

Official Launch Event



AKADEMIYA

The Expertise We Need. The Africa We Want.

Policies for Rapidly Transforming Agriculture and Food Systems

AKADEMIYA2063 is an international non-profit organization, headquartered in Kigali, Rwanda with a regional office in Dakar, Senegal. **Akademiyaz063** builds on the rich experience of long-standing support to the African Union's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (**CAADP**) to position itself as a major contributor of science to the **Agenda 2063**.

THURSDAY,
September 24, 2020
13:00 - 15:30 GMT
08:00 - 10:30 US CT
09:00 - 11:30 US ET
15:00 - 17:30 CET/CAT

WHO WE ARE

AKADEMIYA2063, an international non-profit organization, headquartered in Kigali, Rwanda with a regional office in Dakar, Senegal, was established in January 2020. It is the new home of Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (ReSAKSS), the African Growth and Development Policy (AGRODEP) and the Malabo Montpellier Panel (MaMo).

- ♦ The term **AKADEMIYA** reflects our commitment to leveraging science and creating knowledge that is useful to advancing the African agenda—science that meets the specific needs of those who are charged with leading action at the continental, regional and national levels, within government as well as nonstate actor organizations. The spelling of AKADEMIYA reflects the African identity of the organization: it remains unchanged in most African languages, from Swahili to Mooré to Hausa to Xosa.
- ♦ **2063** alludes to the African Union's Agenda 2063, "The Africa We Want," to express our focus on this broader agenda and its needs for data, analytics and knowledge products.

WHAT WE DO

AKADEMIYA2063 builds on the rich experience of long standing support to the African Union's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) to position itself as a major science contributor to the Agenda 2063.

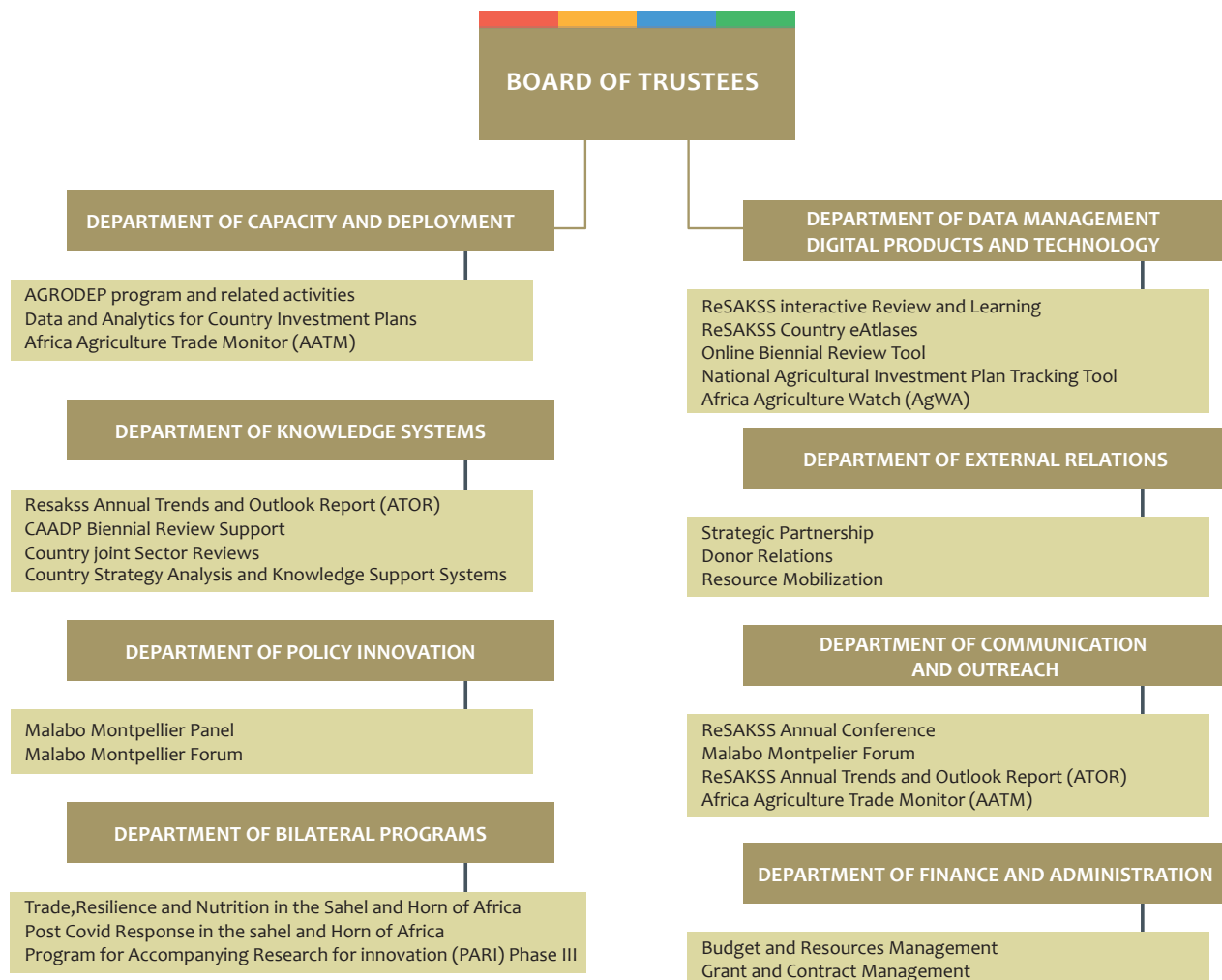
Our focus is on consolidating our strong partnerships and collaborative networks across the continent to build a bridge between the science community and our peers around the world to harness the best available knowledge and evidence to advance the African agenda.

