

ReSAKSS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**Moving the Technology
Frontiers in African
Agrifood Systems**



 **January 20–22, 2026**

 **Virtual Event**  **12:00 – 15:30 GMT**

AGENDA

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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

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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: <i>Shaping Africa's Technology Future</i>	45 min	<p>Moderator: Dr. Canisius Kanangire, Executive Director, African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF)</p> <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

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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