



THE AFRICA-EU PARTNERSHIP
LE PARTENARIAT AFRIQUE-UE



AFRICAN UNION – EUROPEAN UNION MINISTERIAL MEETING

FAO HQ, Rome 21 June 2019

CONCEPT NOTE for the panel on Agricultural Investment

Timing: 9.30-12.00

Subject: **Challenges and Opportunities for Agricultural Investment** – state of play and prospects for the future

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 EU is at the forefront of promoting agricultural development in Africa, where many partner countries have chosen agriculture and food security to be among the first priorities of their development programmes. The EU is also encouraging responsible private sector investments in Africa, to help boost production and meet demand in-country, in the region and beyond. To do this, strong emphasis has been placed (notably in the new Africa-Europe Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs) on the promotion of value chains and the “de-risking” of private investments, through new instruments such as blending. Moreover, regional, continental and international trade arrangements can form important conditions for private investments.

In view of the expected increase in Africa’s working age population of over 800 million in the next 30 years, the Task Force Rural Africa analysed in more detail some of the constraints faced by the agriculture sector in attracting investment¹. This includes higher risks faced by investors, but also the more limited appetite and experience, notably of the Development Finance Institutions in this field. The Task Force report also made a strong call for the sustainable management of natural resources, in view of achieving a sustainable transformation of African agriculture, whilst situating the smallholder at the heart of the policy concern.

¹ Task Force Rural Africa: An Africa-Europe Agenda for Rural Transformation, Brussels, March 2019

The Task Force made a series of proposals aimed at increasing private investment in agriculture in Africa. This notably includes a proposal to improve the policy framework and the associated dialogue context, through innovative partnerships, which are based on African political and policy leadership, while making use of European expertise and finance. The dialogue would work at the several levels, both people-to-people, government-to-government and business-to-business.

Against this background, this thematic session will bring together a range of differing experiences and perspectives around the theme of agricultural investment in Africa. It will in particular look into the constraints faced by the investors, as well as opportunities for investments in agriculture and agri-businesses. A number of practical experiences will illustrate promising initiatives for enhanced EU-Africa cooperation, and possible solutions.

Proposed format and potential panellists:

- *Chair: tbc*

Introductory remarks (5 minutes)

Moderator: Thouraya Triki, Director, IFAD Sustainable Production, Markets and Institutions department

- 9.45-10.00: The structural constraints to investment in African Agriculture, Baudouin Michel, member of the Task Force for Rural Africa
- 10.10-10.20: What works and what doesn't? Experience with Rabobank, Ms. Suzanne Van Tilburg, Global Head Corporate Relations
- 10.20-10.30: What can Farmers Organisations contribute? Elizabeth Nsimadala, EAFF
- 10.30-10.40: What works and what doesn't? Experience with ABC Fund, Jerry Parkes, director Injaro (Fund Manager in association with BAMBOO Capital Management for the ABC Fund)

10.40-11.00 Open floor discussion

- 11.00-11.10: The AgriFI concept of smallholder investment – (Dimitri Van Raemdonk EDFI MC)
- 11.10-11.20: A true story: How AgriFI is helping my company - Masha Kola, Nigerian entrepreneur (Babban Gona).
- 11.20-11.30: Cashew nuts - constraints and opportunities for the private sector in a specific market in West Africa - Salma Seetaroo-Bonnafoux from Ivory Coast (CEO Ivoirienne Noix de Cajou)

11.30-11.55: Open floor discussion

- Chair's concluding thoughts (5 minutes)