Session Title: Africa Agriculture Status Report Launch and Plenary Discussion: The Business of Smallholder Agriculture

Organizer(s): AGRA

Time/ Duration: 08:00hrs – 09:30hrs

Context: The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) has been publishing the Africa Agriculture Status Report (AASR) since 2013. The annual publication has become a reference point for emerging topics on agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), such as Staple Crops (2013), Climate Change (2014), Youth in Agriculture (2015), and Progress towards an Agriculture Transformation in Sub-Saharan Africa (2016). This year’s report titled The Business of Smallholder Agriculture will focus on how to transform agriculture into a thriving and viable business that generates employment, increases food security, promotes economic growth, creates wealth and encourages youth to participate in the sector.

Session Objectives: To launch the Africa Agriculture Status Report (AASR)

Key Issues/ Questions:
- Why is this report important to Africa’s smallholder agriculture?
- How have smallholder farmers adapted to challenges they face as economic actors?
- What innovative strategies can be used to substantially raise the productivity and incomes of smallholder farmers?
- How does smallholder agriculture businesses impact income, poverty reduction, food nutrition security and resilience of Africans?
- What conditions, appropriate technologies, and institutions can propel and support smallholder agriculture businesses?
• How does this report contribute to understanding of agricultural transformation in Africa?

• Why are evidence-based policies important for transformation of smallholder farmers from subsistence oriented to market oriented thriving businesses that contribute to agriculture growth?

• What role has public and private sector investment played in agriculture and what success factors can be scaled up to accelerate transformation.

Outcome Desired: The audience to understand the importance of transforming smallholder agriculture to a thriving business that generates income and provides employment in sub-Saharan Africa. This should encourage the audience to take a keen interest in reading the AASR publication for deeper insights.

Session Title: Improving the Prosperity of Women in Agribusiness (impacting rural poverty and inclusive growth through entrepreneurship that leads to the economic empowerment of women as farmers, workers or entrepreneurs who earn an income through agriculture, agribusiness and agro-processing)

Organizer(s): Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund (The AECF)

Time/ Duration: 10:00hrs -11:30hrs

Context: As Africa looks to meet the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, the full participation of women as producers, consumers, business owners and key decision-makers can be a potent force for change. Several studies have shown that income gains from women’s economic empowerment are substantial: the McKinsey Global Institute has estimated that a “full-potential” scenario in which women participate in the economy identically to men, would add up to $28 trillion, or 26 percent, to annual global GDP in 2025 compared with a business-as-usual scenario. Over 90% of sub-Saharan Africa’s extreme poor are engaged in agriculture, and growth originating in the sector is 2–4 times more effective at directly reducing poverty than growth originating in other sectors. Leveraging this growth in an inclusive way is the key to transforming Africa’s economy and reducing poverty and provides a rich opportunity for investment. The UN SG’s High Level Panel report (HLP) (2016) on Women’s Economic Empowerment report suggests that addressing the challenges confronting women in small-scale, low productivity agriculture in developing countries is essential to realizing the 2030 Agenda goal of leaving no one behind. Evidence shows that tackling the gender
gap in agriculture could directly contribute to agriculture growth and poverty reduction and reduce the number of hungry people by 12-17% (i.e. between 100-150 million people). In Sub-Saharan Africa, agriculture is the main source of employment for 60% of women.¹ A World Bank-One report² highlights this gender gap in African agriculture: women farmers consistently produce up to 25% less than their male counterparts.

To leverage the experience gained and lessons learnt from practitioners and experts, to improve the design and roll-out of the Women’s Economic Empowerment in Agriculture (WEE-A) Challenge Fund for Africa.

**Session Objective:**

**Key Issues/ Questions:**

- What new opportunities have emerged for women in agribusiness and what is still constraining them from taking advantage of these?
- What business models and interventions are having a real impact on empowering women in specific agricultural value chains and how can we upscale these?
- What should be done to increase the level of public investments in the private sector-led innovations that increase income gains through economic empowerment of women in Agribusiness?

**Outcome Desired:** Increased appetite for supporting innovative businesses in the agricultural sector, that offer a disproportionately high-impact on women’s empowerment.

