

Press Release

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WAF Africa Strengthens Continental Action for Agricultural Transformation

Country Directors focus on investment, innovation, climate resilience and stronger agricultural value chains

The World Agriculture Forum (WAF) Africa Region convened a virtual meeting of its Country Directors on 5 August 2026, setting out priorities to strengthen national platforms and accelerate partnerships, investment and innovation for Africa's agricultural transformation.

Convened and chaired by Dr. Babafemi Oyewole, WAF Global Council Member and Senior Director – Africa, the meeting focused on expanding WAF Country Councils, developing country action plans, mobilising resources and building stronger engagement with governments, farmers, agribusinesses, investors, research institutions and development partners.

The Country Directors identified agricultural investment, technology and digital agriculture, climate resilience, value-chain development, trade and market access, and greater participation of youth and women as key areas for coordinated action. The meeting emphasised moving beyond dialogue towards country-level programmes and partnerships capable of delivering measurable impact for farmers and agribusinesses.

The meeting was joined by WAF Country Directors Alexander Isong, Nigeria; Dr. Joseph Tinarwo, Zimbabwe; Oscar E. V. Magenya, Kenya; Dr. Shadreck Phiri Chisulo, Zambia; Dennis O. Carter, Ghana; Dr. Roberto Chiteta, Angola; Dr. Mark Cyubahiro Bagabe, Rwanda; Dr. Yo Tiemoko, Côte d'Ivoire; and Mahesh Bakaya, Lesotho, along with Dr. Lekam Ofem, WAF Director of Strategy and Growth.

WAF aims to build a strong Africa-wide network connecting policy, farmers, science, business, finance and technology. Through stronger national platforms and coordinated regional action, WAF seeks to unlock Africa's agricultural potential and advance resilient, competitive and inclusive food systems.

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