OUR CORE PROGRAMMES

AKADEMIYA2063 will continue to implement research, capacity building and outreach programs to successfully drive the following three core activities:

1. **Data Analysis and Knowledge Platform:** The main purpose of the platform is to support efforts by African countries to promote evidence and outcome based policy planning and implementation for better growth and development outcomes. In particular, the platform provides data and related analytical and knowledge products to facilitate benchmarking, review, and mutual learning processes in order to improve policy outcomes and foster the adoption of best practices. Specific activities include:
 - a. *Web-based Performance Tracking platform:* The platform uses interactive tools to measure and evaluate important agricultural growth, economic development, food security, nutrition and natural resources indicators across all African countries.
 - b. *GIS-based Data Management Infrastructure:* It allows countries to build and manage disaggregated data bases at the local community level to monitor a variety of indicators such as growing conditions, crop harvest, market data, infrastructure, services, incomes, nutrition and health.
 - c. *Artificial Intelligence Platform for Agriculture Data Services:* It provides analytical tools to use remote sensing, big data and machine learning to monitor climate variables and predict the impact on agricultural sector performance and its implications from local communities to the broader macroeconomy.

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2. **Expertise for Advanced Economic Modeling:** The goal is to identify and promote leading scientists to create and sustain a critical mass of world-class economic modelers to help meet the analytical needs of African governments and non-state actor organizations. Three sets of activities are carried out here:
- a. *Networking and Capacity Building:* The most talented experts across Africa are mobilized and supported to build a community of practice and work collaboratively with other leading scientists globally.
 - b. *Analytical Advisory Services:* The pool of experts are deployed and backstopped with data and tools to respond to analytical needs for policy planning and implementation by continental and regional organizations, governments, civil society organizations and private sector operators.
 - c. *Program and Strategy Development and Implementation:* The focus here is on the provision of technical expertise through seasoned professionals with solid experience in project conception, execution and management to help guide the design and implementation of development programs and strategies.
 - d. *Training and Skills Development:* The goal is to provide, through an online training platform drawing from the vast pool of resources assembled via the organization's different programs, short term advanced courses and practical applications for policy analysts and planners from government, private sector and civil society organizations.
3. **Evidence and Dialogue for Policy Innovation:** The depth and breadth of the current economic recovery process in Africa across must hold a lot of useful policy lessons, which, if adopted and scaled up widely, would allow countries to successfully transform their economies and finally win the battle against poverty and vulnerability. Here too, three sets of activities are implemented:
- a. *Panel of High Level Experts:* The role of the Panel is to identify best performing African countries in various economic development areas, examine the reasons behind their successes and formulate lessons for consideration by other countries. The Panel focuses its work in particular on replicable government actions in terms of institutional innovations, policy reforms and programmatic interventions.
 - b. *Dialogue and Exchange Forum:* A Ministerial level Forum is convened regularly to review the Panel's findings and share experiences regarding what has worked on the ground, how and why, in the respective development areas. The resulting peer learning serves to encourage cross-country imitation and replication of successful development interventions.
