
Toward Sustainable Food Systems Transformation in Africa



Saturday, August 3, 2024



4:00 PM - 5:30 PM



C5 (First Floor, Convention Centre)

Description

Session Description

Africa's food systems are under enormous pressure that threatens their sustainability. They confront exogenous shocks and challenges on many fronts: ranging from extreme weather events and more frequent and damaging effects of climate change to recurrent pests and disease outbreaks, a growing number of conflicts, and natural resource and environmental degradation. The fragility of African food systems has been laid bare by the Ukraine-Russia war and the COVID-19 pandemic that have aggravated food insecurity and poverty through disruptions in supply chains and trade, higher food prices, and losses in jobs and incomes. In fact, in 2022, the number of Africa's hungry rose to about 282 million people, that is almost 57 million more since the start of the pandemic. Thus, Africa is not on track to achieve all the Malabo Declaration agri-food transformation goals by 2025 or the sustainable development goal (SDG) 2 of zero hunger by 2030.

In light of the above challenges, transforming African food systems is imperative. The transformation of food systems is necessary to ensure sustainable and resilient livelihoods as well as healthy, safe, nutritious, and affordable diets. The transformation will need a wholesale change in mindsets and behaviors of food system actors to alter food system outcomes for the better.

Objectives

This invited panel will bring together a diverse group of leading experts to share their research and perspectives on: 1. the urgent need to transform Africa's food systems, 2. critical and emerging issues that need to be tackled to ensure sustainable food systems on the continent, and 3. innovative and practical approaches for realizing and accelerating the transformation at the regional and national levels across Africa. The discussion is timely, as it will help inform efforts led by the African Union Commission to prepare for a post-

Malabo agenda that is evidence-based and takes on a more comprehensive food systems approach.

Format

The session will begin with brief opening remarks five (5 mins) to introduce the topic and set the scene. This will be followed by two sets of panels: each consisting of three (3) short presentations and an interactive session with the audience. Each presentation will last 7-8 mins, where each speaker will offer insights from their research and innovative approaches related to critical and emerging issues that need to be addressed to sustainably transform African food systems.

For a lively discussion, each panel will be followed by a moderated discussion to allow the researchers to interact with the audience in a question-and-answer session for 10 mins.

Target Audience

The event will appeal to academics, policymakers, and development practitioners working to advance the food systems transformation agenda in order to realize the achievement of all SDGs and Africa's agri-food transformation goals.

Panelists



[Sheryl Hendriks](#)

Natural Resources Institute, University of Greenwich



[Anna Lartey](#)

University of Ghana



[John Ulimwengu](#)

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)



[Getaw Tadesse](#)

AKADEMIYA2063



[Julius Ecuru](#)

BiInnovate Africa



[Katrin Glatzel](#)

Food and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN)



Racine Ly
AKADEMIYA2063

Organizer



Tsitsi Makombe
AKADEMIYA2063

Chair



Ousmane Badiane
AKADEMIYA2063

Presentations

🕒 4:00 PM

Ensuring Food Systems Policy Coherence in Africa

Sheryl Hendriks, *Natural Resources Institute, University of Greenwich, United Kingdom*

📍 C5 (First Floor, Convention Centre)

🕒 4:10 PM

The Nutrition Imperative for Food Systems Transformation in Africa

Anna Lartey, *University of Ghana, Ghana*

📍 C5 (First Floor, Convention Centre)

🕒 4:20 PM

African Food Systems Transformation and the Post-Malabo Agenda


John Ulimwengu, *International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)*


📍 C5 (First Floor, Convention Centre)

🕒 4:30 PM

Accelerating Implementation of Climate Ambitions and Actions in Africa for Food Systems Transformation


Getaw Tadesse, *AKADEMIYA2063, Rwanda*


 *C5 (First Floor, Convention Centre)*

 4:40 PM

Leveraging Africa's Bioeconomy for Food Systems Transformation


Julius Ecuru, *BioInnovate Africa, Kenya* and **Katrin Glatzel**, *Center for Development Research, University of Bonn, Germany*

 *C5 (First Floor, Convention Centre)*

 4:50 PM

Applying AI and Remote Sensing Data to Guide Action on Climate Change and Food Security

Racine Ly, *AKADEMIYA2063, Rwanda*

 *C5 (First Floor, Convention Centre)*

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Changing Food Environments: What Does It Mean for Consumers and Producers? Experience from Africa and Asia and Implications for Policymakers



Sunday, August 4, 2024



11:00 AM - 12:30 PM



A1 (Upper Ground Floor, NASC Complex)

Description

Organizer

Center for Development Research (ZEF) and Alliance Bioversity & CIAT

Session description

The modernization of urban agrifood systems is largely driven by consumer preference changes resulting from urbanization, a growing (urban) middle class with higher disposable incomes, demographic changes, new lifestyles, and globalization. However, at the same time, consumer preferences and demand may also be shaped by changing food environments. For example, the rapid expansion of cities and peri-urban areas changes the traditional rural-urban continuum with impacts on those living and working in rural areas and the availability of fresh produce. A shift from traditional markets to modern supermarkets also has effects on the types of food offered and promoted, as well as on food variety and food prices, all of which may influence consumer choices. The quality of rural-urban continuum affects food environments, food security and the availability, access, and affordability of healthy diets, and shapes the livelihoods of urban and rural primary producers, processors, and traders. Rural agricultural livelihoods often depend on their connection to peri-urban and urban food markets, while cities depend on surrounding peri-urban and rural areas for food and ecosystem services. Understanding the links between the changing rural-urban continuum and the resulting changing food environments, including food consumption patterns, is hence important to promote food security and healthy diets and to design targeted policy interventions.

Drawing on evidence and experience from African and Asian countries, this session will delve into the questions around how the rural-urban continuum is changing, (expected) impacts on consumers and producers, the role of processed foods, the role of secondary towns and cities, and how to ensure that those living and working in the most remote areas can also access healthy and nutritious diets. During the moderated panel, speakers will discuss the implications for policy makers and how targeted policy design and implementation can address the rapid changes in the rural-urban continuum. This proposed organized panel is seen as complementary to the proposed organized panel "Diets and Food Environments in Rural, Peri-Urban, and Urban Areas of East Africa and South Asia", by bringing together the latest science and data on the one hand and the application thereof in political decision-making and policy design on the other hand.

Welcome and opening remarks (moderator)	Dr Katrin Glatzel Senior Researcher and Project Leader, ZEF, University of Bonn	5mins
Presentation 1	<i>The nascent state of urban food policy action in Asian cities</i> Dr Miriam Romero Senior Researcher, ZEF, University of Bonn	10mins
Presentation 2	<i>Processed foods, socio-economic status, and peri-urban obesity in India</i> Dr Anjali Purushotham Postdoctoral Research Associate, Sheffield University	10mins
Discussant	Dr John Ulimwengu Senior Research Fellow IFPRI	5mins

Moderated panel

Dr Jonathan Mockshell

40mins

Senior Agricultural Economist and Project Leader

Alliance Bioversity & CIAT

Dr Sonia Akter

Senior Lecturer

Australian National University

Dr Ousmane Badiane

Executive Chairperson, AKADEMIYA2063

Prof Ashok Gulati

Distinguished Professor

Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)

Prof Anna Larrey

Professor of Nutrition

University of Ghana

Audience Q&A

20mins

END

Organizers



[Katrin Glatzel](#)

Center for Development Research, University of Bonn

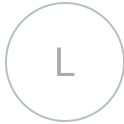


Jonathan Mockshell
CIAT

Discussants



John Ulimwengu
IFPRI



Anna Lartey
University of Ghana

Panelists



Sonia Akter
Australian National University




Ousmane Badiane
AKADEMIYA2063



Ashok Gulati
Infosys Chair Professor, Agriculture- ICRIER (former Chairman, CACP, GoI; Director, IFPRI; member PMEAC, India)


Presentations

 11:00 AM

The Nascent State of Urban Food Policy Action in Asian Cities

Miriam Romero, Center for Development Research, University of Bonn, Germany

 A1 (Upper Ground Floor, NASC Complex)

 11:10 AM

Processed Foods, Socio-Economic Status, and Peri-Urban Obesity in India

Anjali Purushotham, Sheffield University, United Kingdom

 A1 (Upper Ground Floor, NASC Complex)

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Plenary Session 6: Agri-Food Systems, Climate, and the Environment



Tuesday, August 6, 2024



4:00 PM - 6:00 PM



Auditorium (C1, C2, C3) (Convention Centre)

Description

This plenary session explores the nexus between agriculture, climate change, and environmental sustainability. Research will be presented on agriculture's role in poverty alleviation, the important intersections of water management, market dynamics, and resilience. Attendees will also gain insights into transformative pathways for sustainable development of smallholder farming. Additionally, discussions will explore the evolving resilience of global agriculture to climatic shocks, alongside different programs that support climate-smart agriculture practices.

Chair



Ousmane Badiane

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Presentations

4:00 PM

Reimagining Agriculture for Poverty Alleviation and Other Development Goals


Ramesh Chand, Niti Ayog, India


Auditorium (C1, C2, C3) (Convention Centre)

4:30 PM

Water and Agricultural Development


Soumya Balasubramanya, *World Bank*


 Auditorium (C1, C2, C3) (Convention Centre)

 5:00 PM

Is Global Agriculture Growing More Resilient to Climatic Shocks?


