

18TH MALABO MONTPELLIER FORUM

JOB HARVESTS

Policy Innovations for Inclusive
Agrifood Employment in Africa

JULY
08
2026



Online



14:00 – 15:40 (GMT)



MALABO
MONTPELLIER
PANEL

is jointly facilitated by



AKADEMIYA



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Development Research
University of Bonn

CONCEPT NOTE

The [Malabo Montpellier Forum](#) provides a platform to facilitate dialogue and exchange among high-level decision-makers on African agriculture, nutrition, and food security. The forum promotes policy innovation by drawing on evidence from the [Malabo Montpellier Panel](#), which identifies areas of progress and positive change across the continent and assesses what successful countries have done differently. The Forum Co-Chairs are [H.E. Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki](#), Former Prime Minister of Niger and African Union Special Envoy for Food Systems, and [H.E. Dr. Assia Ben Salah Alaoui](#), Ambassador at Large to His Majesty King Mohamed VI of Morocco. Each Forum meeting is guided by a technical report prepared by members of the Malabo Montpellier Panel.

The theme of the Malabo Montpellier Panel's forthcoming report, to be launched at the **virtual** meeting of the 18th Malabo Montpellier Forum on **July 8, 2026**, is **“Job Harvests: Policy Innovations for Inclusive Agrifood Employment in Africa.”**

Agrifood systems sit at the center of Africa's employment and development challenge. Across the continent, they remain the largest source of livelihoods and employment. In Africa's rural economies, especially, agrifood systems are not only the dominant employer but also the primary pathway through which households engage with markets, accumulate assets, and transition from subsistence to more diversified and productive livelihoods. As structural transformation unfolds, these systems are expected to absorb labor released from agriculture while generating new opportunities in upstream and downstream activities, such as input supply, agro-processing, logistics, storage, and wholesale and retail trade. However, despite their centrality, employment outcomes within agrifood systems are often characterized by low productivity, informality, insecurity, and limited earnings.

The Panel's **Job Harvests** report examines employment in Africa's agrifood systems and rural economies through the lens of structural transformation. It identifies key barriers and opportunities for creating more inclusive, productive, and decent employment across agrifood value chains. The report also includes three country case studies on **Ethiopia, Rwanda, and Nigeria**—countries that have shown progress in their employment landscape—showcasing their institutional and policy innovations and programmatic interventions that have contributed to this progress, serving as potential models for replication and scaling up successful interventions.



The 18th Malabo Montpellier Forum is timely, coinciding with the start of the implementation phase of the Kampala CAADP Strategy and Action Plan 2026–2035, Africa’s 10-year framework for transforming sustainable and resilient agrifood systems. The launch of the Panel’s report will provide evidence to support policymakers in placing employment, decent work, youth opportunities, women’s economic inclusion, and rural livelihoods at the center of CAADP implementation.

The 18th Forum will provide a platform for policymakers and stakeholders to discuss the report’s findings and identify practical policy pathways for transforming agrifood systems into engines of decent work, inclusive growth, and rural transformation. The event will be conducted in two parts: a technical session drawing on the findings and recommendations from the Panel’s report, and a high-level policy roundtable with senior representatives from African governments.



About the Malabo Montpellier Panel

The Malabo Montpellier Panel convenes 13 leading experts in agriculture, engineering, ecology, nutrition, and food security. It aims to inform policy choices by African governments to accelerate progress toward food security and improved nutrition. The Panel identifies areas of progress and positive change across the continent and assesses what successful African countries have done differently. It identifies the institutional and policy innovations and program interventions that other countries can best replicate and scale. For more information, please visit: www.mamopanel.org.

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