



## THE 7<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL ReNAPRI STAKEHOLDERS' CONFERENCE

*"The Great Reset: embedding resilience into African agriculture"*



ReNAPRI SECRETARIAT

c/o Indaba Agricultural Policy Research Institute (IAPRI)  
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Lusaka, Zambia



This report was prepared by the ReNAPRI Secretariat and presents a summary of the Conference proceedings of the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual ReNAPRI Stakeholders' Conference. The detailed event agenda, and links to the session recordings, can be found on the ReNAPRI website: <http://www.renapri.org/2020Conference/>



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## Acknowledgments

The Regional Network of Agricultural Policy Research Institutes (ReNAPRI) organized the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual ReNAPRI Stakeholders' Conference from 18 to 20 November 2020. The virtual Conference was hosted by Malawi through the Center for Agricultural Research and Development (CARD) in conjunction with the Malawi Agriculture Policy Advancement and Transformation Agenda (MwAPATA) Institute.

The Regional Network of Agricultural Policy Research Institutes (ReNAPRI) would like to sincerely thank all the speakers, presenters, panellists, and participants (audience) for taking time to be a part of the 2020 Conference, and for their rich, open, and insightful inputs to the various thematic conversations throughout the 3-day event. ReNAPRI looks forward to your participation in the 2021 Conference.

Special gratitude is extended to the Government of Malawi, through the Minister of Agriculture, for gracing the event. ReNAPRI highly appreciates the sponsors of the Conference: United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the Policy Research, Capacity, and Influence (PRCI) Project; European Commission Joint Research Center (JRC), the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; and; the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

November 2020



## List of Acronyms

AAP	Alliance for African Partnership
ACTESA	Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Agreement
AfDB	African Development Bank
AFFM	Africa Fertilizer Financing Mechanism
AGI	Agro-industrialization
AGRA	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
ATA	Agricultural Transformation Agenda
AUC	African Union Commission
BFAP	Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy
BMGF	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
BRR	Biennial Review Reporting
CA	Conservation Agriculture
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CARD	Centre for Agricultural Research and Development
CASA	Commercial Agriculture for Smallholders and Agribusiness
CEMAC	Central African Economic and Monetary Community
CEPPAG	Research Center for Agricultural and Food Policies and Programmes
COVID-19	Corona Virus Disease of 2019
CPEEL	Centre for Petroleum, Energy Economics and Law
CPL	Center for Policy Leadership
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
DREA	Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture
EAC	East African Community
EAGC	Eastern Africa Grain Council
EC-JRC	European Commission Joint Research Center
EPRC	Economic Policy Research Centre
ETG	Export Trading Group
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIS	Geographic Information System
HoSG	Heads of State and Governments
IAPRI	Indaba Agricultural Policy Research Institute
ICT	Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
IFDC	International Fertilizer Development Center
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IRES	Institut de Recherches Economiques et Sociales
LUANAR	Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources



MoFPED	Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSU	Michigan State University
MTID	Markets, Trade and Institutions Division (MTID)
MwAPATA Institute	Malawi Agriculture Policy Advancement and Transformation Agenda
NAIPs	National Agriculture Investment Plans
NDP	National Development Plan
OWC	Operation Wealth Creation
PAFO	Pan African Farmers' Organization
PIMA	Public Investment Management in Agro-Industry
PPVC	Policy Prioritization for Value Chain
PRCI	Policy Research Capacity and Influence
Q&A	Question and Answer
R&D	Research and Development
ReNAPRI	Regional Network of Agricultural Policy Research Institutes
RFS	Resilience and Food Security
SACU	Southern African Customs Union
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
STAARS	Structural Transformation of African Agriculture and Rural Spaces
STEPMAN	Strategic Economic Policy and Management
SUA	Sokoine University of Agriculture
TFTA	Tripartite Free Trade Agreement
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USD	United States Dollars
ZAMACE	Zambia Agriculture Commodity Exchange



## 1. Introduction

2020 -- the irony was not lost on us! A year that implied retrospective hindsight 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 include issues of food security for many African governments. For a continent increasingly reliant on global food markets, the impact of the pandemic on both domestic and global economies will affect the average African household’s ability to access food. To what degree, has yet to be determined.

At the launch of the fourth quarter of 2020, African leaders were having to manage short-term pressures against medium- and long-term uncertainties. The critical questions revolved around 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 engaged a diverse group of highly informed stakeholders committed to building resilience into the region’s agricultural sector. The sessions were geared to identify effective policies and innovative public and private sector investments, which will ensure open markets and facilitate broad-based resilient growth.

The Conference was held over a three-day period (18-20 November 2020) and comprised the following activities:

- Keynote presentations that: highlighted impacts of COVID-19 policies on food systems; identified priority public investments that facilitate resilience along value chains; and outlined the key challenges to trade under the AfCFTA.
- Panel discussions, including industry experts/stakeholders and government officials, charged with identifying concrete strategies that address the challenges and unlock the regions’ agricultural potential.
- Interactive question and answer (Q&A) session with a view to mobilizing insights concerning how best, varying stakeholders can support intra-regional efforts at national, regional, and continental levels.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual ReNAPRI Stakeholders’ Conference welcomed 256 participants from 37 countries over the scheduled three-days. Country representation during the Conference included the following: Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Cote D’Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Germany, Ghana, India, Italy, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar,



New Zealand, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States of America, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

The event was hosted by the Centre for Agricultural Research and Development (CARD) at Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) and the Malawi Agriculture Policy Advancement and Transformation Agenda (MwAPATA) Institute, with support from the following partners: United States Agency for International Development (USAID), through the Innovation Lab for Policy Research Capacity and Influence (PRCI) Project; European Commission Joint Research Center (EC-JRC); Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); and, in-kind contributions from ReNAPRI member institutions..



## 2. Welcome Remarks and Official Opening

### 2.1. Opening Remarks and Welcome

#### **Hon. Lobin Lowe, MP, Minister for Agriculture, Malawi**

- Expressed pleasure in the honor bestowed on the Government of Malawi, to host the 7th Annual ReNAPRI Stakeholders Conference through the Center for Agricultural Research and Development (CARD) at the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR).
- Noted that the theme of this year's Conference, "*The Great Reset: embedding resilience into African agriculture*" was well befitting as it was being reflected at a time when most economies were challenged by the COVID-19 pandemic, and while vulnerable populations were unable to contain its devastating effects.
- Stated that issues, such as climate change, degradation of natural resources and the environment, rapid population growth, poor performance of agricultural input and output markets and disasters such as COVID -19 were some of the areas calling for resilience, if African agricultural and food systems are to achieve increased and sustained production for both food security and economic development of the various African economies.
- Emphasized that his door is always open to ReNAPRI and CARD researchers to receive key policy recommendations.
- Officially declared the 7th Annual ReNAPRI Stakeholders Conference open and wished everyone fruitful and professional deliberations, as they shared knowledge and experiences that would ultimately contribute towards pragmatic policies for the advancement of the African continent and the globe, in general.

#### **Hon. Josefa Sacko, Commissioner, African Union Commission Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (AUC-DREA)**

- Emphasized the African Union Commission's support to the use of evidence-based agricultural research as the foundation for informing policy in member states and Regional Economic Communities, for the purposes of building resilient agriculture food systems.
- Stated that the era of COVID-19 has, along with other issues, revealed the necessity for real-time data generation in order to support effective and efficient decision making. This unprecedented disease has threatened the strength and positive trajectory of Africa's agriculture development, which was seen throughout this decade.
- Stated that there is no doubt, that agricultural research and development will continue to play an important role in the aforementioned matters. In this regard, there is an urgent need to mobilize resources from both the public sector and private sector, and to seek catalytic support from technical and financial development partners and philanthropies.



- Stressed the need for African governments to increase their annual budgetary allocation to agricultural research, while also calling on Africa's partners to assist the continent's resolve to technically capacitate local African research centers.
- Provided highlights of the recent 2019 Malabo Biennial Review Reporting (BRR), noting that that only 13 out of 55 African countries had spent the full 1 % of their agricultural GDP on research. Some member states were not too far from the 1%, while others fell far below the threshold of 1%. A lot, therefore, still remains to be done in terms of the desire to enhance investment in research for development in Africa.
- Stated that AUC-DREA is currently preparing for the second African Fertilizer Summit *also known as Abuja II*, which is expected to take place sometime in 2021
- Indicated that AUC-DREA was working closely with ReNAPRI and other key technical and financial partners to generate a progress report that will reflect advancements that have been made since the Abuja I Declaration in 2006.
- Stressed the AUC's continued resolve in working with all its partners to ensure that research continues to be the foundation of good decision making for transformation in the agriculture sector and for improved livelihoods in the African continent.

