

Virtual Knowledge Forum on Sustainable Food Systems

Linking Evidence, Policy and Action: Online Knowledge Forum Series for Sustainable Food Systems | 20–22 May 2026



PROGRAMME

TIME (GMT)	Wed 20 May – Day 1: Digital Innovation, Technology Transfer and Climate Adaptation for Resilient Food Systems	Thur 21 May – Day 2 Nutrition, Food Safety, Value Addition & Sustainable Food Systems Transformation	Fri 22 May – Day 3: Continental Trade, Market Access, Finance, Youth & Gender Inclusion
	<i>First session Facilitating FANRPAN</i>	<i>First session Facilitating FARA</i>	<i>First session Facilitating KIPPRA</i>
9:00 – 9:10	Opening & Welcome (FANRPAN / FARA)	Welcome & Opening Recap Day 1	Welcome & Opening Recap Day 2
9:10 – 9:25	<p>StEPPFoS Overview Presentation FARA</p> <p>FARA will provide an overview of the StEPPFoS programme, highlighting its objectives, regional scope, and role in strengthening evidence-based policy and innovation for sustainable food systems in Africa.</p>	<p>StEPPFoS in Action (Work Package Spotlight)</p> <p>A StEPPFoS partner will present key achievements, tools, and lessons from implementation, showcasing how the programme is driving impact across regions.</p> <p>(Slot reserved for work package members)</p>	<p>StEPPFoS in Action (Work Package Spotlight)</p> <p>A StEPPFoS partner will present key results and lessons on policy uptake, partnerships, and scaling of sustainable food systems initiatives.</p> <p>(Slot reserved for work package members)</p>

South Africa Standard Time (SAST) : UTC +02:00

East Africa Time (EAT) : UTC +03:00



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<p>9:25 – 9:55</p>	<p>Session 1: AI & Digital Innovation for Food Systems</p> <p>MUAST Mukaia Carbon Hub Circular Planet Institute (Marondera University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology): MUAST will present on the application of artificial intelligence in food systems, demonstrating how digital technologies can enhance productivity and food safety. Mukaia Carbon Hub will showcase its AI-powered environmental monitoring platform supporting climate-resilient agriculture, while Circular Planet Institute will demonstrate how AI-driven circular-regenerative models can create sustainable and inclusive bioeconomy systems.</p>	<p>Session 4: Food Environments & Nutrition Outcomes</p> <p>FETE Project (CSIR-STEPRI and Partners) The FETE Project will present evidence on food environments, demonstrating how changes in food access, availability, and affordability influence dietary behaviour and nutrition outcomes, and informing policies for healthier and more sustainable food systems.</p>	<p>Session 7: Market Systems & Value Chain Innovation</p> <p>AgriLuxe Marketing (WILD Feast Initiative) AgriLuxe Marketing will present the WILD Feast initiative, demonstrating how indigenous foods and value chain innovation can enhance market access, promote sustainable consumption, and support inclusive economic opportunities.</p>
<p>9:55 – 10:25</p>	<p>Innovation Exhibition 1: Climate & Digital Solutions</p> <p>CIP Mukaia Carbon Hub CIP (International Potato Center) will showcase its biotechnology innovation on late blight-resistant potatoes, demonstrating how research and innovation can enhance crop resilience, reduce losses and support climate-smart agricultural systems in Africa. Mukaia Carbon Hub will further demonstrate how digital tools support environmental monitoring and climate adaptation.</p>	<p>Innovation Spotlight 2: Food Safety Systems & Data Platforms</p> <p>FS4Africa (IITA & CSIR-Ghana) FS4Africa will showcase innovative food safety solutions, demonstrating how digital platforms, data systems, and multi-stakeholder approaches can bridge the gap between policy and implementation while strengthening food safety across African markets.</p>	<p>Session 8: Youth, Standards & Digital Markets</p> <p>WFF Rwanda (World Food Forum Chapter) WFF Rwanda will showcase youth-driven initiatives, demonstrating how young people are leveraging innovation, standards, and digital platforms to improve market access and strengthen participation in agrifood systems.</p>

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10:25 – 10:30	Short Break		
	<i>Second session Facilitating WP5 Member</i>	<i>Second session Facilitating WP5 Member</i>	<i>Second session Facilitating WP5 Member</i>
10:30– 11:00	<p>Session 2: Climate-Resilient Production Systems</p> <p>Agricultural Research Council North West University</p> <p>The Agricultural Research Council will present innovative aquaponics systems, demonstrating how resource-efficient production can improve food security and climate resilience. Northwest University will highlight research on practical pathways for strengthening resilience through policy, innovation, and inclusive food systems approaches. ARC will present the Open Farmer Digital Ecosystem (OFDE), demonstrating how integrated digital platforms (such as COTMIS) improve market access, transparency and evidence-based policymaking across agricultural value chains.</p>	<p>Session 5: Youth & Nutrition Systems Transformation</p> <p>NDDI Africa</p> <p>NDDI Africa will present youth-led approaches to nutrition and food systems transformation, demonstrating how capacity strengthening and research engagement can empower young professionals to drive sustainable and inclusive food systems change.</p>	<p>Session 9: From Policy to Implementation (Closing the Gap)</p> <p>AFRIKIYA Lab</p> <p>AFRIKIYA Lab will present its “Policy-to-Pocket” approach, demonstrating how evidence-based policies can be translated into actionable investment strategies that improve implementation, strengthen accountability, and support inclusive food systems development.</p>
11:00 – 11:30	<p>Session 3: Scaling Digital Ecosystems for Food Systems Transformation</p> <p>Solidaridad will present the Open Farmer Digital Ecosystem (OFDE), demonstrating how integrated</p>	<p>Session 6: Evidence-Based Food Safety & Policy Action</p> <p>North West University FS4Africa FETE Project This session will explore how research and</p>	<p>Session 10: Strengthening the Science-Policy Interface</p> <p>CEA-FIRST will lead a session on strengthening the science-policy</p>

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	<p>digital platforms (such as COTMIS) improve market access, transparency and evidence-based policymaking across agricultural value chains.</p> <p>Place holder: Interactive Dialogue: Scaling Innovation & Climate Solutions</p> <p>This session will bring together all Day 1 speakers to reflect on pathways for scaling digital innovation, strengthening partnerships, and enhancing climate resilience across African food systems.</p>	<p>innovation can be translated into policy and practice, highlighting collaborative approaches to strengthening food safety governance and improving nutrition outcomes.</p>	<p>interface, focusing on how research networks and policy actors can collaborate to enhance evidence-based policymaking and improve policy coherence in agrifood systems.</p>
11:30 – 11:35	Wrap-Up Day 1	Discussion & Wrap-Up	Closing Remarks

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