund is set to redouble efforts in agriculture, agribusiness and renewable energy in Africa's development plan. The Africa-based AECF was launched

at the World Economic Forum in 2007 and begun operations in 2008, when it launched its first competition. Since then, it has grown from a US\$34 million fund to the current US\$256 million Enterprise Challenge Fund that has supported 257 businesses in 23 countries and has reached over 10 million people across the continent. It funds businesses in a number of sectors, namely, agribusiness, rural financial services, communications systems, renewable energy and adaptation of innovative technologies to combat climate change.

In her congratulatory remarks at the event, the AGRA President, Dr. Agnes Kalibata said, "AGRA is pleased to have played a role in incubating the AECF over the last decade and will continue to partner closely with the Fund as it moves into this new era. Agriculture remains Africa's surest path to prosperity and the AECF's work in scaling-up investments in agribusinesses and related sectors will be critical in realizing this potential."

AECF is currently visible in a number of countries including Kenya, Somalia, Burundi, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Mali, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Liberia, Ghana, DR Congo, South Sudan, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Zambia and Gambia.

"The footprint of the AECF is visible in a number of sectors which have contributed to growth and transformation in the lives of rural communities in Africa," said Dr. Paul Greener, Chief Executive Officer, the AECF, while explaining that AECF provides catalytic funding in the form of grants and/or zero interest loans to private sector businesses that have a positive impact on rural communities in Africa. "This impact is not only recognized within the continent but also globally by institutions like the London Stock Exchange Group," added Dr. Greener.





Boateng said the organization that funds businesses in agribusiness, rural financial services, communications systems, renewable energy and adaptation of innovative technologies to combat climate change will endeavor to expand its operations to new geographies in Africa.

So far 57 percent of the funds have been invested in agriculture and there are plans to expand to other sectors in the near future.

The combination of these investments in the different sectors allows the fund to generate innovative and profitable ways of improving how markets work for the rural poor.

The fund provides funding to businesses by running a series of thematic and geographic competitions targeting specific economic sectors in Africa.

Going forward, the AECF will build on its track record and will continue to create sustainable rural livelihoods through private sector led initiative that address market failure and promote inclusive growth. In this next phase, the Fund seeks to increase its funding base from US\$256 million to US\$ 500 million within the next 3 to 5 years, paying special attention to gender issues and youth employment. In addition, it will endeavor to expand its operations to new geographies in Africa.

The AECF will be a source of innovation and at the forefront of unlocking the potential of rural Africa to increase its productivity and jobs for young people and women and bring relevant skills to the market place.

## Prof. Nuhu Hemed Hatibu takes up a new role as AGRA's Head of Geographic Service Team in Tanzania



Prof. Nuhu joins AGRA ifrom Kilimo Trust where he served as the CEO of Kilimo Trust, a grant-managing NGO based in Uganda. Prior to joining Kilimo Trust, Nuhu served at the founding regional coordinator of the Soil and Water Management Network for East, Central and Southern Africa.

Nuhu is experienced in project development and management, knowledge management, strategy formulation, and in capacity building. He has particular experience in working with officials including Parliamentary Committees, Ministers, and Permanent Secretaries, and has organized and facilitated policy dialogues sessions of ministers and made key addresses to Summit Meetings of Presidents in East Africa.

Since joining Kilimo Trust, he has developed skills and approaches for working with the private sector, especially agribusinesses and commercial banks, which now make him a recognized leader in the development of agricultural value chains in the East Africa Region. He holds a PhD in Soil Dynamics and a BSc in Agricultural Engineering.

Nuhu is an "Ambassador" and member of the SC of the BMGF supported AgWater Solutions Project coordinated by IWMI. He has also published one book, 12 book chapters, and more that 20 papers in international journals.

## First All Africa Postharvest Congress asks for more investments

The curtains came down on the 1st All Africa Postharvest Congress and Exhibition with over 600 delegates and 54 exhibitors from 40 countries in attendance. The event, which whose theme was “Reducing Food Losses and Waste: Sustainable Solutions for Africa”, discussed challenges and opportunities in the postharvest management sector in Africa and developed concrete plans for post-harvest food loss and waste reduction in the context. It provided delegates with an opportunity to share information about new approaches and research in the sector, learn about emerging technologies, and build strategic partnerships with the overall objective of identifying effective interventions to reduce food loss waste on the continent.

The event, which brought together scientists, government executives from the agriculture sector, local and international agribusiness firms, farmers, financial institutions, potential investors, academic institutions, civil society organizations and thought leaders also featured a post-harvest technologies and innovations challenge that collated data and showcased emerging technologies in post-harvest as a great resource for stakeholders in Africa’s agriculture sector.

