

EU-Africa Business Forum. A high-level round table private session

Innovation serving food and nutrition security in Europe and Africa

DG Research and Innovation (COVE), Place Rogier 16, 1000 Brussels, Belgium, room 7.183

April 1st at 09.30 – 14.30

Background of the Round Table

Europe and Africa have a rich and prolific history of scientific and technological cooperation. Within the institutional framework of the Africa-EU relationship in science, technology and innovation, embedded in the Joint Africa-EU Strategy, the two regions have formally agreed as a first priority to work towards a long term, jointly-funded research and innovation partnership to promote food and nutrition security, and sustainable agriculture. Last November, at a meeting of the EU-Africa High Level Policy Dialogue of senior officials on science, technology and innovation to review cooperation and set new priorities ahead of the EU-Africa Summit 2014, European Commission Director-General Robert-Jan Smits said: *"Investment in research and innovation creates growth and jobs and is vital in dealing with societal challenges. Enhancing food and nutrition security as well as sustainable agriculture is a challenge common to the EU and Africa, albeit with different dimensions. An increase in EU-Africa cooperation will lead to evidence-based solutions and policy-making and an improved availability, accessibility and utilisation of agricultural products and services"*.

Building and implementing this long-term jointly funded and co-owned research and innovation partnership will require broad consultation and the committed engagement of a diversity of stakeholder communities. During 2014, a high level expert group will be tasked with developing a detailed roadmap defining the scope, objectives and key components of the partnership. Consultations with representatives of the private sector is vital to better understand both the role that the business community can play in delivering goods, services and technologies, to share experience and best practice, and to shape the policy and programming actions needed to bridge the public-private sector divide for linking research and innovation, for more coherent and sustained impact.

Objective of the Round Table

The principal objective of the session will be to articulate a set of high-level, core messages to the EU-Africa Summit about the role of and conditions for private sector engagement in the food and nutrition security research and innovation partnership. The debate also importantly serves to enrich understanding of policy makers and programme owners across Africa and Europe of the policy and programming options for fostering a conducive environment for effective public-private partnerships in research based innovation processes.

Key questions structuring the Round Table:

1. What has worked? Success stories of innovation processes contributing to food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture at the local, regional and global level; the role of key actors and the added-value of EU-Africa cooperation; What are the key criteria of and barriers to success; and the causes of failure.

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2. What are the best models for the research, agri-business and civil society communities to interact and cooperate to achieve food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture? How does the research community better respond to the needs of the agri-business community (multi-nationals, SMEs and entrepreneurs) with respect to research outputs? On what sources of R&D does the agri-business community rely for innovation? What works and what does not?
3. How do family farms and smallholder's farms access and then increase the uptake of research-based innovation? What are the best models of cooperation between research community and farmers? What works and what does not?
4. What is the role of the public sector in enhancing private sector engagement in research based innovation processes?

Expected results

- Clarity around the roles, contributions, needs and impacts of entrepreneurs, small-scale private sector companies and large corporations in the food and nutrition security partnership.
- Learning from good practice and from failure at local, regional and international levels to feed into policy and practice recommendations
- Identified key factors and scenarios for leveraging private sector investment in the development and implementation of the jointly funded and co-owned research and innovation partnership on food and nutrition security between the EU and Africa
- Enriched debate at the Summit on private sector involvement in EU-Africa cooperation on science, technology and innovation, illustrated through a focus on promoting food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture
- Clarity around appropriate policy and programming responses for an enhanced cooperation landscape with lowered barriers around critical framework conditions.

Format of the round table

The round table will take the format of a professionally moderated and interactive panel debate among a broad range of public and private sector actors from the innovation chains around food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture in Europe and Africa. With a total participation of not more than 50 people, the two-hour discussion will be structured by the moderator around the key questions.

Co-chairs: Ms Lucy Muchoki (CEO of PanAAC) and Ms Emily Alpert (Deputy Director, Agriculture for Impact, Imperial College London)

Set the scene with two introductory talks of 5 minutes each, and wrap up (max.20 minutes), including preparation of the core messages for transmitting to the Summit.

Moderator: Mr Mićo Tatalović (SciDev)

Rapporteur: Ms Morag Webb, COLEACP policy adviser / Ms Nejma André, IRD and CAAST-Net Plus

Speakers: Five representatives reporting success stories (7-8 minutes each)

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Innovation platforms of the Sub-Saharan Africa Challenge Programme of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, led by FARA, **Mr Yemi Akinbamijo** (Executive Director Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA))

Business platform for nutrition research, **Mr Matt Freeman** (Acting Director for Business Development at the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN))

Innovative Public-Private Partnerships, **Mr Stephen Mintah** (COLEACP Chairman)

European Innovation Platform Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability, **Mr Andrew Fieldsend** (Research Institute of Agricultural Economics, Budapest) and **Mr Henk Kieft** (ETC)

Discussants / participants: A target group of 30-35 invited representatives of companies representing the European and African private sector involved in STI serving food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture in EU-Africa cooperation, plus representatives of research and innovation, civil society, national and regional policy and programme communities and the European Commission (DGs Research and Innovation, Development and Agriculture and Rural Development).

A number of spaces will be reserved for participation by the wider group of stakeholders, and the general public, conditional on successful pre-registration.

Agenda

09.30-10.00	Welcome coffee	
10.00-10.10	Welcome by the European Commission – DG Research and Innovation	Ms Cristina Russo, Director International Cooperation Mr Patrik Kolar, Head of Unit Agri-Food Chain
10.10-10.20	Setting the scene	Co-chairs
10.20-11.00	Presentation of four success stories (7-8 minutes each) followed by Q&A	Speakers
11.00-12.30	Round-table discussion	Discussants and participants
12.30-12.50	Wrap up and preparation of the core messages to the EU-Africa Summit	Co-chairs
12.50-13.00	Closing by the European Commission – DG Development	Mr Bernard Rey, Deputy Head of Unit Rural Development, Food Security, Nutrition
13.00-14.30	<i>Networking lunch (Room 6.190)</i>	<i>All</i>