



AKADEMIYA

ReSAKSS
Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System
by AKADEMIYA2063

African Union

ReSAKSS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Moving the Technology Frontiers in African Agrifood Systems

 **January 20-22, 2026**
 **Virtual Event**  **12:00 – 15:30 GMT**

AGENDA

AGENDA

Day 1 – January 20, 2026

Setting the Stage – Moving the Technology Frontiers in African Agrifood Systems

3 hours 30 minutes

Time (GMT)	Session	Duration	Invited Speakers
12:00 – 12:10	Opening and Housekeeping	10 min	Moderator: Dr. Layih Butake , Director, Communications and Outreach, AKADEMIYA2063
12:10 – 12:35	Welcome and Opening Remarks	25 Min	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Ousmane Badiane, Executive Chairperson, AKADEMIYA2063• Ms. Estherine Lisinge-Fotabong, Director, Agriculture, Food Security and Environmental Sustainability, African Union Development Agency–New Partnership for Africa’s Development (AUDA–NEPAD)• Mr. Odd Eirik Arnesen, Minister Counsellor, Regional Food Security Envoy, Norwegian Embassy in Dar es Salaam; Chair of CAADP DPCG• Mr. Watipaso Mkandawire, Regional Food Markets Adviser, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)• H.E. Moses Vilakati, Commissioner, African Union Commission, Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment (AUC–DARBE)
12:35 – 12:50	Framing Remarks: <i>Technology and Innovation for Africa's Agrifood System Transformation</i>	15 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Martha Haile, Food Systems and Agricultural Technology Leader; Co-Founder of ABZE and Hello Tractor• Amb. Prof. Muhammadou M.O. Kah, Permanent Representative of the Gambia to the United Nations Office in Geneva; Member, Malabo Montpellier Panel

Day 1 – January 20, 2026

Setting the Stage – Moving the Technology Frontiers in African Agrifood Systems

3 hours 30 minutes

Time (GMT)	Session	Duration	Invited Speakers
12:50 – 13:05	Overview of the 2025 Annual Trends and Outlook Report (ATOR)	15 min	Prof. Christian Henning , Chief Scientist, AKADEMIYA2063; Co-Editor, 2025 ATOR
13:05 – 13:50	High-Level Panel: Shaping Africa's Technology Future	45 min	Moderator: Dr. Canisius Kanangire , Executive Director, African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Alice Ruhweza, President, AGRA• Dr. Enock Chikava, Director, Agricultural Delivery Systems, Gates Foundation• Dr. Simeon Ehui, Director General, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)• Prof. Shenggen Fan, Chair Professor and Dean, Academy of Global Food Economics and Policy, College of Economics and Management, China Agricultural University• Dr. Éliane Ubalijoro, CEO, Center for International Forestry Research–World Agroforestry (CIFOR–ICRAF)
13:50 – 14:00	Interactive Poll and Audience Q&A	10 min	Live poll on priority technologies for Africa
14:00 – 14:10	Break	10 min	Coffee Break/Virtual Networking

Day 1 – January 20, 2026

Setting the Stage – Moving the Technology Frontiers in African Agrifood Systems

3 hours 30 minutes

Time (GMT)	Session	Duration	Invited Speakers
14:10 – 15:10	Roundtable 1: <i>Emerging Technology Pathways and Regional Lessons</i>	60 min	<p>Moderator: Dr. Getaw Tadesse, Director of Policy Intelligence, AKADEMIYA2063</p> <p>8-minute Presentations on Chapters 2, 15, 16, 17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Moving the Technology Frontiers in African Agrifood Systems: An Analytical Framework</i> – Dr. John Ulimwengu, Senior Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) • <i>Technology Development and Adoption in Chinese Agrifood Systems: Implications for Africa</i> – Dr. Ting Meng, Associate Professor, Academy of Global Food Economics and Policy, College of Economics and Management, China Agricultural University • <i>From Innovation to Impact: Exploring the Economic Potential of Digital Twins in European and African Agriculture</i> – Dr. Frits K. van Evert, Agrosystems Research, Wageningen University & Research, Wageningen, The Netherlands • <i>Moving the Technology Frontiers in African Agrifood Systems: Lessons from Latin America</i> – Dr. Valeria Piñeiro, Regional Representative of the Latin America and Caribbean region and Senior Research Coordinator, Markets, Trade and Institutions Unit, IFPRI <p>Invited Reactions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussant 1: Ms. Juliana Rotich, Co-Founder of Ushahidi • Discussant 2: Dr. Evelyn Gitau, Chief Scientific Officer, Science for Africa Foundation (SFA) • Discussant 3: Dr. Abdou Tenkouano, Executive Director, International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe)
15:10 – 15:25	Open Discussion and Synthesis	15 min	Key takeaways from participants
15:25 – 15:30	Day 1 Wrap-Up and Closing	5 min	Dr. Augustin Wambo Yamdjeu , Former Director, Knowledge Systems, AKADEMIYA2063

