



AGRF 2016 – OPENING CEREMONY REPORT (PART 3)

Day 3 - Wednesday, September 7

15:30pm- 16:30pm

Official Opening Ceremony – Theme 2

Heads of State: ‘Seize the Moment’

SESSION BRIEF

Theme: While it is important to recognize that today is a unique period in Africa’s agricultural development trajectory and many factors are aligned that would and should encourage all to “seize the moment” and increase their efforts to engage in the sector, it is inspiring to note that there are a number of actors in both government and the private sector who have taken up the mantle and are leading with action. These stakeholders are making bold commitments to encourage policy development, to finance project and program implementation, and to support increased private sector engagement toward agricultural transformation in Africa – and they offer their work as a call to action, an illustration of the possibilities, and an inspiration that today is indeed the day that we most collectively move the agriculture agenda in Africa forward.

Key Issues/ Questions:

- Who are some of the key actors globally that are focused on African agricultural transformation?
- What are some of the recent and forthcoming initiatives that will help drive Africa’s agricultural transformation agenda?

Outcome Desired:

- Learn more about why today is a day to seize the moment – from continental and global actors doing so.
- Gain insight about how stakeholders are playing various roles toward the attainment of the continent’s agricultural transformation.
- Inspire matching commitments from AGRF stakeholders and illustrate how others can get involved and play a role in the movement toward a Green Revolution in Africa.

Organizer: AGRF Secretariat



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Day 3 - Wednesday, September 7 9:30am- 12:30pm Official Opening Ceremony – Theme: Making Political, Policy, and Financial Commitments		
Name	Picture	Discussion
<p>Ms. Lerato Mbele, TV Personality, BBC</p> <p>Role: Moderator</p>		<p>Ms. Lerato Mbele, the moderator of this final session of the Opening Ceremony of AGRF 2016, opened the session with a Swahili proverb that translates as the following, “When you meet a visitor for the first time you welcome them. The second time, you hand them a hoe.”</p> <p>She explained that the session was being convened with development partners who were asked by President Kenyatta to “put their money where their mouth is” as President Kagame has stated that there had been enough talking, and now we needed to see action.</p> <p>She reiterated the fact that today on the continent (and elsewhere globally) the unfortunate reality is, banks often avoid lending to the agriculture sector. In Africa today, there is a roughly US\$400 billion in unmet financial loan demand, and there is available evidence that shows that you can get up to 20% returns from investing in agriculture. So what is the catch – we need champions to turn around this way of thinking. Thus, it is of great importance that we have an Alliance.</p> <p>With that in mind she called on the key presenter of this session, Ms. Gayle Smith.</p>
<p>Ms. Gayle Smith, Administrator, USAID</p> <p>Role: Setting the Stage</p>		<p>In her remarks, Ms. Smith began by stating that her education and introduction to Africa began thirty years ago. At the time there was the worst drought in history. However, since that time a lot has been accomplished but there is still a lot to do. Only 8 years ago, food security was not even a major subject on the world agenda. Today, though food security is a growing priority and serious capital has begun to be mobilized to support the global agriculture sector, particularly in Africa. Africa is not only a topic of increasing conversation in discussions about global food security, it is driving conversation.</p> <p>She expressed growing confidence in where we are in terms of addressing global food security because we now have a sense of what needs to be done to achieve food security. We have seen that investing in agriculture is the key to alleviating poverty. She added her voice to</p>



