



**MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
Report of the Scientific Committee**

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Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honor to submit to your appreciation the report of the Scientific Committee following yesterday's meeting of the High-Level Advisory Scientific Panel of the Triple AAA Initiative.

Allow me to remind you that our work serves as a bridge between science and action and aims to feed reflection on policies and practices for adapting African agriculture to climate change. It also serves as a platform for exchange, mobilizing all the resources of scientific and technological progress in response to the impacts of climate change on agriculture and food security on our continent.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), presented to us by the Secretary-General of the IPCC, indicates a strong negative impact of climate change on agricultural productivity and food security in Africa. In fact, the risks of food insecurity and disruptions in food systems are real in case of strong temperature increase and drought, flooding or high variability in precipitation extremes.

We also noted how the impacts of climate change on food security in our continent have been further exacerbated by the impact of global shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ukrainian crisis, and the food and energy crises it has generated.

We believe that, despite the challenges, our continent has the potential not only to ensure its food security but also to make its agri-food sector a major lever for its overall development. For this, agriculture must no longer be passive but organized and strengthened in its resilience.

Science offers enormous potential to provide sustainable solutions for food security through innovations in genetic improvement to select and disseminate climate-adapted crop varieties that mature early and are tolerant to drought. We discussed innovations for the scientific and reasoned management of productive resources, including soil health and water management, which are two major concerns for our continent. We also examined innovations related to small farmers' access to credit and risk coverage through insurance systems adapted to African agriculture.

It is up to our governments, with the help and expertise of professional organizations, actors in agricultural and food sectors, and all research and innovation dissemination networks in our countries, to encourage and accompany this new dynamic, which alone will allow for sustainable development by ensuring economic competitiveness, food security, and better consideration of climate change.

Resolute action is necessary in many areas summarized in the following eight recommendations:

1. Integrate climate change adaptation in agriculture and environmental protection into economic planning. Investments in climate change adaptation in agriculture should not be seen as costs to the national economy, but as an integral part of sustainable economic recovery programs with a high cost-benefit ratio (the cost of adaptation represents less than 10% of the cost of non-adaptation).
2. Increase public investment in agriculture and infrastructure (roads, irrigation, rural electrification, digital connectivity, etc.) and promote partnerships with the private sector in these areas.
3. Improve access to financing, particularly for family farming, considering their economic and societal function in terms of employment, identity attachment in rural areas, as well as knowledge and cultural heritage.
4. Encourage climate risk management through insurance systems adapted to the specific conditions of African agriculture.
5. Give special attention to the technological sector, namely the "research-training-development" framework, as it is the key to improving productivity, competitiveness, resilience, and sustainability. Developed countries allocate around 3% of agricultural GDP (AGDP) to agronomic research, while in Africa, this funding represents only 0.4% of AGDP.
6. Exploit the opportunities offered by digitization. Like the entire economy, agriculture is entering the digital age. It is adopting digital tools that make it possible to create new knowledge, new services, and decision-making tools to improve the precision and relevance of interventions or strategic choices of professionals in agri-food value chains.
7. Facilitate the adoption of appropriate technologies by farmers through a coherent set of smart and targeted subsidies.
8. Redouble efforts to reach an agreement within the framework of multilateral climate negotiations held at COP on issues that are of greatest concern to Africa, knowing that adapting agriculture to climate change is critical to the overall development and prosperity of the continent.

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are convinced that the recommendations in this report can help strengthen the resilience of African agriculture in the face of climate change, while contributing to improving food security and economic development on our continent. We hope that these recommendations will be taken into account by governments, professional organizations, and actors in the agricultural and food industry for the development of policies and action programs adapted to our context.

Thank you for your attention.