



## AGRF 2016 – OPENING CEREMONY REPORT (PART 1)

Day 3 - Wednesday, September 7

14:30pm- 15:30pm

Official Opening Ceremony – Theme 1

Setting the Stage

### SESSION BRIEF

**Theme:** Over the past decade there have been a number of important influences and achievements related to Africa's Green Revolution. Reflecting on selected of these influences and the unique opportunities that present themselves to day, we are called forth to Seize the Moment and redouble our effort to drive African economic growth and development through agriculture. Toward this end, we have gathered leading thinkers and actors from the continent and across the world to share developed models, innovations, and to showcase new resources that can assist in the achievement of Agricultural Transformation on the continent. Through information and knowledge sharing, demonstration, exhibition, simulation and stimulation, AGRF 2016 aims to catalyze action across a broad array of stakeholders toward the acceleration of the achievement of the African Union's 2030 Malabo Goals.

#### Key Issues/ Questions:

- What are some of the key inspirations and drivers of Africa's Green Revolution?
- Where are areas where we collectively can help drive agricultural transformation on the continent?
- As we meet in one of the regional economic engines of the continent, what can we learn from the Kenyan experience?

#### Outcome Desired:

- Launch of AGRF 2016, delegates helped to understand more of the African Green Revolution journey, and inspired to seize the moment and to embrace the future;
- One example shared in the testament of the Republic of Kenya on the importance of agricultural transformation and the important role of agriculture in the country's economic development agenda.

**Organizer(s):** AGRF Secretariat



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**Setting the Stage**

Name	Picture	Discussion
<p>Ms. Julie Borlaug, Strategic Initiatives at Corporate Relations - AgriLife Research, Texas A&amp;M University</p> <p>Role: Setting the Stage</p>		<p>Ms Julie Borlaug, the grand-daughter of legendary agriculturalist, Dr. Norman Borlaug, began the opening session of AGRF 2016 with a tribute presentation and introduction of her grandfather. Dr. Borlaug was an American biologist, humanitarian and Nobel laureate who has been called "the father of the Green Revolution".</p> <p>She went on to tell the story of her grandfather's efforts to bring a green revolution to Asia, and how Africa was next on his agenda before he passed away.</p> <p>She further chronicled his work in establishing the Sasakawa Africa Association, whose programs aim at defeating malnutrition and poverty in Africa. The Association’s activities center on bringing science-based crop production methods to small farms in sub-Saharan Africa. He believed that disseminating proven agricultural technology to smallholder farmers was the key to overcoming widespread food shortages in rural communities of the continent, and which condemn millions of people in Africa to lives of hardship and hunger.</p> <p>She went on to then discuss Africa’s importance within the global food security agenda and she stated that the challenge today was how to feed the world in 2050. With continued population growth, we are going to need to produce more food than ever before - at the beginning of the 21st century we had a world population of 6.1 billion in 2000, but we are headed for a global community of 9.2 billion by 2050, which will require a doubling of food production in just 50 years.</p> <p>Ms. Borlaug then went through some of the vital elements to overcoming this challenge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• developing new products that will deliver just the nutrients that the growing plants require and to diminish environmental externalities;</li> <li>• making investments to advance fertilizer research and coordinate it with advanced plant genetic research so that we can achieve synergy</li> </ul>



## AGRF 2016 – OPENING CEREMONY REPORT (PART 1)

		<p>between more efficient use of available nutrients by plants and more efficient delivery of nutrients by fertilizer products;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• developing systems that can make these products cheaper and more accessible to farmers; and</li> <li>• making more investment in young researcher who are currently working to change African agriculture.</li> </ul> <p>In her conclusion she noted that Africa was the last thing on her grandfather's (Dr. Norman) mind when he was told he had 3 days to live.</p> <p>In reference to her grandfather's last remarks she continued . . . "all of the hunger-fighters, everyone you've trained, and everyone in this room is going to ensure that we bring a green revolution to Africa that's appropriate for each country and each area, and we will do that everywhere." She implored the audience as she ended her remarks, ". . . remember, your innovation and technology is only useful, when you take it to the farmer"!</p>
<p>Opening AGRF 2016 Video</p>		<p>The short opening video of AGRF 2016 showcases many of the opportunities that are emerging within Africa's agricultural sector. Key points included :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Farming as a Business across Africa</u> - Kenya was cited as a case study where a successful value chain for Maize was created. Agriculture in Kenya accounts for 30% of the national economy and there is room for growth. In addition to this, agriculture can contribute to a 70% increase in job creation. The president of Kenya, HE Uhuru Kenyatta, also stated in the video that farmers need to be more involved, farmers need markets, and farmers need to embrace value addition.</li> <li>• <u>Rwanda Rising</u> - The next country featured as a case study was Rwanda, and the video recognized Rwanda as an African agricultural success story. The country's efforts in introducing land reforms, subsidised inputs, increasing value addition and production were lauded and it was pointed out that agriculture now has the support of the highest office as President Paul Kagame has been an ardent agriculture development activist for his country. In the film, President Kagame said that there is increased land ownership and more tailored solutions for agriculture. He gave an example of a PPP</li> </ul>



