



AFRICAN  
GREEN  
REVOLUTION  
FORUM 2019  
3-6 SEPTEMBER  
ACCRA, GHANA



**Grow Digital**

Leveraging digital transformation to drive  
sustainable food systems in Africa

**AGRF 2019 BROCHURE**

AGRF  
Partners





## Grow Digital

### Leveraging digital transformation to drive sustainable food systems in Africa

Africa is on the move, with signs of progress and growing prosperity for millions of its people. The continent has witnessed sustained economic growth and a modernization of its economy for more than two decades powered by an increasingly inclusive agricultural transformation and by rapid growth in digital innovations.

Sustained agricultural transformation will remain at the centre of driving Africa's progress and development; no matter how far we look into the future and how much the world continues to innovate. Nearly every country in the world has gone through an agricultural revolution on the path to its wider economic transformation, including in Europe during the 18th century, the US in the 19th century, and much of Asia and Latin America from as recent as the 1950s. Africa will be no exception. African countries must complete the same journey, but they should not take the same path.

The continent is at an advantage as today's agricultural transformation is happening at a time when life-changing technologies are part of our everyday lives. Computers and the internet didn't exist when the US underwent their transformation and cell phones were barely a pipe dream when Asia transformed its agriculture. This gives Africa an opportunity to leapfrog the agricultural transformation trajectory of the past and revolutionise life by overcoming isolation, speeding up change, creating more and cleaner jobs of the future, and taking success to scale with a sight at inclusion. Digital

technologies are emerging as one of the most important of these innovations. Their unprecedented growth and adoption has ushered in the era of disruptive digital innovation, knowledge economies and big agri-data.

From our day-to-day lives, we know that the digital world is at our fingertips and is increasingly becoming a reality on our farms and in our food systems. It is no longer a niche issue. Indeed, today, digitalization transcends every sphere of our life. This new era provides very real opportunity to leverage the youth of the continent. Many of today's young people have grown up with technology in the palms of their hands. They 'get it' and coming up with innovations is second nature to young entrepreneurs striving to make a difference. Digitalization also offers a unique opportunity for women across Africa. It removes barriers – such as land ownership – where they otherwise might have been, providing the framework to redefine gender norms and to close the gender divide. The goal, ultimately, is to adopt digital technologies in ways that positively impact whole agricultural and food systems.

Across the continent, evidence exists of farmers that are embracing smart farming by applying digital technologies. The digital era offers many new innovations and breakthroughs that will allow the African continent to get ahead of the curve, and more efficiently and sustainably unlock the full potential of its smallholder farmers and agribusiness sector. This is not simply a case of 'out with the old, in with the new'. Progress will be greatest for those who learn to bring the two together. We must seize this moment to achieve our aspirations. With the right policies, programmes, and investments, we can ensure that smallholder farmers prosper, that our women are empowered, that our youth enter and shape a vibrant agri-food economy, that our food systems become more sustainable and nutritious, and that we build a prosperous Africa.



AGRF has emerged as **“the world’s premier platform for African agriculture”** bringing together stakeholders in the agricultural landscape to take practical actions and share lessons that will move African agriculture forward.



The African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) was established in 2010, following a three-year series of African Green Revolution Conferences (AGRC) held in Oslo, Norway from 2006–2008 by Yara International ASA



**AGRF** provides an opportunity to mobilise continental leadership including the private sector, to invest in the continent’s robust agriculture and food sector.

Strive Masiyiwa,  
Executive Chairman & Founder, Econet Group  
& Chair AGRF Partners’ Group



The AGRF has been designed to showcase examples of agricultural transformation in action, and to promote efforts to drive and achieve scale and to foster accelerated impact.





## 4 Days

of Conferences, Events,  
Awards, High Level  
Meetings, Debates and  
Exhibitions



With more than **75**  
journalists attending  
the 2018 edition,  
**1,840**  
articles were  
generated globally

**2,000+**  
participants drawn  
from Africa  
and around  
the world



### Themes of Previous AGRF Events

#### **2013: Maputo, Mozambique**

Scaling up and financing inclusive agribusiness  
through transformative  
public-private partnerships

#### **2014: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

Beyond the Tipping Point: A New Vision and  
Strategies for Inclusive and Sustainable  
Transformation

#### **2015: Lusaka Zambia**

Walking the Talk on Youth and Women:  
Bringing Inclusive Agricultural Markets to Life

#### **2016: Nairobi, Kenya**

Seize The Moment: Securing Africa's rise  
through agricultural transformation

#### **2017: Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire**

Accelerating Africa's Path to Prosperity:  
Growing Inclusive Economies and Jobs through  
Agriculture

#### **2018: Kigali, Rwanda**

Lead. Measure. Grow: Enabling New  
Pathways to Turn Smallholders  
into Sustainable Agribusinesses

**79** countries  
represented  
including **41**  
African nations

**300**  
**Keynote**  
speakers, panelists and  
moderators in 55 sessions

**10** current & former  
Heads of State attended  
the 2018 edition







Specific outcomes expected from the 2019 AGRF include:

Political and Policy Leadership from African governments

Political and financial support from development partners and the private sector

New business deals and commitments

Progress on the Africa Agriculture Transformation Scorecard



**AGRF** rotates annually to new host countries with themes crafted to highlight a key area of focus in driving progress and thought leadership on the most pressing issues in transforming the agriculture sector in Africa.



AGRF is an alliance of partners that care about, commit to and work to drive inclusive agricultural transformation in Africa.

Partners currently include the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Development Bank, the African Fertilizer and Agribusiness Partnership (AFAP), the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the CGIAR System Organization, the Corteva Agriscience™, the Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Grow Africa, the International Development Research Center (IDRC) of Canada, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Mastercard Foundation, NEPAD Agency, OCP Group, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU), the UK Department for International Development, the UPL Limited, Syngenta, the US Agency for International Development (USAID), and Yara International ASA.

AGRA is the implementing partner for the Forum and hosts the Secretariat at its head offices in Nairobi, Kenya.



# AFRICAN GREEN REVOLUTION FORUM



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