 - c. *Partnership Brokering:* Countries that intend to adopt innovations identified by the Panel and interested financial and technical partners are brought together to explore possible partnerships and modalities for replication and scaling-up of successful innovations.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees is responsible for setting policies and evaluating and monitoring management's actions. The Board hires and evaluates the Managing Director, approves the long-range strategic plan, approves the annual plan and budget, monitors the Organization's progress toward the achievement of its mission and strategic research objectives, assures the Organization's cost effectiveness, financial integrity, and accountability, exercises oversight of investments, and ensures compliance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements



Mr. Djime Adoum Chad

Dr. Djimé ADOUM is the current Executive Secretary of CILSS, an organization covering thirteen countries of the Sahel and West Africa. He has more than 25 years of professional experience in international development and he has been head of CILSS since June 2013.



Mr. Paul Engel Netherlands

Paul Engel seeks to contribute to strengthening multi-stakeholder cooperation for sustainable and inclusive development, with a particular focus on agricultural and rural sector transformation. He advises on the design, implementation and evaluation of multi-stakeholder processes, public/private/NGO partnerships and agricultural investment programs.



Ms. Ertharin Cousin USA

Ertharin Cousin is a distinguished fellow of global agriculture at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. She previously served as executive director of the World Food Programme from 2012 until 2017.



Mr. Vickson Ncube South Africa

Vickson Ncube is versatile Chief Executive Officer with extensive experience in leadership. A fellow of the Zambia Institute of Chartered Accountants (FZICA) and the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), he gained his leadership experience as Chief Executive Officer of the Pan African Federation of Accountants (PAFA).



Ms. Ismahane Elouafi Morocco

Ms. Ismahane Elouafi (Morocco / Canada) is the Director General of the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA). Dr. Ismahane Elouafi joined ICBA as Director General in 2012 and has overseen the development of the center's long-term strategy focusing on marginal environments.



Ms. Terri Sarch United Kingdom

Ms. Sarch has extensive experience dealing with agriculture and food security issues in Africa from the viewpoint of global organizations. She has for many years been an active member of the group of actors that have played a key role in advancing the CAADP agenda. She brings a vast experience in development to AKADEMIYA2063.



AKADEMIYA

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

The Executive Office oversees financial management, establishes corporate policy of the organization and hires its senior directors. It ensures that the organization is managed efficiently and is well focused on its targets.



Ousmane Badiane

Executive Chairperson and Acting Managing Director
17 years with ReSAKSS–AGRODEP team



Tsitsi Makombe

Director External Relations Department
15 years with ReSAKSS–AGRODEP Team



Ousmane Badiane

Acting Managing Director



Joseph Nyirimana

Senior National Director
25 years of experience in national and regional organizations



Mariama Ba

Chief of Staff
13 years with ReSAKSS–AGRODEP Team



Julia Collins

Senior Associate Scientist



AKADEMIYA

SENIOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Senior management committee is in charge of overseeing the day to day management of the organization's operations. It directs and oversees the research, capacity building and communications activities. It is led by the Managing Director.



