WEBINAR

AFRICA'S NEW HARVEST: PREPARING AFRICA'S AGRICULTURE AND RELATED SECTORS TO FEED AND GROW THE CONTINENT'S ECONOMY

Date: 27th to 28th November 2023

Time: 3:00-5:35pm EAT

Registration Link: https://bit.ly/44d1Txi

Concept Note

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BACKGROUND

Agriculture plays a key role in Africa's economy accounting for about a third of the African Continent's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), is a source of livelihoods for about half of the population and feeds hundreds of millions of people on the continent and beyond every day. According to the African Development Bank[1], the low productivity of Africa's agricultural sector makes it uncompetitive, with major producer agro-ecologies having high rates of poverty, subjecting 232 million people to undernourishment. Previous studies show that, gross domestic product (GDP) growth originating from agriculture productivity improvement, catalyses up to 40% more income growth among the poorest and is three times larger than growth originating from the rest of the economy[2]. To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 12), increasing agricultural productivity is essential. Agricultural growth is a foundation for equitable and sustainable growth, because as it also supports food systems that produce nutritious, safe and affordable food. Additionally, considering that the agriculture employs over 60% of rural African populations, including smallholder farmers, it must expand in order to create jobs and unlock opportunity for millions of Africans. Growth however must be sustainable and well-integrated into the broader economy and major agrifood systems. This thematic area cover the following sub-themes:

a. Regenerative agriculture[3]

Africa has 60% of the worlds' remaining land for increasing agriculture productivity. While productivity increased mostly due to expansion of acreage, total factor productivity is reported at the 1960's levels when the

[1] AfDB, 2016. Feed Africa. Strategy for agricultural transformation in Africa 2016–2025. African Development Bank, Abijan, Côte d'Ivoire

[2] Christiaensen, L. and Martin, W. 2018. Agriculture, structural transformation and poverty reduction: Eight new insights. World Development, 109: 413-416. doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2018.05.027.

[3] Regenerative agriculture is an evolution of conventional agriculture, reducing the use of water and other inputs, and preventing land degradation and deforestation. It protects and improves soil, biodiversity, climate resilience and water resources while making farming more productive and profitable. www.syngentagroup.com/en/regenerative-agriculture#bookmark1

population was 257 million compared to 1.4 billion in 2022. With the potential threat of a shrinking cereal production under the predicted climate change scenarios, Africa must farm smartly. This sub-theme focuses on the following topical areas:

a) Agro-ecology and sustainable intensification;
b) Soil health, water, energy, and environment; and
c) Advanced genetics for production; with specific focus on i) Crop improvement: new resilient demand-driven crop varieties/new species and ii) Livestock improvement: new resilient demand-driven livestock breeds/species

b. Africa's Blue Economy[4]: Sustainable marine and fresh water exploitation

Africa's future economic and sustainable development may be fueled by its blue economy if it is managed in a sustainable manner. According to African Union, marine capture fisheries currently stands at 7 million tons and will only reach 13 million tons by 2030, leaving a supply gap of 6 million tons by 2030[5]. Fresh water fisheries the largest sector of Africa's blue economy, employs nearly 12 million people. Over 200 million Africans depend on these aquatic resources for food security and the sector generates an estimated value added of more than $24 billion, or 1.26% of the GDP of all African countries7. Given the gap in supply of fish and the overall potential of other sectors of the blue economy (currently valued at US$300 billion and, creating 49 million jobs), it is imperative that strategic studies be undertaken to inform policy, investments and sustainable management. This sub-theme is specifically focusing on:

a) Aquaculture:
b) Marine resources of food and fiber.
c) Conservation of both aquatic and marine biodiversity, and sustainable strategies for ecosystem services.