Day 2 – January 21, 2026

Technological Pathways to Productivity and Resilience

3 hours

Time (GMT)	Session	Duration	Invited Speakers
12:00 – 12:05	Day 1 Recap and Day 2 Overview	5 min	Dr. Seraphin Niyonsenga , Head of AGRODEP Unit, AKADEMIYA2063
12:05 – 12:50	Cluster 1: <i>Digitalization, AI, and Biotechnology</i>	45 min	<p>Moderator: Dr. Benjamin Kwasi Addom, Adviser, Agriculture & Fisheries Trade Policy, Commonwealth Secretariat</p> <p>8-minute Presentations on Chapters 3, 4, 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Untapped Potential of Artificial Intelligence and Geospatial Technology in African Agrifood Systems</i> – Dr. Jean Paul L. Faye, Head of AI Innovation and Modeling Unit, Department of Data Intelligence and Governance, AKADEMIYA2063 & Physics Department, Faculty of Science and Technology, Cheikh Anta Diop University • <i>Optimizing Biotechnology Paradigms and their Application for Agrifood Systems Transformation in Africa</i> – Dr. Emmanuel Okogbenin, Director, Program Development & Commercialization, African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) • <i>Digitalization in African agrifood systems: from e-learning to e-markets</i> – Mr. Benjamin Graeub, Co-Founder, farmbetter, Germany <p>Invited Reactions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussant 1: Ms. Priscilla Wakarera, Rhea Soil Health, Co-Founder and CEO • Discussant 2: Dr. Julius Ecuru, Principal Scientist and Manager, Research Innovation Coordination Units, icipe • Discussant 3: Mr. Ken Lohento, Digital Innovation Strategy Specialist, FAO, Regional Office for Africa

Day 2 – January 21, 2026

Technological Pathways to Productivity and Resilience

3 hours

Time (GMT)	Session	Duration	Invited Speakers
12:50 – 13:05	Q&A	15 min	Audience interaction
13:05 – 13:15	Break: 10 min		
13:15 – 14:00	Cluster 2: <i>Mechanization, Irrigation, Processing, and Value Addition</i>	45 min	<p>Moderator: Dr. Antony Chapoto, Executive Director, Africa Network of Agricultural Policy Research Institutes (ANAPRI)</p> <p>8-minute Presentations on Chapters 6, 7, and 8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Advancing Mechanization in African Agrifood Systems: Unlocking Productivity and Resilience</i> – Dr. Oliver Kirui, Research Fellow & Nigeria Country Program Leader, IFPRI • <i>Processing and Value Addition Technologies in African Agrifood Systems</i> – Dr. Ramadhani Omari Majubwa, Senior Lecturer, Sokoine University of Agriculture • <i>Integrating Emerging Irrigation Technologies to Advance Agricultural Production and Resilience in Africa</i> – Dr. Greenwell Matchaya, Senior Researcher, Economics, ReSAKSS Coordinator, and Deputy Country Representative, South Africa, International Water Management Institute (IWMI) <p>Invited Reactions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussant 1: Mr. Mark Fynn, Regional Policy Officer, FAO, Regional Office for Africa • Discussant 2: Ms. Yemisi Iranloye, Psaltry Farms, Nigeria • Discussant 3: Ms. Charity Gathambiri, Post-Harvest and Food Science Expert, KALRO, Kenya

Day 2 – January 21, 2026

Technological Pathways to Productivity and Resilience

3 hours

Time (GMT)	Session	Duration	Invited Speakers
14:00 – 14:45	Cluster 3: <i>Emerging Production Technologies</i>	45 min	<p>Moderator: Dr. Aisha Musaazi Nakitto, Head, Policy Innovation Unit, AKADEMIYA2063</p> <p>8-minute Presentations on Chapters 9, 10, and 11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Emerging Technologies for Resilient and Competitive Livestock Systems</i> – Dr. Abdrahmane Wane, Principal Scientist, Regional Director, West and Central Africa, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) • <i>Insect farming innovation: A Pathway to self-reliance in agrifood systems in Africa</i> – Dr. Zewdu Ayalew Abro, Impact Assessment Economist, icipe • <i>Aquaponic systems for small-scale farming in Africa: Potentials and Challenges</i> – Dr. Bernd Ueberschär, Senior Scientist, BioServe GbR and Association for Marine Aquaculture (GMA Büsum) <p>Invited reactions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussant 1: Dr. Adebayo Abass, TAAT Cassava Value Chain Leader • Discussant 3: Mrs. Francesca Brenda Opoku, Founder, Beauty Secrets, Ghana • Discussant 2: Mr. Nche Nwadike, CEO, Victory Farms Kenya
14:45 – 14:55	Reflections and Synthesis	10 min	Key takeaways
14:55 – 15:00	Day 2 Wrap-Up	5 min	Dr. Racine Ly , Director, Data Intelligence and Governance, AKADEMIYA2063; 2025 ATOR Co-Editor

