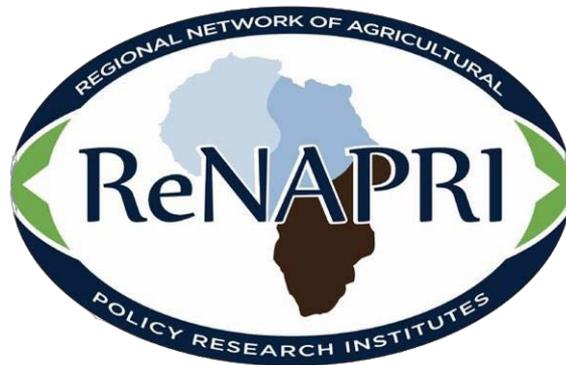
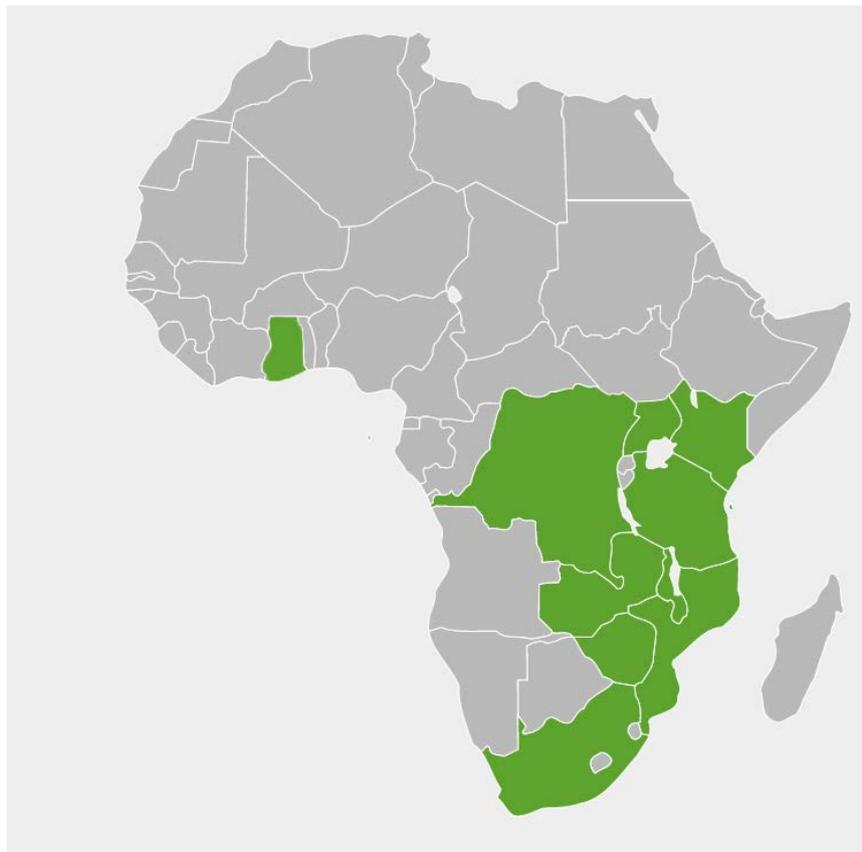


PROGRAMME



7TH ANNUAL RENAPRI STAKEHOLDERS CONFERENCE

The Great Reset: Embedding Resilience into African Agriculture



BFAP
DATA
DRIVEN
INSIGHT



18 – 20 November 2020
Virtual Webinars
www.renapri.org

CONCEPT NOTE

Introduction

2020, the irony is not lost on us! A year in which retrospective hindsight was to be perfected, has instead left the world scrambling to make sense of the present and increasingly uncertain about the “new normal” future.

In the first quarter of the year, countries went into lockdown, disrupting domestic production, except in the case of “essential goods and services”. Borders were closed to trade in unprecedented ways and restrictions introduced on movement of staple goods. Africa was no exception.

