



MALABO
MONTPELLIER
PANEL

Evidence and Dialogue to Facilitate Policy Innovation for Sustainable Food Systems Transformation in Africa



The Malabo Montpellier Panel is jointly facilitated by



AKADEMIYA



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Center for
Development Research
University of Bonn

Accelerating Progress Toward Building Resilient Food Systems in Africa

The Malabo Montpellier Panel convenes 18 leading experts in agriculture, ecology, nutrition, and food security to guide policy choices by African governments to accelerate progress toward building resilient food systems in Africa. The Panel works with African governments and civil society initiatives to identify areas of progress and positive change across the continent and assesses what successful countries have done differently. It identifies the most important institutional and policy innovations and program interventions that can be replicated and scaled by other countries.

Since 2017, the Malabo Montpellier Panel has been building on the earlier Montpellier Panel to place greater emphasis on African continental initiatives and policy programs, such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) under the Malabo Declaration.

The core mission of the Panel is to support evidence-based dialogue at the highest level and guide policy choices to accelerate progress toward the ambitious goals of the Malabo Declaration to achieve food security, improve nutrition and halve the number of people in poverty by 2025.





The Panel facilitates progress towards the Declaration's aims through the promotion of policy innovation for an inclusive agricultural growth and transformation in Africa, with the ultimate goal of improving the livelihoods of smallholders and their families, creating job opportunities in rural areas, on and off the farm, and enhancing nutrition outcomes. The Panel is jointly facilitated by AKADEMIYA2063 and the University of Bonn, and is Co-Chaired by Dr. Ousmane Badiane (Executive Chairperson, AKADEMIYA2063) and Professor Joachim von Braun (Distinguished Professor, Center for Development Research, University of Bonn).

The associated Malabo Montpellier Forum gathers senior representatives of African governments and other key stakeholders to promote dialogue and exchange knowledge on the evidence presented in reports prepared by the Panel. The Forum serves as a platform to bring research into use at cross-country or continental levels. The Malabo Montpellier Forum is Co-Chaired by His Excellency Hailemariam Dessalegn, former Prime Minister of Ethiopia and Her Excellency Assia Ben Salah Alaoui, Ambassador at Large to His Majesty the King of Morocco.

The evidence presented in the Panel's reports is researched by a team of highly reputable experts to inform and guide dialogue between members of the Panel and leading decision-makers during the Forum. The easily accessible and readable evidence-based policy reports fill an important gap. In particular, the Panel provides expert knowledge and guidance for policy – based on careful analysis of literature, scientific evidence and practical experience on the ground. It adds value to food systems transformation in Africa by creating a space for decision makers at the highest levels to access the latest technical evidence in key strategic development areas.

The Panel's strong emphasis on evidence-based analysis, mutual learning, and exchange at the highest levels, positions it as an important actor in support of agricultural transformation and economic development efforts in Africa.



5 Facts



The Malabo Montpellier Panel was **established in 2017** to support the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development (CAADP) agenda and the African Union's Agenda 2063.



The Panel boasts 18 experts in food security and nutrition from Africa, Europe, and Asia.



The Panel's researchers produce 2 evidence-based reports per year.



Its mission is aligned with the African Union Agenda 2063.

The Malabo Montpellier Panel is generously supported by



Meet the Malabo Montpellier Panel Members



Ousmane Badiane
Co-Chair, Malabo Montpellier Panel
Executive Chairperson, AKADEMIYA2063



Joachim Von Braun
Co-Chair, Malabo Montpellier Panel
Distinguished Professor,
Center for Development Research
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Debisi Araba
Visiting Researcher, Imperial
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Nachilala Nkombo
Former Country Director, World
Wide Fund for Nature (WWF),
Zambia



Tom Arnold
Irish Government's Special
Envoy for Food Systems



Wanjiru Kamau-Rutenberg
Founder & Executive Director,
Black Women in Executive
Leadership (B-WEL)



Gordon Conway (1938-2023)
Professor of International Development,
Imperial College London



Ishmael Sunga
Chief Executive Officer, Southern
African Confederation of
Agricultural Unions (SACAU)



