

Private Sector Meeting

Transformative Partnerships for African Productivity and Growth

HOSTED BY: GROW AFRICA

<http://growafrica.com/>



DATE, LOCATION :

Wednesday, October 17, 2012, 18:30-19:30 pm / IRAN Room

SPEAKERS:

- Alice Kachere: Representative, National Smallholder Farmers Association of Malawi (NASFAM) and World Farmers Organization
- Carlos Seré: Chief Development Strategist, International Fund for Agricultural Development
- Tobias Takavarasha: Head, Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, NEPAD Secretariat
- Sean de Cleene: Co-Chair of Grow Africa and Senior Vice-President, Global Initiatives, Strategy and Business Development, Yara International
- Jonathan Shrier: Acting Special Representative for Global Food Security, Deputy Coordinator for Diplomacy for Feed the Future, U.S. Department of State
- Ann Tutwiler: Deputy Director-General for Knowledge, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- Yaya Olaniran: Ambassador of Nigeria; Chairman of CFS Committee
- H.E. Christopher Chiza: Minister of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives, Tanzania

MODERATOR: David Nabarro: Special Representative of the UN SG for Food Security and Nutrition

MEETING SUMMARY

The purpose of this meeting was to present transformative partnerships as promoted and facilitated through Grow Africa model by complementing national agriculture-sector strategies in order to increase private sector investment into African agriculture.

The event will highlight cross-sector collaboration, facilitating best-practice exchange and stakeholder engagement, building increased trust and shared commitment and engaging all stakeholders including smallholder farmers.

KEY THEMES & DISCUSSION POINTS, INCLUDING NEW PROJECTS OR PARTNERSHIPS

H.E. Christopher Chiza, Minister of Agriculture, Tanzania

- The transparency and the trust are two essential principles if the private sector and the small holders want to coexist.
- In Tanzania the resources are available for the investors. The country is addressing key policies like tax benefits and access to land.

Alice Kachere, NASFAM and World Farmers Organization

- The National Smallholder Farmers' Association of Malawi (NASFAM) is the largest independent, smallholder-owned membership organization in Malawi and has worked to further food security in their country.
- Malawi is too dependent on the tobacco production, is important to have more investors and partnerships so the agriculture can be more varied.

Carlos Seré, International Fund for Agricultural Development

- The private sector is essential in the development process in agriculture, the governments need to be smart and realize what is needed to facilitate the participation of this sector; subsidies, infrastructure and incentives.
- An agricultural revolution is needed, in order to achieve a long term benefit to the society. It is essential to use the help of the governments and the NGO'S and to recognize that also the smallholders are the base of this sector.

Tobias Takavarasha, NEPAD

- 10% of the investment in agriculture should come from the private sector.
- The role of the government should be producing a framework that ensures that can happen.

Sean de Cleene, Grow Africa, Yara International

- There has to be engagement throughout all the value chain.
- An African sunrise is happening, but we need a responsible investment.
- The local companies can build the future of the value chain, that is where the real energy is.

Jonathan Shrier, U.S. Department of State

- The government of USA has been really interested in Grow Africa since its start.
- Grow Africa has been successful on recognizing the existing gap when it comes to mobilize resources from the private sector.

- The private sector has good cooperation in Africa and has made 1 Billion USD in investments.

Ann Tutwiler, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

- Is important to ensure that the smallholders can participate in the decision making process, at the same time is important to have a mechanism that helps them on finding sources of information.
- Grow Africa has identified the needs of the farmers.

Yaya Olaniran: Ambassador of Nigeria; Chairman of CFS Committee

- The agriculture in Africa needs to be professionalized, so the youth will see that as a career or a business, which will bring revenues to them.
- The UN agencies are critical in the process.
- The private sector can provide central farms and satellite farms.

MAIN CONCLUSIONS

- The countries must come up with plans or initiatives like Grow Africa, principally for investors.
- Grow Africa helps the countries to plan practical business in the agriculture.
- There is a need of effective awareness for education in this sector.
- Communication and transparency is fundamental between all the actors of the value chain, specially between the private sector, government and smallholders.