

Africa Pathways to Food Systems Transformation: Challenges and Opportunities

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Abstract

This paper explores the pathways to transforming food systems in Africa, focusing on the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. It examines the current state of food systems, highlighting issues such as food and nutrition security, environmental degradation, low agricultural productivity, limited availability and adoption of yield-increasing technologies, high malnutrition rates, violent conflicts and threats to peace and security, and inadequate governance. The paper emphasizes the need for policy reform, technological innovation, and capacity building to drive sustainable and inclusive food systems. Key drivers of change include policies promoting sustainable practices, increased funding for agricultural research, and improved market access through infrastructure development and trade policies. Good governance practices, including transparency, accountability, and inclusive decision-making, are crucial for effective policy implementation and stakeholder collaboration. Recommendations include empowering women and youth, supporting community-led initiatives, and leveraging the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to enhance intra-African trade. By adopting these strategies, Africa can build resilient, equitable, and sustainable food systems.