**Chileshe Kapwepwe**, Secretary General, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)

- Expressed COMESA's pleasure in being a part of the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual ReNAPRI Stakeholders' Conference and the dialogue on how Africa can design agricultural and food systems capable of enduring future and external shocks.
- Noted that the theme of the Conference was befitting of the existing context as African governments were grappling with their economies as a result of COVID-19. The pandemic continues to affect agriculture in a complex number of ways, namely: limitation in movements and availability of labour; limited access to inputs and finances; restricted access to markets; loss of livelihoods; and food insecurity. COVID-19 is therefore a wakeup call for stakeholders to build agricultural systems capable of enduring all types of external shocks.
- Stated that Africa's population is projected to double by 2050 and will require the production of healthy, nutritious, and affordable food. It is noted however that the policy initiatives of African governments towards food production have not been moving in the same direction as its projected population growth. The unanticipated shock of COVID-19 requires stakeholders to move from business as usual, to launch a process of repositioning and resetting, for the future.
- Stressed that Africa's fundamental focus should therefore be about investing in the medium- and long-term goals of resilience, sustainable agricultural productivity growth and food



systems. African governments need to focus also on policies that encourage regional agriculture and food systems development rather than focusing only on domestic self-sufficiency. The role of African researchers in providing context-specific evidence to inform policy makers cannot, therefore, be overemphasized.

- Stressed the importance of further focusing on opening markets and enhancing intra-regional trade and attracting greater investment in the sector.
- Emphasized the need for Africa to develop policies to support research as a public good, and to support transfer and dissemination of best practices, innovations, and technologies for developing resilience in agriculture. COMESA works with a multitude of global partners in ensuring agricultural resilience in the region and this has led to the production of a regional COVID-19 Food and Response Plan that will address food and nutrition security and the means of livelihoods of vulnerable populations.
- Stated that COVID-19 serves as a wakeup call concerning the need for increased public and private partnerships to improve resilience in agriculture, and platforms such as the Annual ReNAPRI Conference provide opportunities for stakeholders to work together in achieving that goal.

**Maura Barry**, Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator, USAID Bureau for Resilience and Food Security

- Noted that the theme for the 2020 Conference resonates with USAID's aspirations, particularly under the auspices of Bureau for Resilience and Food Security, which leads the United States Government's Feed the Future initiative.
- Stated that the year 2020 has highlighted the need for food systems to be more resilient, and sound evidence is important in helping governments in developing policies that strengthen resilience.
- Highlighted the fact that international agricultural research in the past five years has led to a ten-fold return on investment, and that policy research is a key pillar in agricultural investment.
- Emphasized that policy makers are facing tough tradeoffs and that there is a need for evidence in order to ascertain the impact of potential policy decisions in the short-term and long-term. Local policy institutions are best placed to provide the evidence, and ReNAPRI is helping to coordinate the activities of local research institutions.
- Stated that USAID considers the AfCFTA as an opportunity to build on the commitment made by African Heads of State and Governments (HoSG) in creating the largest free trade area in the world.
- Stressed that the agreement has enormous potential for African growth and development.



- Expressed USAID's delight in supporting some of the Conference research presentations such as the *synthesis of policy responses to COVID-19*.
- Highlighted that fact that enhanced food security requires an understanding of how to make food systems more resilient to the myriad shocks, because it is no longer a matter of *'if they will happen'*, but rather *'when they will happen'*.
- Noted that ReNAPRI's research on resilience will, therefore, assist the public and private sectors to plan, identify and anticipate risks. This research will further help in guiding investments by the private sector, with the aim of responding to policy needs in an evidence-based manner.

**Dr. Apollos Nwafor**, Vice-President, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)

- Noted that ReNAPRI has been a force to reckon with in terms of providing research and evidence for policy analysis and informing policy reforms in the agricultural sector.
- Stated that Africa has faced a lot in the last two years beginning with red locust invasion in the horn of Africa and currently, the COVID-19 pandemic which has led to an increase in hunger hotspots in Africa.
- Emphasized that there has been huge progress by countries in reaching the CAADP 10% public expenditure target, with nine countries exceeding expectations, while some AU member states have relapsed. Investments in the agriculture sector also reduced in 2020 because governments were concerned about the health crisis that was resulting from COVID-19. Countries also faced challenges in policy predictability due to non-tariff barriers and border closures as a result of the pandemic. Despite these challenges, countries have ensured that their populations still have access to food.
- Stated that lockdowns and border closures had started to ease up, but challenges are still evident with regard to the movement of food and at the right quality, mainly due to the fact that private sector organizations engage in logistics for trade and movement for food. Despite this improvement, much still needs to be done to ensure that normalcy returns. There is a need for stakeholders therefore, to think about not only a return to normalcy, but also ways in which to ensure that the African agriculture sector is more resilient to future shocks.
- Announced that AGRA is currently working on a food security platform to ensure that up-to-date information is available to support public investment and stakeholders in African agriculture. In addition, the political economy is changing and African governments are prioritizing agriculture as a means of rebuilding their economies in their growth and recovery plans. This will in turn lead to the creation of jobs especially in the informal sector which has felt the brunt of the pandemic. Data and evidence will be required to ensure that the private sector is at ease with the economic and growth recovery plans of their governments.



- Emphasized that the context of African agriculture has changed, and that stakeholders need to think about emerging issues within the sector.
- Noted the need to: Build institutions that are supported by strong data and evidence capable of managing future shocks; create an enabling environment for small holders to withstand future shocks and ensure that they receive higher incomes to help in reducing poverty and hunger; and, strengthen the agricultural agenda of governments to ensure that there is real-time transformation for their people.
- Finally stated that stakeholders must engage in rethinking the leadership model in the agricultural sector given that it is not a stand-alone sector. This involves ensuring that the sector is connected to areas such as market systems, domestic supply chains and digitalization, and development finance.

**Professor George Kanyama-Phiri**, Vice-Chancellor of LUANAR, Malawi

- Commended the Board of ReNAPRI for organizing the Conference and for selecting LUANAR to host the 2020 Conference through CARD.
- Noted that the presence of distinguished guests and delegates was a testimony of their dedication and commitment to propel the African continent to greater heights of economic development, through efficient performance of the agriculture sector, which is the major economic sector of most African economies.
- Emphasized the fact that the Conference theme was well befitting as the global economy was experiencing the worst economic recession in history. This is as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic that has devastated the world economy, more so, in agricultural-dependent economies.
- Noted that the Conference had created a platform for professionals to share knowledge and experience, while delivering policy recommendations that would assist the agricultural sector to recover from the COVID-19 shock. The Conference would also propose strategies to develop the resilience of the agricultural sector.
- Hoped that African governments would consider the recommendations that derive from the Conference and implement them accordingly for purposes of enhancing and rebuilding economies, and developing resilience in agricultural systems across the African continent.
- Thanked all Conference attendees and presenters for accepting to be part of the Conference despite their busy schedules.

**Dr. Milton Ayieko**, Executive Director of Tegemeo Institute of Agricultural Policy and Development, Egerton University, Kenya, and Chair of the ReNAPRI Board of Directors

- Welcomed Conference attendees and thanked the two host institutions (CARD & Mwapata Institute) in Malawi for hosting the Conference.



