



# The Seventh African Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Triennial Conference 2021

## Mapping Progress in Agriculture in Africa

### Plenary Session

**Date:** 08th December, 2021

**Time:** 08:30 - 11:00 WAT (GMT+1)

**Venue:** Palais des Congres de Cotonou, Benin

**Virtual Link:** <https://bit.ly/3mVE6A9>

### Background

Agriculture and the broader agri-food system across Africa remains a primary source of employment and incomes for most of the population. Agricultural productivity growth remains one of the key challenges to be addressed by in the continent, but it is by no means the only challenge, especially for fragile and resource-rich countries<sup>1</sup>. Notwithstanding the need to address the numerous challenges still facing the continent's agriculture, progress is being achieved on various fronts and agricultural growth in the continent is making fundamental leaps and bounds. By 2014, Rwanda reported lifting at least one million people out of poverty owing to the strategic interventions they implemented arising from their commitment to the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) requirement to increasing agricultural productivity<sup>2</sup>.

Sub-Saharan Africa in particular has made realised the highest rate of agricultural growth of any region of the world since 2000, at roughly 4.3 percent per year. This growth has

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<sup>1</sup> JAYNE, T., FOX, L., FUGLIE, K., & ADELAJA, A. (2021). Agricultural Productivity Growth, Resilience, and Economic Transformation in Sub-Saharan Africa.

<sup>2</sup> NKOMBO, N. 2014. CAADP works! Rwanda lifts over 1 million people out of poverty.

<https://www.one.org/africa/blog/caadp-works-rwanda-lifts-over-1-million-people-out-of-poverty/>

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undoubtedly contributed to the region's relatively strong economic transformation process. The factors that enabled this growth include the sustained period of relatively high global food prices beginning in 2006. This was a foundation for increased global demand for food, especially higher prices for livestock products that require food grains for animal feed, rapidly developing land markets in the region, and macroeconomic and sectoral policy reforms, which provided greater scope for private investment in trading, processing, and retailing agricultural inputs and commodities. These consequently contributed to increased employment and incomes in the upstream and downstream stages of African agri-food systems.

Further, as the continent rapidly urbanises, major opportunities are opening up and the African farmers and entrepreneurs are tapping into these opportunities. The agri-food systems in the continent are being transformed, rapidly adapting and the supply chains are becoming longer than ever before. These are opening up space for the continent's processing capacity. Equally, the young Africans are gradually realising the immense opportunities in the sector and are reshaping the narrative as well actions across the various segments of the sector. Notwithstanding the continent's agricultural challenges, Africa has unique story of progress to share beyond the common narrative of a poor and treacherous continent.

### Purpose of the dialogue

The purpose of this dialogue is twofold:

1. Converge Africa's experts, policy makers and decision leaders as well as practitioners to share evidence and lessons of success from various agricultural development interventions and policy directions that have been successful in the continent
2. Map-out actions and possible interventions for accelerating positive agricultural transformation in Africa

### Expected outputs

1. A positive narrative of Africa's agricultural performance shared with the global audience

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## 2. Scalable solutions and experiences from within Africa adapted to the local context

### Approach and Methodology

This plenary session brings together audience from across the world through blended approach involving both physical and virtual session engagements. The physical sessions will be happening in Benin while the virtual sessions will be relayed through the zoom platform.

### Draft Agenda

Time	Activity
<b>Moderator: Prof. Lindiwe Sibanda, University of Pretoria, South Africa</b>	
8:30-8:40	Welcome Remarks from the Rector of University of Parakou-Prof. Prosper Gandaho
8:40-8:50	Remarks by RUFORUM Executive Secretary, Prof. Adipala Ekwamu
8:50-9:05	Key Note Address 1: Dr. Agnes Kalibata, President-AGRA. "Turning the Agricultural Tide for a Food Secure and Prosperous Africa"
9:05-9:20	Key Note Address 2: Dr. Ousmane Badiane, Executive Director-AKADEMIYA. "Tracking the evidence of success, what the African data say about Africa's agricultural progress"
9:20-9:40	Discussion
9:40-9:45	<b>Short video (University of Free State Wool/Sheep Value Chain)</b>
9:45-10:30	Panel Discussion: Policy Reshaping Africa's Agricultural Progress <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hon. Gaston Cossi Dossouhoui, Minister Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, Benin</li> <li>Hon. Lobin Clarkie Lowe, Minister of Agriculture, Malawi</li> <li>Dr. David Nielsen, Former Senior Agricultural Manager, World Bank</li> <li>Prof. George Openjuru Ladaah, Vice Chancellor, Gulu University, Uganda</li> </ol>

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	5. Dr Yemi Akinbamijo, Executive Director, Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
10:30-10:45	<b>Discussion</b>
10:45-10:55	Associate Prof. Nadia Fanou Fogny, University of Abomey Calavi, Benin: Summary of emerging issues and way forward
10:55-11:25	<b>Health Break</b>

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