Ismael Fofana

Director
Capacity and Deployment Department
10 years with ReSAKSS–AGRODEP Team



Getaw Tadesse

Director
Bilateral Programs Department
10 years with ReSAKSS–AGRODEP Team



Sunday Odjo

Deputy Director
Knowledge Systems Department
12 years with ReSAKSS–AGRODEP Team



Racine Ly

Director
Data management, Digital Products and Technology Department
2 years with ReSAKSS–AGRODEP Team



Katrin Glatzel

Director
Policy Innovation Department
7 years with Malabo Montpellier Panel at IFPRI and Imperial College



Nabou Tall

Director
Communications and Outreach Department
1 year with ReSAKSS–AGRODEP Team

AKADEMIYA2063 LAUNCH EVENT


Policies for Rapidly Transforming Agriculture and Food Systems

Thursday September 24, 2020

After decades of decline and stagnation, African economies turned a corner as economic growth picked up considerably since the early 2000s. The choices of policymakers had much to do with the dramatic changes observed in Africa's fortunes over the past decades and continue to shape Africa's prospects in the decades to come. Weaknesses in agriculture sector and macroeconomic policies shaped the performance of African economies, which in turn stifled the capacity of countries to make the necessary growth-enhancing investments in skills, services, and infrastructure in the decades leading to and through the period of decline. Improvements in policies and investment decisions made possible the longest sustained period of economic growth in the continent (Badiane and Makombe, 2015; Conway, Badiane and Glatzel, 2019).

Many attempts have been made to explain Africa's growth recovery through booms in global export markets or better rainfall conditions. The weakness of such arguments is that these booms and conditions are not new. They did take place in the past as well, and precisely during the very periods of economic decline. Even if one were to agree with the such arguments, one would still have to ask why African economies responded this time to positive developments in global markets and weather conditions the way they did in the last two-decades and why this resulted in a long growth period?

The answers lie in the importance of public policy. The reason for growth recovery is that improvement in policy regimes and economic governance in general placed African economies in a better position to boost agricultural production in response to better weather conditions and to grab opportunities in global markets in order to fuel domestic growth. In fact, the geographic spread and sustained character of the current recovery seen across Africa can only be explained by factors that have affected a broad range of countries, not only primary exporters, and have transcended variations in rainfall conditions across countries. These factors are primarily related to the painful and controversial reforms implemented by most African countries during the structural adjustment programs during the 80s and 90s. The reforms helped reduce fiscal deficits, brought inflation under control, created room for the private sector, and cut the level of implicit taxation faced by smallholder farmers.



The changes were deep and it took a while for most economies to weather them, but they emerged strengthened and poised for a remarkable recovery (Badiane et al. 2015; Devarajan and Shetty 2010).

Policy renewal efforts under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), including the role of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, in shaping agricultural policy have been key in sustaining the recovery. Country moved to embrace evidence based policies with more rigorous and inclusive mutual accountability process leading to higher investment in the sector. By the end of first decade of CAADP, average annual public sector investment in agriculture across Africa rose by nearly 90 percent compared to the 1990s. As we approach the end of the second decade of CAADP, there are signs of stagnation or even decline in annual public sector investments. An even before Covid, there has been a rising number occurrences where governments introduced policies that clearly were disruptive to operations by the private sector, costly to farmers and counterproductive in terms of competitiveness and long term growth.

In light of new and emerging global and domestic development challenges, including rising growing populations and rising urbanization, shifting demographics, and increasing inequalities, the need to expand Africa's economic recovery gains is even greater now than ever. If the trajectory toward better policies is not sustained, the continent may experience a return to the era of economic stagnation. As we look forward to the next couple of decades, a major economic policy question is how to sustain and broaden the current recovery process in order to further accelerate the pace of improvement in living conditions and continue to enhance prosperity for all Africans. Related questions are how to build on the reforms of the past and continue to improve economic governance in general as well as agricultural sector and structural transformation policies, in particular. At the minimum, there is need to maintain the positive changes in recent years and avoid the growing danger of reversal back to policies that have led to the lost decades of economic decline and stagnation. At best, we need to find the right mix of policies, some new, some old, that will meet the needs of rapidly modernizing agricultural value chains and transforming national economies. Mutual accountability processes to mitigate the risk of policy reversal will also be imperative.

