

Virtual Roundtable Series

Kenya: Transforming agricultural research funding towards sustainability

HOSTED BY:



Closing Session: Recommendation - 6th October 2021, 14.00-16.00 East African Time

Roundtable sessions

- ❑ Agricultural research critical in developing sustainable agricultural practices and policies toward achieving greater sustainability, equity, and resilience
- ❑ However, agricultural research still suffers from underinvestment.
- ❑ Two virtual roundtable, featuring high-level speakers, was hosted by the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture (JKUAT) and Biovision
- ❑ The sessions brought together representatives from national and international research and academia, ministries, civil society, farmers and the private sector



Key Recommendations

- ❑ Aligning food systems research towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, is essential in view of evolving food system threats from pandemics, environmental degradation, and climatic change.
- ❑ Increasing funding for agriculture and food systems research is vital to achieve Kenya's national vision and strategies while creating opportunities for young and innovative researchers
- ❑ Shifting agriculture and food systems research funding to emphasize sustainability, equity, and resilience by strengthening currently neglected research areas, including Agroecology, traditional or orphan crops, as well as local and regional agricultural markets

Key recommendations ctd.

- ❑ Enhancing collaboration for integrated, transdisciplinary, participatory research is key to scale agriculture and food systems innovations that not only work in theory, but also in practice.
- ❑ Rooting all forms of research funding (Public, private, Non-state actors) in national policy and research priorities is essential for promoting local relevance, adoption and ownership of solutions
- ❑ Assessing and monitoring the impact of investments in research funding is crucial to continuously improve and learn.

Possible policy actions for government and donors

Government:

- ❑ Develop a clear strategy for Kenya outlining national research priorities in an inclusive process.
- ❑ Increase public/government funding for agriculture and food systems research

Donors:

- ❑ Shift towards long term funding models to enable integrated, transdisciplinary, and participatory research
- ❑ Enable proof of concept, pre-study and proposal development to support collaboration and innovation.
- ❑ Support assessments of the environmental, social and economic impact of research in agriculture and food systems.
- ❑ Align funding calls and decisions with national priorities, and consider areas that have received limited research funding.

Possible policy options for research

- ❑ Strengthen partnerships and collaboration between various actors, including research and non-research actors.
- ❑ Strengthen involvement of youth in agriculture and agricultural research and development
- ❑ Strengthen interdisciplinary courses and integrating agroecology and food systems in education systems
- ❑ Develop and implement frameworks of monitoring & assessing impacts of research to inform continual improvement
- ❑ Strengthen outreach and dissemination, including by involving young farmers, grassroots organizations, and the private sector.
- ❑ Advocate with parliamentarians to allocate more funds to agricultural research.

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Plenary discussion Session

Goal: Translating recommendations to practice and policy

- How can the recommendations be put in practice? (Including who might do it and what kind of resources are needed?)
- What kind of institutional and/or policy change is needed?

Thank you for Listening