

**2014 BORLAUG DIALOGUE**

October 16, 2014 - 10:30 a.m.

Panel: *Dr. Lindiwe Majele Sibanda, Moderator*

*Introduction:*

**Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn**

President - World Food Prize Foundation

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And now we are so pleased to have Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda, the Chief Executive Officer and Head of Mission at the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network – that’s why they call it FANRPAN, because it’s so long, and I am going to now turn to her, so that she may introduce the members of her panel and continue this discussion.

*PANEL:*

**FOCUS ON AFRICA: POLICY AND PARTNERSHIPS**

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*Panel Moderator:*

**Dr. Lindiwe Majele Sibanda**

Chief Executive Officer and Head of Mission, Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN)

*Panel Members:*

<b>H. E. Florence Chenoweth</b>	Minister of Agriculture, Liberia
<b>H. E. Gerardine Mukeshimana</b>	Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources, Republic of Rwanda
<b>Paul Schickler</b>	President, DuPont Pioneer
<b>H. E. Joseph Sam Sesay</b>	Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security, Sierra Leone
<b>Birtukan Dagnachew</b>	Smallholder Farmer and Female Food Hero, Ethiopia

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**Lindiwe Majele Sibanda**

Thank you, and good morning. Excellencies, laureates, distinguished ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the special event and panel entitled, “Focus on Africa: Policy and Partnerships.” We hope during this session we will be able to discuss what is it that Africa is doing? What is it that Africa can bring to the world to feed nine billion by 2050? Is Africa on course to meet this

challenge? Is the trendline looking positive? And if not, what are the gaps, and how can we close these gaps?

Let me take you on a birds-eye view to my Africa. Africa is the world's second-largest and second-most populace continent. With over one billion people as of 2013, it accounts for almost 15 percent of the world's population. According to U.N. estimates, women in Africa produce up to 90% of the food that we eat, and two out of three women are employed in agriculture, so this is indeed a special sector for Africa.

Africa has a plan. The Africa plan is the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Plan, which was signed off by all heads of states of all 54 African countries as far back as 2003. In this plan, Africa commits to eliminating hunger, reducing poverty and food insecurity and enabling the expansion of exports. We talk today, ten years on, after the CAADP declaration. Where is Africa, and what have we achieved?

More recently the AU declared 2014 as the Year of Agriculture and Food Security, and that is the time we took stock in terms of what have we achieved. At CAADP we had committed to ensuring that, for every African country, at least 10% of the national budget is devoted to agriculture. In addition to that, we wanted to ensure that this is the leading sector with a minimum of 6% per annum growth.

Sadly, we are not there yet, but we are making progress. Only 13 countries have been able to meet this minimum 10% allocation, but there are success stories that we want to share today. More recently in Malabo when we celebrated ten years of CAADP, there was renewed commitment. And in this renewed commitment Africa is committing to sustaining the annual sector growth of 6% per annum for agriculture. Africa is committing to establishing and strengthening inclusive public private partnerships of at least five priority agriculture commodity value chains, which have a strong linkage to smallholder agriculture. And thirdly, Africa is committing to creating job opportunities for at least 30% of the youth in the agriculture value chains. And most important, Africa is committing to reducing stunting by at least 10%.

These are tall orders, but we are sure that we are in it together and it can be done.

With me this morning, we've got the best of what Africa can do, three ministers of agriculture ranging in experience from one year to over 20 years. We have minister from Rwanda, minister from Sierra Leone and minister from Liberia. We also have the real people who make it happen, the farmers, and private sector. And we're excited that we're joined here by Paul Schickler of DuPont Pioneer who's been with DuPont Pioneer for over 40 years. This is a man who's seen it all, done it all, and has answers for Africa. Welcome, Paul.

Next to Paul we have Honorable Minister Gerardine Mukeshimana. She became minister in 2014. She holds a PhD in plant breeding and genetics, and prior to that she was a coordinator of Rural Support Program, working on infrastructure and landscape transformation. Welcome to the panel.

Next we have Honorable Minister Florence Chenoweth, who is the longest serving and was the first female African minister holding the portfolio of agriculture as far back as 1970. When I introduced the panelist, someone did say, "I wasn't born at that time." Not me. She's a soil

scientist in her first degree but has also got a PhD on land use management, and she hails from Liberia, has worked for a long time with FAO.

