



## AGRF 2016 – SIDE EVENT REPORT

Day 2 - Tuesday, September 6

14:30pm- 18:00pm

Side Event

The Agricultural Innovation Agenda in Africa: Investing in Future Harvests

### SESSION BRIEF

**Context:** Most countries in Africa south of the Sahara (SSA) have increased agricultural production by using more resources, in particular land, which cannot be sustained. More effective and efficient agricultural research systems producing a continuous supply of improved technologies are needed to enhance agricultural productivity and to increase incomes and market participation of smallholders. This side event builds on the findings of the publication “Agricultural Research in Africa: Investing in Future Harvests”, a book published by IFPRI in July 2016. It featured a high-level panel who suggested actions required to unlock the potential of African agricultural research and development (R&D) in the quest for faster growth and more broadly shared development outcomes

**Session Objectives:** The objective of the side event was to look at these recommendations in relation to the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) process, the implementation of the Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa (S3A), and the broader agricultural innovation agenda.

**Desired Outcomes:** A wider understanding of the actions needed to unlock African Agricultural R&D potentials.

**Session Organizer(s):** IFPRI (ASTI and ReSAKSS)



## AGRF 2016 – SIDE EVENT REPORT

Day 2 - Tuesday, September 6

14:30pm- 18:00pm

Side Event

### The Agricultural Innovation Agenda in Africa: Investing in Future Harvests

Name	Picture	Discussion
<p>Dr. Ousmane Badiane, Africa Director, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)</p>		<p>This side event was moderated by Dr. Badiane and in his opening remarks he noted two key points: 1) Everyone receives training in the Agri Sector, from Ministers to director generals under them, but farmers are the least trained and are expected to rely on their own capacity to educate and inform themselves, that is not the right measure to take to transform Africa’s agriculture.</p>
<p>Role: Moderator</p>		<p>Farmers need to be adequately educated and trained. This process has to be mainstreamed, like traditional education systems; 2) development partners play a crucial role in supporting agricultural development in Africa and in supporting the government’s agenda to advance science and technology – this is important to maintain.</p>
<p>Dr. John Lynam, Board Chair and Chair, Executive Committee, ICRAF</p> <p>Role: Keynote Speaker</p>		<p>Dr. Lynam commented during his remarks that while we have witnessed improved agricultural growth over the past 10 years, this has not been the case for everyone:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agricultural growth has improved in the last decade but still variable across countries;</li> <li>• Only 7 countries have reached the target 6% growth rate targeted under CAADP;</li> <li>• Agricultural growth tracked economic growth and varied by sub-region; and</li> <li>• West Africa has performed the best, Southern Africa the worst.</li> </ul> <p>He continued in discussing solutions and opportunities for moving forward: next steps and opportunities, noting that there was a shifting growth path for African agriculture from land extensive to increasingly improved productivity focus agriculture leveraging:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New technologies;</li> <li>• Efficient market supply systems;</li> <li>• Expanded service delivery, including credit; and</li> <li>• Incentivized policy environments.</li> </ul>



## AGRF 2016 – SIDE EVENT REPORT

		<p>He also commented on the following:</p> <p>The need for governments to increase the financing of their agriculture budgets -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most countries have not met the Malabo Declaration target of 10 percent</li> <li>• Only 13 countries have met that target since 2003</li> <li>• Budget share tends to track agricultural growth performance</li> </ul> <p>The need to encourage increased investment in agriculture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To improve synergies in institutional architecture;</li> <li>• By providing market incentives for investment by non-state actors: in research, supply chains, and delivery systems;</li> <li>• And also use in-depth research and analysis to inform pro-agriculture policy development and reform;</li> <li>• Through better understanding of the political economy of the budgeting process; and</li> <li>• By communicating the relative costs and benefits of investments in research to citizens and policymakers.</li> </ul> <p>The importance of encouraging greater private sector involvement in agriculture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue the move to an open policy environment in stimulating private sector investment in Africa;</li> <li>• Develop appropriate finance products and business development skills for and among all actors in the value chain;</li> <li>• Create a better business environment, intellectual property regimes, reduced barriers to trade will foster such investment; and</li> <li>• Encourage increased research investment focused on higher value crops and inputs, giving a substantial role in this to public sector research institutions.</li> </ul> <p>He also spoke about the importance of the development of comprehensive recruitment, training, and succession plans to fill existing and anticipated medium - to long-term staffing gaps across the agricultural value chains. Young professionals are not adequately involved in the food industry in Africa.</p>
--	--	---



