Challenges in Africa 2024

Capacity Perspective

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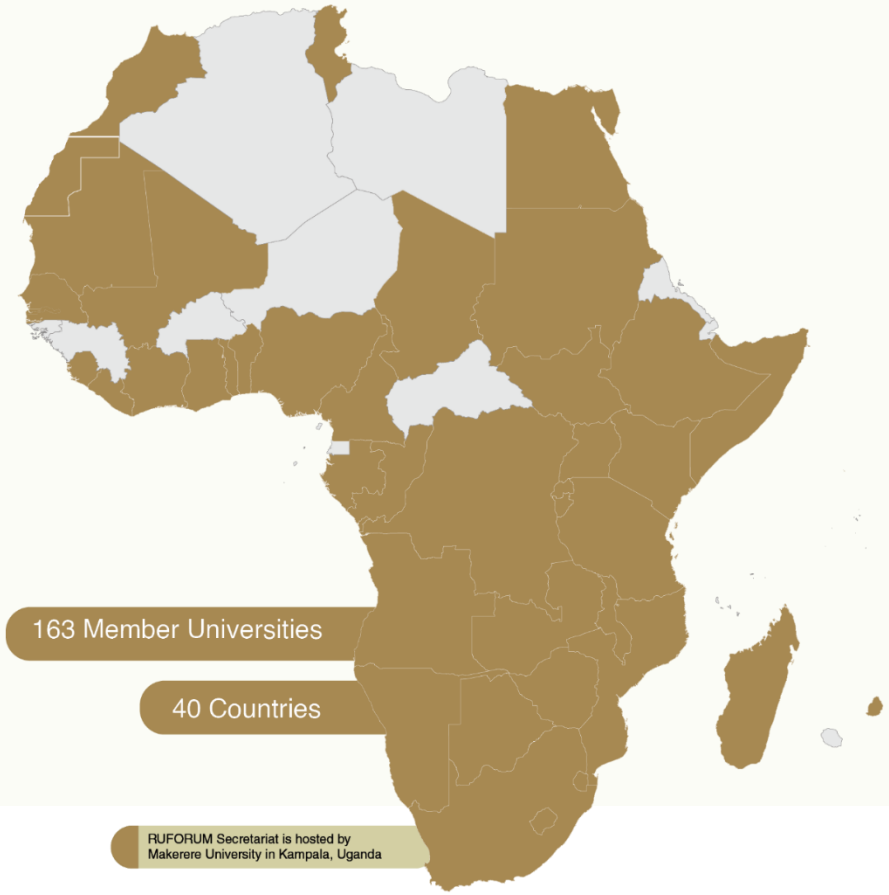
RUFORUM



The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), established by ten Vice Chancellors in 2004, is a consortium of universities in Africa. December 2022 membership stands at 170 universities in 40 countries.

OUR MISSION

To strengthen the capacities of universities to foster innovations responsive to demands of small-holder farmers through the training of high quality researchers and collaboration.