However, unlike developed countries, concerns around the COVID-19 Pandemic extended beyond a public health crisis to issues of food security for many African Governments. For a continent increasingly reliant on global food markets¹ the impact of the pandemic on both domestic and global economies will affect the average the African household’s ability to access food. To what degree is yet to be determined.

As we enter the fourth quarter of 2020, African leaders are having to manage short-term pressures against medium- and long-term uncertainties. The critical question is how to design African agricultural and food systems to endure future external shocks and/or stressors? To find answers to this question will require a degree of reflection, reimagining, and resetting of existing systems.

As a step in that direction, ReNAPRI’s 7th Annual Stakeholders Conference will engage a diverse group of highly informed stakeholders committed to building resilience into the region’s agricultural sector. The sessions will be geared to identify effective policies and innovative public and private sector investments which will ensure open markets and facilitate broad-based resilient growth.

Conference Theme

The overarching theme of the 7th Annual ReNAPRI Stakeholders Conference is: “***The Great Reset: embedding resilience into African agriculture***”.

Conference Objectives

The purpose of the conference is to create a platform for strategic dialogue and evidence-based guidance. Our premise is that an evidence-based understanding of agricultural value-chain development and trade policy impacts can assist African governments, private firms and civil society groups to anticipate and respond proactively to the emerging challenges in the region.

The key objectives of the 7th Annual ReNAPRI Stakeholders’ Conference is to:

1. Reflect on the impact of policy responses to the COVID-19 pandemic on food systems and identify what is known and unknown to date;
2. Outline strategy for prioritizing targeted public investments that facilitates scale production and resilience within key value-chains;
3. Promote practical ways by which African governments and development partners can focus high-impact public goods investments towards value-chain upgrading; and
4. Identify Regional Economic Communities (REC) patterns of comparative advantage and key challenges to trade under AfCFTA.

¹ In 2018 the value of food imports and exports for Sub-Saharan Africa amounted to USD 45 and USD 42 billion; respectively

Our Approach

The ReNAPRI conference will be held over a 3-day period and consist of a series of virtual webinars that will comprise the following activities:

- Keynote Presentations that highlight COVID-19 policies' impacts on food systems; identify priority public investments that facilitates resilience along value chains; and outline the key challenges to trade under AfCFTA;
- 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 Q&A on how best varying stakeholders can support intra-regional 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

- Greater awareness of COVID-19 policies' impact on food systems, innovative approaches to value-chain upgrading which can facilitate trade of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement and effective ways to address these challenges
- Identifying approaches for implementing programs that effectively address these challenges – the practical "how" questions
- Linkages and new partnership opportunities among the various stakeholders

Planning/Organizing Committees

The planning and organization for this conference is coordinated by the ReNAPRI Secretariat and the host ReNAPRI institution, the *Centre for Agricultural Research and Development (CARD) at Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR)* in Malawi.

Finance and Technical Support

Financial and Technical support for the conference is provided by key partners including the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the Policy Research, Capacity, and Influence (PRCI) Project, the European Commission Joint Research Center (JRC), and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

PROGRAMME-AT-A-GLANCE

Wednesday, November 18th

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 13h00 – 14h00 | Opening Remarks and Welcome |
| 14:00 – 14:15 | Comfort Break |
| 14h15 – 15h30 | <u>Webinar 1 Reflection:</u> Impact of Policy Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic on Food Systems: what we know and don't know |
| 15h30 – 15h45 | Comfort Break |
| 15h45 – 17h00 | <u>Webinar 2 Reimagine:</u> Elephants, gazelles and survival entrepreneurs: promoting dynamic transformation in African Agricultural Value Chains |

