





Climate Action Frontiers: Leading the Change for Women in Agricultural Value Chains

Date: Saturday 12 November, 2022. Time: 16:30 – 18:00 Venue: Area C, Pavilion 54, of the Sharm El-Sheikh International Convention Center,

Overview: This event will highlight how Kenya is amongst the leading countries on the African continent embracing biotechnology and applying frontier innovations to increase agricultural productivity and improve food systems. Since women are at the frontlines of agriculture and face head on the challenges of climate change, the event will focus on climate actions, which are gender sensitive or have greatest potential to positively impact the lives of women. We believe that the world cannot prosper if women suffer and this event will showcase some of the inspirational work by the First Lady of Kenya, a Climate Action Champion, supporting a national network of female led organisations, empowering thousands of women who have mobilised significant resources to transform lives and communities in under a decade.

This side event will also examine the fragilities in African agriculture and food systems which lead to dependencies on food aid and disaster relief, it will highlight outstanding frontier technology innovations with the greatest potential for accelerating change, policy initiatives to support stakeholders, including farmers, to make informed choices on agricultural biotechnology in Africa and to science communications campaigns to create an enabling environment for science-based solutions to global challenges.

Background: At the frontlines of climate change are African women, who suffer disproportionately from the adverse effects of climate events in many areas, including agriculture and food security, biodiversity and ecosystems, water resources, human health, human settlements, migration patterns, energy, transport, and industry. And yet, at the leading edge of transformational change are biotechnology, genetically modified and gene edited crop, which when allied to smart, digital, and precision agricultural technologies, create extraordinary opportunities to improve farm productivity in the near future.

Such frontier technologies are wide-ranging, including small mobile applications for decision support, field sensors and remote sensing technologies for data collection, drones and robots for automation of processes, and digital platforms for market access and sales. Use of these technologies helps address information asymmetries and deficiencies facing farmers, particularly smallholders, which can improve agricultural productivity and save costs, while also helping to mitigate the environmental impact of farm activities.









Theme: Strengthening Resilience. Session Title: Agriculture & Food Systems

The Global South Hub, a partnership between The Alliance for Science and Thunderbird School of Global Management, <u>part of Arizona State University</u>, recently launched a communications campaign called *Relief to Resilience*, which highlights innovations and technologies across the spectrum of science, with the ability to move vulnerable communities from states of dependency, towards paths of resilience.

The Alliance for Science also works in partnership with the Open Forum for Biotechnology (OFAB), to improve the policy environment and empower stakeholders to make informed choices on agricultural biotechnology in Africa. Other invited guest speakers will include the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

Venue: Mixture of in-person and virtual. Panelists will be on stage and questions will be taken from both live and virtual participants.

Format: A Keynote Speech from the First Lady of Kenya, followed by a Q & A. Then a short introductory video(2-3mins) on the session theme, followed a discussion with 4-person panel, moderated by Dr Sheila Ochugboju, that takes place for 75-90 minutes. Closing remarks will be given by a Senior UN Official

Opening remarks: Dr Youssef Nasser, Director, Adaptation, UNFCCC (TBC)

Keynote Speaker: H. E. Mrs Rachel Ruto, First lady of Kenya. Founder of <u>Mama Doing Good</u> Foundation

Panelists:

- Mr Philip Thigo, Senior Director for Africa, Thunderbird School of Global Management.
- Mr Vitumbiko Chinoko, Program Manager, Open Forum for Biotechnology (OFAB)
- Dr Asha Mohammed Addulrahim, Secretary General, Kenya Red Cross (TBC)
- Dr Tasila Banda, Founding Member, Network of African Women Environmentalists (NAWE)
- Dr Rose Mwebeza, Director, Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN)

Closing Remarks: Ms Ahunna Eziakonwa, UNDP Assistant Administrator, Assistant Secretary General and Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

- 1. Alliance for Science is a global communications initiative based at The Boyce Thompson Institute ('BTI') a 501(c)(3) non-profit institute independently affiliated with and located in Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. We seek a future where science and innovation is shared and supported to help bring about a world without poverty, where people everywhere can flourish on an ecologically protected and restored planet. We conduct advocacy, communications, and research to help promote an enabling environment for science-based solutions to global challenges.
- 2. The Open Forum for Agricultural Biotechnology (OFAB) project facilitates constructive conversations among key stakeholders and decision-makers on agricultural biotechnology. For both policymakers and the larger public, OFAB facilitates quality engagements and conversations on the safety and benefits of modern biotechnology. OFAB, a project of AATF, is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and is being implemented in ten African countries—Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Nigeria, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Malawi and Rwanda.
- 3. Thunderbird School of Global Management, part of Arizona State University, which is a global network of leaders, managers and entrepreneurs innovating across the private and public sectors to advance inclusive and sustainable prosperity worldwide.
- 4. The Centre for Climate Technology and Network (CTCN) promotes the accelerated transfer of environmentally sound technologies for low carbon and climate resilient development at the request of developing countries. We provide technology solutions, capacity building and advice on policy, legal and regulatory frameworks tailored to the needs of individual countries.

