

#AUEUTracker Summary Brief: Agri-Food Systems

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The Africa-Europe Foundation's #AUEUTracker provides a platform to aggregate available information and data, expert analysis and views of Africa-Europe multistakeholders on the implementation of commitments made at the 6th AU-EU Summit of February 2022. This Brief provides a snapshot **summary of the progress made in the agri-food systems area of collaboration**. The AEF encourages regular tracking of commitments made at summits and ministerial meetings to clarify progress, identify implementation constraints, and fast track the roll out of joint initiatives.

Through cooperation on sustainable agri-food systems, the AU and EU can address the challenges of nutrition and food security, environmental concerns, and economic growth. The **COVID-19 crisis and the impact of war in Ukraine have underscored the need for resilient food systems** in Africa and globally.

The EU-Africa partnership includes the EU allocating EUR 8 billion for worldwide food security and food systems programmes in partner countries until 2024 including EUR 4.5 billion for Africa. This also includes an estimated EUR 2.2 billion in immediate humanitarian food and nutrition assistance for the most vulnerable countries and EUR 5 billion to invest in the medium to longer term in sustainable food systems.

The **EU-Africa flagships focus on making African food systems more sustainable** and more resilient to climate shocks: 'Resilient Food Systems' and 'Sustainable agri-food value chains', which aim to boost public and private investments in African agri-food value chains, with a focus on value addition, employment creation, sustainability and food and nutrition security

The **5th Ministerial Meeting offers a critical moment for greater political focus** on sustainable agri-food systems to address the challenges of food security and food sovereignty as a result of the war in Ukraine and the climate crisis.



DISCLAIMER. Information contained in this Summary Brief reflects our state of knowledge as of June 2023 and is based primarily on publicly available data published by regional institutions, mainstream media and think tanks operating across Africa and Europe. The Africa-Europe Foundation invites the feedback and collaboration of all partners and stakeholders interested in AU-EU commitment tracking. Please contact us at info@africaeuropefoundation.org.

To be established

Joint task force on access and affordability of fertilizers

Building on the outcomes of the 11th AU-EU Commission-to-Commission meeting, (1) the joint task force to identify short and long-term challenges related to access and affordability of fertilizers and propose solutions is yet to be established. The **European Commission is currently working on a way forward for the task force with the establishment of an interservice group**, which started meeting from the 2nd half of May onwards. The joint work with the AUC is envisaged to be agreed in the course of the summer. Similarly, (2) the establishment of a high-level dialogue on economic integration with a view to strengthen trade relations and sustainable investment between the two Continents towards the development of regional value chains and industrialisation of Africa is yet to be formed. There are hopes that the 5th AU-EU agri-food ministerial meeting of June 2023 will provide new political momentum and action.

Announced

Team Europe response to food security

The geopolitical situation of this last year reinforced commitments and policy dialogues on resilient food systems and led to the European Commission announcing **financial support to Sub-Saharan Africa** following the Russian invasion of Ukraine through a Team Europe response to global food insecurity: (1) investments in food production and resilience; (2) emergency response to the current food crisis in countries where the needs are the most acute (with financial announcements in April, June, September, November 2022, and January 2023).

Announced

A **'Food and Resilience Facility' for the North of Africa** was announced, to respond to commodity shortage emergencies, contribute to balance of payment stabilisation, sustain local social protection and social safety net systems which are faced with an additional acute crisis. Internationally, a number of EU solidarity transport channels have been established between Ukraine-Europe-Africa to counter the weaponisation of food and fertilisers by Russia.

Ongoing

The Great Green Wall (GGW) initiative, which seeks to restore land, preserve biodiversity and regenerate agricultural systems

Stretching along the southern edge of the Sahara Desert from Senegal to Djibouti, the GGW aims to provide a solution to the challenges of climate change, land degradation, food insecurity, access to energy, high levels of poverty and unemployment, and issues related to stability, security and mobility in the Sahel region.

The GGW is emblematic of the strengths and limitations of the Africa-Europe partnership. Led by the African Union and highly ambitious in scope, with the aim by 2030, to restore one million square kms of degraded land, sequester 250 million tonnes of carbon, and create 10 million green jobs, the **current results are far below the targets set, with somewhere between 4-20% of the total area restored by 2020**. While large sums have been pledged, such as the more than €19bn at the One Planet Summit in 2021, little of this appears to have reached the ground. At the same time, the President of the European Commission announced at COP27 that the EU has over-delivered on its commitment of EUR 700 million per year, and a number of new national projects in Senegal and Niger are receiving support.

Launched

Agri-food value chains and regional trade integration of agri-food sector

Specific projects and initiatives linked to sustainable agri-food value chains and regional trade integration of agri-food sector were launched in Northern and Sub-Saharan Africa, including the **Sustainable Cocoa Initiative in Ghana, Ivory Coast and Cameroon**. Complementing the development of on-land agri-food value chains, focus was also brought to sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in Africa as part of the FISH4ACP and ECOFISH programmes.

Concerning support to the operationalisation of the African continental free trade area (AfCTFA), progress remains limited as African countries face difficulties integrating their markets at regional levels, barriers at borders remain heavy and the liberalisation of markets takes time. It is foreseen for the EU to assist Africa with extension services, building on the outcomes of the country-level food system assessments that the EU is financing, in partnership with FAO and CIRAD.

Launched

Ghana agribusiness platform to deepen investments

An online platform that will directly link Ghanaian Agribusinesses to counterparts in the EU market has been launched. The **Ghana-EU Agribusiness Platform** is a partnership between the European Chamber of Commerce in Ghana (EuroCham Ghana) and the Chamber of Agribusiness Ghana (CAG), with funding from the EU.

The platform is created as **part of the broader vision of establishing the AU-EU Agri-Food Platform** envisaged to be an instrument to catalyse sustainable and inclusive investments in agriculture on the African continent.