



Fourth AFRICAN UNION - EUROPEAN UNION Agriculture Ministerial Conference

CONCEPT NOTE for the panel on Agricultural Investment

Timing: 10.00-11.30 (CEST)

Subject: **Investment opportunities and challenges** for local producers and the competitiveness of the agri-food sector

Format: One of four parallel thematic sessions – a high-level chair (ministerial level) will guide a discussion among a range of active players with differing experiences. Audience participation is expected

CONCEPT

The European Union has taken bold steps with the European Green Deal and its flagship initiatives – EU Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategies. These place a renewed and increased emphasis upon sustainable transformation of food systems, in light of continued climate change and population growth. They will seek to improve resource use, maintaining the value of products and materials as far as possible and minimising waste, aiming at climate neutrality in the EU by 2050. Africa continues to drive its agricultural transformation agenda that calls for establishing and strengthening inclusive public-private partnerships for priority agricultural commodity value chains with strong linkage to smallholder agriculture.

The Covid19 pandemic has severely tested the capacity of the food systems to deliver over the past year. In the aim of building back better, and putting the Green Deal's ambition into practice, there is now a real opportunity to reshape food systems. The UN Food Systems Summit will be a first marker in this transition to greater resilience and sustainable growth.

The EU continues to partner with Africa to bring about agricultural transformation. As the programming process of the new multi-annual financial framework accelerates, most countries in Africa will consider Green Deal approaches as one of their focal areas.

While agricultural value chains remain the focus of considerable attention, at both the policy level and through promotion of sustainable public and private sector investments, it will be their capacity to improve social, economic and environmental sustainability, which determines their contribution to Africa's Agenda 2063, the CAADP targets, the UN 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

The discussion will focus upon investment in agriculture in Africa, what opportunities exist, how further investment opportunities can be promoted, where challenges lie and how to promote sustainability.

PROPOSED FORMAT AND POTENTIAL PANELLISTS:

- **Chair: Ms Graziella Romito**, Director of International Relations of the Ministry of Agriculture of Italy, G20 Chair of the Agriculture Deputies

Introductory remarks (5 minutes)

Moderator:

Godfrey Bahigwa, African Union Commission, Director of Agriculture and Rural Development

- 10.15-10.25:
Jennifer Susan Chiriga, Chief of Staff of AUDA-NEPAD: Opportunities and challenges to invest in Africa
- 10.25-10.35:
James Tefft, Senior Economist, FAO Investment Centre: Catalyzing the sustainable and inclusive transformation of food systems
- 10.35-10.45:
Gilles Boumeester, Africa Project Lead, Rabobank: A finance for sustainable agrifood systems
- 10.45-10.55:
Dimitry Van Raemdonck, Fund Manager, EDFI AgriFI and **Bagoré Bathily**, Founder, Laiterie du Berger: Sustainable investment to enhance local production

10.55-11.25:

Open floor discussion

Chair's concluding thoughts (5 minutes)



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