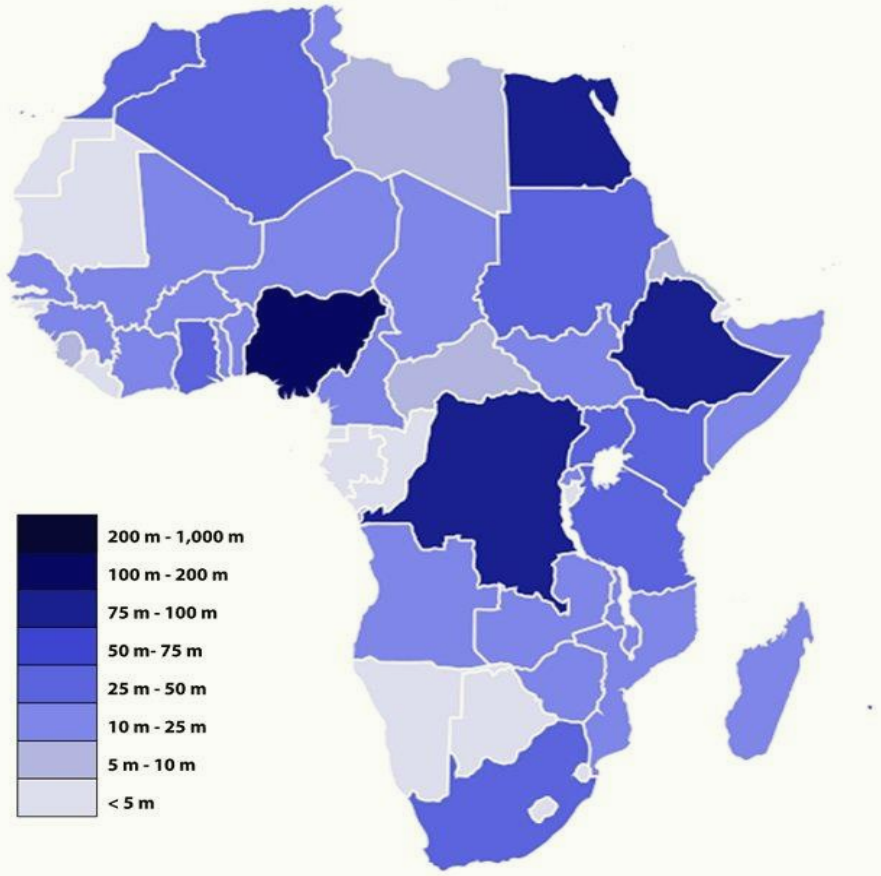
OUR VISION

A vibrant, transformative universities catalyzing sustainable, inclusive agricultural development to feed and create prosperity for Africa.

OUR MOTIVATION

"Transforming agriculture in Africa requires innovative scientific research, educational and training approaches. The education sector needs to be more connected to the new challenges facing rural communities and needs to build capacity of young people to be part of the transformation of the agricultural sector"

Characteristics - Young Population



1,475,808,710

- **17.89%** of the total world population.
- **44.7 %** of the population is **urban** (652,206,412 people in 2023)
- The **median age** is **18.8years**.
- Projected at **2.5 bn** by 2050

https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/africa-population/#:~:text=The%20current%20population%20of%20Africa,")%2C%20ordered%20by%20population.

2024 Population Challenges (dividend or Curse)

- Social exclusion and marginalization
- Cultural diversity and inequity
- Food insecurity (Changing tastes and diets/ increased food prices)
- Increasing youth **unemployment**
- **Innovation** catch up with the rest of the world
- Human Capacity **(technical skills & attitude)**
- Marketisation **(Frugal Innovation)**

Characteristic of Agric in Africa

- Highly diverse **land tenure** system
- **Small holding m**ore than 90% of farms in Africa are less than five hectares in size with Increasing **fragmentation**.
- **Land degradation-** Poor soils, reduced fallows, and nutrient mining.
- Low levels of **energy access**, particularly
- Increasing **urbanization** with reduced productivity capacity
- **70% of** the population is employed in agricultural related sectors
- The agricultural sector contributes up to **30% GDP**

