


SIDE EVENT

Leveraging Youth Innovations for Sustainable Agri-Food Systems and Healthy Diets in Africa

 September 02, 2024

 09:45 – 11:15 AM CAT

 Youth Dome | Kigali Convention Centre (KCC)

Abstract

This side event will explore the necessary investments and policy innovations that are needed to successfully harness the many opportunities offered by Africa's agrifood system for the continent's growing youth population. Youth-led innovations are playing a critical role in improving food security and nutrition. These efforts encompass technological solutions, sustainable agricultural practices, and community-driven initiatives. Agri-food processing is a particularly lucrative sector in light of Africa's rapid urbanization and growing middle class, which have led to changing food environments including a rise in modern supermarkets and an increased demand for processed and ready-to-eat foods in both urban and rural areas. This increased demand can generate employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for Africa's growing youth population in local agribusinesses. Agri-food processing is a key sector that can help to address seasonal food supply shortages, stabilize market prices, diversify markets for agricultural products, reduce postharvest losses, unlock demand for nutritious foods, and improve food safety standards.

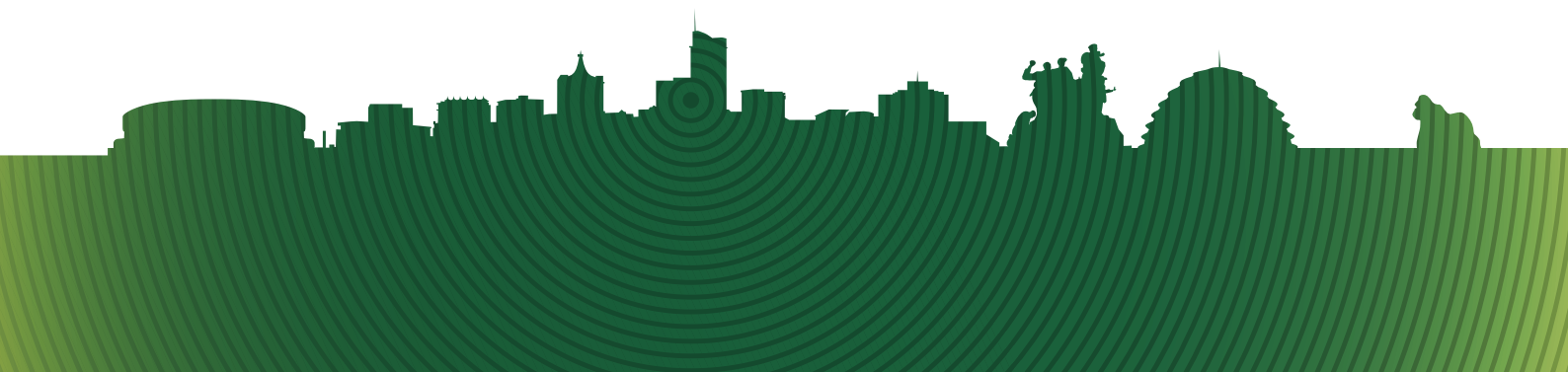
Objectives

The side event will provide a platform for an in-depth discussion on the:

1. Implications of a changing rural-urban continuum on food environments and for ensuring sustainable and healthy diets;
2. The opportunities offered by urbanization, including the role of fresh food markets, supermarkets and agri-food processing;
3. Challenges and opportunities to youth employment and entrepreneurship in agri-food systems and the agri-food processing sector;
4. Pathways to support young people to actively participate in agrifood systems transformation by showcasing successful examples of youth-driven innovations; and
5. Investment and policy options for creating employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for Africa's youth in the agro-processing sector that safeguard food safety and healthy diets.

Expected Outcomes

1. Dialogue and peer-to-peer learning on how to tap into the opportunities offered by urbanization and demographic changes and the resulting changing food environments;
2. Identification of the inherent opportunities of a thriving African agro-processing sector for livelihoods, food security and healthy diets;
3. Greater recognition of the critical role that youth-led innovations play in advancing food security and sustainable agrifood systems in Africa;
4. Improved understanding and dissemination of best practices, lessons learned, and successful models in youth-led agricultural innovation across Africa;
5. Identification of entry points for targeted policies and investments to create employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for Africa's growing youth population and demand for healthy and locally processed foods.



