



## AGRF 2016 – CROSS CUTTING WORKING SESSION REPORT

Day 5 - Friday, September 9

11:00am- 12:30pm

Promoting Sustainability and Resilience in African Food Systems

### SESSION BRIEF

**Context:** Agriculture transformation and security of food supply, both in Africa and globally, is often threatened by households' inability to cope with unexpected global challenges such as climate change, rapid urbanization, natural disasters, and price volatility, among others. In order to ensure long-term sustainability and resilience of agriculture and food systems, it is also essential to increase focus on the environment and natural capital, particularly in the smallholder production systems that underpin food security across Sub Saharan Africa.

**Session Objectives:** This session aimed to create a space for a careful deliberation of emerging opportunities, tools, and lessons that will support agricultural transformation agenda and creating resilience in food systems. There are already major initiatives underway to promote sustainability and resilience as a priority in the transformation of African agriculture. They include initiatives such as the Global Environment Facility Integrated Approach Program; DFID's Regional Food Trade and Climate Smart Agriculture Programs, the United Nations Environment Program Eco-system Based Adaptation for Food and Livelihood Security; Conservation International's Vital Signs, the Rockefeller Foundation's Global Resilience Partnership, and the Drought Resilience Program of Development Associates International. The session is intended to generate the following outcomes.

#### Key Issues/ Questions:

- What are key innovations today that incorporate climate smart agriculture, sustainable intensification?
- How can smallholder farmers, especially, women and youth adopt new technologies to deal more effectively with climate change?
- What relevant ICT tools exist to support adoption of climate smart agriculture?
- What approaches and tools are available to also address post-harvest losses?
- What role can the private sector play in helping to mitigate against climate change and to promote sustainable agriculture?
- What policies exist/are needed to develop/adopt/implement climate change mitigation and promotion of climate smart agriculture?
- What funding mechanisms exist to support mitigation of climate change and adoption of climate smart agriculture?



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**Outcome Desired:**

- Share key lessons learned from selected programs that are ongoing across Africa and aimed at promoting sustainable agriculture?
- Commence the development of a sustainability and resilience community of practice/ thematic working group within AGRF

**Organizers:** Global Environment Facility, UNEP – Africa Region, DAI – Food Trade East and Southern Africa

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Name	Picture	Discussion
<p>Dr. Richard Munang, Africa Regional Climate Change Coordinator, UN Environmental Program</p> <p>Role: Moderator</p>		<p>Dr. Munang of UNEP served as the moderator of this session and in his opening remarks he commented that as we are nine months after WTO’s “Nairobi Package” was adopted at the institution’s Tenth Ministerial conference, and given that the Sustainable Development Goals; the AU’s Agenda 2030, and the Paris Agreement, have all been adopted – now is exactly the right time to have a discussion on promoting sustainability and resilience in Africa’s food systems. AGRF, he continued, provides a great opportunity for this conversation to be had – as we need to focus on building Africa’s resilience to climate change.</p>
<p>Dr. Mohamed Bakarr, Lead Environmental Specialist, Program Strategy, Global Environmental Fund</p> <p>Role: Setting The Stage</p>		<p>Dr. Mohamed Bakarr was asked to “Set the Stage” for this discussion and he noted in his remarks that Africa needs to take lessons from the Asian experience - especially with respect to environment and food security. A major lesson learned from the Asian experience was that we cannot sideline environment protection and neglect the conservation of nature in our bid to improve food security.</p> <p>Agriculture in Africa today faces many challenges, therefore, we need to find ways of cushioning the agriculture sector against shocks, stresses and risks to achieve resilience in a changing climate.</p>



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		<p>To achieve this, farmlands need to be run as social ecological systems. In this approach, the natural ecosystems must be protected as part of agricultural transformation.</p> <p>For agricultural development and conservation to be undertaken together, we need to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The right Institutional frameworks for creating the needed synergy are in place;</li> <li>• We harness tools and technologies to reduce the impact of agricultural transformation on ecosystems; and</li> <li>• We strive to minimize post-harvest losses, and by doing so increase food security.</li> </ul> <p>It is important to discuss the impact of agriculture on the environment as agriculture is a big emitter in Africa of emissions, especially nitrous oxide and enteric methane.</p> <p>Data use is very important in de-risking agriculture and attracting needed private sector investment. The question is, can finance alone help Africa? Despite the investment to date, it is hard to see the tangible results, there is need to work together.</p> <p>Of course, the youth are important in all of these discussions. We should attract more young people into agriculture and expose them to the entire value chain, not just to farming. The agriculture value chain offers many opportunities and could solve some of the unemployment challenges Africa faces.</p>
<b>Panelists</b>		



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<p>Ms. Ekhosuehi Iyahen, Director, Policy and Technical Services, Africa Risk Capacity</p>		<p>Ms. Iyahen began her contribution to this session’s conversation by saying that we should ask ourselves, what is the cost of a delayed response? She continued by noting that her organization, the African Union’s Africa Risk Capacity (ARC) facility, profiles risks and presents them to the governments for the countries to use to make informed decisions.</p> <p>To support food security and strengthen risk management, ARC has created a risk-pooling facility as an early response mechanism to predict and deflect the impact of severe drought in sub-Saharan Africa. There are two advantages of ARC, 1) it provides financing to governments, and 2) emergency response service to those living in disaster affected areas. Africa’s resilience will depend on our ability to develop financial mechanisms that include contributions from the private sector as the public sector alone does not have adequate resources to meet the needs.</p> <p>The Africa Risk Capacity (ARC) is thus an innovative financing mechanism that has been established by African states and it provides actual insurance, which can be leveraged by African government.</p>
<p>Mr. Isaac Talam, Market Systems Expert, Food Trade - East and Southern Africa</p>		<p>Mr. Isaac Talem of Food Trade East and Southern Africa was the next panelist to speak. He began his remarks by sharing with the audience some of the work that Food Trade ESA is undertaking to combat climate change and promote resilience?</p> <p>He also used the opportunity to share more, generally, about Food Trade ESA, which is a UK Agency for International Development funded project. It is an initiative that focuses on staple foods, such as maize and beans, by investing in innovative systems to allow smallholder farmers to use better inputs and gain access to regional markets. Food Trade ESA seeks to improve storage at farm level and throughout the value chain.</p>



