



African Leadership Academy

Developing the next generation of African leaders

Campus Address
1050 Printech Ave, Honeydew 2040, South Africa

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AL for Agribusiness Network Network Partners' Workshop Concept Note

Date: Wednesday, 19th October 2022, 14:00-15:30 (SAST/GMT+2)

Audience description: Network partners - Private sector organizations and entrepreneurs from across Africa working along the agriculture value chain.

Registration through this link:

<https://africanleadershipacademy.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjwpceuvrTIsG9Eka5SmEQzMW8WHLvDIYDUQ>

Introduction

The [African Leadership Academy](#) (ALA) seeks to transform Africa by developing a powerful network of young leaders who will work together to address Africa's greatest challenges, achieve extraordinary social impact, and accelerate the continent's growth trajectory. As one of its initiatives it has developed the [AL for Agribusiness network](#) seeking to create a vibrant and connected network of young leaders who will work together to innovate and harness the opportunities in the Agriculture sector on the continent to revolutionise rural livelihoods.

The AL for Agribusiness partners with industry stakeholder building an enabling ecosystem that links the young leaders to opportunities that advance their careers and ventures in agriculture, while fostering inter-connectivity in the network.

The Partners Workshop

In building an engaged, vibrant ecosystem that advances African and rural prosperity, the network is increasingly attracting numbers of senior leaders and organisations creating an ecosystem that is conducive for young leaders to participate meaningfully in agriculture and agribusiness sector. [Nourishing Africa](#) who supported our agripreneurs, [Solidaridad](#) who provided internship opportunities for the network, [Wakanda Accelerator](#) funding internships that support their food entrepreneurs and [Small Foundation](#), (AL for Agribusiness' network 3-year donor funder), are some of the partners who have collaborated with the network to catalyse opportunities for our young leaders.

Relationships are at the heart of achieving this work with our partners and in this spirit, we invite industry stakeholders to the AL for Agribusiness Network Partners Workshop with the purpose of:

- Catching up on news of the network.
- Learning together.
- Connecting with other partners to learn about their participation in the network and the Agri-sector.
- Share opportunities that can foster Pan African collaboration in the network and the Agri-sector at large.



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Learning together

The AL for Agribusiness network is co-hosting the Partners Workshop with the [Malabo Montpellier Panel](#) who guide policy choices that accelerate progress towards food security and improved nutrition in Africa by providing high-quality research to equip decision makers to effectively implement policies and programs that benefit smallholder farmers.

As part of their mission, the Malabo Montpellier Panel produces accessible and readable research reports for senior policy makers and key stakeholders, providing expert knowledge and guidance for policy - based on literature analysis, scientific evidence, and practical experience. The Panel's emphasis on evidence-based analysis, mutual learning, and exchange at the highest level of policy, positions it as a crucial actor in support of agricultural transformation and economic development in Africa.

The Malabo Montpellier Panel will provide insights from their latest reports, Nature's Solutions: Policy Innovations and Opportunities for Africa's Bioeconomy. With an emphasis on evidence-based exchange, dialogue, and mutual learning, this creates a unique opportunity to help sustain and broaden progress towards better outcomes in agricultural transformation and economic development across Africa. Centred around science, innovation, and entrepreneurship the development of a bioeconomy in Africa lends itself to be shared with a young, entrepreneurial audience.

Program

Length of Time	Subject	Presenter
10 mins	Opening and Welcome	Val Wiggett Director of Sectors Program, ALA
10 mins	Introductions	All
10 mins	AL for Agribusiness Network Update	Nono Sekhoto Sector Lead, AL for Agribusiness
30 mins	Nature's Solutions: Policy Innovations and Opportunities for Africa's Bioeconomy	1. Dorothy Okello, Dean at the School of Engineering at Makerere University, Uganda and member of the Malabo Montpellier Panel 2. Julius Ecuru, Head, BioInnovate Africa
20 mins	Breakout room discussions: Exploring opportunities	All
5 mins	Feedback from Breakout	All
5 mins	Summary and closing	Nono Sekhoto



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Eng. **Dr. Dorothy Okello** is the Dean, School of Engineering at Makerere University, Uganda, and a Researcher with netLabs!UG, a research centre within the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering whose model is to strive for a balanced critical mass of research, innovation and commercialization in communications and networking. Member of the Malabo Montpellier Panel, she is also Director of Innovation at ResilientAfrica Network (RAN), Makerere University School of Public Health. Supported by USAID, RAN seeks to identify and scale innovative solutions that will strengthen the resilience of African communities. Dorothy is a Fellow of the Uganda National Academy of Sciences (FUNAS). She holds a B.Sc. Eng. (Electrical - First Class Hons.), Makerere University, an M.Sc. Electrical Engineering, University of Kansas, United States (Fulbright Scholar), and a PhD Electrical Engineering, McGill University, Canada (Canadian Commonwealth Scholar). She is a member of the Uganda Institution of Professional Engineers (UIPE), where she served as President from 2016 to 2018 (being the first female to serve as President). She is also duly registered with the Engineers Registration Board (ERB) of Uganda, and a member of IEEE. Eng. Dr. Okello is a leader with over twenty years of diverse experience in teaching, researching, as well as conducting projects and contributing to policies including serving on diverse boards in education, telecommunications/ICT, banking and innovation. She is an activist in the area of getting more women, small-scale enterprises and rural communities engaged in innovation for development – with an ability to understand and balance both community and technology objectives. She is a **member of the Malabo Montpellier Panel**.



Julius Ecuru, Ph.D., is the Program Manager, [BioInnovate Africa](#), a regional science and innovation-driven program at *icipe*, which enables scientists in Eastern Africa to translate research ideas, inventions, and technologies into new business prospects. He is an interdisciplinary scientist and researcher, working on issues related to technological innovation and sustainable industrialization in Africa. He also contributes to scholarly works in the chemical and bioengineering sciences and supports regulatory science and research ethics capacity development. His current research interests include interactive learning models, which make universities, firms and related organizations more productive and catalytic centres for innovation, growth and social development. Dr. Ecuru received his B.Sc. (Chemistry) Honors and M.Sc. in Environmental Science from Makerere University, Kampala, and a Ph.D. in Technology/Technoscience Studies (Innovation Systems and Development) from the Blekinge Institute of Technology, Sweden. Dr. Ecuru is also a Fogarty Bioethics Fellow having received a postgraduate diploma in International Research Ethics from the University of Cape Town, South Africa.

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