



**Evaluation Week**  
Semaine de l'évaluation  
**2022**

Session title: Maximizing agricultural productivity to sustainably feed Africa in and beyond the imminent food crisis: Lessons on hand

## About this session

### Aim


The session aims to highlight lessons from evaluation, research and experience with agricultural value chains and the broader agricultural sector that could inform the design and execution of initiatives aimed at strongly and sustainably increasing food production in Africa, in the face of the looming food crisis due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict and for the longer term. It will explore evidence-based approaches to building a robust and viable agricultural sector that creates jobs and livelihoods.

### Background and theme

In terms of agricultural productivity and food security in Africa, given that it has 60% of the remaining arable land in the world, the potential for the agriculture sector's growth is massive and largely under-tapped. Declining agricultural productivity in Africa has aggravated persistent rural poverty and food insecurity, and at current trends, net food imports are likely to increase to over \$100 billion by 2025. Weaknesses in local value chains and reliance on imports have made Africa particularly vulnerable to disruption in trade and logistics. These factors, as well as the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, contributed to the food price increases observed in 2021, which have heightened even further in 2022 due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

The AfDB is optimistic that these trends can be reversed if governments and financial institutions step up their support for agricultural transformation and improve agricultural productivity on the continent. Accordingly, the proposal is for the Bank, in its new Ten-Year Strategy (TYS), to focus on building a robust, business-oriented, and commercially viable agricultural sector that creates jobs and livelihoods, providing millions of Africans a sustainable route out of poverty.

The new Bank YYS intends to build resilience and emergency preparedness within the context of Africa's ongoing development challenges. The YYS development process is building a strong base of evidence as to what works – the good practices, innovations,



and lessons learned, including the critical response to COVID-19. It is drawing from Bank programs addressing agricultural productivity and food security and other similar and or related interventions.

## Session Focus

This session brings together experts to share evidence-based lessons and ideas on increasing agricultural productivity in a sustainable way in Africa through a business-oriented and commercially viable agricultural sector.

The session will start with a keynote address on “boosting agricultural productivity with a focus on smallholders, improving production and lessons from the recent challenges to food production.”

Following the keynote, a panel of experts and decision-makers representing international financial institutions, evaluation officers and African government bodies in the sector will discuss lessons and evidence of incentives for boosting food production, ensuring sustainable agricultural practices and the potential of the agricultural value chain in boosting food security on the continent.

What to expect from the session

Participants will gain insights from evaluation, research, and experience, which could inform the design and execution of agricultural initiatives addressing increased food production in Africa and its distribution. Participants will also discuss lessons and findings from evaluations on the sustainability and long-term impact of initiatives to improve agricultural production.

## Relevant evaluations and other knowledge products:

- [Lessons from IDEV Water and Agriculture Evaluations](#)
- [Strengthening Agricultural Water Management to Feed Africa](#)
- [Evaluation of the AfDB’s Support for Agricultural Value Chains Development \(thematic and cluster evaluation\)](#)
- [Impact Evaluation of the AfDB-supported small-scale irrigation projects in Malawi](#)

## Session details:

Date: 29 September 2022

Time: 14:00 – 16:00 GMT

Location: Virtual via online Zoom session

## Session program

Time	Intervention	Role	Person
14:00	Introduction to the speaker	Moderator	Andrew Gahe Mude, Lead SME Agribusiness Development, Agriculture Rural Finance division, AfDB
14:05	Keynote Address: Boosting Smallholder farmers' productivity to feed Africa against the looming food crisis	Speaker	Babafemi Oyewole, CEO, Pan African Farmers' Organization (PAFO)
14:30	introduction to the panel session, Setting the Scene	Moderator	Andrew Gahe Mude
14:35	Panel Discussion Topic: Incentives for increasing food production in Africa	Panelist	Babafemi Oyewole
		Panelist	Andrea Cook, Director of Evaluation, World Food Program
		Panelist	Mr. Fregene, Director, Agriculture & Agro-Industry, AfDB
15:20	Q&A		All

For more information about AfDB Development Evaluation week, please visit: <https://idev.afdb.org/en/afdb-evaluation-week-2022>