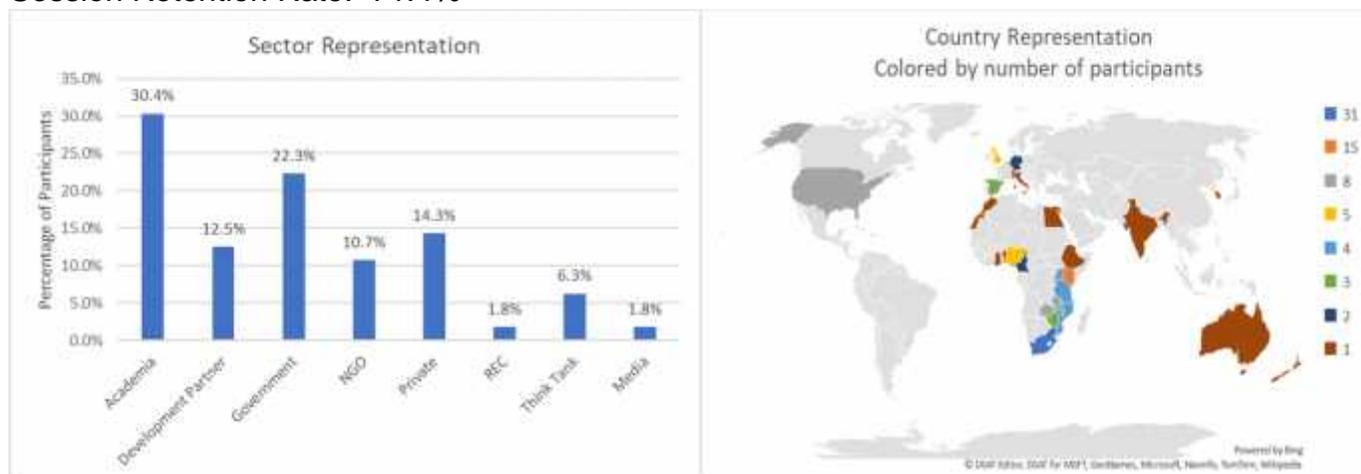
- Noted that the Conference was originally scheduled to be a face-to-face event in Malawi, but due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, the Conference was hosted virtually.
- Highlighted the Conference theme: *The Great Reset: embedding resilience into African agriculture*<sup>1</sup> as an appropriate theme for the current times as it provided an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss how to embed resilience in the agriculture sector in Africa, and how the sector can navigate the shocks of the COVID-19 pandemic in the short, medium, and long term.
- Noted that trade, production, and food security are some of the areas in the African agriculture sector that have been affected by the pandemic. The Conference, therefore, provided an opportunity to reflect, rethink and reimagine modalities for improving the resilience of African agriculture, going forward.
- Stated that ReNAPRI is currently made up of institutions in 10 different countries with a mandate to share evidence, ideas and lessons learnt in agriculture at the national, regional, and global level. ReNAPRI is keen to work with RECs to provide evidence-based research to support their mandate.
- Emphasized that the two-day Conference would cover 5 topics, namely: Impacts of policy responses to the COVID-19 pandemic on food systems: what we know and do not know; Elephants, gazelles, and survival entrepreneurs; Promoting dynamic transformation in African agricultural value chains; Building resilient value chains for inclusive agricultural transformation; AfCFTA: a journey to self-reliance in an age of uncertainty; and Road to Abuja II: next steps.

### Snap-shot of participants’ demographics

Number of participants: 112

Number of countries: 26

Session Retention Rate: 71.4%<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Retention rate is calculated by taking the number of participants at the end of the session divided by the total number of participants who logged in for the session multiplied by 100.



### 3. Webinar 1 Reflection: Impact of Policy Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic on Food Systems: what we know and don't know.

The launch of the 4th quarter of 2020 reveals a scenario in which efforts to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on agricultural development 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, and 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/is not working in addressing 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 was to present the initial findings of the comprehensive evidence synthesis study and ground-truth the results through engagement with key stakeholders. Specific questions addressed by experts conducting the comprehensive evidence synthesis which was presented and discussed during the session included:

- What were 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 were working?
- To what extent were 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 Secretariat, and Co-chair AGRA Task Force on *Food and Nutrition Security Data and Hunger Hotspots During COVID-19*
- **Dr. Antoine Bouët** – Senior Research Fellow, Markets, Trade, and Institutions Division (MTID), IFPRI, and Co-chair AGRA Task Force on *Food and Nutrition Security Data and Hunger Hotspots During COVID-19*

#### Keynote Presentation:

- **Dr. Andrew Agyei-Holmes** - Research Director, ISSER, Ghana (ReNAPRI member)
- **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 member)
- **Dr. Tinashe Kapuya** - Research Director, BFAP, South Africa (ReNAPRI member)



## Discussants:

- **Poorva Pandya** – Chief Executive, Export Trading Group (ETG) Farmers Foundation
- **Joel Okwir** - Agriculture Economist, COMESA
- **Daniel Njiwa** - Head of Regional Food Trade, AGRA
- **Dr. Medhat El-Helepi** - Agriculture and Business Enabling Environment, Private Sector Development and Finance Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
- **Marcella McClatchey** - Program Officer, BMGF
- **Watipaso Mkandawire** – Regional Food Markets Advisor, Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)

### 3.1. Key Findings

- Policy makers should be aware of an “anti-informality bias” with respect to informal markets
- Social distancing measures that privilege formal markets, threaten the food security of low-income consumers.
- Stay-at-home policies seem to disproportionately harm poorer households, particularly those working in the informal sector.
- Greater social protections are needed for both the urban and rural poor; considering that some authors have noted extremely limited public support systems in place, also noting that some forms of assistance, such as school meal programs, have diminished during the pandemic.
- The African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) is expected to reduce Africa’s exposure to future global shocks to food value chains, and will support a more resilient continental food system.
- There is a need to monitor longer term impacts as there may be ripple effects on agricultural production into the next year, and as consumers’ limited savings run out.
- New actors have entered agricultural value chains. For example, open car booths have been used by roadside vendors to sell food, teachers have engaged in agriculture - and all these demonstrate the flexibility and adaptability of the African population.
- As a result of border closures, livestock traders are engaging in on-farm sales which have increased associated costs hence impacting farmers’ income.
- There has been increased informal trade across non-designated borders, which in turn has implications for food safety and quality.

### 3.2. Recommendations / Opportunities

- Banks, governments, and private sector stakeholders need to work together in creating finance facilities, which can strengthen the ability of small holder farmers to buy inputs needed to increase production.



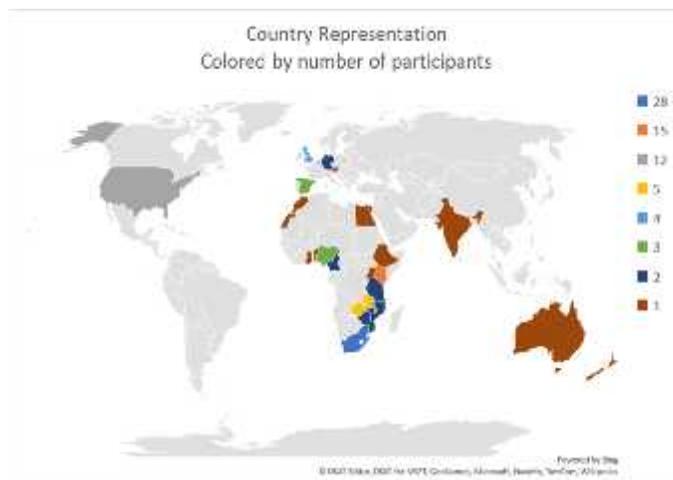
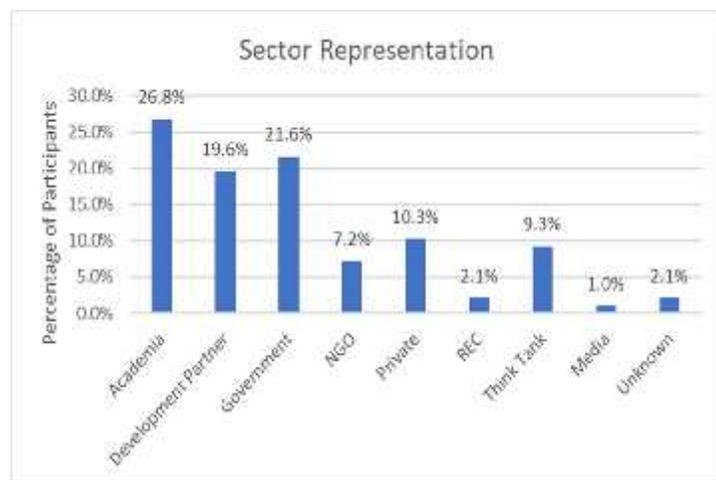
- There is also the need for regional conversations amongst policy stakeholders in order to encourage regional trade, while simultaneously, finding new ways to use digitalization to provide agricultural extension and finance facilities.
- Gender analysis is critical in order to understand the effects of the pandemic on women, with a focus on rural areas, while concurrently developing strategies to address fragility and resilience of food systems and markets. This requires data to assist stakeholders in helping governments to make decisions affecting regional supply chains and trade, thereby giving confidence to investors.
- Improved logistics, transport, and agricultural infrastructure, particularly storage facilities for perishable goods, is key to ensuring resilience. Furthermore, post-harvest infrastructure processors, transporters and traders represent over 50% of the value of the cost of food value chains and, therefore, there is a need for more data on how COVID-19 is impacting these actors along value chains, and to inform measures that will ensure that their work is not disrupted.
- Regional integration is crucial in achieving food security from a holistic perspective, but also in terms of advancing agricultural transformation in Africa.
- There is need for coordination amongst stakeholders working in value chains, i.e., from small holder farmers to high level producers and decision makers. This will send the right signals to investors that stakeholders are able to organize themselves and transfer incentives that will be beneficial to everyone along food value chains.
- More studies on food trade in Africa is required in order to provide data and evidence to stakeholders.