A range of emerging and scalable technologies were showcased by extension agents, entrepreneurs, investors, donors, and researchers with

the top ten innovations being pitched and acknowledged during a special event held during the Congress.

Delegates discussed actionable strategies to reverse the current trend where Africa loses 40 per cent of its grains and 50 per cent of its fruits before reaching the market. They attributed the huge losses to poor policies, retrogressive post-harvest management practices, lack of structured markets, inadequate storage in households and on farms and limited processing capacity. After strong deliberations, delegates ultimately came out with a number of recommendations aimed at ensuring that countries fulfill postharvest-related commitments contained in the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Malabo Declaration (2014) which seek to halve postharvest losses by 2030 and 2025 respectively. They called upon government, the private sector, and other actors to rally behind the realization of the provisions of the two policy directions.

The congress expressed its commitment to the principles of zero tolerance to postharvest loss and waste management with delegates called for stock taking of existing, applicable, and appropriate technologies and solutions for the different value chains particularly those targeting smallholder farmers. Delegates also called for value chain and product diversification to support, empower and fulfill the requirements of large scale “anchor buyers” as well as the establishment of capacity development and knowledge sharing platforms to enhance service

delivery in the sector. Further they called for increased investments in new technologies to reduce post-harvest losses and recommended increased participation on the private sector in research and value chain activities.

The Congress was hosted by the University of Nairobi in partnership with a consortium of Kenyan universities, Research and Development Organizations, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries in conjunction with the World Food Preservation Center@ LLC (WFPC). The lead strategic partner was the Rockefeller Foundation, which currently has a \$130million 7 year initiative to reduce post-harvest loss in representative value chains, with a current focus on maize in Tanzania, mango in Kenya, and tomato in Nigeria. The congress was also supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), African Union Commission, Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), East African Grain Council (EAGC), East Africa Trade and Investment Hub (USAID), Postharvest Education Foundation, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, Horticulture Innovation Lab (USAID), Netherlands Development Organization (SNV), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Global Cold Chain Alliance (GCCA), International Development Research Centre (IDRC). Compatible Technology International (CTI) among others.



# AFLATOXIN

## AFLATOXIN IS POISONOUS

Aflatoxin, a byproduct of naturally-occurring fungi that infect many crops, is a Class I Human Carcinogen and leads to:

**IN ADULTS** • Liver Cancer  
• Immunosuppression

**10%**  
OF ADULT DEATHS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA ARE CAUSED BY LIVER CANCER

**IN CHILDREN** • Stunting  
• Mental Impairment  
• Acute Poisoning

**UP TO 35%**  
OF CHILD STUNTING IS ASSOCIATED WITH AFLATOXIN

**IN LIVESTOCK** • Contaminated Meat & Milk  
• Passed to Human Consumers



## AFLATOXIN IS HARMFUL TO ECONOMIES

Higher medical costs, market losses and toxic effects in livestock can devastate economic systems and livelihoods.

IN 2001, AFRICA LOST OVER **\$600 MILLION** IN TRADE WITH THE E.U. DUE TO AFLATOXIN CONTAMINATION.

**\$1 BILLION** USD PER YEAR  
ESTIMATED COST OF AFLATOXIN MANAGEMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES, THAILAND AND INDONESIA.

**25%**  
OF THE WORLD'S CROPS ARE SUSCEPTIBLE TO AFLATOXIN

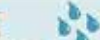


### CAUSES

#### PRE-HARVEST INFECTION



#### INSUFFICIENT GRAIN DRYING



#### POOR STORAGE



#### CONTAMINATED MEAT/MILK/EGGS



### PREVENTION

\***Aflasafe™** is a harmless fungus that competes with and prevents the growth of the aflatoxin-producing fungus in the field.  
\***Plant breeding** through traditional and biotech-driven methods can produce aflatoxin-resistant crops.

\***Stove and solar powered grain dryers** reduce moisture content before storage, which reduces the capacity for fungal growth.

\***Low-cost hermetic storage bags** last up to a full year and eliminate the need for pesticides, prevent infestation and stop mold growth.

\***Adequate testing** can ensure that animal feed is not contaminated at dangerous levels.

\***Chemical binding agents and feed processing techniques** are currently being studied to establish efficacy.

### HOW DO WE ENSURE SMALLHOLDER ACCESS TO PREVENTION TECHNOLOGIES?

LEARN MORE AT

[AGRILINKS.ORG/AFLATOXIN](http://AGRILINKS.ORG/AFLATOXIN)

\*Aflasafe interventions supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development through Feed the Future.

