

**INNOVATE,
ACCELERATE AND
SCALE: DELIVERING
FOOD SYSTEMS
TRANSFORMATION
IN A DIGITAL AND
CLIMATE ERA.**

**AFRICA FOOD
SYSTEMS
FORUM 2024**



AFRICA FOOD
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1. AFRICA FOOD SYSTEMS FORUM 2024

Innovate, Accelerate and Scale: Delivering food systems transformation in a digital and climate era.

“Today’s challenges underscore the urgent need to transform African food systems to produce more and better food locally to become more resilient to climate change, improve African livelihoods, and leverage their potential to address global challenges.”

INNOVATE, ACCELERATE AND SCALE: DELIVERING FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION IN A DIGITAL AND CLIMATE ERA

The overarching goal of the African countries is to build **productive, nutritious, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable food systems** that have the power to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

While substantial progress has been made, overall action to transform food systems is not yet advancing at the speed or scale required, and considerable challenges remain. These multidimensional challenges include inadequate policy, coordination, and delivery mechanisms; climate change impacts; infrastructural gaps; fractured markets; food loss and waste; limited innovation, technologies, and best practices; lack of investments; depletion of natural resources; changing consumption patterns, the exclusion of youth and women; rapid demographic growth and migration, and biodiversity loss, to name a few. Today's challenges underscore the urgent need to transform African food systems to produce more and better food locally to become more resilient to climate change, improve African livelihoods, and leverage their potential to address global challenges.



AGRF 2022 SUMMIT

Nourish, Reward.
Solutions for Resilient Food Systems



2. KEY SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The AFS Forum 2024 will bring together a diversity of speakers to showcase innovative solutions and strategies and how food systems pathways are being translated at the country level. The 2024 AFS Forum program is built on three key pillars: innovation, acceleration, and scale. Attendees can come together during the plenary sessions at the start and close of each day and choose to join individual sessions tailored to their specific interests.



Agenda Setting and Policy:

A highlight on the continent progress towards food systems transformation and a renewed political, policy an investments and commitments to deliver nutritious, inclusive, resilient, sustainable food systems in a digital and climate age.



Thematic forums, sessions, side events, round tables & Leadership exchange:

centered on ideas and food systems trending innovations by the youth, farmers, civil society, and business leaders, the latest knowledge, Data & evidence from science, latest development, and research products.

Investment Facilitation & Finance:

An agri-food systems business forum-involving investors, agri-food systems experts, deal owners and the host country's legacy program designed to promote Innovative financing models, instruments, and products to unlock public and private sector investments for MSMEs and governments are shared and mobilized projects, deals, and products and to propel private sector investments and partnerships in agribusinesses.



Tech, equipment, science expo:

to display and showcase cutting edge achievements, leading innovations business models, major projects, digital technologies, and scalable solutions to address global and local food challenges.



With only six years left to reach the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and one year away from the Malabo Declaration's deadline, African food systems must be transformed through innovative policies, digital technologies, adequate delivery mechanisms and investments at scale to achieve food and nutrition security while creating jobs for youth and women.

The Africa Food Systems Forum 2024 annual summit will be a timely opportunity to bring together various stakeholders (world leaders, investors, academia, farmers organizations, and the private sector) to spotlight innovations and technologies, policies and delivery mechanisms, best practices, business models and investments to accelerate food systems transformation in Africa and beyond, with youth and women at the helm.

This year's summit will be held in Kigali, Rwanda, under the leadership of H.E Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, from September 2-6, 2024, under the theme: **Innovate, Accelerate and Scale: Delivering food systems transformation in a digital and climate era.**



The Africa Food Systems Forum's 2024 Summit calls for accelerated efforts to transform food systems holistically. Delegates will engage with thought leaders to exchange innovative ideas, best practices, policies, and knowledge products. Throughout the event, emphasis will be placed on ways to unlock investment and financing opportunities for especially youth and women led MSMEs and government impactful deals as essential components in an effective strategy to accelerate food systems transformation.

The AFS Forum's 2024 Summit will be **global, inclusive, and grounded on the host country and continental priorities.** It will feature leading partners from agri-food systems innovators and decision-makers, who will share the latest advances, digital technologies and innovations and explore opportunities for partnerships and cooperation. The summit will also focus on science and policies, home-grown and global solutions, innovative models, digital technology, and equipment to accelerate food production and delivery.



