



SIDE EVENT

Saturday 21 March 2021 at 12:00-1:30 pm EAT.

Digital agribusiness – For a sustainable industrialization”

The role of economic planning and capacity building towards a resilient economic recovery

Africa's sustainable industrialization and diversification has been a cross-cutting issue on the discussions over development, especially in the context of Agendas 2030 and 2063. A sustainable and green industrialization will have a positive impact over mitigating the effects of climate change, whereas at the same time contributing for the creation of jobs and for an effective regional integration. These three elements, coupled with the development of the primary sector as an agribusiness activity will constitute a crucial turning point in economic planning, sustainable industrialization and capacity building for resilient economies in a post COVID-19 scenario. Economic planning has been central for the leaders of the continent, as proven by the endorsement and adoption of the Plan of Action for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa (AIDA) in 2018. AIDA aims at mobilising both financial and nonfinancial resources and enhance Africa's industrial performance. The Continental Agribusiness Strategy also provides a framework for the promotion of agribusiness, including agro-industry in Africa with a focus on the necessary pillars for development. At the moment, development and technological innovations during the pandemic outbreak disrupted the economic situation at an uncontrolled speed and frequency. For instance, and according to the 2020 FAO Report *Impact of COVID-19 on agriculture, food systems and rural livelihoods in Eastern Africa: Policy and programmatic options*, countries in the Eastern Africa subregion were severely impacted by COVID-19 related disruptions regarding access to agricultural inputs, an impact that could have been mitigated by the digital share of information on access to different sources of agricultural inputs and as well on meteorological information on floods and natural plagues. Taking into account the theme of 53rd Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and

Economic Development "Africa's sustainable industrialisation and diversification in the digital era in the context of Covid-19", the Institute of Development and Economic Planning proposes a reflection towards "The role of economic planning and capacity building towards a resilient economic recovery". This reflection will focus on the possibilities in planning and building capacities on how to broaden agricultural digital inclusion, extendable to an "e-agribusiness" way of "building forward better" during and in a post-COVID-19 scenario. The overall objective of this side event will be to propose the way forward on a post-COVID-19 scenario, by means of planning for broadening digital inclusion on the primary sector.

Specific Objectives

- To assess the impact of the rural areas digital exclusion in the agricultural production;
- To reflect on possibilities of increasing the agricultural production towards an effective agribusiness using e-commerce as a tool for regional trade;
- To analyse the link between the development of digital tools for agribusiness and (1) sustainable industrialization; (2) - economic diversification;
- To reflect on needed capacities in planning for digital inclusion.

Speakers (tbc)

FAO
UNECA
AUDA/NEPAD
ICT
UNIDO
IDEP (Training Section)

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