



African Higher Education Week & RUFORUM Biennial Conference  
Plenary Session 12

Venue: Kenyatta International Conventional Centre (KICC)

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**Session Name: Strengthening Food and Nutritional Security in Africa**

Date: Friday 26 October, 2018

Time: 10.30 – 13.00

Room: Tsavo C

Venue: KICC, Nairobi, Kenya

**Background/ Introduction**

A healthy and nutritionally well-fed population is the human capital that is indispensable for economic growth and development. Health and nutrition are connected to the overall theme of the 6<sup>th</sup> African Higher Education Week (AHEW) & RUFORUM Biennial Conference because the health and nutritional status affect the capacity to learn, which in turn determines productivity and economic growth. Available evidence shows that adult productivity depends to a considerable extent on the contribution health and nutrition during pregnancy and early childhood make to educational attainment and to the full realization of the human development potential. From this body of knowledge, a well developed and educated healthy adult consuming a nutritionally adequate diet has a higher level of economic productivity in both own farm production and the labor market than one who eats and keeps less well.

Despite several efforts and initiatives to combat hunger and malnutrition in Africa, lack of access to and availability of food, the key factors behind food insecurity remain central concerns in Africa. When food insecurity interacts with health and caring problems it aggravates nutritional insecurity. Thus, food and nutrition security remain Africa's most fundamental challenges for human welfare and economic growth. Far too many people on the continent are unable to acquire and effectively utilize at all times the food they need for a healthy life. Because of low food availability and profound poverty, an estimated 200 million people on the continent are undernourished, and their numbers are on the increase by an estimated 20% since the last two decades. The result is that more than a third of African children are stunted in their growth and must face a range of physical and cognitive challenges not faced by their better-fed peers. Undernutrition is the major risk factor underlying over 28% of all deaths in Africa (some 2.9 million deaths annually)<sup>1</sup>. The continuing human costs of inadequate food and nutrition are enormous<sup>2</sup>, and the aggregate costs of food and nutrition insecurity at the national level impose a heavy burden on efforts to foster sustained economic growth and improved general welfare.

<sup>1</sup> Vos, R. 2015. Thought for Food: Strengthening Global Governance of Food Security. United Nations Committee for Development Policy (CDP) on the United Nations development agenda for the post 2015 era. Available at <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/cdp/index.shtml>





Strengthening food and nutritional security in Africa therefore remains a key area of focus especially in light of concerted efforts between and among key stakeholders towards attainment of, aspirations in *The Africa We Want* as outlined in Agenda 2063, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – particularly Goal 2 “End hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture” and its associated targets/indicators. The Global and continental agenda on aspects of food and nutritional security are further articulated in key frameworks such as the African Regional Nutrition Strategy (ARNS) 2015 – 2025. Given the growing double malnutrition burden in Africa, it is important for stakeholders to engage, evaluate and assess progress with a view to re-inforce strategies based on learning from good practice that has delivered results elsewhere. The Third Africa Science and Technology and Innovation Forum Ministerial Declaration (Cairo 2018) recognizes the essential contributing role that Higher Education Institutions and public Research Organizations play in strengthening productivity, value chains development and competitiveness.

### Objective of the Session

The Session on Food and Nutritional Security in Africa aims at building on previous efforts to catalyze action towards accelerated and sustained attainment of the ARNS 2015 – 2025 objectives. The objective of the session links to on-going dialogue on “Assuring Food and Nutrition Security in Africa by 2020: Prioritizing Actions, Strengthening Actors and Facilitating Collaboration”. The key question remains – why Africa attainment of food and nutrition security remains elusive for Africa, and what needs to be done in the short and long-term?

