

It's a pleasure for me to welcome you all to the 2022 Africa Dialogue Series on the theme

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Africa is determined to turn climate challenges into opportunities, especially those that improve agricultural performance and enhance capacity to facilitate broad-based poverty reduction and food security for all.

The development of modern food systems and increasing agricultural productivity have long been given priority. The provision of infrastructures such as rural roads, irrigation, and market access plays a vital role in enhancing the productivity of the sector.

Ensuring that small farmers are equipped with affordable improved seeds, extension services, and technology packages, as well as affordable financing, will increase their crop production beyond subsistence. We therefore call on all our partners, to boost its support in these areas as well.

While we recognize that challenges exist, we must also take advantage of the opportunities. We have no choice but to be firm in our actions and committed to addressing climate change and revert to harnessing renewable sources of energy if we intend to increase food production and sustainably achieve food security while preserving our environment.

Agriculture holds the key to Africa's development, and development holds the key to a future where Africa is not only feeding itself but also helps feed the world. We must therefore keep the sector high on our national development plans and strategies.

To Address all these issues and much more, over the coming four weeks, the ADS in partnership with key stakeholders will shed more lights and discuss in depth the nexus

between Agriculture, food systems, nutrition and other critical factors, under four sub-themes of the ADS-2022, namely:

1. Building Resilient Socio-Agricultural Food Systems: The Key to Nutrition;
2. Strengthening the Resilience of Farming Systems: Land, Digital Transformation and Access to Finance – Making Small Holder Farmers the Back Bones ;
3. Social Protection, Resilience and Nutrition; and
4. Human Capital Development, Climate, Energy and Food Systems.

While looking forward to the next few weeks, let me take the opportunity, on behalf of the conveners of ADS, to thank our partners [FAO, WFP, ILO, AGRA, UNECA and AUDA-NEPAD] for their valuable contribution and tireless efforts to enrich the content of this year's dialogue.

I wish you a fruitful 2022 Africa Dialogue Series, I thank you for your kind attention!