Thursday, November 19th

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 13h00 – 14h15 | <u>Webinar 3 Reimagine:</u> Building Resilient Value-Chains for inclusive agricultural transformation |
| 14h15 – 14h30 | Comfort Break |
| 14h30 – 15h45 | <u>Webinar 4 Reset:</u> AfCFTA: a journey to self-reliance in an age of uncertainty |
| 15h45 – 16h00 | Comfort Break |
| 16h00 – 17h15 | <u>Webinar 5 Reflect:</u> Road to Abuja II: next steps |
| 17h15 – 17h30 | Comfort Break |
| 17h30 – 18h30 | Closing: Lessons Learned and the Way Forward |

Friday, November 20th

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 13h00 – 14h30 | EAGC-ReNAPRI Webinar |
| 14:30 – 14:45 | Comfort Break |
| 14h45 – 16h00 | PRCI Webinar |

Wednesday, November 18th

13:00 – 14:00

Opening Remarks and Welcome

| Time | Speaker | Moderator |
|---------------|---|---|
| 13h00- 13h10 | Professor George Kanyama-Phiri Vice-Chancellor, LUANAR, Malawi | Dr. Milton Ayieko Chairman, Regional Network of Agricultural Policy Research Institutes (ReNAPRI) Director: Tegemeo, Kenya |
| 13h10 – 13h20 | Dr. Apollos Nwafor Vice-president, AGRA | |
| 13h20 – 13h30 | Ms. Maura Barry Boyle Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Resilience and Food Security, USAID | |
| 13h30 -13h40 | Ms. Chileshe Kapwepwe Secretary General, COMESA | |
| 13h40 – 13h50 | Hon. Josefa Sacko Commissioner, AUC-DREA | |
| 13h50-14h00 | Hon. Lobin Lowe, MP Minister of Agriculture, Malawi | |

Wednesday, November 18th

14:15 – 15:30

Webinar 1 Reflection:

Impact of Policy Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic on Food Systems: what we know and don't know.

As we enter the 4th quarter of 2020, efforts to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on agriculture and food systems are on-going. Despite the proliferation of analyses on the effects of COVID-19 and measures to address them, no broad synthesis of the evidence has been undertaken to better understand the wide range of government policy responses that have been implemented and how these have impacted the agriculture and food systems.

The Task Force on ***Food and Nutrition Security Data and Hunger Hotspots During COVID-19*** launched under the auspices of the Regional Food Trade Coalition, hosted by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), commissioned a study, aimed at identifying gaps in relation to our understanding of what is working (or not working) to address the impacts of the pandemic on regional food trade, food and nutrition security, and efforts to build inclusive and resilient food value chains.

The objective of this session is to present the initial findings of the comprehensive evidence synthesis study and ground-truth the results through key stakeholder engagement. Specific questions addressed by the comprehensive evidence synthesis which will be discussed in this session include:

- What are the impacts of policy responses to the Covid-19 pandemic on regional food trade, food and nutrition security, and resilience of food value chains?
- Which policy measures are working?
- To what extent are the measures undertaken by government and multilateral organizations gender inclusive and resilience focused?
- What are the gaps in our understanding?

Moderators:

Dr. Nalishebo Meebelo

Senior Program Coordinator, ReNAPRI
Co-chair AGRA Task Force

Dr. Antoine Bouët

IFPRI
Co-chair AGRA Task Force

Keynote Presentation:

Dr. Andrew Agyei-Holmes

Research Director, ISSER, Ghana (ReNAPRI)

Dr. Ayala Wineman

Post-Doctoral Research Associate, Evans School of Public Policy and Governance, University of Washington

Dr. John Olwande

Research Director, Tegemeo, Kenya (ReNAPRI)

Dr. Tinashe Kapuya

Research Director, BFAP, South Africa (ReNAPRI)



Wednesday, November 18th

Discussants:

Poorva Pandya

CEO, Export Trading Group (ETG)

Joel Okwir

Agriculture Economist, COMESA

Daniel Njiwa

Head of Regional Food Trade at AGRA

Dr. Medhat El-Helepi

Agriculture and Business Enabling Environment, Private Sector Development and Finance Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Marcella McClatchey

Program Officer, BMGF

Watipaso Mkandawire

FCDO DfID

15:45 – 17:00

Webinar 2 Reimagine:

Elephants, gazelles and survival entrepreneurs: Promoting dynamic transformation in African Agricultural Value Chains

African agri-food systems need to transform. Currently, African agri-SMES are of three distinct types:

1. “Elephants” – a small number of large registered firms that dominate their sectors;
2. “Gazelles” – corresponding to less than 10% of all agribusiness enterprises, the ones with relatively high productivity and capacity to grow; and
3. “Survival” businesses – mostly self-employed, part-time, informal one-person or household businesses with low productivity, low capacity to scale-up, and earnings barely above the poverty line.

African economies will transform more rapidly and sustainably when value-chain upgrading can be achieved, absorbing survival entrepreneurs into productive formal sector agribusiness firms. The challenge for African agri-food system development is how to attract and develop more gazelles.

In this session, ReNAPRI aims to focus on practical ways by which African governments and development partners can:

- i. Promote a favorable enabling environment for private investment (through trade policies, sectoral policies, ease of doing business, costs of capital, etc);
- ii. Provide high-impact public goods investments; and
- iii. How impact investors can contribute to value-chain upgrading through identifying and supporting the gazelles.

Moderator:

William Chadza

Acting Executive Director, MwAPATA

Keynote Presentation:

Prof. Thom Jayne

Michigan State University, (ReNAPRI)

Wednesday, November 18th

Discussants:

Dr. Louise Fox

Former Chief Scientist, World Bank

Alvaro Valverde

Relationship Manager, CASA

Dr. Martin Fregene

Director, Department of Agriculture and Agro-industry, African Development Bank

Dr. Edward Mabaya

Senior Research Associate, Department of Global Development, Cornell University

Open Floor Discussion

Thursday, November 19th

13:00 – 14:15

Webinar 3 Reimagine:

Building Resilient Value-Chains for inclusive agricultural transformation

Drawing on work that some of the network members have engaged over the past year, the session considers a combination of tools utilized for a market led value chain analysis approach. It presents poultry as a case study, focuses on market aspects and evaluates the current and projected future demand for poultry in the region, as well as the structure and resilience of domestic value chains in supplying this demand. Continuous development of such tools is critical to inform investments and policy decisions that shape market led, inclusive agricultural transformation.

Moderator:

Prof. Ferdi Meyer

Managing Director: Bureau of Food and Agricultural Policy (BFAP), (ReNAPRI)

Keynote Presentation:

Dr. Lilian Kirimi

Research Director, Tegemeo Institute (ReNAPRI)

Dr. Zena Mpenda

Research Director, Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), (ReNAPRI)

Dr. Tracy Davids

Managers, Markets Division: Bureau of Food and Agricultural Policy (BFAP), (ReNAPRI)

Discussants:

Antony M'barine

Policy and Strategy Office, Executive Office of the President

John Macharia

Country Manager-Kenya, AGRA

Dr. Emanuele Ferrari

Research Officer, European Commission, Joint Research Center (JRC)



Open Floor Discussion

Thursday, November 19th

14:30 – 15:45

Webinar 4 Reset:

AfCFTA – a journey to self-reliance in an age of uncertainty

2020, the irony is not lost on us! A year in which retrospective hindsight was to be perfected, has instead left the world scrambling to make sense of the present and increasingly uncertain about the “new normal” future.

In the first quarter of the year, countries went into lockdown, disrupting domestic production, except in the case of “essential goods and services”. Borders were closed to trade in unprecedented ways and restrictions introduced on movement of staple goods, putting further strain on the global economy and the multilateral trading system. Africa was no exception. Trade under the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), which was to commence on July 1st, 2020, was necessarily delayed to January 1st 2021.

As we enter the 4th quarter of 2020, African leaders are looking to the AfCFTA as a mechanism to facilitate the continent’s post-COVID economic recovery. Through the AfCFTA, Africa has the opportunity to: expedite the development of regional value chains that will boost Intra-African trade by at least 50% (UNECA); increase the competitiveness of African industry (TRALAC, 2019); and meet the continent’s growing food demand, which is projected to reach USD 1 Trillion by 2030 (AfDB, 2018).