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		<p>A major challenge they have identified is the need for certified seeds, as they help improve the productivity of farmers. With improved seed, smallholder farmers can become key catalysts and the center of production, processing and marketing of staple crop value chains and thus help promote and enhance regional trade.</p> <p>For us to achieve resilience, there is need for us to package information in an easy to understand format so farmers can understand the challenges that exist in their value chains and to better understand how to overcome them.</p> <p>Food Trade ESA is using pull mechanisms – creating markets and identifying buyers - rather than push mechanisms. This gives opportunity to assess market demands for specific agricultural commodities.</p> <p>To what extent are you leveraging youth and ICT?</p> <p>Youth have the creativity to develop solutions and should be encouraged to take the lead in unlocking some of the bottlenecks in the staple foods value chain. They can do this using ICT and mobile technology.</p>
<p>Dr. Sandy Andelman, Senior Vice President and Chief Scientist, Conservation International</p>		<p>Dr. Andelman joined the discussion next and made the assertion that to have resilient agriculture we need an improved socio-ecological system. We should be asking ourselves, how can we create resilient rural livelihoods in the face of climate change.</p> <p>Her organization, Conservation International, is using data to help make decisions in the agriculture sector. The data approach by Conservation International takes a holistic approach about what the stressors are that affect crop production and how this relates with other stressors like post-harvest losses, price distortion and market failure.</p> <p>We should use all of our assets, she noted, human, natural, social and technological – that can help us reduce our exposure to climate related shocks.</p>



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		<p>During her presentation she also spoke about a recent C.I. innovation which was the development of resilience crops maps - which take into consideration climate change dynamics and impact probabilities. The challenge now she added is how to bring this information to farmers in a format that is easy to access and use.</p> <p>There is a growing realization that data can catalyze investment and this can help the private sector to become more interested in supporting resilience. So we should aim to provide more data that is in an easy to use format.</p>
<p>Dr. Luca Alinovi, Executive Director, Global Resilience Partnership (GRP)</p>		<p>Dr. Alinovi was asked to contribute to this session a very important analysis. Specifically, he was asked to give his views on the subject of what the role of the private sector is in furthering climate change resilience?</p> <p>He began his discussion by noting that farmers are the most efficient private sector players ever. However, farmers are often seen as external to interventions related to climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. Yet, farmers always have solutions because they understand best, because they have the most at risk, what the challenges are that they face.</p> <p>However, for us to convince the broader private sector active in food value chains why resilience building is important, and why they should invest in it, we need to have more, better, and easily understood data.</p> <p>Innovations in finance models will also be helpful in ensuring that farmers are better equipped to face the impact of climate change. However, even if there is greater finance availability, we need to start acting to further de-risk agriculture to ensure that having this finance does not make the farmers more vulnerable if/when climate related phenomenon impact their crops.</p>



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		<p>In commenting on the need for improved climate related policy frameworks in many countries, he noted that Africa has no absence of policies, but what is needed is a greater resolve and in some instances capacity to implement them fully.</p> <p>In particular, we should look at policies to decentralize renewable energy for rural farmers to use for post-harvest reduction.</p>
<p>Mr. Rafael Flor, Director, YieldWise, The Rockefeller Foundation</p>		<p>Mr. Flor was the final speaker of the session and he introduced the delegates to YieldWise one of the lead programs of his institution, The Rockefeller Foundation.</p> <p>He began his remarks by drawing the distinction between food loss, which refers to losses that occur at the farm level, and food waste, which speaks to losses incurred once the food gets to the table. Both, he said, are important issues that YieldWise seeks to address by focusing on reducing loss and waste in four key crop areas - mangoes, tomatoes, maize and cassava.</p> <p>Post-harvest losses, in particular, he said are creating a crisis with social, economic and environmental impact and they must be addressed.</p> <p>It is estimated that food worth US\$ 4 billion is lost in post-harvest losses every year in Africa. The Malabo Declaration committed to reduce post-harvest losses by 50 percent. Today, 30 percent of the food produced in Africa is going to waste. Food waste once it gets to the table, is worth another US \$1 trillion in losses.</p> <p>The private sector, he continued, is needed in addressing post-harvest losses and there is a need to adopt systems thinking throughout the entire value chain. To reduce post-harvest losses, we need to work collectively and bring stakeholders together and learn by doing.</p>



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		<p>We are living in an era of technological revolution and we need to leverage big data to help us solve some of the issues we are currently facing.</p>
<p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>We need to shift towards productivity and crop intensification, and do so we should use farmer’s knowledge and some of the low cost technologies that they have been using to reduce post-harvest losses.</p> <p>There is need for development of focused answers with inclusive partnerships to address resilience in Africa.</p>		