Gebisa Ejeta
Distinguished Professor of Plant
Breeding & Genetics & International
Agriculture, Purdue University



Rhoda Peace Tumusiime
Former AU Commissioner for Rural
Economy & Agriculture, African
Union Commission (AUC)



Karim El Aynaoui
President, Policy Center
for the New South



Ashok Gulati
Infosys Chair Professor for Agriculture,
Indian Council for Research on International
Economic Relations (ICRIER)



Sheryl Hendriks
Director, Natural Resources
Institute, University of Greenwich, UK



Elisabeth Claverie de Saint-Martin
CEO, Agricultural Research Centre for
International Cooperation (CIRAD)



Muhammadou M.O. Kah
Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary
of The Gambia to Switzerland & Permanent
Representative to UN Organisations
at Geneva, WTO & Other International
Organisations in Switzerland



Dorothy Okello
Dean, School of Engineering at
Makerere University, Uganda



Agnes M. Kalibata
President, Alliance for a Green
Revolution in Africa



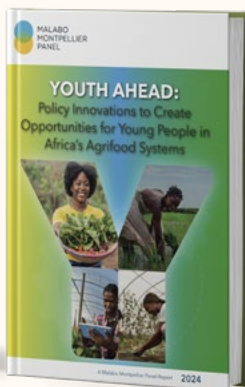
Lee Ann Jackson
Head of the Agro-Food Trade & Markets
Division, Trade & Agriculture Directorate
(TAD), Organization for Economic
Co-operation & Development (OECD)

Research

The Panel produces accessible and readable reports for senior policymakers and key stakeholders, providing expert knowledge and policy guidance based on literature analysis, scientific evidence and practical experience. The Panel’s emphasis on evidence-based research, mutual learning and exchange at the highest levels of policy positions it as a crucial actor in continental and global efforts to support agricultural transformation and economic development in Africa.

The Panel publishes two technical reports each year, which are unveiled during the biannual Malabo Montpellier Forum, convened to facilitate dialogue and knowledge sharing. In addition, the Panel consistently participates in global discourse and action around strategic issues through briefing papers, international conferences, and workshops.

Our Reports



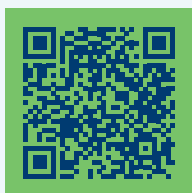
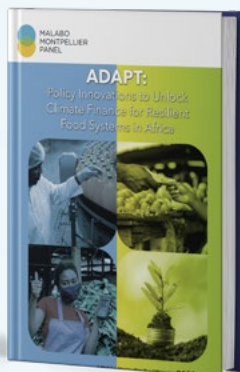
YOUTH IN AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS – 2024

YOUTH AHEAD: Policy Innovations to Create Opportunities for Young People in Africa’s Agrifood Systems draws on the experience of four systematically selected African countries, Ghana, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, to highlight successful and emerging interventions to empower youth and facilitate a thriving environment for their leadership and engagement in sustainable food systems transformation. The report reviews the challenges and demonstrates opportunities, focusing on providing market-relevant skills for decent employment and entrepreneurship.



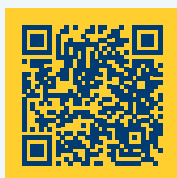
WOMEN IN AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS – 2023

BRIDGING THE GAP: Policy Innovations to Put Women at the Center of Food Systems Transformation in Africa, draws on the experience of four systematically selected African countries, Ethiopia, Ghana, Rwanda and Togo, to identify entry points for making food systems work (better) for women in Africa. With this report, the Malabo Montpellier Panel highlights areas of progress, particularly government actions that are empowering women and facilitating their agency and meaningful participation in food systems, and possible opportunities for replication of successful interventions across the continent.



CLIMATE FINANCE – 2022

ADAPT: Policy Innovations to Unlock Climate Finance for Resilient Food Systems in Africa shows that an array of innovative financing tools and mechanisms are available and, if deployed effectively, could complement existing tools and mechanisms to mobilize finance for building resilient food systems. In fact, while all African countries are investing significant national resources in response to climate change, much more could be done to build stronger institutions and formulate sound policies. The report finds that a wide range of innovative financing tools and mechanisms exist to mobilize additional finance from both the public and the private sectors. Our analysis of the policy and institutional innovations in Benin, Mali, Rwanda, and Zimbabwe – provides examples of effective government action to leverage climate adaptation finance for food systems transformation.



