



Fondation pour l'agriculture  
et la ruralité dans le monde  
RECONNUE D'UTILITE PUBLIQUE

Pluriagri

## **Annual conference**

# **Africa and the Covid-19 crisis: looking for more resilient food systems**

with the support of the French Ministry of  
Agriculture and Food, the French Ministry of  
Europe and Foreign Affairs, and the French  
Development Agency

## **Videoconference**

December 18th, 2020 // 9:10 a.m.- 4:45 p.m.

Connection 9:00 a.m.

Start 9:10 a.m.

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**To register click [here](#)**

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The pandemic of Covid-19 has hit hard food value chains in Africa, through domestic and foreign trade effects on supply and demand. Its impact has been all the more important as this sector has long suffered from structural weaknesses that hamper its capacity to provide food security, expand, and create jobs. Hence the need to debate on which measures to take and which policies to implement in order to increase the resilience of food systems, in preparation for the shocks of different nature (economic, climatic, sanitary...) that may occur again in the future.

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**In this context, the conference will first focus on the consequences of the pandemic on farmers and food processors in Africa.**

Looking beyond the current crisis, it will reflect on some actions that might strengthen their resistance to shocks: a *better coordination of food value chains*, the *building-up of food reserves*, and an easier *access to credit and insurance*. As usual in FARM conferences, priority will be given to stakeholders' testimonies and to an interactive conversation with the participants.

**The conference will then take back a topic already addressed in 2019, the importance of which is magnified by the pandemic: the weight of the informal sector.** In light of the disruptions caused by the Covid-19, what are the consequences of this situation for the resilience of African food value chains?

Which initiatives can be taken by private firms and governments to improve workers's social protection and facilitate the inclusion of all segments of the food sector, in order to increase tax revenues to finance the development of the continent?



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MORNING //

## **The structural weaknesses revealed by the pandemic, the ways for more resilient food systems in Africa**

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9:10 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. //

### **Opening:**

**Eric Thirouin**, President, Pluriagri

**Jean-Marie Sander**, President, FARM

9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. //

**Introduction:** Lessons from the Covid-19 crisis for African food value chains

**Ousmane Badiane**, Executive Chairman, Akademiya2063.

An international organization based in Kigali (Rwanda), Akademiya manages the portfolio of policy research and capacity strengthening support for the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) of the African Union

10:00 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. // **Debate with stakeholders: Improving food systems' resilience**



10:00 a.m. - 11:05 a.m. // **Better coordination of food value chains**

**Bachir Rockya Lailaba**, founder of Sahel Délices, a food processing company in Niger;

**Kola Masha**, founder of Babban Gona, a network for the professionalization and marketing of cooperatives in Nigeria  
*Moderator: Marc Debets*, Director of Apexagri, International consultancy on the development of food value chains

11:05 a.m. - 12:10 a.m. //

### **Building-up food reserves**

**Franck Galtier**, researcher, Cirad (French Agricultural Research Center for International Development);

**Bintou Diallo**, Programme Policy Officer, World Food Programme, Burkina Faso

*Moderator: Jean René Cuzon*, Project Manager, Agriculture, French Development Agency

12:10 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. //

### **Enhancing the financing and insurance of food value chains**

**Malick Ndiaye**, CEO, La Banque Agricole, the major agricultural bank in Senegal;

**George Kuria**, CEO, ACRE Africa (Kenya), a company providing risk management solutions to African farmers

*Moderator: Marie-José Neveu Tafforeau*, Consultant, Strategy and Investment in food value chains in Africa



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AFTERNOON //

## **The importance of informal sector:**

which public policies and private initiatives to improve resilience and increase stakeholders' inclusion?

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2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. //

### **Debate:**

*A variety of approaches*

**Morlé Koudeka**, Ministry of Digital Economy and Digital Transformation of Togo, Technical Director of the Novissi cash transfer program;

**Alexandra Berreby**, Bel, Director of the Sharing Cities program in support of street vendors;

**Pascal Ablasse**, CEO of Zakef, private trader in the palm oil sector in Côte d'Ivoire;

**Grégoire Rota-Graziosi**, Professor, tax expert, Director of Cerdi (Center for Studies and Research on International Development)

*Moderator:* Bernard Valluis, Consultant, Honorary Chairman of the European Flour Millers Association

4:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. //

### **Closing:**

**Pierre Jacquet**, President, FARM's Scientific Council

