

EVENT NAME

Effective Pathways to Africa's Agricultural Transformation

EVENT DATE: WEDNESDAY, 04 AUGUST, 2021 - 09:30 AM to 11:00 AM

Posted Questions

[10:00 AM]

Gunilla Eitrem asked : Thank you Dr Kalibata, You emphasize the role of private sector. I agree, I assume however that you also include the importance of private sector for organic products and not only for pesticides? And that the transformation of agriculture in Africa also has to include organic agriculture?

7 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[10:27 AM]

Stephen Walsh asked : How are Rwanda private maize producers / companies able to compete with Zambia / Kenya / Uganda players? (1) Are they licensing from seed companies in these countries? (2) Has Rwanda put into place any new tariffs on maize seed imports? (3) Are maize seed buyers actual farmers or GOR / projects?

7 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[09:47 AM]

Loretta asked : At which point will the crops be tested for aflatoxins and by which agency?

6 upvotes | 1 answer | 0 reply

Rose Omari answered -

I think after harvest, before and during storage, before processing

[10:03 AM]

John Keige asked : How can finance (e.g commercial banks, MFIs and SACCOs) be incentivized to participate in the food system transformation agenda?

6 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[10:07 AM]

Frew Beriso asked : Dr. Kalibata: Do you/AGRA consider agroecology as one of major elements/components for agricultural transformation in Africa? If not, why ?

6 upvotes | 1 answer | 0 reply

Agnes Kalibata answered -

Agroecology recognizes the unique ecological challenges and opportunities of farming landscapes. More than ever now we need to recognise the suitability of farming systems and need to stay within planetary

boundaries or we too will start contributing to serious ecosystem degradation and the very climate change we want to avoid

[10:14 AM]

Cathy Phiri asked : Kwame, your achievements are incredible! Would you speak a bit about how farmers having higher standards and meeting the Nestle / UK buyer specifications and access to this diverse market is translating into a higher price in the farmer's pocket. Are farmers able to have a living income? Thanks.

6 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[10:16 AM]

Stephen Walsh asked : Where are the project subsidies prioritized under the partnership with NESTLE? Which subsidized activities are most likely to be function without subsidies / are candidates for being picked up by the market / consumer / NESTLE?

6 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[10:25 AM]

Loretta asked : Are farmers paying full price for this seed directly to the private sector or is it being subsidized by the government or NGOs?

6 upvotes | 2 answers | 0 reply

MUNYANGABO UWAMAHORO Jean Claude answered -
the seeds are subsidised by the Government

Patrice Hakizimana answered -
seeds are subsidized by Government.

[10:27 AM]

Ijeoma Ohuruogu asked : how do farmers pay for the services offered by Sahel grains or are they pro bono

6 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[09:55 AM]

Frew Beriso asked : What do you suggest for agricultural extension agents to do in order to help farmers and food growers at grass root level in controlling Aflatoxin?

5 upvotes | 1 answer | 0 reply

Rose Omari answered -

We have proposed some strategies to strengthen research and extension systems. They need training and resources so we have developed the code of practice for aflatoxin control and have proposed the development of training manuals highlighting best practices

[09:56 AM]

Adam Saffer asked : To Dr Kalibata, if only able to address one item in the agricultural value chain in trying to improve food and nutritional security (e.g., policy, GAP, processing, waste, irrigation, inputs, human capacity building, etc.) what would you say as the most urgent and important?

5 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[09:40 AM]

Judith Appleton asked : Judith Appleton asks: re domestic and local weaning foods, which African food systems are promoting production and processing for these?

4 upvotes | 1 answer | 0 reply

Rose Omari answered -

If I get your question correctly, local production of weaning foods using local ingredients is widespread both at household and commercial levels. What needs to be promoted is food safety practices that will reduce aflatoxins and other hazards in these local weaning foods

[10:01 AM]

Evariste Nsabimana asked : What can be done to track the aflatoxin in agricultural products that are available on the markets? sometimes farmers handling their food products badly which lead to contamination with aflatoxin, even though they knowing or not, they take their produce to the markets for seeking buyers!

4 upvotes | 1 answer | 0 reply

Rose Omari answered -

The policy proposes the development of tracking and traceability systems and resourcing of regulators to intensify pre and post market monitoring. We also propose the provision of cheaper devices to farmers for rapid testing

[10:21 AM]

Mark Blackett asked : It is certain that Africa food systems will be transformed with greater use of standards and technologies to improve the quantity and quality of food. However we do not know how business models will change where farmers face low returns and high risks. How will AGRA work on this issue?