BIOECONOMY – 2022

NATURE'S SOLUTIONS: Policy Innovations and Opportunities for Africa's Bioeconomy draws attention to fields of innovations that are rapidly evolving worldwide, and where Africa is well-positioned to create its own unique approach. This report draws on the experience of four African countries - Ghana, Namibia, South Africa, and Uganda - already exploring various bioeconomy approaches and whose policy and institutional innovations are noteworthy for other countries on the continent.



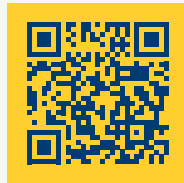
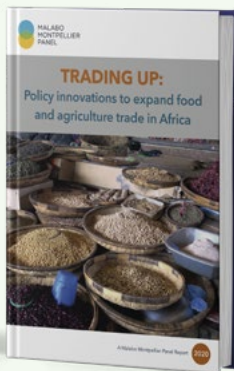
RECIPES FOR SUCCESS – A MONOGRAPH – 2021

RECIPES FOR SUCCESS: Policy Innovations for Food Systems Transformation, Building Resilience and Adapting to Climate Change summarizes the main findings from the seven reports the Panel published between 2017-2020, providing a practical guide to support efforts by African countries to accelerate progress toward ending hunger and transforming their food systems.



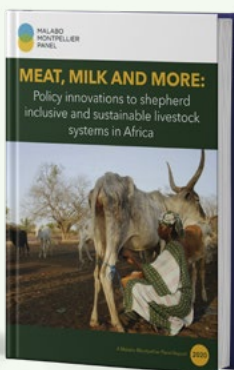
FOOD SYSTEMS – 2021

CONNECTING THE DOTS: Policy Innovations for Food Systems Transformation in Africa, draws on the experience and, at times, visionary leadership of four African countries: Ghana, Malawi, Morocco, and Rwanda. It focuses on their policy and institutional innovations, which have moved the needle toward systems-level change and transformation.



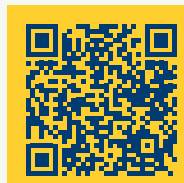
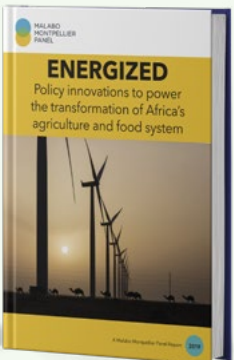
TRADE – 2020

TRADING UP: Policy Innovations to expand Food and Agricultural Trade in Africa, provides options for sustainably yet rapidly increasing intraregional agricultural trade in Africa, drawing on the experience of COMESA, ECOWAS and SADC in terms of institutional and policy innovation as well as programmatic interventions.



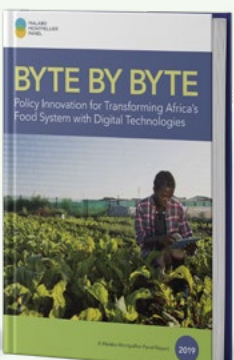
LIVESTOCK – 2020

MEAT, MILK & MORE: Policy Innovations to Shepherd Inclusive and Sustainable Livestock Systems in Africa, highlights options for sustainably promoting growth in the livestock sector, drawing from what four African countries have done successfully in terms of institutional and policy innovation as well as programmatic interventions.



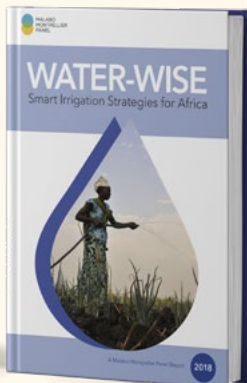
ENERGY – 2019

ENERGIZED: Policy Innovations to Power the Transformation of Africa's Agriculture and Food System, summarizes the findings of a systematic analysis of what six African countries at the forefront of progress on sustainable energy provision for rural areas and the agriculture sector have done right.



