

# ReSAKSS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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



 **January 20–22, 2026**

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

**AGENDA**

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

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

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