AKADEMIYA2063 LAUNCH EVENT

Policies for Rapidly Transforming Agriculture and Food Systems

Thursday September 24, 2020



Chairwoman

♦ **Ms. Geraldine Mukeshimana,**
Minister of Agriculture, Republic of Rwanda



Opening Statement 1

♦ **Mr. Jo Swinnen,**
Director General, IFPRI



Opening Statement 2

♦ **Mr. Jim Barnhart,**
Assistant to the Administrator, USAID



Opening Statement 3

♦ **Ms. Josefa C. Sacko,**
Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union
Commission



Opening Statement 4

♦ **Mr. Edouard Ngirente,**
Prime Minister, Republic of Rwanda

AKADEMIYA2063 LAUNCH EVENT

Policies for Rapidly Transforming Agriculture and Food Systems

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Keynote Speaker 1

Opportunities of the UN Food Systems Summit

♦ **Joachim von Braun,**

Director Center for Development Research, University of Bonn
and Chair of Food Systems Summit Scientific Group



Keynote Speaker 2

Infrastructure needs for fast transforming food systems

♦ **Maximo Torero,**

Chief Economist, Social and Economic Development Stream, FAO



Keynote Speaker 3

Debt management and sustainability and economic recovery

♦ **Njuguna Ndung'u,**

Executive Director, African Economic Research Consortium



Keynote Speaker 4

Presentation of AKADEMIYA2063 work on Covid-19

♦ **Ousmane Badiane,**

Executive Chairperson, AKADEMIYA2063



Lead Discussant

Presentation of AKADEMIYA2063 work on Covid-19

♦ **Teri Sarch,**

AKADEMIYA2063 Board member



Session Chair

Presentation of AKADEMIYA2063 work on Covid-19

♦ **Ismahane Elouafi,**

AKADEMIYA2063 Board member

AGENDA

24 SEPTEMBER 2020

LAUNCH PROGRAM

Thursday September 24, 2020

SESSION ONE

- 13:00 Opening statement by **Executive Chairperson**
- 13:05 Welcome by **Minister Mukeshimana**
- 13:10 Statement from **Johan Swinnen, IFPRI**
- 13:15 Statement from **Jim Barnhart, USAID**
- 13:25 Statement from Commissioner **Josefa C. Sacko, AUC**
- 13:35 Opening Statement from **PM Edouard Ngirente**
- 13:45 Introduction of Board members
- 13:50 Keynote 1: Opportunities of the UN Food Systems Summit
Joachim von Braun, Director Center for Development Research, University of Bonn
and Chair of Food Systems Summit Scientific Group
- 14:00 Keynote 2: Infrastructure needs for fast transforming food systems
Maximo Torero, Chief Economist, Social and Economic Development Stream, FAO
- 14:15 Keynote 3: Debt management and sustainability and economic recovery
Njuguna Ndung'u, Executive Director, African Economic Research Consortium

SESSION TWO

- 14:30 Roundtable Discussion
Djime Adoum, AKADEMIYA2063 Board member, Moderator
Geraldine Mukeshimana, Minister of agriculture, Rwanda (invited)
Ertharin Cousin, AKADEMIYA2063 Board member
Paul Engel, AKADEMIYA2063 Board member
Jo Swinnen, Director General, IFPRI
- 15:00 Keynote 4: Presentation of AKADEMIYA2063 work on Covid-19
Ousmane Badiane, Executive Chairperson, AKADEMIYA2063
Ismahane Elouafi, AKADEMIYA2063 Board member, Chair
Teri Sarch, AKADEMIYA2063 Board member, Discussant
- 15:20 Discussion
- 15:30 Closing by **Minister Mukeshimana**



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