## AGRF 2016 – OPENING CEREMONY REPORT (PART 1)

		<p>food processing plant which sources produce locally to supply baby foods high in nutrients.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Markets Key</u> – The film continued with the admonition that small holder farmers need to be connected to the markets;</li> <li>• <u>Ethiopia’s Turnaround</u> - Ethiopia was next showcased as an example of ‘agricultural excellence’ as the country has used new technologies to prevent waterlog soils, there has also been increased mechanization through the leasing of technology and an increase in the creation of jobs;</li> <li>• <u>Ghana’s Growth</u> - Ghana was the final country featured as an example of good practice in Africa and the clip featured a segment where farmers were shown using cell phone technology to check market prices, and farmers were concluding transactions by being paid using mobile money.</li> <li>• <u>Infrastructure Key</u> – the film closed with the comment that a 10 percent increase in infrastructure development spending, particularly on electrification, could improve agriculture by 30%.</li> </ul>
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<b>Speakers</b>		
<p>Dr. Agnes Kalibata, President, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)</p>		<p>Dr. Kalibata began her welcome remarks by providing an introduction of herself and of AGRA. Dr. Kalibata, served as the immediate past Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources in Rwanda before joining AGRF in late 2014. She went on to speak about AGRA’s aim at being a leading role player in the transformation of the agricultural sector in Africa — in a way that is tailored to conditions in Africa and places a strong emphasis on safeguarding the environment.</p> <p>She continued that AGRA is building an alliance of partner - including farmers and their organizations, governments, agricultural research organizations, the private sector, local non-governmental organizations, and civil society - to significantly and sustainably improve the productivity and incomes of smallholder farmers, many of whom are women.</p> <p>She also emphasized that a key focus of AGRA is its work in developing strong partnerships to carry out its work – and to support others in developing theirs. She said a key catalyst for the development and</p>



## AGRF 2016 – OPENING CEREMONY REPORT (PART 1)

		<p>expansion of these partnerships is the AGRF, and this she said was attested to by the fact that AGRF provides a unique platform within a diverse community of stakeholders can discuss challenges, share success, disseminate information, and engage with Africa’s heads of states and farming, agribusiness, and development partner leaders.</p> <p>She said despite the significant progress that was cited in the Agricultural Status Report, much more still needs to be done and those who support Agriculture on the continent must truly ‘seize this moment’ to redouble their efforts to move the continent’s agricultural agenda forward.</p> <p>She went on to speak about comments made at the AGRF pre-event ministerial meeting, and how the ministers agreed that in terms of the CAADP goals and the pursuit of the Malabo commitments, many countries are not meeting the targets that set. As such, she continued we really need to adopt a score card that will help us assess the performance of Africa’s leaders and hold them accountable.</p> <p>She then introduced Mr. Strive Masiywa, Chairman, AGRA and Founder and Chairman, Econet Wireless.</p>
<p>Mr. Strive Masiywa, Chairman, AGRA, and Founder and Chairman, Econet Wireless</p>		<p>Mr. Masiyiwa succeeded in the Chairmanship of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) from its founding Chairman, former UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan.</p> <p>He stated that it was now just more than 10 years ago that Kofi Annan called for an Africa Green Revolution. The issue in the early years he stated was how to respond to that call. Simultaneously, he noted, a generation of African leaders in Maputo where responding to the call. Today, he noted many stakeholders have heard that call and have begun to respond. Even US President Obama heard the call, and Mr. Masiyiwa acknowledged the presence at AGRF of Gayle Smith, head of the US Agency for International Development (USAID). He also appreciated former Nigerian President Obasanjo’s presence and his response and continuous leadership over the past decade to the call to develop agriculture in Africa.</p> <p>He said the most important aspect of AGRA is the “alliance” development aspect of the organization’s work. He went on to acknowledge and welcome to AGRF, the farmers, their organizations, the government</p>



