



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

THIRD AFRICA AGRIBUSINESS LEADERSHIP DIALOGUE (AALD3)

A REGIONAL PRIVATE SECTOR DIALOGUE TO
INFORM THE 33RD SESSION OF FAO'S
REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA (ARC)

ACCRA, GHANA

12 MARCH 2024

Organised by





BACKGROUND

Africa's agrifood sector stands at a critical juncture in its development, offering significant opportunities for private sector-led growth. Several emerging trends underline the potential for transformative change, including the projected growth of African food markets to a staggering \$1 trillion by 2030, the promising prospects of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) with its combined GDP of \$3.4 trillion, and the increasing integration of technological and digital innovations.

These opportunities are further accentuated by the ongoing demographic shift, driven by rapid urbanisation and a burgeoning youth population.

Nevertheless, formidable challenges persist within the sector, notably in the domain of policy and regulatory frameworks, hindering the transformation of regional agricultural value chains, obstructing crossborder trade, and impeding inclusive growth and social impact. Climate change-induced extreme events and the post Covid-19 situation exacerbate the fragility of African food systems.

These challenges also pose significant obstacles to private investments, while at the same time amplifying the need for a paradigmatic change from a unidimensional, profit-based perspective towards a triple performance-based approach (profit, people, planet) for responsible investments.





OBJECTIVE

We are organising the **Third Africa Agribusiness Leadership Dialogue (AALD3)** to enhance private sector engagement in the ongoing policy discourse on the future of agriculture and food systems development. This forum is an opportunity to collectively shape the future of agrifood systems in alignment with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and with the broader continental objectives outlined in the African Union's Agenda 2063.

The convener of AALD3 is the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) through its Regional Office for Africa. However, the primary stakeholder of the Dialogue is the African Private Sector, including multinational agribusiness corporations, local and regional agribusinesses, financial institutions and investors, agritech startups and innovators, cooperatives and producers' associations, and industry experts and thought leaders.

The **expected outcomes** of AALD3 are:

- Prepare a Declaration from the Private Sector to be submitted to the 33rd Session of FAO's Regional Conference for Africa (ARC33)
- Select three Representatives from the Private Sector to participate at ARC33, which will be held on 18-20 April 2024 in Rabat, Morocco.





THEME

Main Theme

Inclusive Transformation of Agrifood Systems in Africa: Unlocking Trade and Business Opportunities

Sub-themes

1 Breaking Trade Barriers to Expand Markets

Focusing on private sector involvement and leveraging AfCFTA to transform agricultural value chains in Africa. Emphasis on strategies for smallholder farmers and SMEs in cross-border trade, inclusive growth, and social impact. Key topics will include policy reforms, financial incentives, infrastructure development, market expansion, technology, PPPs, and standards.

2 Bridging Finance Gaps for Developing Agribusiness

Addressing the finance gap in African agrifood systems, intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic. Discussions will center on the role of private equity investments, venture capital, and blended finance models. Key areas will include investment strategies, financing mechanisms, equitable access to resources for youth, women, and marginalized groups, and local private sector involvement in investment policy.

3 Fostering Innovations that Transform Agrifood Systems

Exploring broad innovations that will drive the inclusive transformation of agrifood systems in Africa. Key areas will include technology adoption, digital transformation, R&D, supply chain optimization, and green innovation.

EVENT FORMAT

AALD3 will be a **one-day hybrid event**, designed to foster a dynamic exchange of ideas and insights on the transformation of Africa's agrifood systems.

Merging in-person and virtual modalities, the program includes opening remarks, a keynote speech, a TEDx-style talk, a panel discussion, and two breakout working sessions. The format will cater for speakers to attend in-person while the bulk of participants will attend online, ensuring a broad representation from across Africa.

Emphasizing interaction and participation, the event will incorporate innovative virtual methods to engage attendees in meaningful discussions, with the aim of capturing their inputs to the final Declaration from the Private Sector.

Date: 12th March 2024

Time: 9:00-13:00 GMT (till 16:00 GMT on site)

Location: Tang Palace Hotel, Accra, Ghana

Virtual Venue: <https://scionetwork.vfairs.com/>



AGENDA

Time (GMT)	Session	Who	What
8:30 - 9:00	Registrations and Check-in	Scio Network	In-person registrations at the venue Virtual room check-ins and technical testing for online participants
9:00 - 9:05	Opening	Moderator	Welcome attendees
9:05 - 9:15		FAO RAF	Setting the Scene: <i>Purpose, objective and expected outcome of the dialogue</i>
9:15 - 9:30		Minister of Trade & Industry	Shaping the Future of Agrifood Systems in Africa: Strategic Policy and Private Sector Synergy for Global Competitiveness
9:30 - 9:45	Keynote speech	Industry Leader	Strategic Innovations and Growth Pathways in Africa's Agrifood Systems: A Private Sector Perspective.
9:45 : 10:30	Panel discussion Group 1	Guest Speakers	Panel on Breaking Trade Barriers Experts engaging on critical topics, challenges, and opportunities in the agrifood sector, moderated by Scio Network
10:30 - 11:15	Panel discussion Group 2	Guest Speakers	Panel on Breaking Trade Barriers Experts engaging on critical topics, challenges, and opportunities in the agrifood sector, moderated by Scio Network

Time (GMT)	Session	Who	What
11:15- 12:15	Breakout Sessions	Group1	Sub-themes (1 & 3) - Breaking Trade Barriers to Expand Markets <u>Topic 1:</u> Trade Facilitation and Infrastructure Development. <u>Topic 2:</u> Strategies for PPPs to Enhance Trade Inclusivity and Market Diversification. <u>Topic 3:</u> Technology and Innovation for Trade Facilitation and Market Diversification.
		Group 2	Sub-themes (2 & 3) - Bridging Finance Gaps for Developing Agribusiness <u>Topic 1:</u> Financing and Empowering the Agrifood Sector Through Innovation: <u>Topic 2:</u> Sustainability and Green Innovations in Agrifood Systems. <u>Topic 3:</u> Enhancing Impact Through Complementary Business and Technical Advisory Services.
12:15 - 12:45	Policy recommendations	Facilitators of the Breakout Sessions	Each group presents the outcome of deliberations focusing on policy recommendations.
12:45 - 13:00	Selection of three Representatives for ARC33	FAO RAF / Scio Network	Live polling and announcement of candidates to attend ARC33 Closing of the Virtual event
13:00 - 14:00	LUNCH		
14:00 - 16:00	Consolidation of recommendations	Scio Network	In-person attendees will have the chance to further contributing to the draft Declaration from the Private Sector



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