2024 Challenges

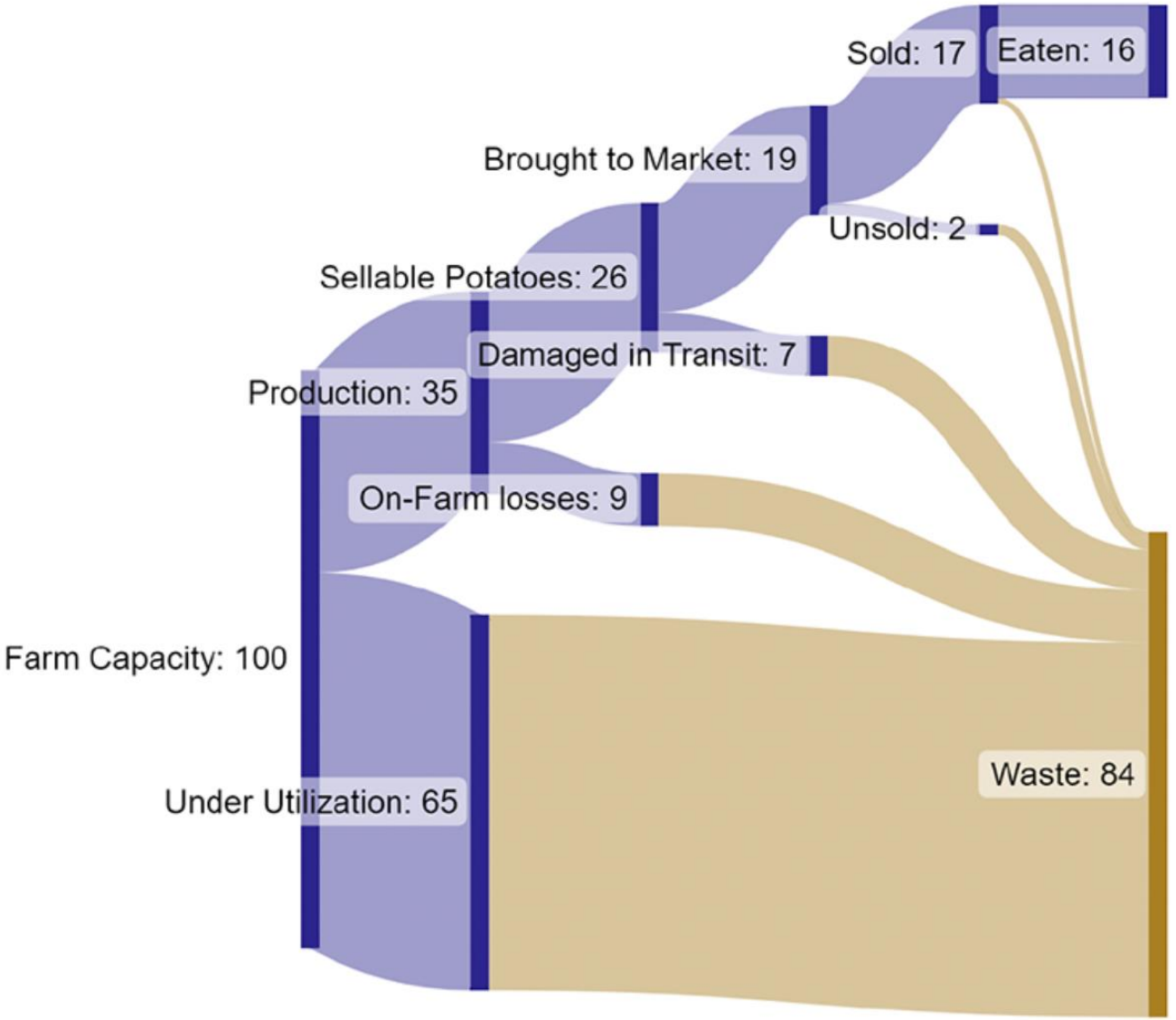
- **Resource constraints and persistent uncertainty**
- **Food Insecurity- Rising food and energy prices**
- **Regional and Global Conflicts**
- **Focus on Climate Change and policy Shifts**
- **Inequitable access to resources**

R&I Ecosystem Challenges

Capacity challenges

1. Inadequate human (skills and attitude) capacity
2. Infrastructure challenges
3. Financial resources and access to credit
4. Gender inequality – marginalization and inclusion
5. Technology generation , adoption and adaptation challenges
6. Policy fragmentation to promote value chain development
7. Tracking progress of the gains made (M&E) challenges
8. Technology transfer and knowledge exchange challenges

Capacity Challenges- Endemic?