### Snapshot of participant demographics

Number of participants: 97

Number of countries: 24

Session Retention Rate: 61.9%







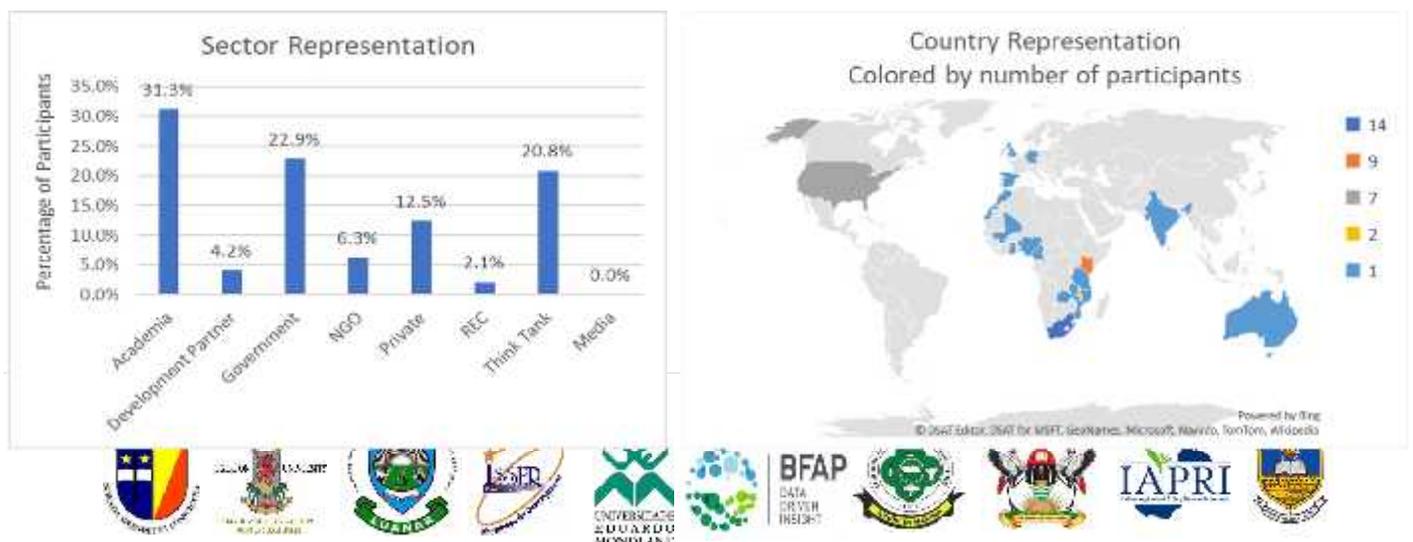
- In addition, there is a need for investment in incubators, in information and communication technology (ICT) value added services, and pre-investment technical assistance to improve agri-business visibility.
- Tax incentives could be also used to encourage ‘gazelles’ as they seek to transform into ‘elephants’.
- There is a need for more private sector investment in the agri-business sector in Africa because Africa needs between 24 to 28 billion United States Dollars (USD) to transform its agricultural sector every year and more than 15 billion USD will need to be resourced from the private sector.
- Productivity is a driver of profitability. Africa therefore needs, to address the productivity gap if it has to secure high private investment for small and medium size enterprises. Furthermore, there is a need for increased investment in agri-infrastructure.
- Building the capacity of SMEs to manage their businesses will be required, this is alongside the need to seek financing and support toward the investment that they need to grow their businesses.
- The ‘*survival entrepreneur*’ is critical for the endurance of the ‘gazelles’ and the ‘elephants’ because the system is like a food chain with each dependent on another. Therefore, financial models that seek to transform the entire value chain will fit better than those targeting specific stakeholders of the chain.
- There is also a need for more private sector investment in agri-food input supply systems, which is critical for increasing productivity.
- African universities need to invest more in capacity development toward an increased focus on agri-entrepreneurship in the agricultural sector .
- There is need to reduce donor dependence and develop blended financing for entrepreneurs operating in the agri-business sector.
- There is a need for governments to play a role in creating an enabling environment and increasing their investment in agricultural R&D.

### Snapshot of participant demographics

Number of participants: 48

Number of countries: 17

Session Retention Rate: 68.8%



## 5. Webinar 3 Reimagine: Building Resilient Value-Chains for inclusive agricultural transformation

Drawing on work that some of the network members have engaged on over the past year, this session considered a combination of tools utilized for a market-led value chain analysis approach. It presented poultry as a case study, focusing on market aspects, and evaluated 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 investment and policy decisions that shape market-led, and inclusive agricultural transformation.

### Moderator:

**Prof. Ferdi Meyer** - Managing Director, Bureau of Food and Agricultural Policy (BFAP), (ReNAPRI Board)

### Keynote Presentation:

- **Dr. Lilian Kirimi** - Research Director, Tegemeo Institute (ReNAPRI)
- **Dr. Zena Mpenda** - Research Director, Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), (ReNAPRI)
- **Dr. Tracy Davids** - Manager, Markets Division: Bureau of Food and Agricultural Policy (BFAP), (ReNAPRI)

### Discussants:

- **Antony M'barine** -Policy and Strategy Office, Executive Office of the President of Kenya
- **John Macharia** - Country Manager AGRA (Kenya)
- **Dr. Emanuele Ferrari** - Research Officer, European Commission, Joint Research Center (JRC)

### 5.1. Key Findings

- The Policy Prioritization for Value Chain (PPVC) approach is an excellent tool for selecting value chains with high potential, impact and economies of scale. The approach takes into account the following issues:
  - The spatial context and natural resource potential of a specific value chain.
  - The market potential /outlook at domestic, regional, and/or international levels.
  - Contextualization of selected products in current market structures.
  - Evaluation of economic feasibility and competitiveness.
  - Evaluation of economy-wide impact.
- In Kenya, the PPVC model was used to prioritize value chains based on the government's Big 4 agenda. Out of 12 value chains under consideration, beef, fish, and coffee were selected for deep dive analysis, with the aim of identifying interventions that will have the highest impact in terms of jobs, growth, poverty reduction and impact.
- Chicken is recognized globally as the most affordable source of animal protein and its consumption in Sub-Saharan Africa is still low.



- With few exceptions, indigenous chicken is preferred over broiler meat and consumers are willing to pay a premium (e.g., 23% in Kenya).
- Consumers prioritize taste, freshness, freedom from antibiotics & hormone residue.
- Imported products are often cheaper.
- The Government of South Africa has developed a poultry masterplan with the aim of growing output (and jobs) through a number of measures. It sets out a new, joint vision across the value chain namely:
  - Expanding and improving production by 2023
  - Expanding domestic demand and affordability
  - Driving exports
  - Enhancing regulatory framework and compliance
  - Setting up trade measures to support local industry
- High feed costs remain a challenge in Tanzania and Kenya given that feed materials are imported from neighboring countries.
- The majority of aquaculture producers in Kenya are small-scale producers and current policy efforts are geared towards assisting these small-scale producers. There is however a need, for investments in these small-scale producers to ensure that they can be upgraded to large firms.
- There have been significant improvements in the poultry sector in Tanzania between 2017 and 2020 as a result of private sector investment. For example, imports of day-old chicks moved from 18% to about 30% as a result of private sector investment. There have been improvements in tax reforms, notably the removal of the VAT feed tax.

## 5.2. Recommendations / Opportunities

- The high cost of feed in Tanzania and Kenya is an opportunity for stakeholders to develop interventions capable of lowering feed cost, which can in turn lead to low cost of production for poultry dealers. Furthermore, maize which is a key feed component is imported and with the AfCFTA agreement operationalized, Kenya and Tanzania could get maize from countries with net surplus. It might, however, not necessarily reduce the cost of feed, given that cost of transportation, particularly in-country trucking, occupies a large percentage of overall cost of feed.
- There is a need for further studies on how the poultry market in the European Union (EU) affects African markets.
- Despite improvements in the feed sector in Tanzania, there is still a need for enhanced technology and policy reforms.
- It is important to provide evidence, while also taking cognizance of the political economy of a country, and with a very clear analysis in hand, of potential decisions that could eventuate..
- It is important to involve policy makers and stakeholders in the decision-making processes, during the early stages of carrying out policy research. This ensures that they are part of the processes from the onset and that research is actually responding to their policy needs, making them champions for change and co-owners of the research findings.

