

## **Event Proposal at the 5th AU-EU Agriculture Ministerial Conference (Rome, 30 June 2023)**

Duration: 2:00 hours - Form: selected presentations followed by a moderated panel discussion.

### **Title: Responsible investments in food value chains for resilient food systems.**

#### **Background**

The EU-Africa Global Gateway Investment Package aims to accelerate the sustainable transformation of African food systems, in support of Africa's agriculture, fisheries and food development agenda, by 2030. The investment package will support more sustainable African agri-food systems by creating a conducive and transparent policy environment for sustainable private investments to support agri-food and fish-processing, facilitating innovation and boosting improved nutrition (European Union, 2022).

Investments in food systems can lever up to four times more effective in reducing poverty than investments in other sectors. Responsible investments contribute to sustainable livelihoods and income in particular for small and medium sized farmers and entrepreneurs, foster social and gender equality, create decent work thereby, promote social inclusiveness, increase economic growth, and enable sustainable development (CFS 2014). However, limited access to financial resources for just the groups mentioned above, e.g. smallholder farmers, small and medium-sized enterprises, women, youth and other marginalised players, is a major structural bottleneck (ECDPM 2022). Thus, there is a need to identify the types of approaches that lead to responsible investments due to the diverse effects that investments have in the economic, social and environmental dimensions, and due to the varying perspectives of different actors (private and public funders, innovators, civil society and others) involved.

This side-event will present several examples of successful approaches on the ground on responsible investments in agri food system. It will take into account that challenges in food systems are often closely related to education, gender equality and infrastructure, and therefore require multi-sectoral and systemic solutions to ensure resilience. The side-event will build on the outcomes of the previous thematic session 'Sustainable Investment in support of agri-food systems' highlighting the voices and examples from the ground from smallholder farmers, and then hear the perspectives from investors, research and innovation and policy-makers. The moderated panel discussion will build on these experiences and give perspectives on:

- effective approaches for responsible investments in food value chains, and the regulatory frameworks needed to promote them
- financial instruments and approaches that successfully reach the ground (e.g. farmers, SMEs)
- key success factors for responsible investments
- how actors along value chains and farmers can work together for synergies and success

#### Agenda

12:30	Peter Kullgren H.E. Bryan Acheampong	Minister of Rural Affairs, Sweden Minister of Food and Agriculture, Ghana
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12.40-12.50	Martin Fregene	African Development Bank
12.50-13.00	Banke Olukanmi, Efficient mobilisation of private capital to support smallholder farmers across rural Nigeria	Babban Gona, Nigeria
13:00-13:10	Yaw Agyeman Atwereboanda, The producers perspective from sustainable investments in Ghana	Entrepreneur/Farmer, Ghana
13:10-13:25	<i>Moderated panel discussion with Q&amp;A</i>	Speakers from this block and Reuben Banda, Musika, Zambia
	<i>Intervention from Hon Murray Watt, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Australia.</i>	
13:30– 13:40	Lauren Phillips, The Status of Women in Agrifood Systems	FAO
13:40-13:50	Tora Olsson, Guarantees as a tool to mobilise responsible investments	SIDA
13.50-14.00	Kostas Karantininis, SASi-SPI: Sustainable Agri-Food Systems Intelligence - Science Policy Interface EU-FAO-AGRINATURA Partnership Initiative	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, SLU
14.00-14.15	<i>Moderated panel discussion with Q&amp;A</i>	Speakers from this block and Stephen Onakuse, Agrinatura President
14:15–14:30	Closing remarks and vote of thanks	
	<i>Moderator</i>	<i>Prof. Jennie Barron, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, SLU</i>

#### References:

Committee on World Food Security (CFS) 2014: PRINCIPLES FOR RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS.

ECDPM 2022. Investing in sustainable food systems: A methodology and lessons learned from Africa. Briefing Note No. 151. ISSN1571-7577.

European Union, 2022. EU-Africa: Global Gateway Investment Package Factsheet. ISBN 978-92-76-47472-2 doi:10.2775/36756.