Feed the Future is the U.S. Government's cornerstone global hunger and food security initiative, and supports livelihood-based economic growth through agricultural development with a focus on enabling smallholder farmers to increase productivity of better, more nutritious foods. Learn more: [www.feedthefuture.gov](http://www.feedthefuture.gov)

## Anne Mbaabu Wins the Food Business Africa Industry Excellence Award



Anne Mbaabu, AGRA's Head of Markets is one of the recipients of the coveted Industry Champions Award by the Food Business Africa Industry Excellence Awards.

The Industry Champions Awards is given to individuals who have over the years made huge impact on the broader food and beverage industry in the region. Ms. Mbaabu was recognized for her immense contribution to the growth of the food

and beverages industry in the region, from her earlier work in the industry and now at AGRA as stated in the citation. Other winners

include Nick Hutchinson, CEO of Unga Group; Bimal Shah, CEO Broadways Group; Binoy Zachariah, Founder of Bio Foods; Dr Florence Wambugu, CEO of Africa Harvest; Kirtesh Shah, CEO of Sigma Feeds; BD Shah, Founder of Bidco Africa; Lau Larsen, CEO of Promaco; Bharat Shah – Vice Chairman, Kenafric Industries; Kimani Rugendo, CEO of Kevian Kenya; Bharat Patel – CEO, Vegpro; and Chris Kirubi of Centum Investments. Others were Muhoho Kenyatta, Executive Chairman at Brookside; Prof. Ruth Oniang'o, a career nutritionist and Director at Nestle SA in Switzerland; Abdul Farah of Chemicals & Solvents; and Tabitha Karanja, the CEO of Keroche Breweries.

## Meet the Award-Winning TV Extension Officer

By Waiganjo Njoroge



If you are from Kenya or East Africa, chances are that you know **Zeynab Wandati** of Kenya's Nation TV for her prime-time Food Friday programme. Actually, you do not have to be from this part of the world to know her. She has online followers across the world.

The popularity of her show has now extended to the boardrooms of key government departments, UN agencies, international organizations and private corporations. As a testimony to this, she is the latest recipient of the A.H Boerma Award by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO). According to the world food body, the award is for journalists who have successfully steered public attention towards food security topics. Zeynab is perfect embodiment of this spirit.

In the words of José Graziano da Silva, FAO Director-General, Zeynab was selected for the innovative weekly TV feature that has garnered wide public attention on food security issues, not just in Kenya but in the African region as a whole.

I met up with her for a cup of coffee on the terraces of a popular Nairobi restaurant a day before she left for Rome, the FAO Headquarters, to pick up the Award.

### **Congratulations. How does it feel?**

Thank you very much. I feel so much pressure and honor. It is exciting. It is super exciting to get my name mentioned together with that of Mohamed Amin, the only other Kenyan to have ever won the Prize. Two days ago, his son sent me a congratulatory message. I was very excited.

### **What is the award for?**

This is an award by the FAO to journalists that are innovative in their communication of complex agricultural and economic issues to the wider public and report on successful solutions and projects in the battle against hunger. Unlike other journalistic awards, one does not apply for this award. You get nominated by the FAO office in your country. You're not supposed to know that you've been





nominated or that you're being evaluated. I was nominated by the FAO Kenya Country Office for the Food Friday show.

**Congratulations once again, and I totally agree with the FAO that Food Friday is, indeed, an innovative product. It makes you a trailblazer. Tell us more about it.**

Food Friday has been on air since 2012. It was created by my immediate former boss Wallace Kantai and John-Allan Namu who at the time wanted to have a feature on TV every day. They decided that Friday should be a day to talk about agricultural and food.

I did a couple of stories that resonated

well with the audience and ended up slotting into the role with lots of support and guidance from my boss.

### **What does it take to tell agriculture stories in such a fascinating way?**

Producing Food Friday has taught me to learn to be an expert, a scientist, a farmer, a politician and a journalist. Then I have to learn to roll it all together into one thing that the audience will understand.

Every story starts with an idea backed up with solid research followed by a shoot and interviews with the farmers, experts and anyone else I think is resourceful.

I will then read a lot on the topic. I read reports and study findings which are the best sources of numbers, best practices, case studies and recommendations. I also read a lot of policy documents.

### **What is your unique offering? What makes Food Friday different?**

I love my job. I am passionate about agriculture and strongly believe it can create employment and transform economies. My job as a journalist is to tell a complete story. I do not just focus on success. For instance, Food Friday never highlights how much money agri-businesses make. I believe doing that is misleading especially for the youth who would otherwise want to go into farming.