**Session Title:** Improving the Prosperity of Women in Agribusiness (impacting rural poverty and inclusive growth through entrepreneurship that leads to the economic empowerment of women as farmers, workers or entrepreneurs who earn an income through agriculture, agribusiness and agro-processing)

**Organizer(s):** Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund (The AECF)

**Time/ Duration:** 09:00hrs – 11:00hrs

**Context:** As Africa looks to meet the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, the full participation of women as producers, consumers, business owners and key decision-makers can be a potent force for change. Several studies have shown that income gains from women’s economic empowerment are substantial: the McKinsey Global Institute has estimated that a “full-potential” scenario in which women participate in the economy identically to men, would add up to $28 trillion,

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² World Bank – One. 2014. Levelling the Field: Improving Opportunities for Women Farmers in Africa.
or 26 percent, to annual global GDP in 2025 compared with a business-as-usual scenario. Over 90% of sub-Saharan Africa’s extreme poor are engaged in agriculture, and growth originating in the sector is 2–4 times more effective at directly reducing poverty than growth originating in other sectors. Leveraging this growth in an inclusive way is the key to transforming Africa’s economy and reducing poverty and provides a rich opportunity for investment. The UN SG’s High Level Panel report (HLP) (2016) on Women’s Economic Empowerment report suggests that addressing the challenges confronting women in small-scale, low productivity agriculture in developing countries is essential to realizing the 2030 Agenda goal of leaving no one behind. Evidence shows that tackling the gender gap in agriculture could directly contribute to agriculture growth and poverty reduction and reduce the number of hungry people by 12-17% (i.e. between 100-150 million people). In Sub-Saharan Africa, agriculture is the main source of employment for 60% of women. A World Bank-One report highlights this gender gap in African agriculture: women farmers consistently produce up to 25% less than their male counterparts.

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**Outcome Desired:**

Increased appetite for supporting innovative businesses in the agricultural sector, that offer a disproportionately high-impact on women’s empowerment.

**Session Title:** Enabling, Empowering and Investing in Women in Agriculture, Agribusiness and Research

**Organizer(s):** IDRC and FAO

**Time/ Duration:** 11:30 -13:30hrs

**Context:**

Women are key players in agricultural transformation as producers, entrepreneurs, researchers, extension agents and policy makers. Recent studies

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show that 63% of economically active women are engaged in agriculture. They constitute the majority of smallholder farmers, traders and small scale processors. They are also important labour providers in agro-industries. While there have been great strides in reducing gender constraints that face women, key barriers remain in access to resources including land, finances and key services such as markets. Social and gender norms continue to hold women back especially in science and policy.

**Session Objectives:**

The purpose of this session is to review successes in investing in women in agriculture, agribusiness and research and to build upon these to galvanize a coordinated continental action to invest in gender equality and empowerment of women in agriculture and agribusiness. The session will also bring together women entrepreneurs to share experience and build business networks with stakeholders.

**Key Issues/ Questions:**

- What types of investments have worked in empowering women in agriculture, agribusinesses, research and development? With what impacts?
- How can agricultural value chains be more inclusive and empowering?
- How can we best meet the multiple objectives of transforming agriculture in the continent while at the same time empowering women?
- How can we coordinate and scale up women empowerment in agriculture interventions and processors that have worked? What level of investment is required?

**Outcome Desired:**

A roadmap for a coordinated continental action to invest in gender equality and empowerment of women in agriculture and agribusiness.

**Session Title:**

**Evidence and Policy Dialogue for Better Outcomes in Agriculture and Food Security in Africa - The Imperatives of Improving Nutrition for Africa's Growth and Development**

**Organizer(s):** The Malabo Montpellier Panel (facilitated by IFPRI, University of Bonn, Imperial College London)

**Time/ Duration:** 11:30 - 13:30hrs

**Context:**

The Malabo Montpellier Panel is a group of mostly African and international experts who guide policy choices that accelerate progress towards food and nutrition security in Africa by analysing issues of strategic importance for attainment of the CAADP and global development goals. The Panel’s new report...
Session Objectives: Smallholder farmers face many risks, most of which are outside their control. They include the consequences of climate change, urbanization and demographic changes, of land degradation, of the damages caused by pests, diseases and weeds, financial crises, post-harvest losses and of the price volatility of agricultural products. For individual farm families, the consequences may be increasing hunger, malnutrition and poverty and, in extreme situations, total loss of their farm and their livelihood.

