

Agricultural Innovation for Africa Conference (AIA Conference)

28th and 29th August 2024

University of Professional Studies, Accra (UPSA)

Theme: Empowering Youth Startups and Agri-MSMEs in Africa: Addressing Climate Change, Innovative Financing, Market Efficiency, and Gender Mainstreaming for Sustainable Food Systems.

MC: Kojo Akoto Boateng

Day I: 28th August 2024: Opening, Policy, Opportunities, Access to Finance & Market

Time	Activity & Topics	Speaker(s)	Mode of Delivery	Venue	Moderators
9:00 am - 10:00 am	Arrival, Registration, Coffee and Networking, Safety and Safeguarding Speech				
10:00 am - 10:10 am	Opening Welcome Remarks	Benjamin Gyan-Kesse, Executive Director, KIC	Plenary Session	Main Hall	Kojo Akoto Boateng
10:10am - 10:15 am	Special Remarks	Joe Mensah (Chairman of KIC and AIA Conference)	Plenary Session	Main Hall	Kojo Akoto Boateng
10:15 am - 10:20 am	Remarks	Isaac Newton Acquah, National Project Coordinator Ghana, NTF V-ITC	Plenary Session	Main Hall	Kojo Akoto Boateng
10:20 am - 10:40 am	Keynote Address: Empowering Youth Startups and Agri-MSMEs in Africa: Addressing Climate Change, Innovative Financing, Market Efficiency, and Gender Mainstreaming for Sustainable Food Systems.	Dr. Betty Annan Country Director -AGRA	Plenary Session	Main Hall	Kojo Akoto Boateng
10:40 am – 11:00 am	Transforming Ghana's Food Systems: The Role of Youth-led Initiatives in Climate Resilience and Food Security	Robert Asugre, Country Director-IDH	Presentation	Main Hall	Kojo Akoto Boateng

11:00 am - 12:00 pm	Policy Perspective: Empowering Youth Startups and Agri-MSMEs in Africa.	Dr. Betty Annan Country Director-AGRA; Nana Adwoa Sifa, Lead, Guzakuza FARA	Panel Discussion	Main Hall	Benjamin Owusu-Ansah
11:00 am - 12:00 noon	Addressing Climate Change Climate-Smart Agricultural Practices for Sustainable Food Production	Dr. Stephen Yeboah, Senior Research Scientist, Crop Research Institute; Bismark Owusu Nartey, Ag. Executive Director PFAG; Gerald Forkuor, Climate Change Lead, DAI Kwabena Frimpong, Regional Director for Africa, Ignitia Dr. Isaac Nunoo, National Coordinator for Sustainable Cocoa Initiative in Ghana, FAO	Panel Discussion Q&A Session	Room 1	Ekow Mensah
12:00 noon - 12:15pm	Coffee Break and Networking				
12:15 pm - 12:40 pm	Innovative Financing Innovative Financing Models for Agricultural Development for Youth Startups and Agri-MSMEs.	Gilbert K. N Adamtey, CEO, Leverage Microfinance Company	Presentation Q&A Session	Main Hall	Kojo Akoto Boateng

2:30 pm - 3:10 pm	Strengthening Policy Frameworks Driving Agribusiness Policy Reforms for Youth Startups and Agri-MSMEs: Perspectives from Government, Civil Society and Development World	Nana Okyir. Baidoo, Agri. and Agrib. Entre. Coor. BizBox Project GEA; Clifford Bansah, Ag. Director, M&E, NEIP; Andrew Read, Economic Growth Office, Director, USAID Ghana Stephen Odartefio,WFP; Dr. Kwaku Antwi, Policy, Research, and Investment Cluster Leader, FARA; Kafui Odi Mills, Lead, Youth Engagement, The Mastercard Foundation	Panel Discussion Q&A Session	Main Hall	Bashiru Dokurugu (AGRA)
2:30 pm - 3:10 pm	Conversations around opportunities in the Cassava value chain	Curated Session led by Sarpei Kwadey, CEO, Bankyekrom	Panel Discussion	Room 1	Sarpei Kwadey, CEO, Bankyekrom
3:10 pm - 3:55 pm	Market Efficiency Enhancing Market Access and Efficiency for Smallholder Farmers	Larry Attipoe, National Coordinator, Alliance for Action ITC; Joel Odeh, New Product Development Lead, Fairtrade; Alex Dadzawa, Director of Projects, GEPA; Maxwell Commey, Managing Director, Oro Oil Ghana Limited; Amabel Sefakor Agbanu, Head of Partnerships-Grow for Me	Panel Discussion Q&A Session	Room 1	Ekow Mensah

