



AGRF SUMMIT 2020

8-11 SEPTEMBER
KIGALI, RWANDA

Partner Event Report - Agro-Innovation: How Can We Solve Old Problems with New Ideas?

Partner Event Number, Date and Time:
Sep. 7, 2020 10:30am - 11:45am IDT
Partner Event Title and Organizers:
Agro-Innovation: How Can We Solve Old Problems with New Ideas? Organizers: Government of Israel, Ministry of Economy and Industry, Tony Blair Institute
Key speakers/presenters:
Moderator: Merav Yachin, Tech and Innovation Adviser, Tony Blair Institute Opening remarks: Israeli Ambassador to Rwanda, Hon. Dr. Ron Adam Panellists: Ms. Danielle Abraham, CEO of Volcani International Partnerships Ms. Avital Sandler-Loeff, Executive director JDC-Grid Mr. Daniel Pinhasi, Business Development - Africa, Green 2000 Mr. Guy Gishri, Director of Business Development, AgriTask
Main themes/issues discussed
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- How Israel achieved its agricultural transformation despite the challenges: two thirds of the land being a desert, limited water sources, distant export markets and a rapidly increasing population with no farming experience.- Overview of the agri-ecosystem that was able to attain both food security and leading expertise and innovations to address these challenges (Link to video).- Explored how innovations and harnessing a problem-solving mindset can lead to new holistic solutions for old and new agricultural challenges.- Discussed the complexity of introducing new approaches and new solutions to traditional challenges, and how best to address them with local smallholder farmers and communities.- Collaboration with Israeli entities.
Summary of key points
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The unique Israeli agricultural ecosystem, known as the 'golden triangle': scientists - leading R&D at the Volcani Center and its regional geo-climate stations, agronomists - leading extension work. All experience and expertise were placed at the service of the farmer to enable effective problem solving and a value chain approach. This was a main driver in attaining both food security and leading expertise and innovations to address these challenges.



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- Discussed **the complexity of introducing new approaches and solutions to traditional challenges**, and how best to address them with local smallholder farmers and communities for traction and impact.
- **Ways to collaborate** with the Israeli ministry of economy & trade, partnering with NGO's and agencies to achieve better impact and leveraging Israeli expertise and technology for both training centers and enabling investments.
- **The importance of data availability** to enable more investments and a targeted access for smallholder farmers to infrastructure, inputs, technology and markets.
- **Projects mentioned (links to websites):**
 - [Volcani International Partnerships](#) - Pioneer Program for exceptional agri-entrepreneurs - tailored extension & tech-transfer program from top experts and establish a demonstration site.
 - [JDC's TOV project in Ethiopia](#) – partnerships are to create impact through both transformative agtech and a blended finance model.
 - [Agritask](#) - Supporting researchers to monitor presence of invasive species such as fall army worm, and identify effective control Measures. Covering 4 states in Kenya and 20,000 subsistence farmers.
 - [Green 2000](#) - Agricultural Services and Training Center (ASTC) – for rural development & development of smallholder farmers' performance and profitability.

Call to Action Key Points

- Israeli Ambassador to Rwanda, Hon. Dr. Ron Adam - invited the Israeli and International industry players to invest in Rwanda.
- Danielle Abraham, CEO of Volcani International Partnerships – called to align efforts behind government priorities, and let the experts inform the strategy and design of the intervention.
- Avital Sandler-Loeff, Executive director JDC-Grid – invited all parties with interest in the locust emergency, to reach out and take part in their new challenge to find an innovative solution to the problem,
- Daniel Pinhasi, Business Development - Africa, Green 2000 – invited to reach out for more information about how to leverage their ASTC model.
- Guy Gishri, Director of Business Development, AgriTask – invited to reach out and learn more about the vast opportunities of leveraging their end-to-end agronomic management platform.
- Ministry of Economy & Trade – calling Israeli private companies interested in pursuing opportunities in the African continent.