

Conference of Ministers 2018

Side event

A force to be reckoned with: Agriculture Powering Africa's Economic Transformation

Jointly organized by
Economic Commission for Africa — Regional Integration and Trade Division
and
African Center for Economic Transformation

To be held at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC), Addis Ababa

From 11 a.m. to 12 noon on 13 May 2018

Background

Agriculture Powering Africa's Economic Transformation is the second African Transformation Report published by the African Center for Economic Transformation. The report focuses on transforming agriculture that impels economic transformation in Africa. Africa has a comparative advantage in respect of unused arable land, water resources, labour, and growing seasons that are long. It follows that agriculture is central to African economies and that the rationale is compelling for leveraging the sector to kick-start overall economic transformation. The report examines agriculture with a broad economic transformation lens. It looks at how to remodel and commercialize agriculture by raising productivity on farms while reducing harvest and post-harvest losses, strengthening value chains, and linking agriculture more effectively to the rest of the economy through downstream agroprocessing, upstream manufacturing of inputs, and logistics. The report also looks at how a transformed agriculture will create employment in value chains, increase incomes, reduce poverty, and help improve the external trade balance. Cross-cutting issues that are considered include gender equity, environment and climate change.

Objective

The main objective of the side event is to share the key findings of *Agriculture Powering Africa's Economic Transformation*. The event will provide evidence-based information to policymakers and other stakeholders on how to go about modelling inclusive structural transformation through agricultural modernization and agroprocessing policies that link smallholders to input and output markets.

Expected outcomes

The expected outcomes of the side event include the following:

- Provide a platform to discuss African economic transformation powered by agriculture, with a view to achieving inclusive growth;
- Share information on opportunities and challenges and contribute to an agenda for Africa's agricultural transformation;
- Outline next steps, including partnerships and upcoming forums.

Target audience

The target audience of the side event includes:

- Officials of the ministries of finance, economic planning and industry, agriculture;
- Relevant planners at national and regional levels;
- Investors and farmers organizations;
- National and international institutions and agencies involved in agricultural transformation;
- Other relevant policymakers.

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