



2nd RUFORUM TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE

CONCEPT NOTE

SYMPOSIUM III: UNLOCKING INCLUSIVE AND BROAD-BASED ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Date: 13th August 2024 **Time:** 10:30-12:00 CAT

Venue: Mercure Hotel, Grand Ballroom, Windhoek, Namibia

Registration Link: <https://bit.ly/3wITNlp>

Contact:

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BACKGROUND

Between 1990 and 2010, Africa's economic growth was very slow compared to India and China¹. Recent studies, however, show a positive effect of the CAADP on Africa's agriculture that resulted in an 8.7% growth above rates experienced in the pre-CAADP period². Other drivers of positive changes in Africa's economy were political stability, increased price of oil and metals, and subsequent rise in investment and consumer expenditure. The continent became more attractive to investments and experienced a rise in consumer spending. Projections show that spending by Africa's consumers and businesses already totals US\$4 trillion annually and is growing rapidly. Household consumption is expected to grow at 3.8 % annually and is expected to reach US\$2.1 trillion by 2025. Building a strong industrial sector is pivotal for achieving long-term and sustainable development, resilience, and inclusive prosperity in Africa³. This will produce more jobs, increase productivity as well as income, contributing to poverty reduction in different regions of the continent. Africa's growth will certainly be

¹McKinsey Global Institute, Reimagining Economic growth in Africa, 2023

²Abreha, Kaleb G., et al., Industrialization in sub-Saharan Africa: Seizing opportunities in global value chains, Africa Development Forum, and World Bank, 2016.



affected by major development disruptions such as the digital advances (AI, mobile money, and the internet) and threats such as climate change among others.

Further, Agenda 2063, the continent's development blueprint aspires to achieve inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development. The Agenda 2063 Second Decade Strategy (2024-2034) aims to, "reduce poverty to 20%; inequality by 15%; and the proportion of the population who suffer from hunger to at most 5%". This presents policy aimed at creating broad-based development and equal opportunity for Africa's citizens. However, this requires bold policies, investments, reforms among others. Indeed, the "future-of-work" opportunities for Africa is and will be affected by global trends as well as local contexts. Africa's working-age population is estimated to be growing at 3% per annum and will generate approximately 450 million young people ready to work by 2035. In job creation, Africa must increase the proportion of formal waged employees above what it currently has where most workers are [informally employed](#)¹¹. Micro, and Small and Medium Enterprises have a role to play deriving from a thriving agrifood sector, to serve the growing urban consumer populations in Africa and beyond.

To unlock inclusive and broad-based economic opportunity for Africa, new knowledge on models, pathways, and drivers of Africa's economic growth, successes, and lessons for scaling these across the continent be identified and widely disseminated. As part of its Second Triennial Conference, RUFORUM has organised a symposium to discuss how to unlock inclusive economic growth in Africa. Knowledge will be shared, and discussions will be held in two sub-themes outlined below:

Sub-theme 3(a): Inclusive resourcing for equitable economic growth:

- i. Inclusive access to financial resources: Microfinance, Fintechs and supporting excluded communities and populations.
- ii. Access to agricultural input subsidies: Lessons learnt and options for the future
- iii. Access to technologies: Lessons learnt and options for the future in formal and informal seed and technology supply systems, post stress seed systems (emergency seed)
- iv. Closing the gender gap in agriculture practice and enterprise.
- v. Inclusive access to land, water, and other physical resources for production (land tenure systems -access, usage, control) for all.

Sub-theme 3(b): Wealth and Youth Employment:



- i. Agri-entrepreneurship and agriculture de-revived jobs: Initiatives, opportunities, prospects, and lessons learnt from past and ongoing actions.
- ii. Feeding Africa’s urbanising population: The changing peri-urban and urban food systems and their opportunities for young people through service provision, value added-processing and new foods.
- iii. Unlocking entrepreneurship in innovation: Digitization, and emerging technologies to facilitate best environment for entrepreneurship.

OBJECTIVES

The main aim of this scientific session is to share and exchange new knowledge on models, pathways, and drivers of inclusive and broad-based economic opportunity for Africa. Specifically, this session will:

- a. Facilitate exchange of knowledge and generate pathways, models, and tools for achieving inclusive resourcing for equitable economic growth.
- b. Facilitate exchange of knowledge and generate pathways, models, and tools for achieving meaningful youth employment and wealth creation.
- c. Generate guidance for policies and ethical considerations for achieving maximum impact in inclusive and broad-based economic growth.
- d. Foster partnerships and networks among researchers and industry professionals for innovations scaling models for growing Africa’s economy.

APPROACH

This symposium will be kick-started by a keynote address responding to the question ***“Is an inclusive and diverse growth possible for Africa? Lessons learnt over the past decades of the continental renaissance?”*** Three discussants will present responses to the issues raised in the keynote address to initiate discussions among participants. This symposium will set the tone for the different sessions which will take place on 14th August 2024.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- a) Knowledge on pathways, models, and tools for achieving inclusive resourcing for equitable economic growth. Success stories, challenges, and opportunities for scaling impact across Africa will be shared.
- b) Knowledge on pathways, models, and tools for achieving meaningful youth employment and wealth creation. Success stories, challenges, and opportunities for scaling impact across Africa will be shared.
- c) Guidance on policies and ethical considerations for achieving maximum impact in inclusive and broad-based economic growth. Success stories, challenges, and opportunities for scaling impact across Africa will be shared.



- d) Partnerships and networks among researchers and industry professionals for innovations scaling models for growing Africa’s economy.

PARTICIPANTS

Participants will include researchers, scientists, academics, development partners, policy makers and Government Officials, industry representatives, Non-Profit Organizations, professionals, and graduate students.

ORGANIZERS

The event is organized by RUFORUM, with support from the Government of Namibia and RUFORUM member universities in Namibia.

PROGRAMME

TUESDAY 13 th August, 2024	
PLENNARY SESSION III	
Venue: Mercure Hotel, Grand Ballroom	
Registration Link: https://bit.ly/3wiTNlp	
Chair: Prof Daud Kassam, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources	
RAPPORTEUR: Dr. Paul Nampala and Prof. Elizabeth Kizito	
Time	
10.30-10:35	Welcome Remarks from the Chair
10:35-11:00	Key Note Address Title: <i>Equipping Farmers for a Successful Farm Economy in Africa</i> Dr. David Nielson, RUFORUM IAP Chair, and former Economist, World Bank
11:00-11:15	Discussant Dr Tshilidzi Madzivhandila, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), FARNPAN
11:15-11:30	Prof. Chris Murungweni, Chinhoyi University of Technology
11:30-11:45	Prof Livingstone. K. Sam-Amoah, University of Cape Coast

Co-organisers:





11:45-11:55	Discussions
11:55-12:00	Closing remarks

Co-organisers:

