

At the intersection of climate action and food systems transformation: what are Africa's key priorities and opportunities?

24 March 2022, 1-2:30 pm GMT

Our food and climate systems are inherently interlinked. Few places on earth demonstrate the linkages between climate and food more clearly than the African continent. A stable climate is the bedrock for Africa's food systems, where over 90 percent of agriculture is rain-fed, and irrigation and mechanization uptake remain low.

The UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) held in September 2021 marked the starting point on aligning efforts. At the end of the summit, Secretary-General António Guterres emphasized the importance of aligning food system transformation pathways with climate commitments. How then, can the climate change domain also move toward greater alignment between these two issues?

COP26 in Glasgow recognized the agriculture sector as key for emissions reductions, protecting nature, and strengthening adaptation and resilience. However, this must be translated into policy action at the national level. How can African governments develop coherent policy agendas to address both a food systems transformation and climate adaptation? How can climate finance support a food systems transformation, and ensure greater resilience among smallholder farmers? Noting that the UNFCCC COP27 will be held in Egypt, how can the continent lead efforts in identifying and leveraging synergies between food security and nutrition with climate action?

This webinar is the first of a series of four exploring the rapidly converging agendas of food systems transformation with climate action. It will explore the latest science and present key priorities for the African continent.

Agenda

- **Introduction & welcoming remarks**
Ms. Nachilala Nkombo, Country Director, WWF Zambia; member Malabo Montpellier Panel
- **The science - Dr. Edmond Totin, Lead Author, IPCC AR6 chapter on Africa**
In August 2021, the IPCC working group published its latest assessment report providing the most up-to-date physical understanding of the climate system and climate change. On February 28, 2022, this was followed by the second report of this assessment, presenting the impacts of climate change. How is the climate changing across African countries and what are the impacts of these changes on African societies and environments? Specifically, what do these changes mean for food security and nutrition?
- **Climate policy – Mr. Ephraim Shitima, Chair of the African Group of Negotiators**
Africa at UNFCCC – what have our priorities been? Overview of African Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2032.
- **Converging systems – Dr. Martin Frick, Director, WFP Global Office Berlin**
An overview of how food systems and the climate domain have evolved towards each other

About

[The Malabo Montpellier Panel](#) convenes 16 leading experts on food systems transformation and climate change to guide policy choices by African governments to accelerate progress towards economic growth and transformation on the continent. The Panel works with governments and civil society to identify areas of progress and positive change across Africa and to assess what successful countries have done differently. It analyzes the most important institutional and policy innovations and program interventions that can be replicated and brought to scale.

The associated Malabo Montpellier Forum acts as a platform for dialogue and exchange among high-level decision-makers on the continent, usually at ministerial and permanent secretary levels, and sees the participation of development partners, the private sector, and research institutions. It is co-chaired by H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn Boshe, Former Prime Minister of Ethiopia, and H.E. Dr. Assia Bensalah Alaoui, Ambassador at Large of King Mohamed VI of the Kingdom of Morocco.