



THE AFRICA-EU PARTNERSHIP
LE PARTENARIAT AFRIQUE-UE



AFRICAN UNION – EUROPEAN UNION MINISTERIAL MEETING

FAO HQ, Rome 21 June 2019

13:00 – 14:15

CONCEPT NOTE for the side event

Subject: **Modernizing Africa's Agricultural Value Chains: Opportunities and Challenges**

Format: Parallel sit event of the lunch break: Guided panel discussion among various stakeholders with a high degree of audience participation

Concept

Currently, Africa is the region with the least mechanized agricultural system in the world. African farmers have 10 times fewer mechanized tools per farm area than farmers in other developing regions, and access has not grown as quickly as in other region. Furthermore, Africa has the highest share of food loss and waste, which totals 36 percent.

It is absolutely crucial to secure harvested food and to achieve higher yields through mechanization in order to increase the incomes and the livelihoods of African Farmers: The African agriculture needs to modernize, otherwise the continent is not going to be able to feed its rising population (which is estimated to double by 2050). Another important issue is that, new technologies can make farming more attractive for the youth: currently the average age of farmers in Africa is very high, some sources estimate an average age of 60 years. The younger generation is not attracted to the hard work of agriculture and is therefore moving into cities, it is necessary to make farming an attractive business.

In the proposed site event we want to discuss with the expert panel and the audience how mechanization can succeed in Africa. Over the past decades we have witnessed state-led mechanization efforts throughout the continent, which often failed due to challenges such as the lack to spare part, the lack of adapted machinery and training. Mechanization needs therefore to be linked with adequate education. It is also necessary to analyse what kind of machinery and what kind of business models (such as cooperation, syndicates, leasing models etc.) make sense. We want to discuss those challenges and also raise the issue if mechanization is labour replacing or enhancing. When looking at these challenges it becomes clear, that the agribusiness sector also has to work closely with the finance sector in order to find solutions for specific needs: the access to mechanization can be facilitated through various financing models such as combined credits for sellers and buyers, micro-credits or joint financing through a community.

Proposed format and potential panellists:

Introductory remarks by the chair

Chair: Frank Nordmann, Co-Chair German Agribusiness Alliance, Member of the Board Afrika-Verein, General Sales Manager Africa, Southeast Asia, Oceania, GRIMME Landmaschinenfabrik GmbH & Co. KG

Keynote

- Dr Theo de Jager
President
World Farmers Organisation

Panel discussion

- What are the basic challenges of agricultural modernization for farmers in Africa?
- What is the potential of mechanization in the development of agriculture, especially in the area of food sufficiency?
- What critical role can mechanization play in the agricultural value chain in the fight against post-harvest losses?
- How can new technologies increase yields?
- What efforts are being made to support farming groups with machineries before and during farming seasons?
- Is modernization in Africa creating or destroying jobs?
- How to finance new technologies?

Proposed Panellist's:

- Frank Nordmann, Co-Chair German Agribusiness Alliance, Member of the Board Afrika-Verein, General Sales Manager Africa, Southeast Asia, Oceania, GRIMME Landmaschinenfabrik GmbH & Co. KG
- MinDirg. Friedrich Wacker
Head of the Directorate "International Cooperation and World Food Affairs"
Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture (BMEL)
- Dr Benjamin Kwasi Addom
Team Leader ICT for Agriculture
CTA
- Dr Theo de Jager
President
World Farmers Organisation

- Representative African Development Bank (tbc)

Moderator: Anna Sophia Rainer, Manager German Agribusiness Alliance, German-African Business Association