However, if Africa is to realize this potential, there are challenges that will need to be addressed. In this webinar we will focus on how intra-African trade and investment can contribute to a post-COVID Africa and identify concrete policy options that can facilitate trade and investments under AfCFTA.

In broad terms this session will focus on addressing the following questions:

1. Given the REC’s patterns of comparative advantage and export potential for agriculture, forestry and fishery products traded within Africa, are the requisite preferential tariff concessions and rules of origin negotiations in place to facilitate trade?
2. What are some concrete ways in which AfCFTA can boost trade and investments along regional value chains?
3. What policy actions are needed at the REC’s and/or country level to promote a favorable enabling environment for private investment in trade and regional value-chains?

Moderator:

Dr. Antony Chapoto

Research Director, IAPRI (ReNAPRI)

Keynote Presentation:

Ms. Lulama Ndibongo Traub

Research Director, BFAP, South Africa (ReNAPRI)

Dr. Emmanuel Mwakiwa

Research Director, University of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe (ReNAPRI)

Ms. Orcidia Chiziane

Research Director, CEPPAG, Mozambique (ReNAPRI)

Dr. Isaac Kanyama

Research Director, IRES, Democratic Republic of the Congo (ReNAPRI)

Thursday, November 19th

Discussants:

Gerald Masila

CEO, East African Grain Council (EAGC)

Wandile Sihlobo

Chief Economist, AgBiz Chambers

Dr. John Mukuka

CEO, ACTESA-COMESA

Albert Halwampa

Manager for Export Development, Zambia Development Agency

Dr. Holger Matthey

Economist, Trade and Markets Division, Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN)

16:00 – 17:15

Webinar 5 Reflect: **Road to Abuja II: next steps**

The proposed Africa Fertilizer Summit II (Abuja II Fertilizer Summit) is aimed at coalescing ideas from a range of high-level stakeholders, including African Heads of State and Governments, the private-sector, and senior policy makers into an Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan that will stimulate productivity growth in African agriculture in a sustainable way. Since the endorsement of the Abuja Declaration on Fertilizer for the Africa Green Revolution in 2006, there has been notable progress in Africa's fertilizer industry, including increased private sector investments witnessed in fertilizer manufacturing and blending (e.g. Nigeria, Kenya) and improved distribution networks for fertilizer (e.g. Kenya). Overall, fertilizer consumption in Africa has also grown at a rate of 8% per annum since 2006.

Amidst the notable progress made in Africa's fertilizer industry, there have been changes that make it necessary to review the industry with the purpose of developing a plan of action for sustainable agricultural growth productivity on the continent, moving forward. Some of the modifications include the changing roles that the private and public sector actors have taken. For example, there is increased recognition of the critical role of soil health, and complementary soil and crop management practices, in both improving the efficiency of fertilizer use and achieving higher and sustainable gains in crop productivity, given the low fertility conditions of many African soils. There have also been renewed efforts by several African governments to provide fertilizer and complimentary input subsidies to farmers. Given these changes, some of the key issues that the proposed Abuja II Fertilizer Summit needs to address include the following:

- Making appropriate fertilizers available and affordable to a broad base of farmers in contexts of diverse soil conditions
- Mechanisms for financing investments in the fertilizer industry
- Policy 'best practices' for building efficient and inclusive input markets
- Soil nutrient management through proper agronomic practices

This webinar we will therefore, deliberate on preparations needed to build the foundation for the Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan, including the key areas of research and development of white papers, and consensus building among stakeholders.