4 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[10:32 AM]

Viktor Kommerell asked : Does it make sense to consider seed sector purely from a national perspective? Doesn't regional perspective make more sense, also in terms of sustainable business models?

4 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[10:39 AM]

Brian Cohen asked : Thanks to the organizers! Curious about two issues:
1. How to balance the competition for land for food, feedstock, various commodities, bioenergy, protected areas, etc.? In other words, how to integrate food systems in the larger landscape?

4 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[10:41 AM]

Brian Cohen asked : 2. Over one-third of arable land is in some state of degradation. Curious as to your ideas/experiences on restoring degraded soil/land.

4 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[10:04 AM]

Vern Long asked : Dear Dr. Kalibata, Thank you for your remarks. In addition to food security crops, what are your thoughts on national research investments or supporting the enabling environment for cash crops like coffee, where smallholders are very important? Thank you, Vern (World Coffee Research)

3 upvotes | 1 answer | 0 reply

Agnes Kalibata answered -

Research is very critical to any crop to stay on top of yield issues, pests and diseases and now climate change. There also other reasons beyond these. the recommendation is that governments spending 1% of their GDP on R and D. This would go along way to ensure value for farmers.

[10:10 AM]

Mark Blackett asked : How do we address the problem of fragmented projects which usually cannot be scaled? The financing of programs needs to do more to encourage collaboration around sustainable solutions that can be scaled. What will AGRA's role in the next 10 years to address this?

3 upvotes | 1 answer | 0 reply

Agnes Kalibata answered -

This is possible through government effort to coordinate partners as provided for in the CAADP process except it is not used a lot. We would like to double down on demonstrating the benefits of coordination , addressing capacity challenges for better coordination but also finding ways to pull partners together and work more closely with like minded partners. We have already started creating platforms to allow for better coordination, e.g. AGRF at continental level. At country level, consortia platforms allows partners especially private partners to deliver together. Flagships which we are supporting governments design allow both public and private sector partners to work together on big programs rather than separate fragmented programs. we would like to do more of this; support countries to do more here.

[10:22 AM]

Gunilla Eitrem asked : Thank you Francois, Seeds in Rwanda, does that include also the possibility to use their own seed from season to season? We know now how important this is for the biological diversity and to keep the traditional crops alive within the country.
3 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[10:25 AM]

Susan Nkubitu asked : Kwame- Great to see how you are working with the youth in Agri-enterprises and linking them with private sector (NESTLE) for markets. You mentioned the youth are working with about 2-3Ha of land size per youth (target 300 youth), question is, do the youth own the land or do you help the lease?
3 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[10:35 AM]

Gunilla Eitrem asked : Jean Claude! Does this platform also dealing with organic products? if not, please include. The organic market is growing in a fast pace and in OA you avoid all environmental effects from the chemical pesticides and chemical fertilizer.
3 upvotes | 1 answer | 1 reply

MUNYANGABO UWAMAHORO Jean Claude answered -
Hi! unfortunately not!

Gunilla Eitrem replied -
Are you able to include them? we have to think about the generation to come, to leave the rivers clean and the soil healthy without pesticides. There is a lot of money in organic agriculture. African Union is doing a lot of good work . thank you for considering

[10:49 AM]

Gary E Alex asked : The seminar has highlighted interesting/important initiatives. But, they all indicate progress but need for continued external support. They don't seem to lead to the seminar title of African agricultural transformation. This is a BIG challenge. How to get to the needed transformation.
3 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[10:50 AM]

Binyam Tadesse asked : What needs to be done to promote access to finance to transform agriculture in Africa?
3 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[09:52 AM]

Susan Nkubitu asked : To Rose - The policy process is indeed complex and intensive, but I sure hope the farmers were involved in the process and

that their views and voice have been considered in the aflatoxins policy for Ghana?

2 upvotes | 1 answer | 0 reply

Rose Omari answered -

They were involved throughout the process. We even started the process with them through a situational analysis

[09:52 AM]

berhane kidanu asked : I didn't see the role of finance as part of the value chain in transforming the agri-business.

2 upvotes | 1 answer | 0 reply

Rose Omari answered -

We involved the ministry of finance and the agricultural development banks in the process

[10:07 AM]

Daniel Murugu asked : MIDDLE MEN AND WOMEN ARE SOMETIMES A NUISANCE IN AGRICULTURAL PROCESSES FORM PLANTING TO HARVESTING AND MARKETING OF PRODUCE. HOW CAN THIS BE SORTED OUT IN AFRICAN COUNTRIES?.