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		<p>those calling for a scorecard as she too felt that we need to measure our progress, evaluate our programs and efforts, to be able to hold ourselves accountable.</p> <p>Ms. Smith also stated that she is encouraged because African leaders have shown their commitment to increasing and supporting greater agricultural investment efforts and have followed through with it in their commitments. When African leaders come to the negotiating table united in a common agenda change is inevitable.</p> <p>Also she noted that it was incredibly important in building resilience among the small holder farmers, who are the most at risk. Reducing the vulnerability of the world’s poor through the promotion of climate smart agriculture should also be made a priority. Scaling resilience is a critical ingredient and we must also invest ‘political capital.’ We have the evidence that investment in resiliency work (in the SAHEL and in Kenya) enabled those affected to bounce back. The beauty of this is that we can measure this.</p> <p>In closing, she thanked President Kenyatta for his support and said that if it hadn’t been for his help they wouldn’t have gotten this far.</p>
<p>Panelists</p>		
<p>Dr. Judith Rodin, President, The Rockefeller Foundation</p>		<p>Dr. Judith Rodin began by congratulating some of the Rockefeller Foundation Doctoral scholarship recipients, including AGRA’s own President, Dr. Agnes Kalibata.</p> <p>She went on to note that a decade ago, the Rockefeller Foundation helped found AGRA and in her estimation it has been a decade of progress.</p> <p>However, she cautioned at the present time we must prepare for the unexpected, and in particular, invest in building resilience. Food loss is costly to value chains as 1/3 of farmed food never makes it from farm to fork. This food loss could feed over 1 billion of the worlds hungry.</p> <p>Food waste is also costly for the environment. “If food waste was a country, it would be the greatest contributor in carbon emissions after the US and China.”</p>



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		<p>Going forward, together we can use partnerships, training, technology and markets to enhance agricultural production. The Rockefeller Foundation she noted is committing \$130 million to support the AGRA coordinated Rockefeller program, Yield Wise aimed at reducing post-harvest losses – and a further \$50 million to support AGRA’s other programs.</p>
<p>Mr. Thomas Kehoe, Deputy Director, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation</p>		<p>Speaking on behalf of his Chairman, Bill Gates, Mr. Thomas Kehoe first shared a video greeting from Mr. Gates, who could not make it to AGRF as he was attending the G20 summit, which included a pre-recorded presentation in which Mr. Gates appreciated the work undertaken by AGRA over the years and commending an effort has reached nearly 15million farmers over the past 10 years of existence.</p> <p>In his own remarks on behalf of the Foundation, Mr. Kehoe applauded the efforts that have been launched to measure impact based on the input and output. He noted that monitoring and evaluation tools, such as the ALMA Scorecard have proven to be useful in ensuring accountability and action.</p> <p>Agricultural growth he continued can improve the growth of national GDP. Thus, the sector is a vital driver of prosperity in African countries. If the farmers plant poor seeds the result will be poor. With concerted and consistent support, the right seeds, enabling policies, and strong investment, production will improve.</p> <p>He continued with a request for those present not to grow weary of doing good as “an investment in agriculture, is in investment in broad based economic growth.”</p> <p>And he concluded by noting that BMGF has made a commitment of \$5 billion to the African agriculture sector over the next five years and has also promised to cover the operational costs of AGRA over the next five years.</p>



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<p>Mr. Joshua Oigara, Group CEO, KCB Bank</p>		<p>Mr. Oigara, the CEO of KCB Bank, opened his remarks by reciting a few key statistics. Over the years the bank has lent 30 billion shillings in commercial loans to the agriculture sector. He made a commitment that the bank would set aside another \$350 million USD for agriculture projects, \$200 million USD of which would go to infrastructure which is equally important to make it possible to bring goods to market.</p> <p>He noted that KCB is also in the process of creating a fund with the MasterCard Foundation. In the next 3 to 5 years this should contribute to greater transformation on the continent.</p> <p>Specifically, over two million smallholder farmers stand to benefit from agriculture business opportunities through the US\$350 million commitment that KCB has made over the next five years.</p>
<p>Dr. Chiji Ojukwu, Director, Agriculture and Agro-Industry, AfDB</p>		<p>Dr. Ojukwu spoke during this session on behalf of African Development Bank President Dr. Akinwumi Adesina who was delayed in his arrival to Nairobi.</p> <p>In stating that the Bank has determined to make a 400% increase in its funding allocations for agriculture in Africa, he committed that \$24 billion would be invested in the sector by the Bank over the next 10 years</p>
<p>Mr. Tarik Choho, MD, OCP Group & CEO, OCP Africa</p>		<p>In his remarks Mr. Choho, pointed out that Morocco doesn't have oil or gas but they have one of the world's largest phosphate reserves, and this key ingredient in fertilizer has allowed his company OCP to become the largest African fertilizer company on the continent and one of the largest fertilizer companies on the world.</p> <p>He continued, that while OCP has always had a keen interest in developing the continent, earlier in 2016 they launched a dedicated subsidiary, OCP Africa to pursue accelerated business development on the continent. They now are in an even better position to help farmers make sure they get the right fertilizer, at the right price, and the right time.</p> <p>OCP Africa is also investing in agronomy and carbon soil testing. They have built a school and want to train and share knowledge and research</p>