Provisional Agenda

09:45 – 09:50 AM

MODERATOR

Dr. Layih Butake, Director, Communication and Outreach, AKADEMIYA2063

09:50 – 09:55 AM

OPENING REMARKS [5 MINS]

Dr. Ousmane Badiane, Executive Chairperson, AKADEMIYA2063

09:55 – 10:02 AM

PRESENTATION: Changing Food Environments in Africa: Implications for Diets, Nutrition, and Policy [7 mins]

Dr. Katrin Glatzel, Senior Researcher & Program Lead, Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn

10:02 – 10:09 AM

PRESENTATION: Investment and Policy Innovations to Create Opportunities for Young People in Africa's Agro-processing Sector [7 mins]

Dr. Aisha Nakitto, Scientist, and Interim Program Lead, Malabo Montpellier Panel, AKADEMIYA2063

10:09 – 10:29 AM

PANEL 1: Youth-led Innovations: Showcasing Youth-led Innovations in Africa's Agrifood Systems [3-4 mins each]

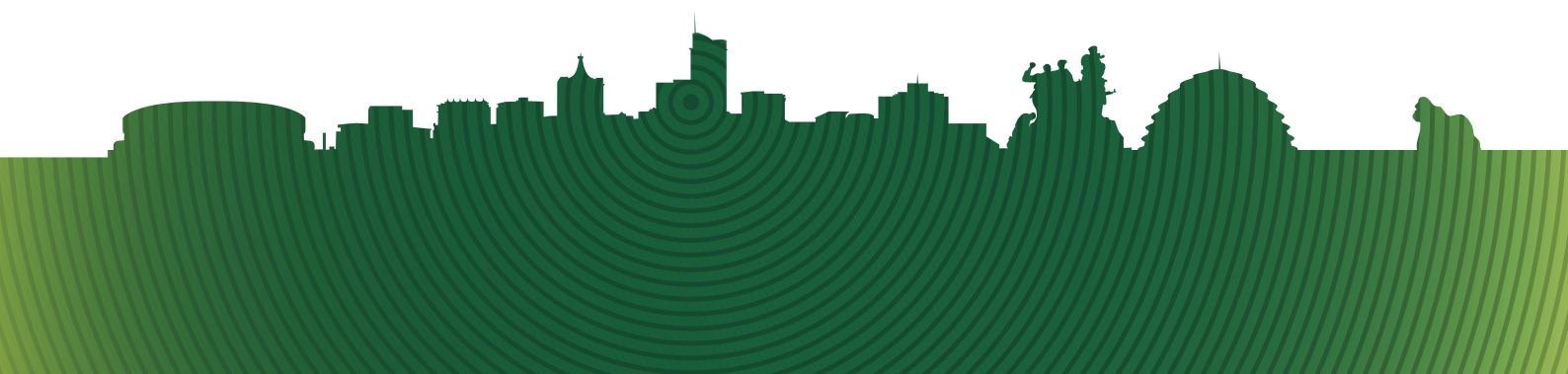
MODERATOR

Mr. Lawrence Afere, Founder, Springboard, Nigeria

- » **Ms. Faridah Nalunkuuma**, Co-founder and CEO, Kasana Foods, Uganda and AL for Agribusiness Network Member
- » **Ms. Hadijah Rose Nantambi**, Founder, Ecolife Foods, Uganda
- » **Mr. Clement Taonani**, Director, Nthawi Farms, Malawi
- » **Ms. Elizabeth Oladepo**, Founder, 07Foods, Nigeria

10:29 – 10:39 AM

AUDIENCE Q&A [10 mins]



10:39 – 10:59 AM

PANEL 2: Policy and Investment Options for Youth in Agrifood Systems

- » **Ms. Solange Tetero**, Director General, Youth Empowerment, Ministry of Youth and Arts, Rwanda
- » **Mr. Edson Mpyisi**, Chief Financial Economist and Coordinator, Enabled Youth Programme, African Development Bank (AfDB)
- » **Dr. Maggie Munthali**, Research Fellow, Mwapata Institute
- » **Ms. Brenda Mulele Gunde**, Global Lead of ICT4D, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

10:59 – 11:09 AM

AUDIENCE Q&A [10 mins]

11:09 – 11:14 AM

KEY TAKEAWAYS AND CONCLUDING REMARKS [5 mins]

Mr. Rex Chapota, Executive Director, National Youth Council, Malawi

Inquiries

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