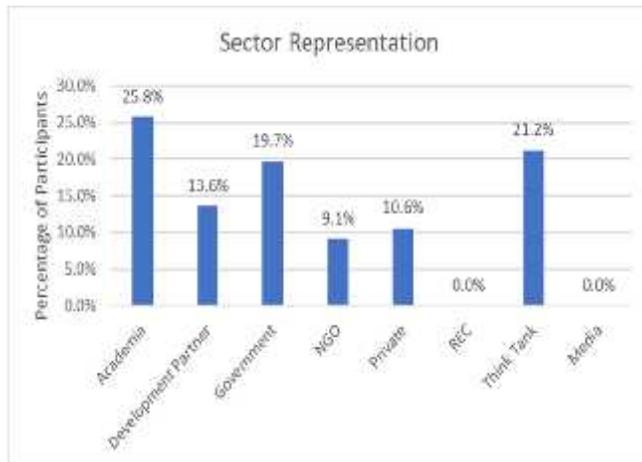


## Snapshot of participant demographics

Number of participants: 66

Number of countries: 23

Session Retention Rate: 74.2%





- **Orcidia Chiziane** - Research Director, CEPPAG, Mozambique (ReNAPRI)
- **Dr. Isaac Kanyama** - Research Director, IRES, Democratic Republic of the Congo (ReNAPRI)

#### Discussants:

- **Gerald Masila** - Executive Director, Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC)
- **Wandile Sihlobo** - Chief Economist, AgBiz Chambers
- **Dr. John Mukuka** - CEO, ACTESA-COMESA
- **Albert Halwampa** - Manager for Export Development, Zambia Development Agency (ZDA)
- **Dr. Holger Matthey** - Economist, Trade and Markets Division, Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN)

#### 6.1. Key Findings

- Intra African food imports represented approximately 20% of Sub-Saharan Africa's food bill in 2019.
- Comparative advantage is a key concept in explaining the source of trade, and there is heterogeneity across RECs and products.
- Comparative advantage is not static and can be influenced by industrial and trade policies.

For example: In 2001, Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) countries had comparative advantage in rubber and, raw and semi-processed wood products traded in the continent. However, by 2019 that comparative advantage was eroded with regional blocks such as Southern African Customs Union (SACU) and COMESA countries gaining market share in those products.

- Terms of trade negotiations under the AfCFTA should build on the strengths of the RECs and, given that RECs such as COMESA have made progress towards reducing tariff barriers through the Tripartite Free Trade Agreement (TFTA), it is expected that the AfCFTA will provide the much-needed boost to the activities of RECs.
- OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2020-2029 [Report](#):
  - Global agriculture: global trends
    - Supply and demand fundamentals keep real international reference price trends slightly declining.
    - Productivity improvements account for bulk of supply growth.
    - Population growth accounts for bulk of demand growth.
  - Sub-Saharan Africa: production trends
    - Agricultural and fish production is expected to grow by 21%.
    - Crop production will maintain its 75% share, while livestock products will gain marginally to 16%, and fish production share will decline to under 8%.
    - Food and feed staples, namely coarse grains, pulses, roots, and tubers, will be the main sources of growth for the region.
    - Area harvested is expected to expand by more than 4 million hectares by 2029.



- The business-as-usual approach will not produce any significant gains in intra-African trade.

## 6.2. Recommendations / Opportunities

- There is a need for the RECs to enhance their involvement in the AfCFTA given that majority preferential tariff concessions have been achieved by the RECs.
- Governments can design policy interventions capable of allowing comparative advantage in key sectors. However, these interventions are also capable of generating comparative disadvantage. There is a need therefore, to reinforce these interventions with evidence and data.
- The ability for Africa to achieve 50% intra-regional trade by 2040 will depend on a number of mitigating and/or constraining factors. These include;
  - Effective implementation of policy interventions geared towards achieving that objective.
  - Commercialization of agriculture in Africa which requires significant private sector investment and policy reforms focusing on issues such as land administration, equipment, use of bio-technology, farm and border infrastructure.
  - Constraints on production and infrastructure which will in turn affect the cost for businesses in Africa
  - There is also a need for harmonization of non-tariff barriers for goods moving across borders, and also the creation of special economic zones across countries. Furthermore, there is need for more private sector involvement in the AfCFTA. Fifty percent (50%) intra-regional trade in Africa can be achieved if there is harmonization of trade laws and regulation across the continent given that there is the political will.
  - There is also a need for collaboration amongst stakeholders working in the sector. This includes collaboration with partners such as ReNAPRI, which is specialized in carrying out evidence-based research into the competitiveness of certain value chains. It is also crucial in supporting the goal of achieving 50% intra-regional trade in Africa.
- There is a need for a robust dispute settling mechanism, as the AfCFTA opens. This must be accompanied by solid legal frameworks in terms of regulations and strong institutions capable of promoting and attracting investments, while at the same time marketing their country specific production comparative advantage.

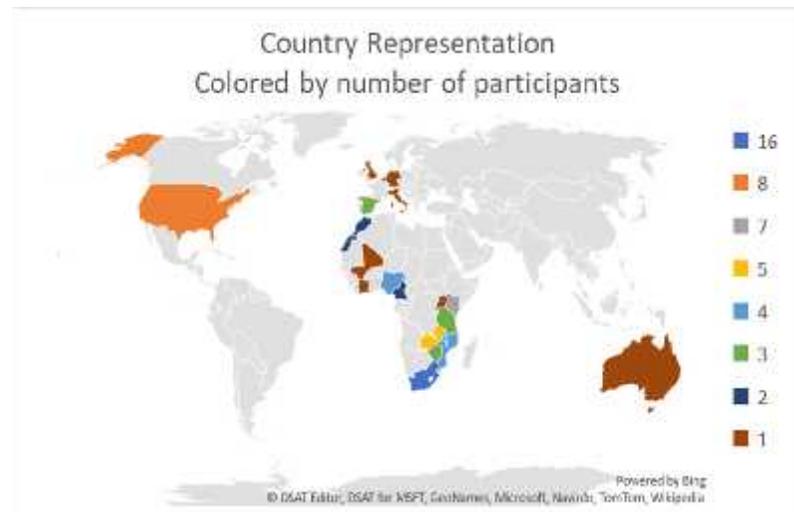
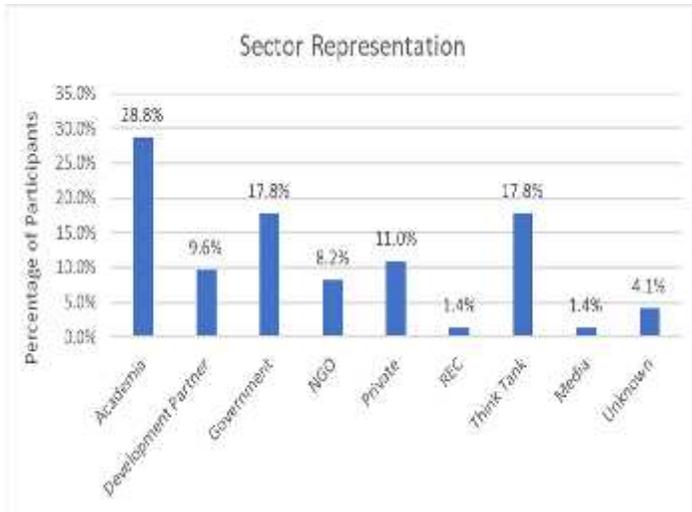


## Snapshot of participant demographics

Number of participants: 73

Number of countries: 23

Session Retention Rate: 74%



## 7. Webinar 5 Reflect: Road to Abuja II: Next Steps

The proposed African Fertilizer Summit II (Abuja II Fertilizer Summit) is aimed at coalescing ideas from a range of high-level stakeholders, including AfricanHoSG, the private sector, and senior policy makers into an Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan that will stimulate productivity growth in the continent's agriculture development agenda, 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, as 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 in the continent, moving forward. Some of the modifications include the changing roles that private and public sector actors have undertaken. 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 deliberated 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** - Africa Director, Alliance for African Partnerships (AAP) and Chairperson of the Malawi Planning Commission

