



## 2011 Ibrahim Forum

### African Agriculture: From Meeting Needs to Creating Wealth | Executive Summary

Two years ago, on 13 November 2011 the Mo Ibrahim Foundation convened its second annual Ibrahim Forum in Tunis, Tunisia. A range of stakeholders from government, civil society and the private sector gathered to discuss African agriculture, with focus on the huge opportunities and potential that lie at the heart of the agricultural sector.

In the context of global issues regarding sustainability, volatile food and energy prices, climate change and their impact on the continent, consensus was reached on the importance of Africa achieving food

security at the regional and continental level. Agriculture was reinforced as a key driver in the economic transformation of the continent. Requiring exceptional leadership and collaboration between the public and private sector, challenges in areas such as infrastructure, capital and technology were discussed. Furthermore with continental policies such as the Maputo Declaration and frameworks such as CAADP already in place, heavy emphasis was placed on implementation and commitment from all stakeholders.



#### AFRICA'S PRIORITIES: INPUTS

##### LAND

- Customary land rights (including women's ownership and inheritance)
- Competing uses of land
- Innovative and inclusive land administration systems
- Foreign land acquisitions

##### CAPITAL

- Affordable and accessible finance for rural smallholders, women and youth
- Rural bank branches and/or mobile-banking

##### EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

- Agro-education and training

##### RESEARCH, INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY

- Agricultural statistics and databases
- Genetic modification, tissue culture, pest control, high yielding varieties of crops
- Mechanisation



#### AFRICA'S PRIORITIES: OUTPUTS

##### VALUE CHAINS & AGRIBUSINESS

- Productivity along the value chain
- Product processing
- Comparative advantages in production
- Entrepreneurial approach – agriculture as a business

##### INFRASTRUCTURE

- Rural access to electricity, irrigation systems, storage, transport networks
- Mechanisation

##### MARKETS, PRICES & TRADE

- Commodity exchanges
- Trade and tariffs at regional levels
- Intra-African trade
- Sanitary and phytosanitary standards
- Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)

## ACTION POINTS | NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS

### POLICY

- Promote agriculture as a priority policy concern.
- Ensure integration of agriculture policy with other public policy sectors: education, research, trade, finance and infrastructure.
- Promote employment in modern agriculture for the young.
- Fulfil Maputo commitment: 10% of national budget to agriculture.

### INFRASTRUCTURE

- Develop storage, logistics and transportation links.
- Prioritise rural investment (especially in rural roads and electrification).
- Prioritise irrigation projects and mechanisation of farming practices.

### LAND

- Address customary land rights, with particular attention to women, smallholders and the young.
- Strategically plan land use and address competing uses of land.
- Ensure transparency in all contracts and land deals.

### EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

- Include nutrition, climate change and sustainability in education programmes.
- Establish and boost agriculture-specific training programs and education.

### RESEARCH, INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY

- Support research and data collection.
- Invest in ICT for data transmission and efficiency.
- Facilitate access to fertilisers, pesticides and bio-technologies.

## ACTION POINTS | REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

### POLICY

- Establish regional value chains that integrate processes across country borders.
- Identify comparative advantages in production and strategically direct national policy according to these.
- Establish a regional "fund of funds" to direct capital into a specific agriculture pool of resources.

### TRADE

- Unlock barriers to trade and enable free movement of goods.
- Establish trading standards to be implemented through regional bodies.
- Establish a free-trade zone for staple goods.
- Establish a commodity exchange to address price instability and ensure regulated and transparent markets.
- Incorporate environmental sustainability into the agricultural agenda and cooperate with governments to establish a continental voice for negotiations regarding climate change.

### LAND

- Build a regional body dedicated to land investments and land "grabbing" that supports transparency and fairness of deals within Africa and outside.
- Establish a database of land data and statistics that brings together regional statistical authorities.

### FOOD SECURITY

- Establish a regional food security net and early warning system.

## ACTION POINTS | INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

### AID

- Ensure a stronger share of aid towards agriculture and agriculture-linked policies (agroeducation, research, infrastructures).

### EDUCATION

- Build and shape specific partnerships: education and training in agriculture and agricultural universities.

### LAND

- Promote partnerships that focus on sound administration and best practices (land surveys, legal frameworks).

### TRADE

- Create a level playing field, especially where EPAs are concerned, including dealing with distorting agreements, protectionism, subsidies and tariffs.
- Address sanitary and phytosanitary standards as a constraint to trade.

## ACTION POINTS | PRIVATE SECTOR

### FINANCE

- Establish and strengthen links between multilateral institutions, private equity funds and development banks to focus on connecting national producers to regional and global markets.
- Devise specific support for, and enable access to, affordable finance for farmers, specifically smallholders, women and youth.

### EMPLOYMENT

- Boost and advertise opportunities for local employment in agriculture.
- Communicate the potential of agribusiness for economic transformation.

### LAND

- Ensure transparency and accountability in all contracts and land deals.

## ACTION POINTS | ADVOCACY

### POLICY

- Promote research at the academic level on the following linkages: agricultural growth/global economic growth, food security/social safety, nutritional security/health.

### LAND

- Incorporate land in natural resource transparency advocacy programs.

### DATA

- Strengthen capacities to collect data on agriculture and infrastructure and promote sharing of this data to all stakeholders to improve development and productivity.