Next we have Honorable Minister Dr. Joseph Sam Sesay from Sierra Leone. The minister has been in office since 2007, and he boasts that he's one of the most experienced ministers in the portfolio of agriculture. He is currently the chair of the FAO Committee on Agriculture, and he has experience in working with the United Nations. He holds a PhD in Development Economics.

Finally, we've got a champion, a mother, a child bride, a widow, a mentor, a businesswoman, farmer Birtukan Dagnachew – hails from Ethiopia in Woldiya District of North Wolo Zone of Amahara Regional State. She is our hero, because she's here to share a success story from the ground.

Without wasting time, we just have one hour, I just want to go to the farmer.

Take us to Woldiya District of North Wolo Zone. We want to know what is happening there, and share your story of what makes you the champion who is a gold medal winner from the regional government. Over to you, my sister.

### **Birtukan Dagnachew**

I'm thankful for being introduced. I'm so much welcome to be here by the Gates Foundation. I got married when I was 13 years old, and I have got my first baby when I was 14 years old. And then after that my husband passed away during the Eritrea-Ethiopian War, and then I have been in a very difficult situation since I don't have any support system.

Because the lifestyle Ethiopia, especially for women is very hard, but I committed to myself that I have to support my children by engaging into agriculture. At first I was in a very hard situation, because I didn't know, I didn't have any support system and I didn't have enough food, clothing. And all this happened for five years. And the land that I have is only 2.1 hectare.

Then I went to the agriculture extension workers and agricultural exporters, and I started getting advice from them. Then I start producing more on teff and sorghum. I have also other crops that I am producing. I'm doing this in connection with the agricultural exporters and extension worker in my community, and that helped me to transform my agriculture productivity; and as a result now I am able to educate my children, and my firstborn is a degree graduate, and he is an engineer and working in Ethiopia.

This commitment happened because I didn't want my children to proceed with the lifestyle that I used to have. I wanted them to have a better life. And even now my second-born, he's a truck driver, and also the other children they are still in other schools, and I am supporting them.

After passing all this difficult situation and I become a success and a model for many Ethiopian farmers, and I become a gold medalist at the regional level and at country level.

I do have so many different type of crops, like orange, banana, coffee, and also I am planting trees. That's why I am a food secured woman. And I'd like to tell you there are still so many

problems in Ethiopia because we don't have a modern agricultural system, and our agricultural system is labor intensive and are still using cows, oxen, for plowing. And my work time is 24 hours within a day, because I don't have any other alternatives. But after like starting using improved variety of croplands and I become success really and I have got many years, and that enabled me to like have more money, and now I have a house that I bought in the city, and I am renting that, and that contributed to more income in my life. So I have seen so many changes in my life because I am interacting with different people, and also I got this experience after coming to this.

The major problems that we are facing in our agricultural system is there is climate change and degradation of soil, and specifically women are not empowered by the community. I wish to get so many power, and I wish there were to be a spokesperson for women in Ethiopia to be empowered and to get many support.

So we don't have like a health packaging system in our country, and we don't have women mentors and women agricultural experts that we can work together, and we don't have women role models. I did my own initiative. I took my own initiative and started this development unit and started teaching many women in my community. And without the extension package, without input into the agriculture system, the improvement or the productivity of yield will not change.

If you are supporting our extension packaging system, if you are supporting our smallholder agriculture system, we will change more. And I really thank you very much for all your support.

### **Lindiwe Majele Sibanda**

Ladies and gentlemen, there is the story of a champion, a woman who's making it happen. And her number one priority is to make sure children are educated and they don't go through her experience. Thank you very much.

Minister Sesay, you've heard the story. Sierra Leone, what are you doing for farmers like my sister here in Ethiopia. Do you have the same circumstances, or you don't have any problems at all?

### **H.E. Joseph Sam Sesay**

Well, as you very well know that everywhere, not only Africa, we do have problems in agricultural sector. And for Africa in particular, let me say Sierra Leone specifically, we do have challenges in spite of the progress that we have made as a country, as has been highlighted by His Excellency the President.

However, in our strive to promote the sector, we have come up with initiatives that will really improve the sector. And one of them is to ensure that we provide an opportunity for the farmers to come together and strengthen the cohesion in the markets through the construction of the Agricultural Business Centers. This Agriculture Business Center, or ABCs for short, have a multi-purpose strategy.