Moderator:

Prof. Richard Mkandawire

Keynote Presentation:

Prof. Rattan Lal

2020 World Food Prize Laureate



Discussants:

Elizabeth Nsimadala

President, Pan African Farmers' Organization (PAFO)

Prof. Pedro Sanchez

2002 World Food Prize Laureate

Dr. Shamie Zingore

Director, Research & Development, African Plant Nutrition Institute (APNI)

Dr. Hambulo Ngoma

Research Fellow, IAPRI (ReNAPRI)

Open Floor Discussion

17:30 – 18:30

Recap, Way Forward & Closing Remarks

Dr. Thabbie Chilongo

Director: Center for Agricultural Research & Development (CARD), LUANAR

Miltone Ayieko

Chairman: Regional Network of Agricultural Policy Research Institutes (ReNAPRI)

Director: Tegemeo Institute

Friday, November 20th

13:00 – 14:30

Virtual Dialogue on Recovery of Regional Grain Trade Chains in Sub-Saharan Africa Beyond the COVID-19 Pandemic

Grain commodities – chiefly maize (corn), wheat, rice, and pulses – are by far the most important food commodities in East, and Southern Africa, and also feature in the food basket of West Africa. Production of these food staples varies greatly from one country to the other based on agro-ecological conditions and resource endowments, which also influence the costs of production of these commodities. These factors have created natural opportunities for trade among countries in East, Southern and West Africa, based on comparative advantages and crop seasons, which largely inform the volume and direction of trade at any given time of the year. The regions are self-sufficient for maize and dry beans but are net importers of wheat and rice and net exporter of pulses. Grain trade value chains are, therefore, an integral part of the economy and are relevant for food, nutrition, and income security in the region.

As is the case for the rest of the world, East, Southern and West Africa are grappling with the Novel Coronavirus Disease of 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic which has claimed over 979,000 lives globally as of September 2020. The rapid spread of the disease has sent shockwaves across the regions with governments seeking urgent responses to protect already fragile economies from the worst of the epidemic. The number of cases is rapidly growing, particularly in Kenya, South Africa, and Tanzania, which have the highest number of cases and fatalities attributed to the disease since it began. The pandemic poses a public health and economic concern for a region that is composed entirely of developing economies, with average annual GDP per capita of less than US\$ 1,000 as can be seen in East and Southern Africa (ESA), with substantial proportions of the workforce employed in agriculture, particularly grain value chains. This means that governments face a delicate balancing act between protecting lives against the disease on one hand and sustaining livelihoods of their people on the other.

As the leading provider of jobs, livelihoods and food, the grain sector is at the heart of the COVID-19 debate in Sub-Saharan Africa. The sector has been affected by reduced trade due to movement restrictions within and between countries, higher transaction costs and slow-down in consumption as household incomes dwindled during the pandemic, and divergence in policy responses by individual countries in the region.

As the COVID-19 containment measures are gradually relaxed globally and across the region, it is expected that the grain sector will see an associated positive turnaround in its fortunes. However, with experts warning that the pandemic could persist for another two years, there is need for a coordinated response across the region to ensure smooth recovery of the sector and strengthened resilience against similar shocks in the future. This reality has compelled the Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) and the Regional Network of Agricultural Policy Research Institutes (ReNAPRI) to jointly pursue a regional conversation through a Virtual Dialogue on Recovery of Regional Grain Trade Chains in Sub-Saharan Africa Beyond the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Webinar will be hosted under the auspices of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between EAGC and ReNAPRI, signed in June 2020, which provides for the two organizations to jointly pursue activities of common interests in the area of regional agricultural policy.

General objectives of the event

The main objectives of the Webinar are as follows:

- i. Discuss the impact of COVID-19 on the grain sector in Sub-Saharan Africa
- ii. Develop solutions/recommendations to mitigate its impact and protect grain trade value chains going forward

Expected outputs

- i. A better understanding of the impact of COVID-19 on downstream and upstream grain value chain activities
- ii. A synthesis of practical short term, medium term, and long-term interventions to mitigate the impact of the pandemic and improve resilience of regional grain trade value chains, which will inform post-pandemic recovery strategies at national, regional, and continental level.