## AGRF 2016 – SIDE EVENT REPORT

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plans should assess gaps in specific skills and disciplines, and note the distribution of staffing by age and gender;</li> <li>• They should also specify degree-level and short-term training needs;</li> <li>• And should include an implementation plan for management and provision of training and mentoring.</li> </ul> <p>Lastly, Dr. Lyman explained that it was important that we work to incentivize technology adoption as there were new technologies emerging daily but the key to their driving increased productivity of the continent is usage – which is where additional effort needs to be made. Thus, we must focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost-effective, pluralistic agricultural advisory services;</li> <li>• To improve the capacity for technological adaptation in local contexts by expanding extension and focusing on farmer training;</li> <li>• Increasing access to markets and information;</li> <li>• Integrating technology (and education and training efforts) with expanding ICT capabilities;</li> <li>• Balancing value chain approaches with production system approaches.</li> </ul>
<p>Ms. Nienke Beintema, Head, Agricultural Science &amp; Technology Indicators (ASTI) Initiative, IFPRI</p> <p>Role: Keynote Speaker</p>		<p>Ms. Beintema of ASTI explained that the initiative provides open-access data and analysis of agricultural research investment and capacity in low- and middle-income countries.</p> <p>To date they have developed a large network of national, regional and international partners who are led by IFPRI and work in close collaboration with national agricultural research institutes. ASTI also compares trends over time and across countries/regions.</p> <p>ASTI indicators include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Institutional arrangements</li> <li>• R&amp;D spending by cost category</li> <li>• Funding sources</li> <li>• R&amp;D staff by degree, gender, age</li> <li>• R&amp;D focus by commodity and theme</li> <li>• Output indicators</li> </ul>



## AGRF 2016 – SIDE EVENT REPORT

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student population</li> </ul> <p>ASTI also tracks:</p> <p>Shifts in researcher qualifications -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The increase in researchers mostly stemmed from the recruitment of junior BSc- and MSc-qualified scientists;</li> <li>• The desired increase in PhD-qualified researchers fell behind; in recent years most new recruits are young with limited on-the-job training.</li> </ul> <p>Staff turnover and retirement -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long-term recruitment restrictions have left many research agencies with aging pools of researchers;</li> <li>• In about half of a sample of 33 countries in 2014, at least half the PhD-qualified researchers were older than 50 years;</li> <li>• The situation is comparatively more severe in West Africa</li> </ul> <p>Widespread underinvestment in research -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2014, SSA invested 0.42 percent of agricultural output in agricultural R&amp;D, far below the AUC’s target of 1 percent;</li> <li>• Only 9 of the 40-sample met the 1-percent target;</li> <li>• Declining intensity ratios at national levels are often the result of higher AgGDP growth.</li> </ul> <p>High funding volatility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agricultural R&amp;D in SSA is more than twice as volatile as funding in other developing regions;</li> <li>• Research agencies that are highly dependent on funding from donor and development banks are more vulnerable to funding shocks.</li> </ul>
--	--	---