OBJECTIVES

The main aim of this webinar is to foster the exchange of knowledge, promote collaboration, and advance the understanding and practice of agriculture within the scientific community. Specifically this session will:

a. Foster networking opportunities, bringing together researchers, professionals, and practitioners from diverse backgrounds and institutions
b. Enhance the professional development of attendees by providing insights into emerging trends, methodologies, and best practices within their field of agriculture.
c. Facilitate interactions between researchers and industry professionals, fostering collaboration, technology transfer, and application of research findings in real-world contexts.
d. provide a platform to discuss policy implications, societal impact, and ethical considerations of research findings.

[4] The Blue Economy refers to sustainable use and conservation of aquatic resources in both marine and freshwater environments. It includes oceans and seas, coastlines and banks, lakes, rivers and groundwater. It also includes economic benefits that may not be marketed, such as carbon storage, coastal protection, cultural values and biodiversity

[5] https://www.afdb.org/en/documents/future-marine-fisheries-african-blue-economy

APPROACH

The Webinar will consist of Keynote presentations followed by Panel Discussions on Regenerative Agriculture and Blue Economy. Participants will provided the opportunity to interact with the speakers during the Q&A and open discussion sessions.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

a. Advancement of knowledge within the specific fields under this thematic area
b. Establishment of new connections, building relationships, and fostering potential collaborations for future research projects, joint publications, and interdisciplinary initiatives.
c. Motivation and inspiration of participants to continue their research endeavors, explore new areas of study, and contribute to the advancement of knowledge in their respective fields
d. Contribution to evidence-based policymaking, shape regulations, and guide future actions in relevant areas.

PARTICIPANTS

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

PROGRAMME

	DAY 1: 27th November 2023	
REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE **CHAIR**: Dr. Mildred Kathryn Nyaburu Ssemakula, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Makerere University, Uganda **RAPPORTEUR**: Waswa[7] Moses, Emmanuel Okalany[7] and Yamungu Alongo		
3:00– 3:35	**Keynote Speaker:** Prof. Rattan Lal, Distinguished Professor of Soil Science, Ohio State University, USA	
3:35- 3.50	**Panelist 1:** Agro-ecology and sustainable intensification Dr. Regis Chikowo, Systems Agronomist, University of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe	
3:50-4:15	**Panelist 2:** Soil health, water, energy and environment Prof. Jan Hoinkis, Kalshure University of Applied Sciences, Germany	
4:15- 4:20	**Panelist 3:** Advanced genetics for production Prof Tongoona Pangirayi, West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement, Ghana	
4:20- 4:35	**Panelist 4:** Invasive Species and their management Dr Lakpo Koku Agboyi, CABI, Kenya	

4:35- 4:50	**Panelist 5:** Livestock improvement: New resilient demand-driven livestock breeds/species Prof Jan Swanepoel, University of the Free State, South Africa	
4:50 -5:30	**Discussion**	
5:30-5:35	**Closing remarks and take home message**	
DAY 2: 28th November 2023		
TITLE: AFRICA'S BLUE ECONOMY : SUSTAINABLE MARINE AND FRESH WATER EXPLOITATION **CHAIR**: Prof. Ibisime Etela, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria **RAPPORTEUR**: Waswa[6] Moses, Emmanuel Okalany,[9] Selma Ndapewa Nghituwamhata		
3:00– 3:40 3:40- 4.00 4:00-4:20 4:20- 4:40	**Keynote Address:** Africa's Blue Economy : Sustainable Marine And Fresh Water Exploitation Prof. Emmanuel Kaunda, Vice Chancellor, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Malawi **Panelist 1:** Aquaculture: Dr. Eric Ogelo, Maseno University, Kenya **Panelist 2:** Marine resources of food and fibre Dr. Hilkka Ndjaula, University of Namibia, Namibia **Panelist 3:** Conservation of both aquatic and marine biodiversity, and sustainable strategies for ecosystem services Prof. Harvey Bootsma, School of Freshwater Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, USA	
4:20- 5:30	**Discussion**	
5:30-5:35	**Closing remarks and take home message**	

[6] All issues regarding rapporteuring should be addressed to Waswa and Okalany