No region in the world has developed without leveraging the potential of the agriculture sector through an agricultural revolution that saw inclusive economic growth. The Malabo Montpellier Panel works to equip decision makers to effectively implement policies and programs that benefit smallholder farmers and that help to achieve the Malabo Declaration target of halving the number of people in poverty by 2025 through inclusive agricultural growth that creates job opportunities particularly for young people and women.

The Malabo Montpellier Panel will highlight successful actions to advance nutrition on the ground and use this event to call on African government officials and ministers to implement similar policies and programs that reduce malnutrition and promote healthy diverse diets, and that sustain the growth of agricultural sector and support the people within it.

Key Issues/ Questions:

- What is the scale of the challenge of malnutrition across Africa?
- What are the institutional requirements necessary to successfully address the challenge of malnutrition?
- What are the economic costs of malnutrition to national economies?
- What are successful interventions and what can we learn from them?
- What is the role of new technologies in reducing malnutrition levels?
- How can other stakeholders support governments achieve substantial reductions in malnutrition?

Outcome Desired: An in-depth discussion about the Panel’s findings and an exchange between policy-makers other stakeholders involved in working to reduce malnutrition levels across Africa.

Session Title: Capacity Development to Promote Agricultural Development

Organizer(s): AAP/MSU, RENAPRI, ABCF
Time/ Duration: 11:30 - 13:30hrs

Context: Africa is on the move. The continent has remained the world’s second fastest growing region over the past decade, after East Asia. Averaging 5% growth from 2000-2013, there is strong evidence of increased exports of value added goods and foreign direct investment from the continent. Governance reforms have stabilized the political and economic landscape in much of the region, contributing to peace and security. The region is also building structured plans for economic development, with its vision and goals well-articulated in Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These positive developments are happening at a period where African agricultural and food systems are changing rapidly, due to increasingly globalized markets, rapid population growth, urbanization, climate change, and the rise of emergent investor farmers. It is increasingly crucial for African agricultural institutions to be in a position to anticipate these changes and respond proactively to them rather than be whipsawed by them. The time has arrived for African governments and international partners to find ways to effectively build African universities, agricultural training colleges, vocational schools, crop research organizations, extension systems and policy analysis institutes, realizing that competent organizations cannot be achieved without highly effective, skilled and well-resourced staff. International private companies, universities and NGOs have important but increasingly redefined roles that support the development of competent African institutions. In the face of these challenges, it is critical to take seriously the emerging capacity needs of African agricultural institutions, so that they are in a position to respond in home grown and locally supported ways. The AGRF should be at the centre of conversations of the emerging and future capacity development needs associated with the changing African agriculture and food systems. African Universities are simply not training sufficient numbers of the required scientists and other technical experts to meaningfully support the changing national agriculture innovation and food systems. To put this into context, the continent currently only has around 82,000 agricultural scientists but has an estimated gap of 152,000 trained agriculturalists, suggesting that the region needs to produce over 8,000 each year until 2023. And as governments aim to expand their educational systems to accommodate a massive increase in demand for university education, the quality of training has become a major challenge. This challenge has been further exacerbated by the flight of national agricultural scientists who have migrated to more lucrative employment opportunities elsewhere in the developing world or relatively prosperous


Session Objectives: The purpose of this side event is to explore the evolving capacity development challenges and ways of responding to these challenges within the context of rapid agri-food systems transformation in sub-Saharan Africa. The side event will disseminate high level messages for continued targeted capacity building for the African governments and other stakeholders.

Outcome Desired: Salient outcomes of the side-event will include:
- Increased understanding of capacity constraints and challenges to agricultural transformation in sub-Saharan Africa;
- Increased understanding of the importance of policy research and evidence in delivering African agricultural development goals and the role of ACBF, ReNAPRI and AAP;
- Proposals and commitments shared by different actors on efficient mechanisms and strategies for targeted multi-level capacity development especially the creation of a critical mass of technical skills to support African agricultural transformation; and
- A statement on capacity development for African agriculture transformation included in the AGRF 2017 Abidjan Declaration.

Session Title: AGRF Special Program – Launch of the Partnership for Inclusive Agricultural Transformation in Africa (PIATA)

Organizer(s): Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)
The Rockefeller Foundation
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)

Time/ Duration: 1:30 – 3:00 (90 minutes)

Summary: Africa is at an inflection point on its pathway to agriculture transformation. The continent has witnessed significant progress over the past decade with rising public investments in agriculture, increasing yields and better prospects for farmers. This progress is backed by strong political leadership as demonstrated by African Heads of State 2003 commitment to prioritize agriculture under the CAADP framework and reiterated in the Malabo declaration of 2013. However much more is needed. Agriculture growth is still too slow and yield increases too marginal. While African countries signed onto the Malabo commitment, very few countries have achieved 6% agriculture sector growth and even fewer have allocated at least 10% of government expenditure to agriculture. Small holder farmers continue to represent a disproportionate share of Africa’s poorest and in the wake of growing population, food insecurity and low nutrition outcomes continue unabated. Sustaining and scaling progress in the sector will require greater political, policy, and financing commitments from across the public and private sector, as well as a
stronger vision and approach for how all actors can work better together. It is clear that increasing the level of financing into the sector is not enough without coordinated action.

It is against this backdrop that the Partnership for Inclusive Agriculture Transformation (PIATA) was formed. Together, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation and USAID intend to provide up to $280 million to support PIATA. PIATA responds to the unique needs and opportunities of the current moment in which many countries are reviewing their agriculture sector strategies (as part of the NAIP refresh process) and in which country-level and continental-level accountability and results measurement is coming to the fore under the AUC-run biennial review process. PIATA represents a new way of doing things in support of countries delivering on their own transformation. This is done with the belief that Agriculture is still the best bet for Inclusive African Economy growth and poverty reduction.

**Session Objectives:**

- Launch the Partnership for Inclusive Agricultural Transformation in Africa (PIATA) as an innovative and transformative example of how the partners are working together on a common vision and coming through on their commitments to support Africa’s transformation agenda.

- Clarify PIATA’s unique approach – this is a strategic partnership and financing vehicle that is aligned to country visions and the systems required to deliver on the Malabo declaration, and through it partners and countries are able to achieve more impact, more quickly than they could working on their own. With a shared results framework and ambition to share information and coordinate investment portfolios at country level, it is a new level of strategic partnership and working in complementarity.

- Raise awareness of PIATA for country leaders and partners who are working in the priority countries, and also challenge other development partners (e.g. World Bank, BMZ, DFID, EU, etc…) to consider how they can step up and also align to such a partnership vehicle to support these countries.

- Set the tone and an example for the entire AGRF week. The launch will lay out key messages and program approaches that the PIATA partners can continue to discuss in all further sessions. It will also challenge other partners to elevate their commitments and follow through in the sessions on Wednesday and Thursday.

**Key Messages:**

Across the continent, we’re seeing signs of progress and potential, but the inclusive agricultural transformation we ultimately envision remains an aspiration.

It is clear that agricultural transformation requires us all (governments, development partners, private sector, and implementing partners) to work together in a new way of partnership to catalyze and sustain an inclusive agricultural transformation at scale.

Today, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the United States Agency for International Development, and AGRA are coming together to announce the launch of the Partnership for an Inclusive Agricultural Transformation in Africa (PIATA).
The PIATA is a shared effort to see how at least a few of the major actors supporting agricultural transformation in Africa can agree on a common vision and collectively work together to make the most of all of our voices, capacities, knowledge, lessons learned, and human and financial resources to get a significant increase in results.

Together, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation and the United States Agency for International Development intend to provide up to $280 million to support PIATA to catalyze and sustain an inclusive agricultural transformation for at least 11 countries in Africa to increase incomes and improve the food security of 30 million smallholder farm households.

Each one of us has done a lot over the years to support government and country leadership in driving agricultural transformation on the continent, and with significant results. The PIATA reflects a recognition that we can get much greater impact and value through a strategic partnership that builds on the base that has been laid by each of us across the continent, and pulls us together in ways that help catalyze and sustain a transformation at scale.

The partnership is very timely as it comes when a number of countries are refreshing their Agriculture sector development plans and there is a strong push to drive accountability and performance measurement through the AU-coordinated biennial review. The PIATA is an important effort to work with other donors and align behind the Malabo agenda. It signals enduring commitment to African’s transformation agenda.

Delivering Africa’s potential will call on each of us – in public or private sector – to engage in new ways and strengthen collaboration. The role of private sector and non-state actors in agriculture development and in support of formulation of country agriculture plans is critical for sustainable growth.

PIATA will build on and emphasize linkages with private sector and non-state actors as a core part of doing business differently. Each PIATA partner boasts a strong network of local private sector and implementation partners across the continent who, through this partnership, will benefit from stronger integration of investments and alignment of approaches to boost not only development outcomes but also business outcomes.

