



وزارة التعاون الدولي
Ministry of International
Cooperation



EGYPT-ICF
INTERNATIONAL
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FORUM | 2021
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WORKSHOP 04



Food Security and Employment in the Digital Age in Africa



September 9th, 2021
Session Duration: 120 minutes
Nile Ritz-Carlton Hotel

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Overview

This workshop serves as a platform for stimulating South-South cooperation and knowledge-sharing amongst African countries in the areas of food security and water management. It also provides an opportunity to pursue collaborative efforts with the international community.

Agriculture constitutes a cornerstone of the African economy; it contributes to about 60% of employment, and accounts for 16.5% of total GDP. Home to 65% of the world's arable land, Africa has the potential to become the food basket of the world. Meanwhile, with the recent acceleration in climate change alongside the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, achieving food security remains a challenge, not only for the African continent, but around the globe. Thus, adopting sustainable farming methods and climate-smart practices, including advanced harvesting technologies, are pivotal to building resilient agricultural and food systems. Efforts exerted to enhance food security are expected to have a direct effect on poverty rates, and accordingly help in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 1 of No Poverty, Goal 2 of Zero Hunger and Goal 8 of Decent Work and Economic Growth.

Addressing the aforementioned challenges requires collective action amongst African countries, as well as leveraging scientific research and scaling innovation to achieve sustainable growth. Development Partners have long been committed to supporting the African transition to sustainable agriculture. The World Food Programme (WFP) in particular has delivered innovative food assistance programs that support the implementation of country-led sustainable practices across the continent.

Among the main strategic goals of the cooperation between the WFP and Egypt, for instance, is to improve the resilience of rural communities to climate change and other shocks through technology transfer, sustainable agricultural practices such as solar-powered irrigation systems, and diversification of livelihoods. One of the pioneering outcomes of such collaboration is the Luxor Center for Knowledge Sharing and Innovation. The Center serves as a hub for knowledge exchange and South-South Cooperation in areas such as agricultural productivity, income-generating activities, nutrition and water management. Apart from its role as a knowledge-sharing platform, the Center also supports rural transformation and sustainable infrastructure. It provides replicable models of successful interventions that can be implemented in Egypt and other African countries, developed in collaboration with civil society, research institutions and universities.





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To that end, the workshop entitled “Food Security and Employment in the Digital Age in Africa” aims to:

- **Identify** key challenges and opportunities in promoting food security and nutrition in Africa.
- **Shed light** on recent advancements in agricultural development in Egypt and other African countries.
- **Underscore** the importance of fostering knowledge-sharing within Africa and South-South Cooperation.
- **Explore** replicable models in different areas, especially water management, adaptation to climate change and food security.
- **Highlight** the role of the Luxor Center for Knowledge-Sharing and Innovation in promoting inclusive partnerships and increased integration of African countries.

In Attendance

- Egyptian and African Ministers
- WFP Regional Directors in Africa and the Middle East
- Development partners
- Private sector companies
- Civil society organizations
- Think tanks