## AGRF 2016 – OPENING CEREMONY REPORT (PART 1)

		<p>representatives, agricultural research organizations, private sector stakeholders, financiers, local and the international nongovernmental organizations, and civil society present. He also welcomed the new leaders emerging in African agricultural development community. In particular, he acknowledged Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, a past member of the AGRA family who left his Vice-Presidency at AGRA to become the Minister of Agriculture of Nigeria and this past year assumed the helm of the African Development Bank. He noted that Adesina was a past previous winner of YARA’s Food Prize, which in 2015 became known as the Africa Food Prize and is chaired by former President Olusegun Obasanjo.</p> <p>Mr. Masiyiwa also took time to speak about Dr. Borlaug, stating that the last time he spoke to Dr. Borlaug, shortly before his passing, it was clear that they might not speak again, and as such they noted that there was unfinished business in the realization of the African Green Revolution. Thus, he ended his welcome remarks by encouraging the delegates to continue their work and to help finish what Dr. Borlaug started.</p>
<p>Hon. Willy Bett, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Kenya</p>		<p>The Honorable Cabinet Secretary began his welcome remarks by praising AGRA for the work they do and the accomplishments they have been able to achieve.</p> <p>He said that AGRA’s achievements would be shared with the governments with whom they work, with the farmers, the private sector, development partners and all of the stakeholders of agriculture in Africa with whom AGRA works toward the development of agriculture on the continent.</p> <p>He also acknowledged his president, President Kenyatta, for the leadership he has provided, and the support that he has given to the work of the Ministry to develop Agriculture in Kenya.</p> <p>Cabinet Secretary Bett reiterated the importance of agriculture, not just in Kenya and Africa, but in the whole world. He went on to state that in Africa, increasing yield and production and value addition were also key areas where accelerated progress needed to be made. He also commented that more work was needed about how to bring farmers closer to the market.</p> <p>And the great population of young people in Africa also have to be</p>



## AGRF 2016 – OPENING CEREMONY REPORT (PART 1)

		<p>included in the continent’s agricultural transformation journey - but this he noted can only be done through innovation and technology.</p> <p>He then ended his short remarks by introducing his President, H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta.</p>
<p>H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta</p> <p>Role: Keynote Address</p>		<p>The Honorable President Uhuru Kenyatta began his presentation by acknowledging the delegates and welcoming them to Kenya. He continued by also acknowledging and thanking Rwandan President Paul Kagame for his attendance at AGRF 2016. He stressed that he believed that AGRF was a very important gathering and its mission timely, and its theme appropriate as action indeed was urgently needed to accelerate the development of Africa’s agricultural sector.</p> <p>He reminded the delegates that in Kenya over 70 percent of the population, directly and indirectly, rely on agriculture. Agriculture, he continued, also provides the possibility for decent jobs and dignified lives for African Youths. He stressed the importance to Kenya’s economy of agriculture, and noted that it was an important sector for the country in their fight to alleviate poverty and end malnutrition.</p> <p>He stated that across Africa there is a need to build a robust agricultural environment. And he also acknowledged the great need to continue engaging the private sector in the agricultural development process. He said we need to continue our efforts to fulfill the promises made in Maputo in 2003 and toward realizing the Commitments taken in Malabo in 2014. Agriculture in Africa has the potential to be a multi trillion US \$ industry and we all need to work to help achieve that end.</p> <p>He stated that there are 3 key steps we need to take to help develop agriculture in Africa:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Collectively agree to streamline our national agricultural plans and strategies, so that they are clearly aligned with the Malabo Commitments, and also have with clear time lines for implementation;</li> <li>2. Commit to allocate greater financing for agriculture, and be more specific about the intended use of the money that is being released; and</li> <li>3. Push for greater accountability – and there should indeed be a</li> </ol>



## AGRF 2016 – OPENING CEREMONY REPORT (PART 1)

		<p>score card, based on the commitments made here at AGRF and in Malabo.</p> <p>His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta, officially opened AGRF 2016 by laying out a bold vision for how agriculture transformation should play out in Kenya and across Africa. Committing himself to deliver on both the political and policy agenda, President Kenyatta announced that his government would invest US \$200 million, so at least 150,000 young farmers and young agriculture entrepreneurs can gain access to markets, finance, and insurance. He then called on his fellow heads of state across Africa to step-up and invest aggressively over the next five years in agriculture-related endeavors.</p>
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<p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>The importance of agriculture in Africa and to the continent’s continued economic development cannot be overstated – and this was made clear during the opening ceremony of the 2016 African Green Revolution Forum.</p> <p>The development of agriculture in Africa, is not just important for Africa but for the world too. The transformation of agriculture in Africa will contribute to the development of the global economy and support global food security. For the successful transformation of agriculture, the following must be considered :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finance</li> <li>• Innovation</li> <li>• Research</li> <li>• Information sharing</li> <li>• Political will</li> <li>• Access to markets and</li> <li>• Infrastructural development.</li> </ul>		
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