



SECOND ANNUAL AAA INITIATIVE CONFERENCE

READING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HIGH LEVEL SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY PANEL

BENGUERIR, NOVEMBER 5, 2019

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am honored to present to you the conclusions and recommendations of the AAA High Level Scientific Advisory Panel, held on the eve of your honorable meeting today. Our Panel, made up of eminent scientists and international and African experts, provides scientific insight to give meaning, coherence and effectiveness to the activities of the AAA Foundation.

To the question of whether Africa will be able to ensure food security at a reasonable time, we answered Yes ... But. This optimistic, but nuanced, response is the result of continental-level diagnostics and assumptions about the ability of our countries to overcome several challenges in agricultural production and productivity, in the face of unavoidable climate change.

In this respect, we need to put the agricultural issue at the forefront of the political and economic concerns of our nations, with ambitious programs for the development of climate-resilient agriculture, allowing farmers and the food sector to simultaneously increase productivity, improve resilience, manage natural resources more sustainably, to ensure food security, advance African agricultural economies along the value chain, absorb surplus labor and employ youth productively.

We encourage the AAA Foundation to continue and expand its country support, for the formulation of national Climate-Smart Agriculture Investment Plans, and we invite funding partner institutions to support this effort and contribute to the funding for the implementation of these plans, as part of national agricultural development strategies of African countries.

At the same time, the Panel invites countries to consider the important role regional trade can play in improving food security and coping with the challenges of climate change. The opening and smooth functioning of the markets, within the framework of the Continental Free Trade Area, are essential to allow more investment in agriculture to ensure a significant increase in agricultural production and productivity.

More than ever, scientific research must be mobilized to design, experiment and evaluate new techniques, sources of innovation. As a result, agricultural research and innovation focusing on the adaptation of agriculture, through our national agricultural research systems, and the International Consortium Centers of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) should be strengthened. This effort must be followed by improved technology transfer to farmers, to ensure that research activities meet their needs and concerns in the face of climate change challenges. The AAA Foundation is therefore called upon to foster and support technology transfer, knowledge sharing and capacity building through South-South and triangular cooperation.



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Finally, it is worth noting, that after years of negotiations, the COP22 held in Marrakech, that Morocco wanted as the «COP of the Action» and «COP for Africa», marked a decisive and historical turning point for agriculture, which conquered its rightful place in the international agenda on climate change. By explicitly mentioning agriculture and food security in the Marrakesh Proclamation, the international community recognizes the urgent need to undertake actions, to preserve the well-being of farmers who are on the front line of the threats and impacts of climate change. This valuable asset must be consolidated by the AAA Foundation, by strengthening its advocacy activities, for the adaptation of African agriculture, in the COPs and specialized bodies and committees of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Thank you for your attention.