Ariel Ortiz-Bobea, *Cornell University*

 Auditorium (C1, C2, C3) (Convention Centre)

 5:30 PM


Seeding Change to Manage Climate Change: Growing Insights from Four USDA Programs to Support Climate-Smart Agriculture

Elinor Benami, *Virginia Tech*

 Auditorium (C1, C2, C3) (Convention Centre)

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Nourishing Growth: How Public Spending Decisions are Shaping Agricultural Transformation and Food Security in India and Africa

 Wednesday, August 7, 2024

 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

 C2 (First Floor, Convention Centre)

Description

Sustainable agricultural growth can make a crucial contribution to economic development, poverty reduction and advancements in food and nutrition security. Optimizing productive investments through enhanced public policies and spending is an essential factor in catalysing agricultural productivity. However, a persistent challenge remains: the tendency of governments in most lower income countries to underinvest in crucial public goods and services in support of agricultural development. With fiscal constraints heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic, multiple conflicts and climate-related shocks, governments face the challenge of optimizing public spending for sustainable development. While fiscal consolidation often targets public investments, preserving funding for agriculture development becomes essential to counterbalance contractionary effects, boost growth, and safeguard long-term economic vitality.

This panel aims to extract valuable insights from Africa and India's experiences in transforming their food and agriculture sectors to provide affordable and nutritious diets to their populations. A unique contribution informing this symposium is an original data set that facilitates meaningful comparison of the agriculture sectors of India's states and Africa's nations, rather than aggregate comparisons to reflect diverse characteristics. Therefore, a more nuanced comparison can be made between Indian states and African countries, allowing for a detailed assessment of their unique agricultural growth trajectories.

Most Indian states and African countries have witnessed substantial and sustained agricultural growth over the last two decades, positively impacting children's nutritional status and economic growth. Overall, Indian states had much higher fiscal allocations to agriculture than African nations. However, public spending in India and African countries predominantly favours safety net

programs, income support, and input subsidies, leaving limited fiscal space for crucial development programs like agricultural research and development, irrigation, and rural roads. Despite proven higher returns from investments in agricultural research and development, along with infrastructure, there remains a persistent imbalance in spending priorities.

This panel aims to learn from success stories, delving into **how India and Africa transform their food and agriculture sectors, potential insights for future food system strategies, and the impact of challenging fiscal constraints on public spending**. Questions about the influence of public spending on agricultural productivity and nutrition security will be addressed by drawing lessons from African countries and Indian states that have achieved significant agricultural growth and malnutrition reduction. The symposium will feature three research presentations followed by a moderated panel discussion to discuss the research findings and identify practical ways forward.

Session Outline

Co-Chairs: Prof. Ashok Gulati and Prof. Joachim von Braun

Research presentations and discussion (45 minutes)

Transforming agriculture and food systems: Lessons from a comparison of African countries and Indian states

- Dr. Shyma Jose, ICRIER, and Dr. Lukas Kornher, ZEF

Comparing patterns of public spending and development outcomes in Indian states and African countries

- Prof. Ashok Gulati, ICRIER

Examining the determinants of public spending outcomes for economic growth and food security in India and Africa

- Dr. Bezawit Beyene Chichaibelu, ZEF

Moderated Panel Discussion (45 Minutes)

- Dr. Ousmane Badiane, AKADEMIYA2063
- Dr. Usha Barwale Zehr, MAHYCO
- Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, RIS
- Dr. Shahidur Rashid, IFPRI
- Prof. Sheryl Hendriks, Natural Resources Institute

Panelists



Ousmane Badiane

B

AKADEMIYA2063

C

[Sachin Chaturvedi](#)

Research and Information Systems for Developing Countries

Z

[Usha Barwale Zehr](#)

Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company Private Limited (MAHYCO)
Grow indigo Pvt Ltd

R

[Shahidur Rashid](#)

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

H

[Sheryl Hendriks](#)

Natural Resources Institute, University of Greenwich

Organizers

G

[Ashok Gulati](#)

Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations

V

[Joachim Von Braun](#)

Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn

Presentations

🕒 11:00 AM

[Comparing Patterns of Public Spending and Development Outcomes in Indian States and African Countries](#)

Ashok Gulati, *Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), India*


📍 C2 (First Floor, Convention Centre)

🕒 11:15 AM

[Examining the Determinants of Public Spending Outcomes for Economic Growth and Food Security in India and Africa](#)


Bezawit Beyene Chichaibelu, *Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn, Germany*

📍 C2 (First Floor, Convention Centre)

 11:30 AM

Transforming Agriculture and Food Systems: Lessons from a Comparison of African Countries and Indian States

Shyma Jose, *Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), India* and **Lukas Kornher**, *Center for Development Research, University of Bonn, Bonn, Germany*

 C2 (First Floor, Convention Centre)

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