I do not want to make agriculture sound like a get rich quick scheme because it is not. Just like any other investment, one has to invest their time and resources.

I always go for the complete picture. I will tell you what they do, how they do it, what the best practices are, how it should be done, how it is done in other parts of the world, challenges, successes and key lessons.

**That said, I am at that point where I'm asking myself what next? How do I make it better? How do I make it bigger? How do I make it more impactful? I'm looking for ideas.**

### **What is your greatest achievement?**

When Food Friday started, agriculture was not considered interesting. It was given very little attention by media houses. Following the success of Food Friday, the other stations have developed similar programs.

But what gives me the greatest joy is when I meet people who tell me that they are farmers or they have improved their farming because of because of my show. There are people that tweet me to the beginning of the week to ask what the next episode is on so that they can start reading on the topic.

### **Are there projects you have covered which you thought were groundbreaking?**

In 2013, I did a story on a maize farmer in Kenya's maize belt. His story impacted me a lot because he is one of those farmers that read a lot. He reads to better understand what he is doing and to see what other people in other parts of the world are doing.

Sometimes he travels if that is what is needed to learn more. He inspired me a lot and opened my eyes to the need for accessible information. I see myself as a conduit for that information.

### **What do you see as the greatest challenge to transforming Africa's agriculture?**

We need a change of mindset. Our smallholder farmers need to adopt new technologies – seed, fertilizer and soil management. This will require extension services on a massive scale an area where we are failing.



The link between the policy maker, the scientist and the farmer is broken. That's where I come in. I use my journalism platform as an extension officer. That is why I have to always read, research, interview experts and package the stories in all rounded way. I also have to be ready to responds to questions from my viewers and connect them with the specialists if needed.

TV extension officer! That is an interesting way of looking at journalism. It is. Someone has to be the link between the farmers and the researchers. That's the only way agriculture can be improved. I am privileged to play a small part of that role.

#### **Are you a farmer? Do you farm?**

I have tried my hand at farming. Up until August last year, I was a wheat farmer in Narok, South western Kenya. I leased some 32 acres and put it all under

wheat. I lost a lot of money in the process and learned valuable lessons. One of the lessons was that you need to dedicate time to farming just like you would any other business. Telephone farming, which is what I was doing, will not work.

The other and probably the more valuable lesson I learnt is that Kenya and the rest of the continent have a big problem communicating research. We have brilliant minds working for our research institutions but the knowledge they generate is gathering dust on their shelves. I am a journalist and I know how to find that information because it is my job to find to find it. What about the farmers? They have no access to this information yet they would benefit most from it. That information should be where the farmers are and in a language and format that they understand.

#### **What should be done address this challenge?**

First, I think every research work should have a budget for communication. If you analyze most research budgets, you will discover that they have little or no provision for communicating the findings.

Secondly, agriculture specialists should take advantage of the growing media interest to channel their findings but they should use a language that the general audience understand especially for TV pieces. That is where communication people like you come in to train your scientist and package messages in a way that is useable.

Lastly, I hope that media houses can dedicate more resources to programs like Food Friday. At the moment, I only have 3 minutes and 45 seconds which is hardly enough to tell the complete story. In fact, the most successful shows have been the special





projects that were well resourced and were allocated a minimum of 30 minutes.

**What is the one piece of advice you received that has guided you in your work?**

My former boss and I once had a heated discussion about a story I was doing on climate change. He wanted me to change the script which I thought, at the time, was fine. He ended up editing it.

The following day, he cautioned me against becoming too much of an expert at what I do that I become ignorant about it. He told me not to always assume that my audience is as smart as I am. He also advised me not to assume they are stupid but to always strike balance. If I am too smart, I'll come off as preachy and if I am stupid, I'll come off as an idiot. Looking back, I now know that he was right about the script. I had used a lot climate change jargon.



**Waiganjo Njoroge** is the Global Media Lead at the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)

**TurnTables is a new interview-based feature** that seeks to tell the agriculture story **through the eyes of journalists.** They have interviewed farmers, teachers, scientists, heads of state, captains of industry and loads of other storytellers in-between. **It's time to hear them out for a change.**

*Impact*

**A**frican leaders across every sector have begun to see that smallholder agriculture, rather than being synonymous with poverty, is in fact vital to the future of the continent.

AGRA has played an important role in this change. Since inception in 2006, AGRA has built thousands of local partnerships that have brought advanced agricultural knowledge and tools to 15 million farmers in 18 countries. From 2016, AGRA is building on its successes to implement a new five-year strategy designed to initially revolutionize agriculture for 30 million farm households in 11 countries and progressively to other countries that have shown commitments towards agricultural transformation.

