

Priorities for Climate-Resilient African Food Systems

To ensure a prosperous future for African food systems, we must accelerate adaptation across the continent through partnerships that make them more resilient to a changing climate.

Through our dialogues in January 2021, thousands of voices called for three priority actions that can put African economies and societies on this more climate-resilient path. The Climate Adaptation Summit, the UN Food Systems Summit and COP26 must together deliver new commitments on all three.

1. INNOVATION BROKERS MUST EMPOWER ADAPTATION

To speed up climate adaptation that's based on compelling scientific evidence of what works, new 'innovation stock exchanges' must diffuse knowledge to where it is needed.

The support of international and regional networks like the African Union and Regional Economic Communities, as well as community organizations, must play a crucial role.

2. DIGITAL DISRUPTORS MUST CATALYSE ADAPTATION

The digitalisation of commerce and public services can make policymaking, business planning and solutions for climate adaptation more targeted and effective, and vastly improve the quality of data available to evaluate outcomes.



A new 'Silicon Savannah' must embrace innovation in everything from social media and fintech to unlock the power of data and digital services.



3. INVESTORS MUST RETHINK THE RISKS IN ADAPTATION

Private finance is crucial in accelerating adaptation, but investors must develop new risk profiles, with better understanding of the challenges - and opportunities - of investing in African food systems.

Investment funds managed in partnership with public financial institutions can guide investors towards adaptation projects that provide returns that are better leveraged against potential risk.



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