



KIPCHUMBA FOUNDATION

Agriculture and Food Security in Africa

The 9th multi-disciplinary conference by Kipchumba Foundation; it will be convened online on Thursday 15 November 2018 from 15.00 GMT to 17.00 GMT

Introduction

In all Africa's governments' sessional papers, strategic policies and plans, agriculture is stated as the backbone of their economies because majority of the population live in rural areas and depend on subsistence farming; thus agriculture employs the largest percentage of Africans as much as it contributes a lot more to their Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The Governments' drive and that of their global partners towards investment in agriculture, with a focus on value addition of produce and maximization of returns in both local and external markets are some of the initiatives aimed at alleviating food insecurity in Africa. Irrigation farming has been touted as a response to drought that has compromised with food security and also diminished the number of livestock in arid and semi-arid areas.

Agricultural institutions have sprung up to fill this need. Similarly, there are agricultural associations and various other agricultural agencies. Despite all these efforts, Africa has not made any breakthrough in the realm of food security.

Themes

The following among others are the possible issues to be tackled:

- Agricultural policies
- State of food security and strategic grain reserves
- Agricultural value additions and innovations
- Agricultural education
- Agricultural institutions and agencies
- State of crop husbandry
- State of animal husbandry
- State of other agricultural activities (e.g. beekeeping, poultry keeping, fisheries, etc.)
- Appropriation of wild game (e.g. guinea fowls) into mainstream agriculture
- Political influence on agriculture
- Agricultural engineering and technology (machinery versus manual labour)
- Successes, challenges or failures of irrigation schemes
- Agricultural imports and exports
- Agricultural industries and value chains (e.g. machinery, fertilizers, seeds, etc.)

- Industrial action/ labour strikes in agriculture
- Agriculture as a national interest