



5th Annual ReNAPRI Stakeholder Conference

“Unlocking the Region’s Agricultural Potential through Land Reform, Youth Employment and Markets”

28th – 29th November 2018 | Zanzibar, Tanzania

Concept Note

Introduction

African Agriculture is on the move! Over the past two decades agri-food systems on the continent have transformed; reflecting the structural change at the farm level all the way through to the dietary transition into higher-value, protein-rich food demand at the retail level (Jayne et. al., 2018). The combined effect of these changes is an 800% increase in the volumes and value of food marketed through rural-to-urban value chains since 2000 (Reardon, 2015). In fact, under current population growth projections, the size of the food and agricultural market in Africa is expected to reach USD 1 Trillion by 2030 (AfDB, 2018).

Despite these positive signs challenges still exist. Africa needs to move from food shortages to surpluses, boost beneficial continental trade, and create millions of employment opportunities, particularly for women and youth (AGRA, 2018). In the face of these challenges, valid questions arise as to whether or not the transformation narrative on the continent will falter (Fioramonti, 2017). Ensuring sustainable transformation will require committed and innovative leadership, transparent accountability, evidence to guide action, and data for accurate measurement of progress. African-led research institutes have important contributions to make in this process.

Within this context, ReNAPRI’s 5th Annual Stakeholder Conference will focus on moving toward consensus on the evidence to guide public and private sector strategies in support of agricultural transformation.

Conference Theme

The theme of the 5th Annual ReNAPRI Stakeholder Conference is: ***Unlocking the Regions Agricultural Potential through Land Reform, Youth Employment and Markets”***.

Conference Objectives

The purpose of the conference is to create a platform for strategic dialogue around evidence of agricultural transformation. An evidence-based approach can assist African governments, private firms and civil society groups to respond in an informed manner to the region’s emerging challenges.

The key objectives of the 5th Annual ReNAPRI Stakeholders’ Conference is to:

1. Take stock of the emerging trends in farm size distributions and the implications for agricultural development policies.

2. Investigate the potential employment opportunities for youth and women in the agri-food system
3. Anticipate the 5-year outlook for key commodities within the context of rapidly changing agricultural systems both regionally and globally
4. Enhance engagement of African parliamentarians and government officials on issues pertaining to African agricultural transformation; and
5. Assess the operational feasibility of alternative policy options by clearly identifying concrete strategies that address the challenges to transformation – i.e. focusing on the “how” questions.

Our Approach

The ReNAPRI conference will be held over a day-and-half period and will comprise the following activities;

- Keynote Presentations that highlights and prioritizes the key challenges on land, youth employment and markets that the continent will face over the next 10 to 15 years;
- Panel Discussions including industry experts/stakeholders and government officials, charged with identifying concrete strategies that address the challenges and unlocks the regions agricultural potential.
- Interactive Dialogue on how best varying stakeholders can support agricultural transformation efforts at local, national and regional levels.

Participants

Conference participants include a range of stakeholders actively engaged in the African Agricultural sector. These include;

- Regional Economic Community and relevant government ministries representatives
- Farmer organizations
- Private sector organizations and companies
- Academics
- Development think tanks
- Research organizations (national and international)
- Development agencies and donor community

Expected Outcomes

- Awareness of the challenges to unlocking agricultures potential
- Identification of concrete strategies aimed at addressing these challenges
- Linkages and partnership among the various stakeholders

Planning/Organizing Committees

The planning and organization for this conference is coordinated by the ReNAPRI Secretariat and the host institution The School of Agricultural Economics and Business Studies (SAEBS) at Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA).

Finance and Technical Support

Financial and Technical support for the conference is provided by key partners including, University of Pretoria – Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Michigan State University, Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF), United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), and ABSA Bank.