3:55 pm - 4:40 pm					
3:10 pm - 4:00 pm	Gender Mainstreaming <i>Promoting Gender Equality in Agribusiness: Opportunities, Constraints, Inclusive Financing & Solutions</i>	Odelia Ntiamoah, CEO, Oxford African Women Leadership Institute; Paulina addey, Director, WIAD, MOFA; Nafisatu Yussif, Gender Lead, Mastercard Foundation; Professor Irene Egyir, Agricultural Economist, UG. Esther Kyerewaa Twumasi, Program Officer, KIC	Panel Discussion Q&A Session	Main Hall	Abena Baafi, National project Coordinator, Agriculture NTFV Agri, ITC
4:00 pm - 4:20 pm	Announcement and Departure				

Day 2: 29th August 2024: Investments, Partnerships, Access to Finance & Market

Time	Activity & Topics	Speaker(s)	Mode of Delivery	Venue	Moderators
9:00 am - 10:00 am	Arrival, Registration, Coffee and Networking, Safety and Safeguarding Speech				
9:00 am – 11:00 am	Workshop: Digitalizing Agricultural Supply Chains			Room 1	Isaac Acquah
11:00 am – 5:30 pm	Deal Room			Room 1	Kamil Nabong
10:00 am - 10:10 am	Recap and Introduction to Day 2	Scribe Lead	Plenary Session	Main Hall	Kojo Akoto Boateng

10:10 am - 11:00 am	<p align="center">Circular Economy <i>Circular Economy Solutions for Sustainable Agriculture in Africa</i></p>	<p>Presentation-Ghana Circular Economy Centre Project-MESTI;</p> <p>Panelist-Palladium; Hannah Appiah, CEO, McHan Cosmetics; Najat Hamid Mohammed, CEO, Tekcycle;</p>	<p>Presentation & Panel Discussion</p> <p>Q&A Session</p>	Main Hall	Kojo Akoto Boateng
11:00 am - 11:50 am	<p align="center">AfCFTA and Market Expansion Exploring Regional Market Opportunities: Strategies for Ghanaian Agri-Entrepreneurs</p>	<p>Patricia Ansong, CEO, Global Trade & Marketing Strategist, Consultant, Coach, Trainer & Mentor (BrandnBloom)</p>	<p>Presentation</p> <p>Q&A Session</p>	Main Hall	Isaac Acquah
11:50 am - 12:10 pm	Coffee Break and Networking				
12:10 pm - 1:30 pm	<p>The Tech of Traceability; Enhancing Food Traceability in Cocoa Supply Chain</p>	<p>Gregory Sampson, Solutions Architect ITC;</p> <p>Alexandra Gbozia, Director of Traceability and Partnerships, (PUSH);</p> <p>Zara Abbey, Head of Partnerships, SnooCode;</p> <p>Marvin Nii Adom Armah, Senior Business Development Manager, Farmerline;</p> <p>Ghana Cocoa Board Rep</p>	<p>Panel Discussions</p> <p>Q&A Session</p>	Main Hall	Micheal Boating, M&E Specialist, ITC
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Lunch Break				

2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	Employment opportunities within the agricultural sector: The role of Soft Skills	Hilda Nimo-Tieku,CEO of Jobberman Ghana; Charity Adupong,CEO at Meannan Foods; Anthony Morrison,CEO Chamber of Agribusiness Ghana; Esther Fefoame, Managing Partner, EF & Associates, Ghana	Panel Discussion	Main Hall	Jobberman
3:30 pm – 4:20 pm	Youth Startup and Agri-MSMEs Incubation and Acceleration Programs: Moving beyond Capacity Building & Pitches	MEST, KIC, African Skills Hub, Nana Okyir. Baidoo, Agri. and Agrib. Entre. Coord. BizBox Project GEA; Emilia Ayipio Asamoah, Country Director, WUSC	Panel Discussion Q&A Session	Main Hall	Dennis Ababio
4:20 pm - 4:30 pm	Summary of Key Insights and Recommendations	Scribes	Plenary Session	Main Hall	Kojo Akoto Boateng
4:30 pm - 4:40 pm	Closing Remarks and Vote of Thanks	Benjamin Gyan-Kesse, Executive Director, KIC	Plenary Session	Main Hall	Kojo Akoto Boateng
4:40 pm - 4:50 pm	Group Photo, Announcement and Departure				

