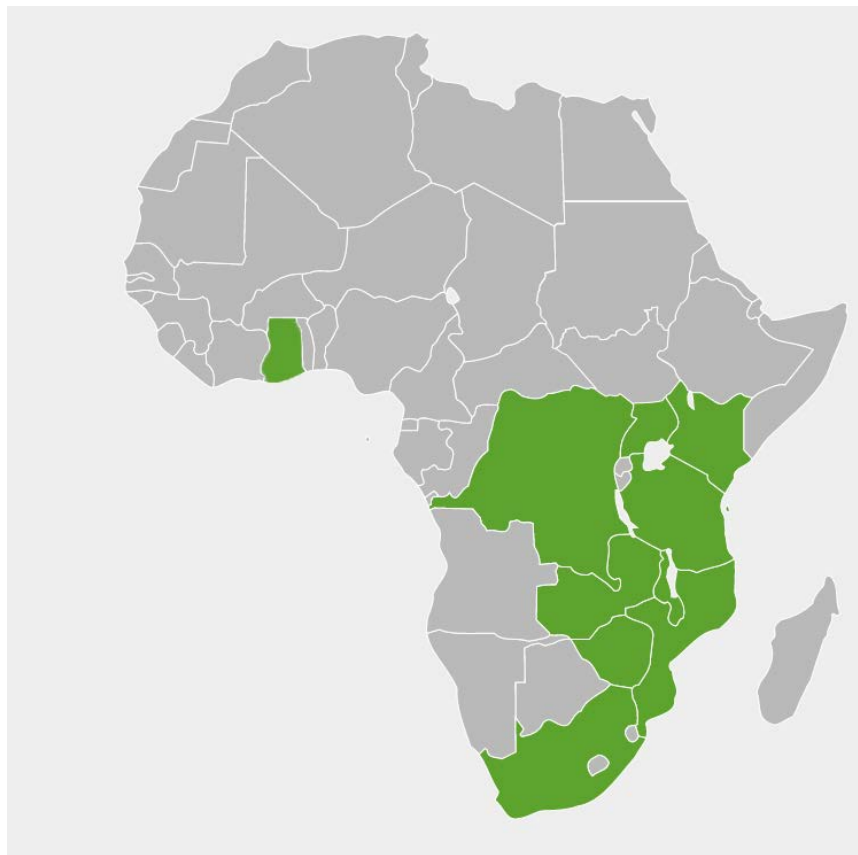


PROGRAMME



7TH ANNUAL RENAPRI STAKEHOLDER 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 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 Stakeholder 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 Stakeholder 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 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 facility 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
14:00 – 14:15	Comfort Break
14h15 – 15h30	PRCI Webinar
15h30 – 15h45	Comfort Break
15h45 – 17h00	PARM-IFAD 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. Miltone Ayieko Chairman, Regional Network of Agricultural Policy Research Institutes (ReNAPRI) Director: Tegemeo, Kenya
13h10 – 13h20	Dr. Apollos Nwafor Vice-president, AGRA	
13h20 – 13h30	Dr. Jim Barnhart Assistant to the 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

FDCO 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)



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The Great Reset: Embedding Resilience into African Agriculture

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 on 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, focusses 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

Alan Rennison

Senior Program Officer, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

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); increasing 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)



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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**

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 Director, IAPRI (ReNAPRI)

Open Floor Discussion



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Thursday, November 19th

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