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		<p>with some 30 million Africans over the next five years. The next five years will be a critical period for development of agriculture in Africa.</p>
<p>Ms. Ertharin Cousin, Executive Director, WFP</p>		<p>Ms. Cousin began her closing remarks as the final speaker of the afternoon long Opening Ceremony of AGRF 2016 by thanking everyone for having stayed through the conclusion of the program.</p> <p>She then opened her discussion by sharing a bit about the United Nation’s World Food Programme agency. WFP works to help save lives through the provision of humanitarian food support in conflict areas and those suffering from natural disaster. Through their food purchasing initiatives they also help move farmers from subsistence farming to commercial farming by providing consistent markets for farmer output.</p> <p>WFP, she continued, has a mandate to explore new partnerships and synergies in addition to undertaking its humanitarian work. It is now offering assistance to bridge humanitarian assistance to development.</p> <p>The Program commits to purchase US\$120 million of its agricultural products each year from smallholder farmers through its ‘Patient Procurement Platform’ – which represents 10% of WFP’s annual procurement budget. Members of the platform are Global but all have National participants.</p> <p>She restated the point made by others earlier that if Africa can eliminate 40% of Post-harvest losses, then Africa can feed itself, and share with the world.</p> <p>She requested those present in the room to fully commit to Africa’s agricultural development and urged all in attendance to keep up the good fight as “the work you do outside is making a difference”. She also reiterated that no lone organization can change the state of affairs by working alone and encouraged that if we work together, we can make a Green Revolution in Africa a reality. Without an agricultural renaissance the continent cannot move forward.</p>



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Mr. Strive Masiywa, Chairman, AGRA, and Founder and Chairman, Econet Wireless



Mr. Strive Masiywa, came back to the podium and on behalf of President Kenyatta who was slated to do the Closing Remarks for the Opening Ceremony, thanked everyone for their contribution and reiterated the pledges that had been made for the afternoon – and calculated that \$30 billion had been pledged during the Opening Ceremony of AGRF 2016 to support African agriculture – a great way to begin the formal conference deliberations.

New Investments

- AfDB announced investments of US \$24 billion to drive Africa’s agricultural transformation by supporting the private sector to unlock the potential of African agriculture. Leverage US \$3 billion for women farmers and entrepreneurs
- The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation pledges US \$5 billion towards crop and livestock research, strengthening data, and improving systems to deliver innovation and information; and to provide better tools to farmers.
- US \$3 billion pledged by the International Fund for Agricultural Development.
- The Rockefeller Foundation: US \$180 million towards investments in human resilience to catalyze agricultural transformation
- Kenya Commercial Bank, East Africa’s largest commercial Bank will invest US \$350 million in loans for smallholder farmers, 50,000 of them women and another 50,000 youth.

Summary

Seizing the Moment means figuring out today how the continent can feed itself consistently and better prepare for the fact that in just over 30 years the population of Africa will reach 2.4 billion people. The continent spends anywhere from US\$30 - 45 billions on imports and by 2030 this number could be over \$100 billion USD. To end hunger by 2025, Africa must be a net exporter.

US \$30 billion in commitments from heads of state, foundations and other development partners were made during the official opening ceremony toward supporting an agricultural transformation in Africa.