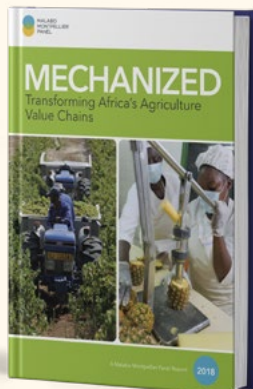
DIGITALIZATION – 2019

BYTE BY BYTE: Policy Innovation for Transforming Africa's Food System with Digital Technologies, summarizes the key findings of a systematic analysis of how seven African countries are applying digital technologies and services to transform their agriculture sectors.



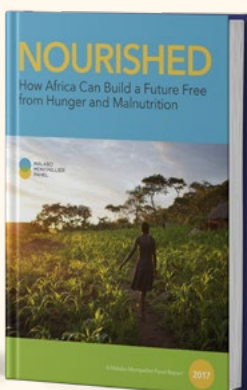
IRRIGATION – 2018

WATER-WISE: Smart Irrigation Strategies for Africa, summarizes the key findings of a systematic analysis of what six African countries – Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, Niger and South Africa – at the forefront of progress on irrigation have done right.



MECHANIZATION – 2018

MECHANIZED: Transforming Africa's Agriculture Value Chains, summarizes the findings of a systematic analysis of what countries at the forefront of progress in mechanization have done right. It analyzes which policy decisions were taken and which interventions were implemented to substantially increase the uptake of mechanization.



NUTRITION – 2017

NOURISHED: How Africa Can Build a Future Free from Hunger and Malnutrition, takes a systematic country study approach to identify where progress has been achieved. It analyzes which policy decisions were taken to substantially reduce malnutrition levels and to promote healthier and more diverse diets, and draws lessons for other countries to replicate such successes.

The Malabo Montpellier Forum



The biannual Malabo Montpellier Forum convenes senior decision-makers to assess strategies for meeting global agriculture and food security goals. Dialogue between the Panel, key stakeholders, NGOs, and the private sector promotes the sharing of high-quality research across borders.

Through exchange and mutual learning among leaders in agricultural growth and food security, the Malabo Montpellier Forum provides a platform to promote policy innovation using evidence produced by the Malabo Montpellier Panel. The Forum seeks to create a space for politicians and policymakers to exchange directly on issues of strategic importance in a context free from domestic pressures.

Every meeting of the Forum is guided by a technical report prepared by members of the Malabo Montpellier Panel; these research reports provide high-level decision-makers with access to the latest evidence to guide effective implementation of policies and programs that benefit smallholder farmers in Africa, especially women and young people.

The Malabo Montpellier Forum thereby serves as a platform to bring the latest research into use at a cross-country or continental scale. Every session gathers countries that have made the most progress in a given strategic area to share their experience with other countries for mutual learning and exchange of best practices to help sustain and broaden recent progress towards better outcomes in agricultural transformation and economic development across Africa.

Meet the Forum Co-Chairs



H.E. Hailemariam Dessalegn

Former Prime Minister of Ethiopia
Co-Chair, Malabo Montpellier Forum



H.E. Assia Ben Salah Alaoui

Ambassador at Large to His Majesty the King of Morocco
Co-Chair, Malabo Montpellier Forum

High-Level Policy Dialogues and Workshops

The Panel publishes technical reports and briefing papers and participates in international conferences and workshops to facilitate dialogue and stakeholder engagement. The Panel equally hosts a webinar series to strengthen collaboration and knowledge sharing.

Key areas of research analyzed in recent sessions include:



Opportunities for Africa's bioeconomy



Youth in Agrifood Systems Forum



Climate Change, climate finance, and food systems



Policy Innovations for Sustainable Food Systems and Land Use



Scaling a Clean Energy Food Transformation



Empowering Women to Succeed in Africa's Livestock Sector



Policy Innovations for Innovative Agri-tech and Mechanization, Food System and Healthy Diets, and a sustainable Livestock Sector in Africa



Are digital technologies the answer to food system transformation in Africa during COVID-19?



Meet the Malabo Montpellier Panel Staff



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