2 upvotes | 1 answer | 0 reply

Agnes Kalibata answered -

I don't think the issues is avoiding middle men. they add significant value to a system of small holder farmers. The issue is fair value sharing in the system and there are several models that can be evaluated for use in different circumstances

[10:08 AM]

Ritobrato Bhattacharyya asked : Access to markets - domestic and international. Currently I have been requested by agribusinesses from Nigeria to match-make buyers for the excess supply of some agri-produces. My question is - how does USAID or AGRA support the farmers and agribusinesses in finding buyers / markets? Who to contact?

2 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[10:15 AM]

Richard E. Goodman asked : Testing of mycotoxins requires good sample protocols, good technologies. It will not be 100% accurate and safe. You need a plan to deal with safe but slightly out of characteristic levels. Kwame, what do you do with out of spec lots?

2 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[10:24 AM]

Richard E. Goodman asked : Isn't it important to increase yields as well as preserving current farmer seeds? In some cases old varieties hold great genetic potential, but usually production is lower than some more modern varieties. Does the government seed system look at both quality and quantity, and preservation?

2 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[10:25 AM]

Collins Korir asked : To Boateng: What key strategies that stand out that the program employed to incentivize the youth to participate and meaningfully gain from the value chain activities?

2 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[10:30 AM]

Judith Appleton asked : Re Rwanda/seeds, what outcome indicators apart from agric. and markets? What community investment, nutritional status, farmer welfare...?

2 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[10:31 AM]

John Keige asked : Are the seed breeders looking at emerging issues eg developing pest/disease/draught resistance seeds?

2 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[10:32 AM]

Judith Appleton asked : Question below re outcome indicators also to Nestle.

2 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[10:41 AM]

Judith Appleton asked : Re digitisation, are all the 'impact goals' agricultural? What impacts on farmer household welfare?

2 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[10:48 AM]

Cathy Phiri asked : Can you speak to how the BK Techhouse platform is financed including the maintenance of it? Are users paying fees for access to the site, or its supported by AGRA, USAID or / and the Govt of Rwanda?

2 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[11:00 AM]

Roger Steinkamp asked : To what degree are the Rwanda farmers involved making decisions? Are they simply being manipulated to "do the right thing" or are they full partners in designing projects and policies, meaning they could approve or veto any action?

2 upvotes | 1 answer | 1 reply

Tadele Gelan answered -

Rogers, appreciate your questions....USAID's and AGRA's partnership puts Smallholder Farmers voice and choice ensuring they are the ultimate beneficiaries of our investment in the country or anywhere else in Africa.

Roger Steinkamp replied -

I appreciate your response. However it isn't if the farmer is beneficiary, it is the power they have. Rarely, if ever, do farmers have more than token input into the decision making process.

[11:02 AM]

Debebe Gashawbeza asked : Accessing the extension Agents with digital technologies is essential and the pilot test done by Alinea (AGP2-CDSF) in Ethiopia showed that the work load of extension agents reduced and they were updating themselves regularly & cost of extension service reduced, the cost for the tech is higher.

2 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[09:59 AM]

Daniel Murugu asked : Dr Kalibata I AM LISTENING TO YOU FOR THE SECOND TIME IN AN ONLINE EVENT. HOW DO PLAN TO MAINSTREAM AGRICULTURE INSURANCE AND AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION IN THE TRANSFORMATION SYSTEMS?

1 upvote | 0 answer | 0 reply

[10:00 AM]

Georgina Bingham asked : Aflatoxin testing is expensive/ often unavailable. A cheaper hand held testing device could be used, we - UNL & KSU, are interested in evaluating such devices for use at farm level for the first time - Dr Omari, perhaps we could collaborate, to support your policy work? gbingham@unl.edu

1 upvote | 1 answer | 1 reply

Rose Omari answered -

Cheaper and accessible testing devices are required and the policies proposes the local development and provision of such devices. Please do link up. rose.omari@yahoo.com

Georgina Bingham replied -

Thank you Dr Omari

[10:15 AM]

Tunde Raji asked : What is the on site testing technology used for Aflatoxin in Ghana? Do you include Aflasafe as part of inputs used by Maize farmers in Ghana?

1 upvote | 0 answer | 0 reply

[10:33 AM]

Alioune Touré asked : The low rate of use of improved seeds in Rwanda: is it linked to a high price? By Dr Alioune Touré, Senegal.

