



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

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

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