### **Keynote Presentation:**

**Prof. Rattan Lal** - 2020 World Food Prize Laureate







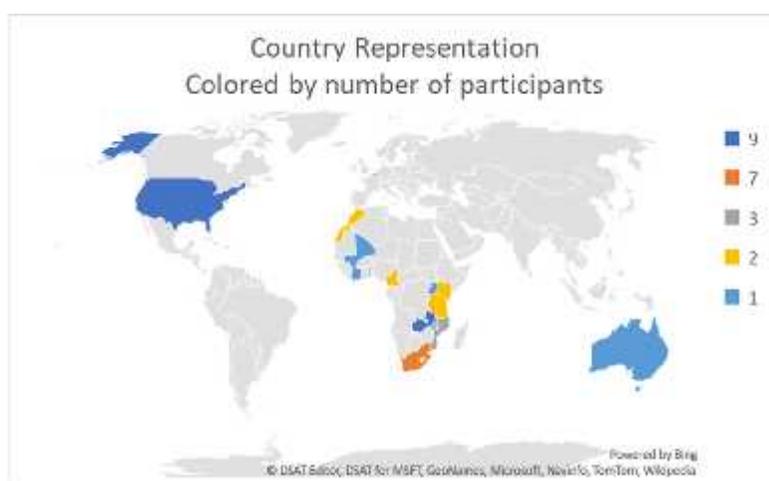
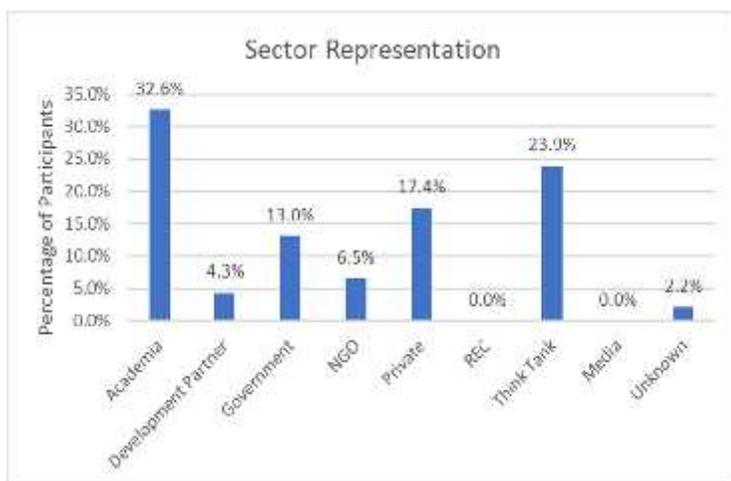
- Abuja II should take into account setting up of high yielding seeds and hybrid variety seed production systems capable of giving high yields to farmers without which, fertilizer would not have any impact.
- There is need to carry out an analysis of African soils, especially soils with deficiencies in sulphur and zinc, and to design interventions that increase their sulphur and zinc content. This will ensure that soil scientists are able to determine why some soils in Africa are responsive to fertilizers and others not.
- Africa currently has a digital soil map capable of assisting in soil management and determining fertilizer application needs.
- There is a need for more organic input to soils in Africa, while crop residues can be used to supply organic matter to soils.
- There is need to increase fertilizer use for food crops.
- There is need for Abuja II to focus on improving climate smart agriculture in Africa and harmonize policies at regional level. It is essential to increase spatial desegregated evidence on what works well and how the learnings can be applied in other countries.
- There is a need for operational funds to provide equipment to key stakeholders such as extension workers, agronomists, scientists, and researchers. This will ensure that technical support is effectively provided to farmers as they apply fertilizers on their farms.
- There is need for adaptive agricultural research and development in solving challenges with fertilizer application in countries facing difficult soil health conditions.
- There is need to involve ground actors such as farmers in continental and policy discussions on fertilizer application in Africa.

### Snapshot of participant demographics

Number of participants: 46

Number of countries: 16

Session Retention Rate: 73.9%



## 8. Recap, Way Forward & Closing Remarks

Speakers:

- **Recap: Dr. Thabbie Chilongo**, Director, Center for Agricultural Research and Development (CARD) at LUANAR, Malawi
- **Closing Remarks: Dr. Milton Ayieko**, Executive Director of Tegemeo Institute of Agricultural Policy and Development, Egerton University, Kenya, and Chair of the ReNAPRI Board of Directors

### Conference Recap:

Opening Remarks and Welcome

- All speakers stressed the importance of building resilience to shocks among African farmers, referring to COVID-19 as being one of the most recent shocks to have affected Africa and the world at large.
- Evidence-based policies will play a crucial role in mitigating against and adapting to these shocks. ReNAPRI and its members are well positioned to play a crucial role in supporting national governments and regional bodies through generation of evidence for policy reform.

Webinar 1 Reflection: Impact of Policy Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic on Food Systems: what we know and don't know

- Stakeholders need to think beyond their national agenda and to focus on regional integration in order to ease the shocks on food systems.
- Stakeholders should prioritize the setting of financing mechanisms to assist smallholder farmers in coping with the shocks of the pandemic.
- There is need for improved agricultural infrastructure in Africa.

Webinar 2 Reimagine: Elephants, gazelles, and survival entrepreneurs: Promoting dynamic transformation in African Agricultural Value Chains

- There is a need to create an enabling environment in order to increase private sector investment in African agriculture.
- Policies to develop value chains must adopt a wholistic approach which caters for the needs of all actors in the chain.
- African universities have a key role to play in nurturing the next generation of actors in agricultural value chains hence the need for more investment in capacity development.

Webinar 3 Reimagine: Building Resilient Value-Chains for inclusive agricultural transformation

- There is need for sensitivity analysis in the value chain analyses.
- Given that feed was one of the main cost drivers, it provides an opportunity to incentivise the private sector to invest in the feed sector.
- There is need to understand policy and political cycles in order to influence change.



#### Webinar 4 Reset: AfCFTA – a journey to self-reliance in an age of uncertainty

- AfCFTA should build on the work advanced by RECs.
- Africa can achieve 50% intra-regional trade by 2040; however, there is a need for effective policy implementation.
- A wide range of partners are needed to support the implementation of the AfCFTA; notable organizations such as ReNAPRI a crucial to providing evidence on key policy issues.

#### Webinar 5 Reflect: Road to Abuja II: Next Steps

- The need to integrate soil fertility and plant nutrient management – there is need to consider a holistic approach in fertilizer usage, considering that chemical fertilizer on its own is not a panacea to improving soil fertility and ultimately, productivity.
- While training is important, there is also a need to think about logistics for implementing soil management interventions beyond, simply, salaries, e.g., facilitating extension workers' access to the farmers, among others.
- Researchers need to package their information in relevant usable forms to farmers.

#### Way forward:

- There is need for the ReNAPRI Stakeholders' Conference to shape its proceedings to cater for the different stakeholder groups. Some of the suggested proceeding formats included raw proceedings, communiques/declarations (a case in point are the issues raised during the AfCFTA session. These could feed directly into the Abuja II Summit.
- There is need to concretise key follow-up actions on the issues raised during the Conference to avoid an annual event without any impact.
- A roadmap is required for the network, following this Conference.

A session that speaks to some verifiable impacts/actions resulting from this Conference, is recommended for the next Conference.

#### Closing remarks

The Conference presented a platform for stakeholders in the agriculture in Africa to discuss ways to embed resilience in African agriculture. Going forward, it is important for stakeholders to continue the discussion offline in order to continue influencing policy at all levels. The Chair thanked all VIPs, speakers, presenters, panellists, and the audience for participating in the Conference and invited them to the next Conference in 2021.

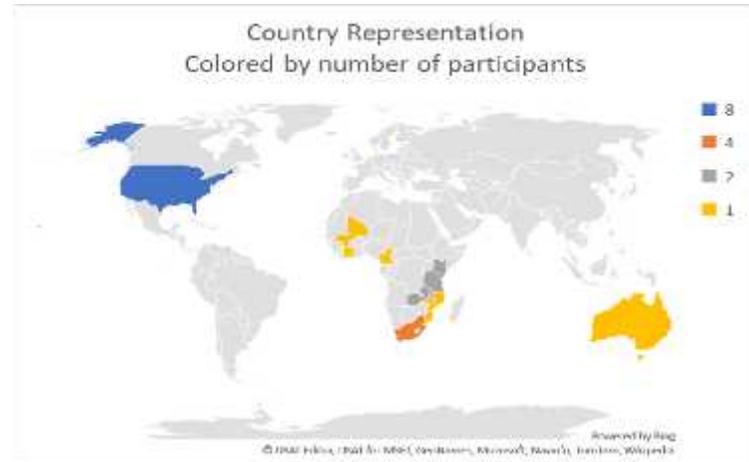
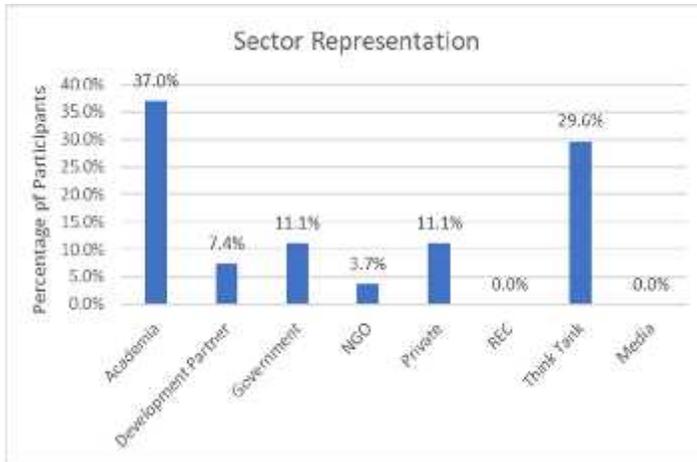


## Snapshot of participant demographics

Number of participants: 27

Number of countries: 13

Session Retention Rate: 88.9%



## Side Meetings

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

Grain commodities, mainly 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 their 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 broke out on the globe. The pandemic poses a public health and economic concern for a continent 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), and 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 dwindle during the pandemic, coupled with divergence in policy responses by individual countries in the region.

