The Critical Role of Research and Development in Achieving Resilient and Sustainable Food Systems

July 7th 2021
4:00pm CEST (10:00 am ET)

Please join this panel presentation and discussion, a side event to the U.N. Food Systems Summit Science Days, as leaders across the private and public research and development sectors identify and discuss the key actions needed to advance adaptive agricultural research and to develop an enabling policy environment to support the steady stream of technological innovations necessary for resilient and sustainable food systems. The discussion will review evidence of evolving economic transformation and progress towards resilience in sub-Saharan Africa from the Board for International Food and Agriculture Development (BIFAD)-commissioned Agricultural Productivity Growth, Resilience, and Economic Transformation in Sub-Saharan Africa report, the World Bank publication, Harvesting Prosperity: Technology and Productivity Growth in Agriculture, and the African Development Bank Group publication, Building Resilience in Food Systems and Agricultural Value Chains.

Together, panelists and participants will identify lessons learned from countries in which substantial investments in adaptive agricultural research and development and extension systems have shown the catalytic role of productivity-led agricultural growth in contributing to employment, resilience, and economic transformation.

Panelists and Speakers

Richard Mkandawire
Director, Africa Office, Alliance for African Partnership, Michigan State University & Chair, National Planning Commission Government of Malawi

Lulama Ndibongo Traub
Technical Director, Regional Network of Agricultural Policy Research Institutes in Africa (ReNAPRI)

Kevin Chika Urama
Senior Director, African Development Institute, African Development Bank Group

Louise Fox
Nonresident Senior Fellow, African Growth Initiative, Brookings Institution

Madhur Gautam
Lead Economist, Agriculture Global Practice, The World Bank

Rob Bertram
Chief Scientist, Bureau for Resilience and Food Security, United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Thom Jayne
University Foundation Professor of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics, Michigan State University

Usha Barwale Zehr
Director and Chief Technology Officer, Mahyco Private Limited (MAHYCO), India and Executive Director, Grow Indigo Private Ltd

Natasha Santos
Vice President of Global Stakeholder Strategy and Affairs, Bayer Crop Science

Wandile Sihlobo
Chief Economist, AgBiz, South Africa

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