



**MEDIA PACK  
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***Inclusive land governance for enhanced intra- Africa trade, food security and sustainable food systems***

An inclusive land governance is one of the key pillars to enhance the continent's drive to enhance intra-African trade, food security, and sustainable food systems. This inclusive governance system will allow stakeholders to create 'transparency, subsidiarity, inclusiveness, prior informed participation, and social acceptance by affected communities' in land-based initiatives beyond their borders. We present few key issues that we will consider during the review processes for submitted abstracts.

While land governance remains a challenge in Africa, there are several inspiring practices in integrating land governance and secure, fair access to land into agricultural investments in the continent. Access to land in many African countries varies significantly. It is through understanding of what works and what does not to improve fair and secure access of the majority of the people that shed lights on such successes and amplify their up-scaling.

Inclusive governance requires an all takeholders approach. Therefore, any capacity development process should consider how to include all relevant actors. Since this cannot be achieved in a single process, it will be necessary to replicate the same process, across the whole country over time. This needs to be sustained until all communities have been reached, and will likely take some years.

Inclusive land governance would require strong evidence and support systems. Designing fit-for-purpose tools to foster broader engagement of all actors and creating a level playing field for better power relationship would be critical. To be able to effect the changes required, efforts shall be directed in investing in data and evidence for inclusive governance in land

By improving land governance, African Member States and actors will increase agricultural and food systems and tradability among themselves. Further countries will be better placed to address food security challenges across borders. For instance, evidence had shown that investment in agriculture offers significant potential for increasing agricultural growth, raising farm productivity, reducing dependence of food imports, improving the incomes of food producers, and cutting poverty. Agriculture creates more opportunities for boosting growth and creating jobs than investment in industry or services, so increasing government spending in the sector is an important component of poverty reduction, enhancing intra-African trade.

Land governance is central to achieving the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) which aims to create the world's largest free trade area, and is expected to remedy the existing 'under-trading' between African countries, thereby boosting trade. While intra-African trade in agriculture has been steadily growing – mostly within Regional Economic Communities (RECs) – it is not currently on track to meet 2025 goals with regard to trade in the sector. AfCFTA can "reduce food scarcity and improve availability", since it would facilitate those with production surpluses to provide countries with production deficits. A key factor is the roll out of infrastructure such as roads and other important trade frameworks.

The success of AfCFTA depends very much on the success of National Agriculture Investment Plan (NAIP) successful implementation. A key aspect of NAIPs is finding agricultural investors and finding markets for agricultural produce which is why AfCFTA could boost the NAIPs implementation among African countries.