As the COVID-19 containment measures are gradually relaxed globally and across the Africa, 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 compelled EAGC and 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 was 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.

The main objectives of the webinar were as follows:

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

### Expected outputs:

- A better understanding of the impact of COVID-19 on downstream and upstream grain value chain activities.
- 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, with a view to informing post-pandemic recovery strategies at national, regional, and continental levels.

### Moderators:

- **Dr. Nalishebo Meebelo** - Senior Program Coordinator, ReNAPRI Secretariat
- **Janet Ngombalu** - Regional Programmes Coordinator, EAGC

### Presenters:

- Global Perspective: **Holger Matthey**, FAO
- Southern Africa: **Ferdi Meyer**, ReNAPRI
- West Africa: **Dr. Andrew Agyei Holmes**, ReNAPRI
- Eastern Africa: **Kim Mhando**, EAGC

### Panelists

- **Jacob Mwale** - Executive Director, Zambia Agriculture Commodity Exchange (ZAMACE)
- **Yusuf Pasta** - Director, RoadTainers Ltd
- **Protase Echessah** – Senior Program Officer, Regional Food Trade & Resilience, AGRA

#### 9.1. Key Findings

- **Global Perspective**
  - COVID-19 led to significant disruptions to food supply chains; despite these shocks, overall, agri-food trade and global value chains proved resilient, although some products were affected more than others (e.g., meat and dairy vs. cereals).
  - Policy makers responded by imposing export and import restrictions, lowering import barriers, and/or using domestic measures; trade restrictions were generally short-lived.



- Compared to past food price crises, e.g., 2007/08, market fundamentals are different today: while the FAO Food Price Index has been rising over the last five months, prices remain below peak levels; cereal markets are well supplied, and global stocks to use ratio are relatively high compared to historical levels.
  - Going forward, based on current projections of the impacts of COVID-19 on economic growth, energy markets, trade and labour costs, both agricultural production and demand are expected to slow down, with implications for LDCs.
- **Southern Africa**
    - Congestion has continued at borders, and at times, worsened due to skeletal customs staff at the borders.
    - A case in point was witnessed at, the Pafuri Border Post (South Africa-Mozambique) where turnaround times of at least seven (7) days were experienced.
    - The congestion has not abated as trucks are taking an average of four (4) days to clear cargo between across the Beitbridge Border Post.
    - Congestion at the Beitbridge Border Post is costing the transport industry US\$40 million per month<sup>2</sup>. However, at the Beitbridge Border Post, there was a “Fast Lane” that was established in January 2020 to facilitate quick turnaround for grain imports into Zimbabwe.
    - However, exceptions were made for essential goods, and therefore trade continued to occur without significant disruption.
    - Private sector reportedly faced a number of challenges:
      - Liquidity shortages
      - Labour shortages
      - Logistics bottlenecks
      - Lack of access to extension services, and
      - Lack of access to inputs
    - In many African countries, fiscal constraints meant limited financial support to the private sector.
    - The expectation was that there were going to be severe negative effects on smallholder farmers as well as the entire food system.
    - The nimbleness of informal food systems meant that supply chains became much shorter and more adaptive to the above challenges.
    - Despite congestions, SA maize exports have exceeded previous seasons.
    - Overall good harvests (excluding Zimbabwe) have mitigated the COVID-19 impact.
    - Traditional bottlenecks remain the largest stumbling block for regional trade to expand:
      - Ad hoc government interventions (export bans, levies, etc.)
      - Poor infrastructure
      - Lack of transparent data on stock levels and supply and demand

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<sup>2</sup>Business Maverick – 9 November 2020, courtesy of Sasha Planting.



- White maize prices at relatively low levels with healthy stocks (excl. Zimbabwe). SA remains a net exporter, but with a declining share of total crop.
- There is a rapid rise in production of major field crops in Zambia over the past decade. Zambian maize prices are now trading near world prices. More consistent surpluses lead to investment in agro-processing and vice versa.
- **West Africa**
  - With significant capital constraints in the region, concentrating on some critical crops at a time, for support, will be critical – e.g., rice.
  - Mali’s experience has illustrated the importance of honoring AU declarations. – e.g., budgetary allocations to the sector.
  - More investments are necessary but should be targeted, with the aim of improving efficiency and reducing the cost of production - following the Asian example.
  - A careful balance should also be made between protectionism and efficiency improvements and market competitiveness.
  - Promotion of consumption of local rice is also key.
- **East Africa**
  - Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Grain Trade:
    - There were disruptions in cross-border trade due to COVID-19 measures, leading to significant declines in trade flows
    - Cross-border trade of maize dropped by 70% between Q1 2019 and Q4 2020.
    - There were border closures due to COVID–19 tests
    - There were disputes between countries.
    - Delays at the borders (of up to 3 weeks in some cases).
    - Long queues of trucks (queues at almost 50km long).
    - Transport costs have increased by approximately 30% due to longer travel times.
    - There is deterioration of food due to delays.
    - Limited access to agricultural inputs due to logistical issues caused by COVID -19.
    - Loss of employment for farm labourers.
    - Supply chain constraints.
    - Operating below capacity due to low supply.
    - Loss of business following closure of restaurants, hotels, schools and other institutional clients.
    - Increased costs and reduced revenues.
    - Limited access to financing/cashflow constraints.
- EAGC'S Action to Support the Grain Sector includes:
  - Engagements with governments to improve border situation.



- Country-level policy advisory, e.g., Food Security War Room in Kenya.
- Provide data to support decision making.
- Linking buyers and sellers of various grains through the G-SOKO platform.
- Provision of various agricultural inputs to farmers through G-Hubs.
- Member support in restructuring of credit lines with banks.
- Supporting members to acquire movement permits to continue business operations.

## 9.2. Recommendations / Opportunities

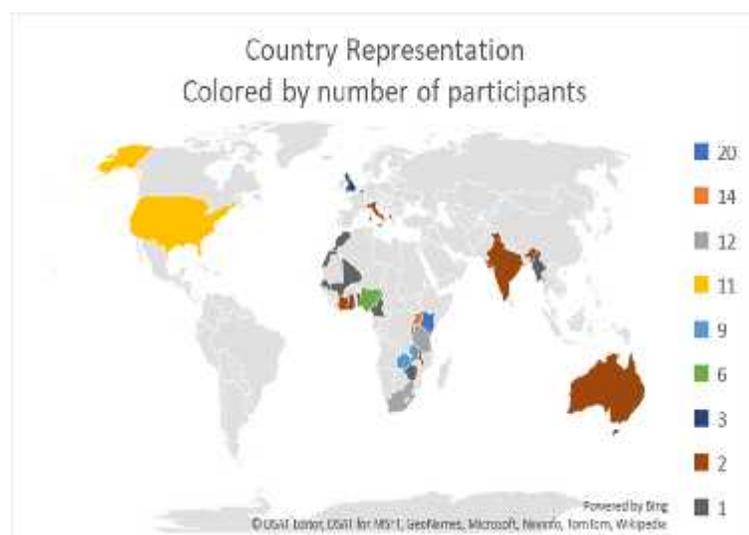
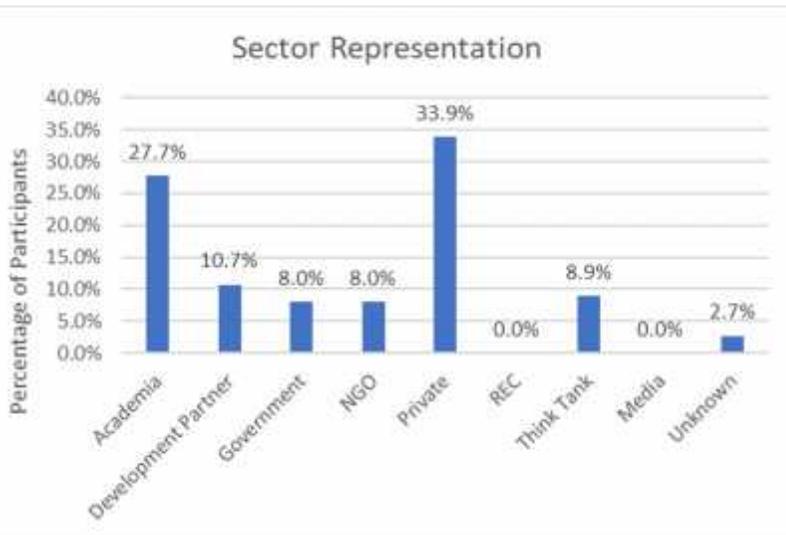
- Harmonized and coordinated policy making between EAC member states for clarity and consistency.
- Maintaining open borders to better facilitate food trade.
- Adopting structured grain trading systems.
- There is need to improve resilience of farming systems in Africa through data generation capable of proposing cost-effective solutions for decision making.
- There is need to strengthen farmers access to structured markets and deploy technology to provide advisory services to farmers.
- There is need to design safety nets for small-scale producers impacted by COVID-19.
- There is need for countries to rethink policies geared towards improving their strategic grain reserves.