PIATA will shape how we engage on the continent both individually and as a partnership. Under PIATA, the partners have committed to delivering impact against a shared results framework and aligning PIATA country operations to each country’s national agriculture plan. The shared results framework is a significant achievement and the cornerstone of this partnership; each of us gave up some autonomy to drive coordinated delivery and accountability. This is the first time a partnership of this scale that is based on a shared results framework has been launched on the continent and we are excited by its potential.

PIATA is but one of various means by which we are supporting African countries to deliver on agriculture transformation; the PIATA partners continue to provide support through various avenues including direct support to continental agencies, government bodies and in-country partners.
We are excited about what we can achieve together in this partnership, and yet we are even more excited to welcome others to join with us in this approach. Working together in a more aligned way, we will be best positioned to deliver on country-owned visions and the goals laid out in the Malabo Declaration, and this is a partnership and financing vehicle ready to help us come through on this challenge.

We welcome and urge other partners in the sector to pro-actively strengthen coordination and partnership in order to effectively deliver Agriculture sector transformation.

**Format:**
This session consists of two components: a public panel with AGRA delegates over lunch, and a short press conference to communicate key message to a wider audience.

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**Session Title:**
Open for Business: Inclusive Models for African Smallholder Productivity

**Organizer(s):**
Syngenta

**Time/ Duration:**
15:00 – 17:00hrs

**Context:**
- A journey through Africa: the power of partnerships shown through the lenses of our initiatives
- Showcase Syngenta activities in Africa Middle East through key initiatives and partnerships to support smallholders
- Provide a stage for our partners to share the work we are doing together to support smallholders
- Demonstrate how these initiatives are bringing The Good Growth Plan to life
- Provide a platform to share the results of our Reference Farm Network in Ivory Coast and across the continent

**Session Objectives:**
To showcase Syngenta in Africa: Our footprint and investments into food security, Key smallholders challenges to increase productivity and a participatory approach to solve them

**Outcome Desired:**
- Foster a collaborative environment to tackle some of the challenges to scale existing projects and partnership initiatives (i.e. access to financing, inputs, markets, storage, awareness and know how)
- Encourage new partnerships and collaborations
- Demonstrate private actions can bring positive change and impact on smallholders through private-private and public-private partnerships
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Title:</th>
<th>Next Generation Agriculture Fair</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organizers:</td>
<td>SACAU, AfDB, FAO, CTA, AGRA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time:</td>
<td>15:00-17:00hrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Context:</td>
<td>Africa has the youngest population in the world: over 60 % of a total population of 960 million is below the age of 24. Moreover, given Africa’s high fertility rates, the youth population is expected to continue to grow in the next decades, more than doubling from current levels by 2055. Consequently, the share of youth in the labour force in Africa is the highest in the world (approximately 35 %) and projections indicate that 60 % of the world’s labour force growth over the next 30 years will be in Africa. To maximize the demographic dividend, the region will have to create more than 10 million jobs per year (mainly in rural areas) in the next two decades to absorb the new entrants in the labor force. It is also observed that a central cause of poverty and migration among youth in Africa (rural youth in particular) is the lack of employment. This great challenge of youth unemployment can also be seen as an opportunity for them to become the engine driving new agriculture and agribusiness enterprises, as well as rural transformation. The session will particularly discuss the key pre-requisites for youth to earn a livelihood and transform lives from business in agriculture.</td>
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<td>Session objectives:</td>
<td>• To unpack the various aspects of Africa’s youthfulness and how it relates to the process of social and economic transformation on the continent; • To discuss the business opportunities in agriculture on the continent and the role of the youth in exploiting them; • To brainstorm on the pre-requisites for a business to be successful, and an agri-business in particular; • To understand the major challenges facing businesses in Africa’s agricultural sector; possible solutions and success stories to build on.</td>
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<td>Key Issues/Questions:</td>
<td>• Is the youthfulness of Africa a challenge or a solution? • To what extent does the mindset of African youth represent a barrier to the role expected from them of becoming driving engines for agricultural business enterprises? • Is the continent through governments and partner-institutions doing enough in ensuring a conducive enabling environment for businesses in agriculture and youth owned startups in particular? • What role does the “mature” private sector play in accompanying the youth (through mentorship, incubation programs, etc.) as they engage into agricultural businesses?</td>
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Outcome Desired:
- Same understanding of Africa’s demography and what it means for the continent’s present and future;
- Recommendations on key business opportunities that the youth should take advantage of;
- Consensus around main challenges and solutions to business in agriculture, for consideration at both continental and country levels.

