**Session Brief**

**PARI Side Event: How to turn the agrifood sector into an engine of job growth for Africa’s youth**

**Date:** Wednesday 7th June 2023@ 1400 – 1600 SAST  
**Format:** Hybrid  
**Venue:** ICC-NAIROBI  
**Zoom Link:** [https://faraafrica.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMsdO2hqTouH9fKQLBiz34R06is_lzLcELg](https://faraafrica.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMsdO2hqTouH9fKQLBiz34R06is_lzLcELg)

**Synopsis**

The need to create income opportunities for Africa’s large and growing youth population is one of the continent’s key development challenges of this century. The food and agriculture sector can make a significant contribution to help address this challenge. These opportunities remain largely untapped in Africa, this event will discuss how to put the research findings into practice and identify key investment and policy priorities to boost income and employment opportunities in the food and agriculture sector. Within the overall topic of the side-event, questions to be addressed will include, among others:  
(1). What are the key challenges faced by young agripreneurs in Africa?  
(2). How effective are current youth employment policies in Africa?  
(3). Will mechanization & Digitalization in agro-processing create or replace jobs?  
(4). How can we achieve a better match between the supply of and demand for skills in the agrifood sector?

**Program**

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<td>A</td>
<td>1400 - 1410</td>
<td>Opening Thoughts Yemi Akinbamijo (ED FARA)</td>
<td>Dr. Felister Makini Deputy Director-General; Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Institute (KALRO)</td>
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| OB | 1410 - 1445| Key Presentations  
1. Oluwole Fatunbi, FARA, on strengthening agripreneurs.  
2. Heike Baumüller, ZEF, on employment opportunities in the agro-processing sector |                                                       |
| C  | 1445 - 1545| High-level Panel Discussion:  
- HE Jennie Cooper (Liberia Minister of Agriculture).  
- HE Angela Thoko Didiza (South Africa Minister of Agriculture, Land Reforms and Rural Development)  
- Mr. Kofi Acquaye (Youth representative YPARD Africa)  
- Ms Amanda Namayi (GoGettaz Lead) Kenya  
- Kate Philip (Programme Lead on the Presidential Employment Stimulus in South Africa) | Prof Chris Igodan FARA |
| E  | 1545 - 1600| Wrap-Up  
Key issues  
Way forward | Wole Fatunbi |

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**Speakers**

- HE Jennie Cooper  
  Liberia Minister
- HE Angela Thoko Didiza  
  South Africa Minister
- Dr. Heike Baumüller  
  ZEF Germany
- Yemi Akinbamijo  
  ED FARA
- Prof. Wole Fatunbi  
  FARA
- Prof. Kate Philip  
  South Africa
- Amanda Namayi  
  YPARD Kenya
- Prof Chris Igodan  
  Ohio Univ, USA
- Kofi Acquaye  
  YPARD /FARA

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