Theme: Innovate, Accelerate and Scale: Delivering food systems transformation in a digital and climate era.

This year's theme focuses on youth and women and underscores the urgent need to unleash and catalyze the creative potential of the continent's youth and women dividend to accelerate economic development. Complemented by innovations and digital technologies, these efforts will expedite the shift towards more sustainable, equitable, inclusive, and climate-resilient food systems. To achieve this transformation on a continental scale, the AFS Forum 2024 theme calls for the prioritization of three essential actions: innovating, accelerating, and scaling up.



Innovate underscores the need to harness the latest innovative policies, solutions, business models, research products and digital technologies to deliver effective food systems transformation. The AFS Forum will provide a platform to showcase these innovations and facilitate networking among the innovators driving these cutting-edge technologies and equipment for agri-food systems.



Accelerate is a call for “all hands-on deck” and collective action to speed up efforts to sustainably transform food systems. The call to “accelerate” stresses the pressing need to seize the current moment as both a time of urgency and opportunity. Urgency arises from the growing challenges confronting food systems worldwide, and opportunities to promote technology and innovation to attract youth to agri-food systems and foster significant change at scale abound.



Scale urges stakeholders to leverage innovative technology, science, data, policies, and significant investments to expand proven models and best practices, projects, and initiatives on a larger scale. The continent aims to achieve widespread food systems transformation through informed and targeted investments that ensure impactful outcomes through replication.

Why attend the world’s premier forum for african agriculture and food systems?

Designed in partnership with the government of Rwanda and AFS Forum partners, this year’s annual summit is expertly positioned to be a must attend as you will:

1. Learn from African leaders and policy makers the continental agenda on Food Systems, uncover new opportunities of collaboration and partnerships.
2. Discover emerging trends in today’s agri-food systems investments landscape and do business.
3. Access the latest knowledge products, digital technologies, solutions, and equipment.
4. Grow your network and build strategic partnerships.

3. ABOUT THE HOST COUNTRY: THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

Rwanda has made remarkable progress in transforming its food systems and achieving rapid economic growth, greater productivity levels, and reducing poverty. The country is recognized as a leader among sub-Saharan African countries in promoting innovation, gender equality, and an enabling business environment. Part of its success can be attributed to the clear and coherent policy framework guiding its actions, composed mainly of the National Agriculture Policy (2018); the 4th Strategic Plan for Agricultural Transformation (PSTA4, 2018-2024), which soon to be followed by its successor, PSTA5; Rwanda Vision 2050, and the National Strategy for Transformation (NST1), among others.

The new PSTF5 development objective is to build resilient and sustainable food systems through:

 <p>Increase agricultural productivity and production.</p>	 <p>Promote the adoption of modern technologies.</p>	 <p>Increase sustainable employment in Agricultural sector.</p>
 <p>Improve extension services in Agriculture.</p>	 <p>Improved land security.</p>	 <p>Increase incomes of actors in the sector</p>
 <p>Strengthen the resilience of agriculture and farmers to climate change and other shocks.</p>		



Through these initiatives, and many others, Rwanda is making significant strides on the road to food systems transformation. However, further investment and policy reform are needed to unlock the full potential of farmers and businesses in the agrifood sector and achieve sustainable, resilient, inclusive, and prosperous food systems in Rwanda.

4. ABOUT THE AFRICA FOOD SYSTEMS FORUM

The Africa Food Systems Forum (AFS Forum), is the world's premier forum for African agriculture and food systems, bringing together stakeholders to take practical actions and share lessons that will move African food systems forward.



The Forum is a multi-sector platform comprising of 26 partners leading in African agriculture all focused on putting farmers at the center of the continent's growing economies. The AFS Forum exists to progress Africa's Food Systems and promote agricultural excellence across the diverse landscapes of our continent.

The AFS Forum summit, which happens on the first week of September annually, is designed to energize political will and advance the policies, programs, and investments required to achieve an inclusive and sustainable food systems transformation. The summit convenes stakeholders in agriculture and food systems, driving collaboration and coordination. It serves as an enabler of investment and financing, offering technical assistance and fostering deals.



Republic
of Rwanda



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Canada



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