AGRA is now pitted to be a leading and influential Convener, Facilitator and Catalyst for agricultural transformation in Africa. We are living out the “alliance” component of the Alliance for the Green Revolution of Africa - building strong and reliable partnerships with a diverse constituency of donors, governments, regional & continental institutions and grantees.

We are thinking about our role and presence in countries, providing context and the tools that arm African states with the advantage they need to invest purposefully and track progress in line with their commitments for agriculture. In concert with partners, we are catalyzing policies and securing the investments that will ensure a better life for millions of Africa's farmers and families, helping nations realize the vision and goals contained in their National Agricultural and Food Security Investment Plan(s) (NAFSIP) - initially with 11 countries but also for others that have shown the commitment towards an agricultural transformation.



**African Led** We are homegrown and we understand that African farmers need uniquely African solutions designed to meet their specific environmental and agricultural needs to sustainably boost production and gain access to rapidly growing agriculture markets.



**Farmer Centered** AGRA invests in our continent's small holder farmers—millions of hardworking men and women typically farming on less than a hectare of land. They are the heart of African agriculture, our economies and our future.



**Partnership Driven** All of AGRA's work is conducted through partnerships—with farmers, farmer organizations, agricultural researchers, national governments, businesses, civil society groups, philanthropies and donors



**Integrated** AGRA is at the center of the continent's growing economy - transforming agriculture from a solitary struggle to survive, into farming as a business that thrives. The alliance has built the systems and tools for Africa's agriculture: high quality seeds, better soil health, access to markets and credit, and stronger farmer organizations and agriculture policies.





AGRA's strategic approach is based on a rigorous strategy development and country planning process undertaken in consultation with partners to design a highly relevant and pragmatic approach to catalyzing an inclusive agriculture transformation.

AGRA's definition of and approach to agriculture transformation is strongly aligned to well-researched and commonly held theories advanced by leading experts, it draws from AGRA's 10-year on-the-ground experience working to catalyze an agricultural transformation and is crafted with support from strategy experts and benefits from validation by country stakeholders and continental experts.

30 Million Households



AGRA's 2017-2021 strategy builds on both the accomplishments and the lessons of the past decade to deliver sweeping results for Africa's smallholder farmers.

AGRA's plan is ambitious: to contribute to doubling the yields and incomes of 30 million targeted smallholder households in targeted countries. That's a significant number in itself, but the indirect impact will be much larger. By showing the possibilities of a smallholder farmer-centered, African-led, partnership-driven African agriculture, AGRA will help catalyze investments that reach hundreds of millions of people.

11 Countries +



AGRA will support initially 11 African countries (and others - based on readiness for transformation) on a pathway to create and sustain agricultural transformation.

The investment will empower AGRA to work through an ecosystem of public and private partners to work with government and private sector to overcome bottlenecks and unlock transformation. As part of this effort, AGRA will work to generate evidence and follow up with targeted technical planning and coordination support to government.

Transformation Agenda



AGRA's overall goal is to catalyze and sustain an Inclusive agricultural transformation in Africa to increase incomes and improve food security. For 9 million households, this will be done through the direct action of AGRA, grantees and partners, to increase productivity, access to markets and finance in countries where it seeks to catalyze an agricultural transformation.

AGRA will help smallholder farmers adopt an integrated package of technologies-improved seeds, fertilizers, and agronomic practices that have the capability to close the yield gap among key staple crops and consequently improve smallholder farmers' well-being.

Private Sector Focus



For 21 million households, this will be done indirectly by AGRA working through partnerships and support to government, other partners and by investing in mechanisms that unlock the engagement and power of private sector.

This investment will further enhance productivity gains, access to markets and finance in a few countries where an agricultural transformation is already under way, but needs to be sustained.

CAADP Centric



AGRA's goal and objectives are well aligned with the CAADP objective of agriculture led economic development, inclusive agriculture growth and strengthened system capacity to deliver results. It is also aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) vision for poverty eradication, food security, inclusive and sustainable growth and resilience to climate change.

AGRA's objectives are well aligned to individual country objectives.





# YOUR PLEDGE: **INVESTMENT.** NOW MAKE YOUR MOVE AND PROVIDE LEADERSHIP

As the private sector, it is time to proactively demonstrate leadership alongside governments in setting the pace for a private sector led and supported agricultural transformation in Africa.

**JOIN THE MOVEMENT TODAY;**  
[www.seizethemomentafrica.com](http://www.seizethemomentafrica.com)