### Snapshot of participant demographics

Number of participants: 112

Number of countries: 25

Session Retention Rate: 70.5%



## 10. Policy, Research, Capacity & Influence (PRCI) Webinar

The Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Food Security Policy Research, Capacity, and Influence (PRCI) is a new innovation lab supported by USAID's Bureau for Resilience and Food Security (RFS). It is an expansion of five years of work by the Innovation Lab for Food Security Policy (FSP) in conducting food security research and building capacity to inform policymaking. PRCI initiates partnership with local policy research institutes in Africa, Asia and Latin America with the aim of delivering on its vision to conduct high-quality food security research that influences the food security policy debate. The PRCI Lab offers an opportunity to tap into an emerging infrastructure of local think tanks, institutes, and networks to sustainably produce food security policy research that is responsive to local needs and informed by themes relevant at regional and global levels. This capacity development effort focuses on investing in data generation, analysis, and outreach for policy impact. The project consortium partners include:

- Michigan State University
- International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
- Cornell University
- The Regional Network of Agricultural Policy Research Institutes (ReNAPRI)
- Institute of Statistical, Social, and Economic Research (ISSER), University of Ghana

PRCI's focus on policy influence starts with the competitive process for selecting Centers for Policy Leadership (CPLs). In their application, these centers will conduct a self-assessment of their position within their local and regional policy system and outline what capacities they need to operate more effectively in it, bringing their research to bear on policy decision making. This focus will continue in the local stakeholder consultations that each selected center will do, when they elicit views of a wide range of stakeholders on local policy priorities, and research that needs to be done to inform them. The focus on policy influence will then be deepened as PRCI leadership works with these centers to develop concrete capacity strengthening plans for improving their research capacity for policy influence, at which point they will receive grants to implement these plans. By participating in the annual research Conferences of ReNAPRI, centers will be able to share their experience and gather broader input. Through quarterly check-ins with PRCI and ReNAPRI leadership, the centers will regularly assess their progress including their impact on local policy processes and decision making.

The main objective of the webinar was to:

- Provide a platform for selected CPLs to share their successful experiences in influencing policy.
- Share information about available opportunities within PRCI.
- Share information on available PRCI training programs.

### Moderators

- **Prof. Dave Tschirley** - Director, Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Food Security Policy, Research, Capacity and Influence
- **Dr. Danielle Resnick** - Senior Research Fellow, IFPRI



## Presenters

- **Dr. Zena Mpenda** - Deputy Dean of School of Agricultural Economics and Business Studies (SAEBS) and Head of Department of Food and Resource Economics (DeFRE), Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), (ReNAPRI)
- **Prof. Adegbenga Adekoya** - Professor of Agricultural Extension/Community Development, University of Ibadan, Nigeria
- **Dr. Ndeye Fatou** - Economist- Institut Sénégalais de Recherches Agricoles ISRA
- **Dr. Swaibu Mbowe** – Senior Research Fellow, Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC) Uganda

### 10.1. Key Findings

- PRCI has a large and growing set of training resources that can be accessed online by individuals seeking to improve their research skills and by organizations looking to provide their staff and partners with top quality training opportunities.
- Trainings can be accessed by clicking on 'Capacity Strengthening' at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/prci/>.
- Trainings can be undertaken individually or as part of a class.
- Individuals can compete, in April and July of next year, for two programs: The Core Center and STAAARS+ research and training programs.
- Each is based on intensive mentoring - local researchers are placed in teams with researchers from MSU, IFPRI, or Cornell University. (*Refer to the main PRCI site for announcements*).
- Contacts:
  - For the Core Center program: Saweda Liverpool-Tasie (lliverp@msu.edu) or Nicole Mason-Wardell ([mason@msu.edu](mailto:mason@msu.edu)).
  - For STAAARS+: Liz Bageant ([erb21@cornell.edu](mailto:erb21@cornell.edu))
  - For the Special Topics program: Suresh Babu ([s.babu@cgiar.org](mailto:s.babu@cgiar.org))
  - For general questions on PRCI: David Tschirley ([tschirle@msu.edu](mailto:tschirle@msu.edu))

### 10.2. Recommendations / Opportunities

- **Lessons Learnt from How to Influence Policy in Senegal - Case of integration of an identified policy option into the forest code of 2018:**
  - Implementation of an innovation platform gathering all actors of the value chains (for two selected products).
  - Regular meetings on how to better manage non timber forest projects.
  - Collective identification of two policy options.
  - Meetings with policy leaders to share these policy options: Members of Parliament, Mayors, writing committee of the forest code.
  - Intensive lobbying in collaboration with a producers' organization.



- **Lessons Learnt from How to Influence Policy in Uganda - Case of Influencing Uganda’s Agro-industrialization (AGI) agenda (2018/19-2020/25):**

- Using a programmatic approach in research planning - the entire EPRC team was involved including all EPRC depts, i.e., Regional trade: Micro, Macro, Sectoral.
- Furthermore, EPRC has a rich skills pool of researchers with prior experience on agro-commodities (fisheries, coffee, cotton, tea, maize, oil palm, beef, dairy, cassava).
- EPRC has a strong internal validation process (internal seminars – held about three times a week) which in turn lead to strong policy engagements and convening power within EPRC.
- There is also a strong co-ordination mechanism within EPRC. The Executive Director is a member of the Presidential Economic Council, MoFPED, Strategic Economic Policy and Management (STEPMAN) Forum, top policy management and membership to various sector working groups.
- Policy relevance - There was a need for the evidence to solve a prevailing problem: i.e., declining performance of Ugandan Economy by 2016/17. This prompted the Office of the Secretary to the Treasury (MoFPED) to look for “evidence” backed answers.
- Political action - A State Institution (OWC-Operation Wealth Creation) was created to lead the development agenda, but lacked the ‘How’ (i.e., evidence). EPRC’s AGI report provided the solution OWC was looking for and this led to political acceptance.
- Paradigm Shift to a “Developmental State”. Agro-industrialization is one of the programs in the NDP III (2020-2025) hence demand for more work to be done. This led to further request for more studies from EPRC to inform the PIMA program.
- Technical Support-Knowledge brokerage stakeholder support. EPRC was to bring on board technical specialist in areas such as fisheries where it had no expertise to contribute to its AGI report while at the same time working to maintain good working relationship with the relevant actors in policy decision making. This led to support from key stakeholders such as Government ministries and state-owned enterprises.

- **Lessons Learnt from How to Influence Policy in Tanzania - Case of Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA).**

- Research questions were structured towards the demands of policy makers. Furthermore, SUA signed an MOU with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock to ensure that researchers were receiving the relevant policy asks and focusing on key issues which were of importance to decision makers.
- There was collaboration with experts from other countries in Africa to improve the quality of research for policy influence.
- Platforms were created for researchers to properly understand the needs of policy makers and carry research aimed at meeting the need of the intended policy makers.
- Policy makers were involved in all stages of the research process in order to obtain their buy in.





## Snapshot of participant demographics

Number of participants: 78

Number of countries: 18

Session Retention Rate: 48.7%