Specifically, the session will:

- Present and discuss selected case studies on the status of food and nutritional security in Africa.
- Generate context specific actions needed to address food and nutrition insecurity in Africa.
- Assess the status of implementation of the ARNS 2015 – 2025 and indeed STISA 2024 Priority One on reducing poverty and reducing food and nutrition security in relation to National, sub-regional and global frameworks on food security and nutrition, especially STISA 2024 Priority One.
- Develop recommendations and modalities that will accelerate implementation of actions in the ARNS 2015 – 2025 and achievement of STISA 2024 Priority One

### Format of the session and roles of participants

The format of the session will be a moderated plenary that will engage all participants to contribute responses to the main question. First the Moderator (see below Session Agenda) will give an exposition of the key question and highlight the paradox of food and nutritional insecurity in a continent that is otherwise full of endowment in terms of agrobiodiversity and natural resources. To further illuminate the issues, the lead speaker will use selected case studies to lay the tenants and ramifications associated with opportunities and challenges associated with the session theme. The issues raised by the lead speaker will be articulated further with context specific examples from a selected panel of experts drawn from diverse facets of work that includes researchers, practitioners, and policymakers. Participants will have the opportunity to interact through a plenary question and answer arrangement with the Moderator, Lead Speaker and Panelists. The Session will conclude with “small-group” tasks that will feed into a closing plenary with key “Take-Home Messages and Recommendations” for different stakeholder segments engaged in the Food and Nutrition Security for Africa. The composition in terms of number of persons per small working group will depend on the number of participants attracted to the session but will not exceed 10 persons per group.





## Session Agenda

Time	Activity	Expectation
10.30-10.35	<b>Session Moderator introduces the session</b> Dr. Habiba Hassan-Wassef, Nutrition Expert, Egypt	Introduction by highlighting the overall question to be addressed “why Africa attainment of food and nutrition security remains elusive for Africa, and what needs to be done in the short and long-term?”
10:35 – 10:45	Lead Speaker Dr. Yemi Akinbamiyo, Executive Director, FARA	<b>Talk verbally or Make a power point presentation (five slides at most)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation drawing from different <b>Case studies on Global and National level successes and failures in the fight against Food and Nutritional Security</b></li> <li>• Is the Malabo Declaration helping?</li> <li>• What key actions are needed?</li> <li>• Raise questions to be addressed by Panelists</li> </ul>
10.45 -11.00	<b>Plenary Q &amp; A</b>	
11:00 – 11:50	<b>Panelists and suggested questions to be addressed</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prof. El Dukheri, Director General, Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development <i>What are key measures that will help buffer food and nutritional security in Africa? What role could Arab-Africa partnership play on this?</i></li> <li>2. Prof. Lise Korsten, Co-Director of the DST-NRF Centre of Excellence in Food Security, University of Pretoria, South Africa <i>What resources can Africa leverage to better the food and nutrition status?</i></li> <li>3. Mr. Mphumizi Sukati, FAO Regional Office <i>How can we effectively mobilize political action to support efforts for food security and nutritional issues in Africa: Experiences from FAO?</i></li> <li>4. Prof. Anselimo Makokha, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya <i>What are the current nutritional challenges and capacity gaps that should be addressed in support of actions towards better nutritional security for Africa?</i></li> <li>5. H.E. Professor Fekadu Beyene, State Minister, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resource, Ethiopia <i>What should be on the priority list of actions by National Governments in Africa if they are to effectively address SDG 1? How is this being addressed in Ethiopia?</i></li> </ol>	
11:50 – 12:20	Plenary Q&A	
12:20 – 12:50	Small Working Groups – Brainstorming	





12:50 – 13:00	Take Home message from the Moderator
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**Expected take Away Messages**

- (a) Recommendations and modalities for accelerated implementation of actions in ARNS 2015 – 2025 and other relevant global and/ or continental frameworks;
- (b) Renewed momentum among stakeholders on efforts to accelerate attainment of SDG 2 and its associated targets/ indicators through implementation of six strategies
  - a. Nutritional interventions
  - b. Facilitating market access
  - c. Capacity building
  - d. Gender sensitive development
  - e. Creation of off-farm opportunities
  - f. Good governance

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