TOPIC (TRACK 22): FOOD SECURITY, POVERTY AND SUSTAINABILITY

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ABSTRACT: The Track examined Food Security, Poverty and Sustainability. The main focus of the discussion is to examine the way forward for ensuring food security, poverty and sustainability in Africa, effective ways to engage the youth in the agricultural sector, raising agricultural entrepreneurs, effective government policies and grants, foreign trade, and private sector participation. According to a 2019 Mckinsey & Company report, agriculture in Africa has a massive social and economic footprint. More than 60 percent of the population of sub-Saharan Africa is smallholder farmers, and about 23 percent of sub-Saharan Africa's GDP comes from agriculture. Analyzing productivity potential across 44 countries in sub-Saharan Africa showed that nine countries make up 60 percent of the total potential, with three countries—Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Tanzania—comprising half of that. While this potential is highly concentrated, the significant variation in agricultural development and policy on the continent means differentiated approaches are required for each market. From the above introductory analysis, and other reports, this track will examine diverse areas on observation peculiar to Food Security, Poverty and Sustainability in Africa. [1]Why most African nations seem to have very little or no interest in the development of Agriculture as a great source of foreign exchange, despite the very great potentials? Does this have anything to do with the discovery of other natural resources? [2]According to research, more than 60 percent of the population of sub-Saharan Africa is smallholder farmers, and about 23 percent of sub-Saharan Africa's GDP comes from agriculture. Agriculture is by far the single most important economic activity in Africa, with peasant and subsistence farming as the basic form of agriculture in most parts of the continent. However, with most subsistence farmers, on the average, having farms smaller than two hectares, and with many living on less than $1.90 per day, it is concerning that many are unlikely to farm themselves out of poverty. What are the major obstacles facing the profitable development of agriculture in Africa? [3]Technology and education are listed as a major obstacle to the development of agriculture in Africa. What is the right approach to ensure profitable investments and Return on Investment in this very area? [4]Financing, policy and infrastructure are also amongst the major obstacles identified in the development of sustainable agriculture in Africa. Who are the key stakeholders in this process, and how can African farmers be supported in this regard? [5]How urgent is the need for agribusiness development in Africa? Who are the key stakeholders? And what is the right approach in ensuring that Africa is able to feed its population and become a top agricultural producing continent in the world? [6]According to statistics, young people make up about 60%of Africa's population. Are Africans youths really disinterested in agribusiness development, or is it just a myth? If so, how can their interests be encouraged and supported, so as to raise more agriculture entrepreneurs? [7]What is the importance or significance of African's agricultural development on the world population? Is there a link, or does each country's agricultural development have to do only with its own growth?

Biography

Abe Oluwayomi Kayode, is currently an Agribusiness Specialist and Principal Program Analyst with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development for the past 12 years. He has served in several capacities in the Ministry and has worked with four different Nigeria's Agriculture Minister including current President of Africa Development Bank (AfDB), Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, when he was a serving agriculture minister in Nigeria (2011-2015). Mr. Abe played a major role during the development of Farmers' e-wallet system in Nigeria under the Country's Growth Enhancement Support Scheme. (GES) in 2011.

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