Session Title: AGRF Mechanization Thematic Working Groups
Organizer(s): AGCO and AAIN
Time/ Duration: 15:00 to 17:00

Context:
While progress in mechanization of on-farm operations during the last six decades has been disappointing, there was nevertheless some progress made in mechanization of off-farm post-harvest operations such as in grain milling to the relief of mostly women and children. However, much more needs to be done to transform the on-farm mechanization scenario by liberating the African farmer from the ergonomically debilitating hard labor associated with the hand hoe farming. In addition, agricultural mechanization can contribute to improving rural livelihoods by breaking labor bottlenecks that constrain productivity and growth of rural incomes and thus making farming attractive to the young and educated. At a larger level, mechanization can be viewed as a necessary dimension of transformational development strategy that promotes the sustainable commercialization and modernization of small-, medium- and large-scale farms and firms in order to accelerate agricultural development and initiate sustained poverty-reducing economic growth in both the rural and urban areas.

Session Objectives:

1. Primary Objective: To showcase some of the business models that are currently operational and provide a learning platform to scale them.
2. Promote collaboration amongst stakeholders within the sector and supply chain so farming systems can be delivered to farmers that are viable and can be supported locally.

Key Issues/ Questions:
- What are the available mechanization service business model options that are successful in Africa or around the world?
- What are the key success factors that have made the models work?
- How do we scale the models across the continent?
- How can we create a framework to evaluate the sustainability of a model that meets the local requirements of farmers?
- What are the innovative sources of financing for entrepreneurs who are keen on investing in mechanization service models?
Outcome Desired: To get governments, private sector, development partners and financiers to develop partnerships to scale the existing models cross the continent

Session Title: Country Support toward Accelerated Implementation of Regional and National Agriculture Investment Plans

Organizer(s): Syngenta

Time/ Duration: 15:00 – 17:00

Context: The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) which, has become a point of reference and framework that adds value to national and regional strategies for the development of Africa’s agriculture, has been lauded for placing the sector back on national governments’ political and policy agenda. However, according to NEPAD⁸ the “litmus test for success of the CAADP framework and agenda will be its influence on how development and economic investment plans are developed and implemented.” NEPAD further notes that an important aspect of CAADP’s value-add in terms of increasing the quality of agricultural investment programs will come from fundamental institutional and policy changes in the implementation mechanisms.

This emphasis on implementation was further captured in the Sustaining the CAADP Agenda Strategic Review⁹ that found that some of the factors that contribute to underperformance of the agricultural sector in many countries include weak leadership, lack of technical capacity and absence of business culture in agricultural ministries, problems with budgetary processes and weak M&E systems. Further the World Development Report¹⁰ recognizes that governance is often the reason programs have failed in the past. Defining governance, the document draws attention to the role that the State needs to play in cases where the private sector is not developed.

The heightened attention given to the sector’s national and regional governance structures and practices that would propel increased productivity reflects a concern that growth is hindered by widespread weakness in the institutions responsible for policy and programme/project formulation and implementation. In many cases, the challenges of governance (administrative and institutional) to ensure the implementation of adequate policies, programmes/projects and associated monitoring of service delivery has resulted in incomplete implementation and an under-expenditure of allocated funding itself triggering

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⁹ CAADP: Sustaining the momentum into the next decade “African Union Implementation Report” 2012
declining budgetary allocation (from both national treasury and development partners) that leads to poor sector performance.

Responding to this challenge, in 2014, African leaders in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, laid a strong foundation for agriculture for the next 10 years by endorsing the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Growth and Inclusive Agricultural Transformation. This Heads of States decision has seen a number of countries develop detailed sector strategies, put in place measures to refine their sectors’ vision, designed strategies that seek to increase finances for agriculture and elevated political commitment – all done through the instrumentality of CAADP. However, harnessing this foundation will be dependent on putting in place strong national institutions to drive the transformational agenda at all levels of government as well as, having in place supportive policy environments that drive investment at the country level, from the public sector, development partners and the private sector. Governments require a lot of own effort and concerted support that will put in place people, processes and systems that will improve the political, institutional and regulatory landscape thus create an enabling business environment to drive and sustain agricultural transformation across the region.