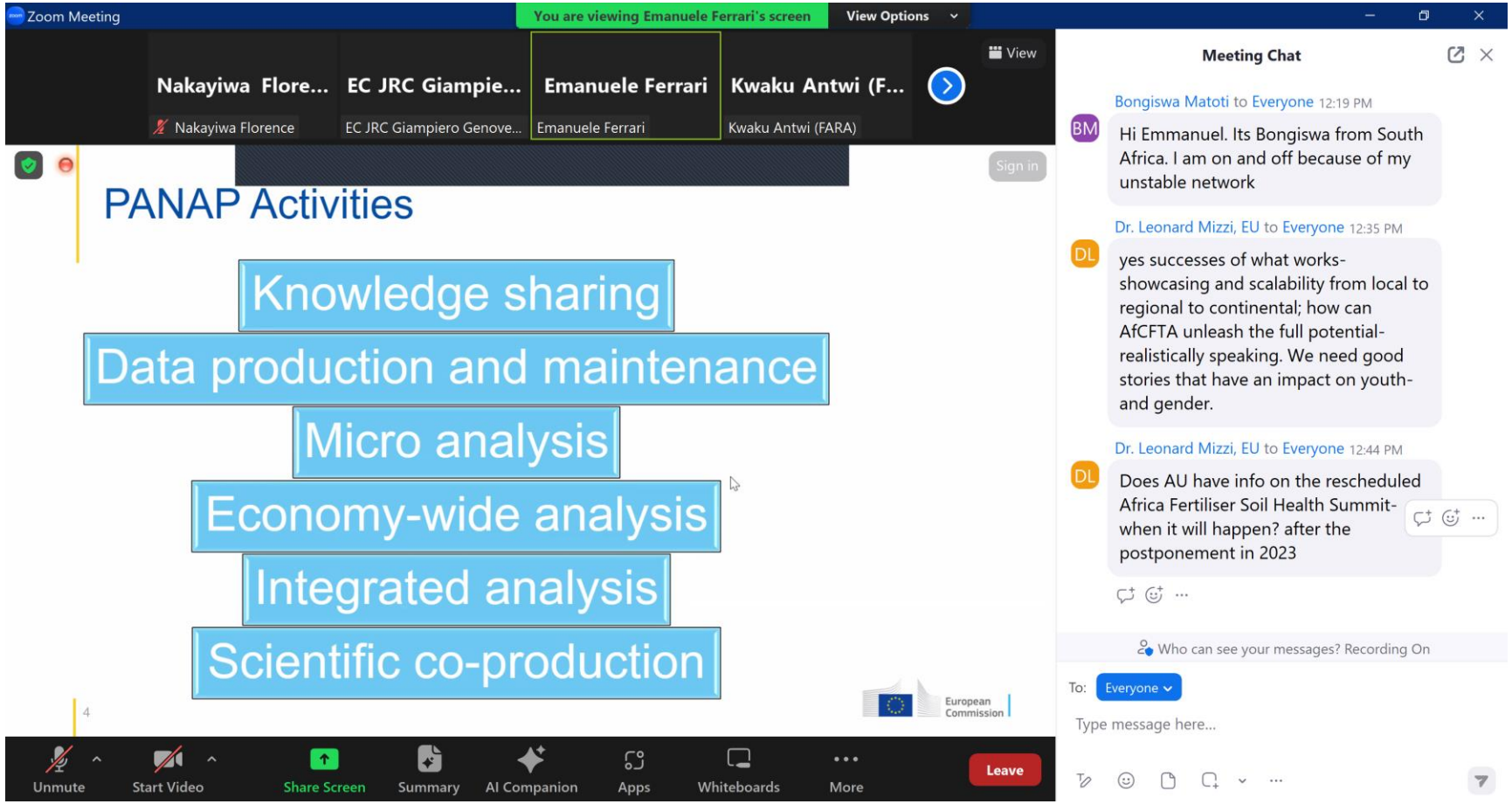
Implications for development

- Increasing **food prices**, and food insecurity
- Increasing **youth unemployment**,
- High and persistent levels of **extreme poverty,** with significantly higher levels in rural areas.
- Low levels of **economic growth** and high levels of inequality in access to key productive assets
- Create scenarios and policies for engagement and development

What are the plug ins?

Design programs that:

- Create meaningful and equitable partnership that will address the key challenges
- Develop capacity for technical solutions that focus on addressing the fundamental challenges to improve livelihoods especially (youth)
- Facilitate capacity for the appropriate enabling environment across the value chain (finance, markets, policy and regulation)
- Increased awareness/modelling for technical/ financial / skills needs to address climate, food security solutions.


Zoom Meeting
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Sign in
PANAP Activities
Knowledge sharing
Data production and maintenance
Micro analysis
Economy-wide analysis
Integrated analysis
Scientific co-production
4
European Commission
Unmute
Start Video
Share Screen
Summary
AI Companion
Apps
Whiteboards
More
Leave
Meeting Chat
Bongiswa Matoti to Everyone 12:19 PM
BM
Hi Emmanuel. Its Bongiswa from South Africa. I am on and off because of my unstable network
Dr. Leonard Mizzi, EU to Everyone 12:35 PM
DL
yes successes of what works- showcasing and scalability from local to regional to continental; how can AfCFTA unleash the full potential- realistically speaking. We need good stories that have an impact on youth- and gender.
Dr. Leonard Mizzi, EU to Everyone 12:44 PM
DL
Does AU have info on the rescheduled Africa Fertiliser Soil Health Summit- when it will happen? after the postponement in 2023
Who can see your messages? Recording On
To: Everyone
Type message here...

THANK YOU

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