



RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, AFRICA
Hyatt Regency, Johannesburg, 25 – 27 June 2018

Shaping a future without hunger: the innovations accelerating agricultural growth

Scheduling

Date: Wednesday 27th June 2018

Time: 11:30 – 13:15 (1 hour 45 minutes)

Venue: Hyatt Regency, 191 Oxford Rd, Rosebank, Johannesburg, 2132, South Africa

Room: Ayanda I&II

Speakers

Moderator: Angus Kelly, Head of Business Sustainability, Africa, Middle East, Syngenta

Hillary Miller-Wise, CEO, Tulaa

Kinyua M'Mbijewe, Consultant, AGcuity

Felistar Obonyo, Project Manager, Syngenta East Africa

Synopsis

The food security imperative seems to be slipping from the global agenda. Although we witnessed a steady decline in world hunger over the course of about ten years, FAO estimates about 815 million people are still undernourished—up from 777 million in 2015¹. While Africa has made some steps forward in new technology adoption thereby reducing hunger and providing food security for its fast growing population, food insecurity still remains a challenge faced by many with current yields for most crops being well below their potential. Unlike Asia, Africa has yet to experience its own Green Revolution, and attempts to modernize agriculture are hindered by a series of structural factors like infrastructure limitations, poorly functioning markets, climate and unfavorable policy environments.

Clearly, the West (Europe and the Americas) has the luxury of overlooking food crises of their southern neighbors-experienced as recently as last year in the Horn of Africa famine. So, food security advocates must redouble their efforts to keep hunger and malnourishment high on humanitarian, business, and government agendas.

This however does not imply a lack of innovative solutions. And, big donor organizations and multinational businesses are not the only ones bringing them to bear in the agricultural and food sectors. With this panel, Syngenta wants to bring a mix of players together who do not normally get a chance to interact and exchange ideas. While African agriculture needs big ideas and innovations to liberate its potential, these big ideas can often come from small places. Farmers, SMEs, big businesses, donor organizations, and start-ups need more interaction to find the sweet spots between their efforts towards Zero Hunger (SDG2) and commercial

¹ <http://www.fao.org/state-of-food-security-nutrition/en/>



agriculture.

This panel gives voice to some of the organizations, start-ups and individuals working towards feeding and employing the booming African population, with the focus on providing small and large farmers with the necessary financing, inputs and knowledge to increase their yields and raise their income. The panel also wants to be a call to action for African governments to reform the policy environment to make it more conducive to investment and employment.

Format (1 hour 45 minutes)

We kindly request that you do not prepare slides.

1. **Welcome and introduction:** The moderator will briefly introduce each panellist, and provide a short overview to frame the discussion **(10 minutes)**.
2. **Panel discussion:** The moderator will ask each panellist for their views and experiences, with examples drawn from practice and current initiatives, before opening up to a wider discussion between panellists **(40 minutes)**.
3. **Audience Roundtable Discussions:** Delegates will discuss, share and finally agree on **three** priority recommendations on how organisations can better support innovation, youth and technology generation to drive development **(25 minutes)**.

An example recommendation: "Private sector to provide innovation incubator programmes for youth to help develop business skills at the same time as creative solutions."

Panellists are welcomed to join in a roundtable to support the discussions. The moderator may wish to roam among tables as the point of contact for the recommendations.

4. **Feedback from Roundtables:** Each table will assign a rapporteur to stand and share their recommendations with the room **(20 minutes)**.
5. **Wrap up:** Moderator will close with a quick summary of the main discussion points and recommendations and select three of these recommendations to report back in the plenary **(10 minutes)**.

Thank you again for joining us, and we look forward to the discussion.

Kind regards,

Ria Coburn
Senior Programme Manager
Global Initiatives