1 upvote | 0 answer | 0 reply

[10:38 AM]

Rebecca Witinok-Huber asked : Does this system support extension officers to track farmers activities and needs, or primarily link farmers and the private company?

1 upvote | 0 answer | 0 reply

[10:40 AM]

Richard E. Goodman asked : Do advanced genetics from organic, from GM, from gene editing offer advantages for many problems? Can "solutions" be based on effect, and sort out the disabling questions and preferences?

1 upvote | 0 answer | 0 reply

[10:41 AM]

Georgina Bingham asked : Jean Claude, this is huge achievement and a fantastic resource. At the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, we have a strong agricultural & Water research/ extension and entrepreneurship courses, could we could partner to potentially support your platform. gbingham@unl.edu

1 upvote | 0 answer | 0 reply

[10:43 AM]

anonymous asked : Does USAID Rwanda encourage training / support on farmer based seed selection , seed management, seed storage at farm level? An informed capacitated consumer may be a more receptive and sustainable seed buyer.

1 upvote | 0 answer | 0 reply

[10:43 AM]

John Keige asked : Can the platform crowd-in other data eg soil profile, deforestation hotspots, weather data, market data etc, so as to have a systems transformation approach?

1 upvote | 0 answer | 0 reply

[10:45 AM]

Judith Appleton asked : Re Rwanda, please explain your goal of improving 'human capital'. How do you measure that?

1 upvote | 0 answer | 0 reply

[10:57 AM]

Margaret mangheni asked : Please share about the approach/interventions you used to develop the capacity of smallholder farmers (men, women) and extension workers to engage with the digital input distribution system.
1 upvote | 0 answer | 0 reply

[10:58 AM]

Paul Gibson asked : For subsistence farmers to transition to producing excess for the market depends heavily on market access & receiving an incentive price. That incentive would create demand for better seed. To access the market needs storage and aggregation. What is a scalable model for storage & aggregation?
1 upvote | 0 answer | 0 reply

[11:01 AM]

Rob Bertram asked : Hi all,

Great presentations and discussions. Regarding the question of saving farmer's traditional variety seed, good options combining both ex-situ and in-situ approaches exist, while allowing farmers to widely adopt and benefit from improved pest/disease/climate resilient, higher yielding seeds.

1 upvote | 0 answer | 0 reply

[11:01 AM]

Dick Tinsley asked : Paul, Please carefully look at the operational concerns i expressed earlier as the labor is very limited with only enough dietary energy to work a few hours a day. this operational limit fall into an administrative void between the agronomists and social scientists assisting smallholder farmers

1 upvote | 0 answer | 0 reply

[11:02 AM]

Debebe Gashawbeza asked : Accessing the extension Agents with digital technologies is essential and the pilot test done by Alinea (AGP2-CDSF) in Ethiopia showed that the work load of extension agents reduced and they were updating themselves regularly & cost of extension service reduced, the cost for the tech is higher.

1 upvote | 0 answer | 0 reply

[10:13 AM]

Richard E. Goodman asked : Is understanding the technology something needed for everyone? Or can it be by specific groups. GM events are available and safe for some issues, but must be bred into local varieties. F0od security does not require testing of all events, in every shipment does it? Enable, rather than disable

0 upvote | 0 answer | 0 reply

[10:19 AM]

Georgina Bingham asked : AflaZero Ltd in Kenya has a technology that can decontaminate grains above the limits, with ozone. It has not yet been scaled and could be used even at a local level with one of their smaller decontamination units. Could it be useful to work with you Dr Kwame to see if this could be scaled.

0 upvote | 1 answer | 1 reply

Rose Omari answered -

In our situational analysis prior to the policy development, we discovered several technologies are available for controlling aflatoxins - some have been proven to be effective and need to be scaled up, some are still at the experimental stages. So the aflatoxin policy provides for increased support for research, technology transfer, scaling up and adoption.

Georgina Bingham replied -

thank you - I will add this topic to my email.

[10:20 AM]

Essau Mwendo asked : How much does it cost to get 3ppb (Nestle Standard) from 15ppb (Ghana standard)?

0 upvote | 1 answer | 0 reply

Rose Omari answered -

This cost benefit analysis is important but it is usually difficult to get such information. We need to commit resources into this kind of food safety economics research.

[10:35 AM]

Richard E. Goodman asked : How has fall armyworm impacted Ghana? Rwanda?

0 upvote | 0 answer | 0 reply

[10:39 AM]

anonymous asked : Does Rwanda MOA encourage training / support on farmer based seed selection and management? An informed capacitated consumer may be a more receptive and sustainable seed buyer.