Session Objectives: With increasing awareness that providing support to regional, national and sub-national government bodies is a critical element in transforming agricultural outcomes across the African continent. And, recognizing that governments are a critical driver of sustainable transformation both through their direct efforts and investments as well as their role as an enabler of private sector growth. This session will discuss the various examples and models of building country support systems.

A panel of experts will lead discussions on the nature of country support systems and challenges governments and technical/implementing partners face in developing and delivering support systems at regional, national and subnational levels to accelerate implementation of regional and national agricultural investment plans/strategies.

The session will provide snapshots of regional and national challenges limiting agricultural transformation, diagnose challenges to effective government delivery and identify the right and/or ‘best fit’ modality to get country support up-and-running.

**Session Title:** Targeting Innovation Investment for Agricultural Growth and Food Security

**Organizer(s):** ZEF, FARA, AGRODEP

**Time/ Duration:** 15:00-17:00hrs
Context:

Over the past 15 years, Sub-Saharan African countries have experienced the longest period of economic and agricultural growth since independence which offers good conditions for successful investments. Despite positive growth trends, however, production per head and total factor productivity still lie below the level of the 1960s in many African countries. Investments in research and development (R&D) are key to sustainably increase productivity and ensure food security while maintaining environmental quality and resources in Africa. Innovations need to consider the challenges and potentials of the diverse and small farming operations that continue to dominate in Africa.

Agriculture and food security have become clear priorities on Africa’s political agenda. African agricultural policy has grown more independent of external influences and agricultural development now is an important focus of the African Union. Many countries are making good progress toward the goals set out in AU’s Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme. However, despite the strong and growing political support for innovations in agriculture, investments in R&D have not increased sufficiently and are often not channelled towards the most promising investment opportunities.

The Program of Accompanying Research for Agricultural Innovation (PARI) seeks to contribute to sustainable agricultural growth and food and nutrition security in Africa and India through the identification, assessment and scaling of agricultural innovations. Among its key priorities, PARI is developing and applying methodologies to target innovation investments at high potential areas, value chains and innovations. This side-event will present findings from this research.

Session Title: Women in Agriculture Reception Dinner

Organizer(s): African Women in Agricultural Research & Development (AWARD)
               Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)
               International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

Time/ Duration: 18:30 – 21:00

Context: The agriculture community has long known that women play a vital role in advancing agricultural development, food security, and household incomes. However, they face multiple constraints in many of the activities they pursue that limit their productivity. They tend to own less land, have limited ability to hire labor, and have impeded access to credit, extension, and other training services in relation to men. Additionally, the undervaluing of women’s economic contribution does not only reduce women’s agricultural decision-making power at the household and community level, but in turn, results in less representation at higher levels of the agriculture system.
Programs and policies intended to address these constraints to women in agriculture have resulted in mixed success and yet many lessons and innovations. Building on these, we are beginning to see many of the foremost leaders in agricultural development put in place new strategies for agricultural transformation in Africa that place gender and women at their core.

Session Objectives: This is an evening to discuss the most striking lessons and to understand the strategies that are emerging to unlock a new era for women in agricultural transformation.

Under the leadership of Her Excellency Dominique Ouattara, First Lady of Côte d'Ivoire, the dinner will convene leading stakeholders involved with gender issues in African agriculture from across the region and the globe.

It will also serve as a launch of the latest round of the African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) Fellowships. The AWARD Fellowship is a 2-year career development fellowship that builds the leadership, science, and mentoring skills of the continent’s highest achieving female agricultural researchers. This year’s fellowship is focused on women scientists from Francophone Africa.

Key Issues/Questions: Taking stock: What are the greatest lessons learned around trying to improve the role and outcomes of women in agriculture over the past decade? What are the key barriers to women’s involvement and access? What are the solutions in terms of policies, programs, and investments that have seen significant measurable results?

New strategies: What is the nature of the strategy that leading institutions are taking going forward based on these lessons? What is top priority for AWARD, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Global Affairs Canada, IDRC?

What is the call to action from public and private actors present in the stakeholder community to see significantly improved outcomes in the coming 5 years?

Outcome Desired: The community will have a better understanding of the foremost thinking around women in agriculture and the key efforts being pursued by leading institutions such as AWARD, BMGF, Canada, and IDRC. The community will be inspired to take lessons and approaches into their own institutions and communities to scale improvements in this space.