Day 3 – January 22, 2026

Investing in Innovation: Policy and Financing for Technology Deployment

3 hours

Time (GMT)	Session	Duration	Invited Speakers
12:00 – 12:05	Reflections on Days 2 and 3	5 min	Dr. Paul Guthiga , Head of ReSAKSS Unit, AKADEMIYA2063
12:05 – 12:50	Cluster 4: R&D, Seed Systems, Institutional Enablers, and Policy Dialogue	45 min	<p>Moderator: Dr. Menale Kassie, Principal Scientist and Head, Social Sciences and Impact Assessment Unit, Icipe; 2025 ATOR Co-Editor</p> <p>8-minute Presentations on Chapters 12, 13, and 14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Nurturing Africa's Agricultural Transformation: The Role of Investment in Research and Development (R&D)</i> – Dr. Gert-Jan Stads, Alliance Bioversity-CIAT • <i>Policy and Regulatory Frameworks for Development of Seed Systems in sub-Saharan Africa</i> – Dr. Moti Jaleta, Principal Scientist, International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) • <i>The Role of Digitally Enabled Smallholder Producer Organizations (SPOs) in Promoting Emerging Agricultural Technologies in Africa Smallholder Producer Organizations</i> – Dr. Fidele Eric Sessou, Scientist, AKADEMIYA2063 <p>Invited reactions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussant 1: Prof. Ed Mabaya, Senior Research Associate, Cornell University, and The African Seed Access Index (TASAI) • Discussant 2: Dr. Joe DeVries, President, Seed Systems Group • Discussant 3: Ms. Sylvia Kyeyune, CEO, Sterling Seeds Ltd

Day 3 – January 22, 2026

Investing in Innovation: Policy and Financing for Technology Deployment

3 hours

Time (GMT)	Session	Duration	Invited Speakers
12:50 – 13:00	Break: 10 min		
13:00 – 13:50	Feature Session: <i>Innovative Financing for Agrifood Technologies : Reflections on Financing Pathways</i>	50 min	<p>Moderator: Dr. Katrin Glatzel, Director, Global Strategy and Programs, AKADEMIYA2063</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Spurring Innovation and Science Policy in Africa</i> – Dr. Tom Kariuki, CEO, Science for Africa Foundation <p>Invited Reactions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Cecilia D'Alessandro, Policy Analyst, ECDPM • Mr. Akim Daouda, Manager, Sovereign Wealth Fund of Gabon • Mr. Daniel Njiwa, Director, Inclusive Markets, Trade and Finance, AGRA • Mr. James Irungu Mwangi, Co-Founder and CEO, Africa Climate Ventures
13:50 – 14:35	Insights and Implications for the Implementation of CAADP 2026–2035 under Kampala	45 min	<p>Moderator: Dr. Augustin Wambo Yamdjeu, Former Director, Knowledge Systems, AKADEMIYA2063</p> <p>10-minute Presentation on Chapter 18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tracking Key CAADP Indicators and Implementation Processes</i> – Mr. Wondwosen Tefera, Senior Associate Scientist, AKADEMIYA2063 • Discussant 1: Ms. Jalwau Ahmadu Bello, Special Assistant on Food Security and Climate Change to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Nigeria • Discussant 2: Dr. Hamady Diop, CAADP Post-Malabo Process Coordinator • Discussant 3: Ms. Hannah Scheuermann, Advisor, Global Project Sustainable Agricultural Systems and Policies (AgSys), German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)

Day 3 – January 22, 2026

Investing in Innovation: Policy and Financing for Technology Deployment

3 hours

Time (GMT)	Session	Duration	Invited Speakers
14:35 – 14:55	Closing High-Level Panel: From Innovation to Impact	20 min	<p>Moderator: Dr. Debisi Araba, Managing Director, AKADEMIYA2063</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Ayo Sotinrin, Managing Director, Bank of Agriculture, Nigeria• Dr. Paul Garaycochea, Director for Sustainable Supply Chains, Agriculture and Food Systems, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation (BMZ)• Dr. Martin Fregene, Director of Agriculture and Agro-Industry, African Development Bank (AfDB)• Dr. Segenet Kelemu, Executive Director, PanAfrican Programs, Mastercard Foundation
14:55 – 15:00	Conference Closing Remarks	5 min	Dr. Debisi Araba , Managing Director, AKADEMIYA2063