0 upvote | 0 answer | 0 reply

[10:40 AM]

Debebe Gashawbeza asked : The seed value chain needs more attention and intervention at least to fulfil 50% of the farmers` demand (in amount and type as well as timeliness). How much the improved seed demand of Rwandan farmers fulfilled by the seed producers? How does the government support the seed producers?

0 upvote | 0 answer | 0 reply

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0 upvote | 1 answer | 0 reply

Tadele Gelan answered -

From the recent information we have over 80% of the seed demand in Rwanda is met by locally produced sees. This is as the result of sustained strengthening the seed sector

[10:40 AM]

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0 upvote | 0 answer | 0 reply

[10:41 AM]

Paul Rigterink asked : Do micro farmers in Rwanda use the Three Sister Gardening or other Companion Planting food security methods? Exactly what non-hybrid corn (need sturdy stalks), pole bean, and squash seeds do they use?

0 upvote | 0 answer | 0 reply

[10:46 AM]

anonymous asked : Does USAID Rwanda see tension between supporting national based seed companies in Rwanda versus regional private sector?

0 upvote | 0 answer | 0 reply

[10:47 AM]

Lainey Wolf asked : Lainey Wolf from the American Seed Trade Association. Could I please have a copy of the presentations and emails to follow up with presenters? Thanks so much!

0 upvote | 0 answer | 0 reply

[10:52 AM]

Debebe Gashawbeza asked : How the Insurance companies support small holder farmers reduce the risks they are facing. The production challenges farmers facing in tropical do not attract the companies to start their service. Share me the experience in your country. I am from Ethiopia.

0 upvote | 0 answer | 0 reply

[10:52 AM]

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0 upvote | 0 answer | 0 reply

[10:53 AM]

Dick Tinsley asked : What are the labor requirements for use of organic fertilizers and is that energy recovered by the increased production?

0 upvote | 0 answer | 0 reply

[10:59 AM]

Ann Oden asked : My question is for Team Rwanda, both Francois & Patrice of the USAID Mission - In terms your digital supply chain & adopting the use of mobile platforms to distribute Ag inputs do you have any capabilities that are non dependent on internet & highend capabilities which SHF may not be able to adopt

0 upvote | 0 answer | 0 reply

[10:59 AM]

Hamdino Ahmed asked : Rwanda should stasfy its market first

0 upvote | 0 answer | 0 reply

[11:00 AM]

Ricardo Maria asked : Dear all

We greatly appreciate AGRA,Ãs leadership and effort in fighting hunger in AFRICA.

How inclusive is Agriculture Development Agenda given the fact that some problems that constraints agriculture development might be context specific?

Ricardo M. Maria

Ricardo_dejesus@hotmail.com

+258820235090

0 upvote | 0 answer | 0 reply

[11:02 AM]

anonymous asked : Maybe AGRA should include an activity related to building regional maize seed companies & Rwandan maize seed company partnerships - i.e., licensing of promising hybrids, working to 'clean-up' Rwanda OPV lines.

0 upvote | 0 answer | 0 reply

[11:02 AM]

Debebe Gashawbeza asked : Accessing the extension Agents with digital technologies is essential and the pilot test done by Alinea (AGP2-CDSF) in Ethiopia showed that the work load of extension agents reduced and they were updating themselves regularly & cost of extension service reduced, the cost for the tech is higher.

0 upvote | 0 answer | 0 reply

[11:05 AM]

Richard E. Goodman asked : Does TELA provide some good productivity potential?

0 upvote | 0 answer | 0 reply

Deleted Questions

[09:55 AM]

Dick Tinsley asked : How do you want to address the operational limitation farmers face in producing their crops in terms of sufficient labor or access to mechanization to get their crops planted in a timely enough manner to achieve family food security with enough surplus to activity participate in the value chain?

3 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[09:05 AM]

Nora Esther De Paz Donado asked : Tenemos un Proyecto Ecológica Comunitario Multidisciplinario para la Estandarización de Principios Activos en Plantas Medicinales, producción de Alimentos, de acuerdo a las ODS COP21 2015-2030, En especial ODS15-17. labestrella@gmail.com Nora De Paz

2 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply

[10:26 AM]

Dick Tinsley asked : does the seed industry in Rwanda have the total capacity to provide more than a small percent of the annual seed requirements and if so won't most smallholder farmers particularly in rural areas have to continue to rely on market seed?

2 upvotes | 0 answer | 0 reply