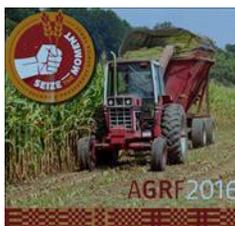
## AGRF 2016 – SIDE EVENT REPORT

<b>Panelists</b>		
<p>Dr. Yemi Akinbamijo, Executive Director, Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)</p>		<p>Dr. Akinbamijo was the first panelist and in his remarks he noted that the Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa is an African Owned and African-led process that articulates the science, technology, extension, innovations, policy and social learning that Africa needs to apply in order to meet its agricultural and overall development goals.</p> <p>The strategic thrusts of the S3A in the short to medium term include: 1) the implementation of CAADP; 2) to increase domestic public and private sector investment; 3) creating an enabling environment for sustainable application of science for agriculture; 4) and to achieve the doubling of current level of the Agricultural Total Factor Productivity by 2025 through application of science for agriculture.</p> <p>In the medium to long-term the science agenda is aimed at building systemic science capacity at national and regional levels, capable of addressing evolving needs for farmers, producers, entrepreneurs and consumers, especially given strategic and foresight issues such as climate change and urbanization.</p> <p>The S3A document has been prepared by an African-led Expert Group through a consultative process involving the broader agricultural science community and rural development professionals in Africa as well as high-level decision-makers on the Continent. The agenda, now ratified by the Head of States in Malabo, signals Africa’s clear intent to commit to a science-led process at the national level to secure agricultural transformation and Africa’s future.</p>
<p>Dr. Heike Baumüller, Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn</p>		<p>Dr. Baumüller, noted that the German government has stepped up support for development research in the agricultural sector in recent years after declarations were made at the G7 summit in 2015, and an emphasis placed on the looming danger of food security and related malnutrition in Africa and other emerging markets.</p> <p>Today, Germany has decided to build on old programs as well as to develop new programs to help in this regard. They have entered into an important partnership with FARA, to identify innovation and assess innovation as well as scale it up.</p>



## AGRF 2016 – SIDE EVENT REPORT

		<p>Thus far three main observations have been made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agriculture research must be broader, as currently it focuses primarily on inputs and productivity, but should also look at value chains and enablers of value chains, and also structural change;</li> <li>• There is a need for more vocational programs in the agri sector, bridging the gap that exists between high school leavers and those who carry on to tertiary education. This must also be inclusive of “on-the-job training”;</li> <li>• Farmers must be recognized and encouraged as innovators and supported to build systems that are “for farmers - by farmers”.</li> </ul> <p>This research was piloted in Ghana, where she noted that they found innovations - not enough to include as data but worthy of further assessment. So they will continue to assess them, validate them and work to disseminate them. She closed with the thought that farmers must be appreciated as innovators and we must find ways to include them in our more formal innovation/ incubation development systems.</p>
<p>Mr. Ernest Ruzindaza, Senior Advisor, CAADP Implementation, AUC</p>		<p>Mr. Ruzindaza noted in his comments that the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) has over the last decade enabled many African countries to address some of the key transformational issues in agricultural development. In addition to improving the development planning processes, countries are placing growing attention on strengthening and aligning policy design processes, through for instance, making their policy design processes more transparent and inclusive as well as linked to evidence-based analysis. There is also growing attention and action to strengthen and align institutional and human capacity for achieving higher levels of planning and implementation efficiency and effectiveness</p> <p>The CAADP Results Framework provides guidance at the level of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• planning</li> </ul>



## AGRF 2016 – SIDE EVENT REPORT

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance</li> <li>• Results</li> </ul> <p>It therefore serves as a guide to developing, planning and implementing investments and fosters alignment and harmonization of initiatives that are geared at developing the agriculture sector</p>
<p>Mr. Augustin Wambo, Head of CAADP, NEPAD Agency</p>		<p>The CAADP Results Framework provides Africa and its partners with a set of goals and results to be pursued in the transformation of the agriculture sector.</p> <p>The Framework is an inherent part of CAADP implementation. It will provide all stakeholders of African agriculture with standard, tangible parameters to benchmark progress in agricultural performance. This will reinforce the culture of results-based programming and performance monitoring.</p> <p>Implementation of the CAADP Results Framework is therefore a critical and integral component of the efforts geared at enhancing capacity for agricultural transformation and the attendant desired results.</p>
<p><b>Comments</b></p>		<p>Many women groups, have done work alone without assistance from government, and almost never get accredited for their work in research.</p>
		<p>A greater understanding of agricultural science is needed in order to be innovative in this space. Maybe not PHDs but some sort of further education is needed. There is a need to entice more youth to study agriculture, and to pursue related degrees, or courses in order to gain necessary skills.</p>
<p><b>Summary:</b></p> <p>There is a need for increased scientific agriculture research - but also a need for farmers to be incorporated into formal research initiatives and recognized as important innovators in the sector.</p> <p>Many farmers do research but lack the education required to develop their work to the point that it can be for their work to be recognized. The lack of African PhDs currently involved in research further highlights the need for farmers to be incorporated into formal systems. Where there has been a drop in investment in research it is evident as there has been a related decrease in that countries agricultural output.</p>		