First it is a means to reduce postharvest loss by 50%. I mean, currently in Africa and Sierra Leone in general, about half of what we produce is lost after harvest. So the Agricultural Business Center is an infrastructure wherein people who store, farmers who process, store, market their produce, as well as market agricultural inputs. We channel agricultural inputs through them, so it is an input/output marketing strategy. It is a strategy to reduce postharvest loss.

And also it is an extension strategy, because every Agricultural Business Center – we're talking about five, three to five farmer based organizations comprised of 25 to 30 persons. So you can imagine the outreach using the ABC to deliver extension services in a situation where human resource to reach the farmers is very limited.

It is also a strategy to help the farmers transform from very informal agriculturalist to formal legal entities. With the Agricultural Business Centers, we are now helping them to become legal entities like limited liability companies or cooperatives so that they now have a legal status to be able to access whatever facilities like financing which is very difficult for them because they're more formalized. And it is also a way of improving their own access to whatever facilities.

So the ABCs in Sierra Leone has really been a very good job to bring farmers together, teach them, reduce postharvest losses, and also transform them in many ways. This has really helped the farmers.

### **Lindiwe Majele Sibanda**

Minister, we had this morning His Excellency the President eloquently defending the role of the youth and telling us they are the leaders of today, and everything we do, the leaders are the youth. What is the average age of this farmer that is involved in ABC program?

### **H.E. Joseph Sam Sesay**

Well, I would want to say, I don't, I cannot put finger on the average age, but I would say that about 60% of the members of the Agricultural Business Centers – that's well over 300 to 500 in fact, constitute the youth. And that means they are key in the promotion of the Agricultural Business Centers in Sierra Leone. And we are changing to position like he said, he has appointed many ministers that are youth. We used to say the youth are the leaders of tomorrow. He's saying the youth are the leaders of today.

### **Lindiwe Majele Sibanda**

I'm sure my sister from Uganda, the vet, will be happy that in Sierra Leone farming is no longer a retirement job; it's for the youth and the leadership. The policymakers are being revitalized; we have more youth in cabinet. So we are yet to see very good policies. But you're not doing well on CAADP. Let's see that 10%.

### **H.E. Joseph Sam Sesay**

Well, I mean, incidentally I'm a champion of CAADP in Africa, and we formulated our program in 2009, signed a compact. We committed ourselves to allocate 10%, and we did very well, very

close to it, very close. And I was very instrumental among the ministers of agriculture in Africa to develop a document to recommit our heads of state during the last summit, recommit them to the Maputo Declaration in 2003, which you highlighted terms of the 10%, the 6% growth rates undertaking the CAADP process, but additionally a new set of commitment. I mean, ending hunger by 2025, giving you employment by 30%, increasing interregional trade by three times more than the current level percent. These are some of the additional commitments, and they signed up to that. I think that's a great achievement for Africa.

### **Lindiwe Majele Sibanda**

Congratulations, Sierra Leone – you've done your CAADP compact. You're on the second phase. We have a minister who chairs the FAO Committee on Agriculture. So we are watching this space. Thank you.

We move to Liberia. My sister, Honorable Minister Florence, you've been in it for many, many years. Take us to your world. What is happening in Liberia?

### **H.E. Florence Chenoweth**

Thank you very much. I think because I have been at it for so long lies the pain that I feel seeing where we are in agriculture today. Because my friends, don't get me wrong. I came back to an agricultural sector that was completely, completely destroyed in 2006. So we started from scratch, bringing our farmers, our citizens back from refugee camps where they had been 24 years, had lost any farming technique or interest, had been fed in refugee camp. So the first thing, we had to bring them home, and then we had to encourage them to go back to farming. It took a lot of teaching or retraining and a lot of grassroots help.

We moved in 2006 from a position of where we're mechanizing, even though not to a large extent of big mechanization but even on small farmers' fields. So small farmers getting back and starting at the very rudimentary level of the whole and cutlasses again. We have the majority of our farmers, the majority of our people in the farming sector, over 70%, small scale, again, as I said; and among those, the majority are women.

Now to describe the Liberian farmer, she is a woman, and she is around 50 years old. We have had difficulty with that rudimentary level that we have to start from, attracting youth or retaining youth on the farms. As we improve, we are beginning to see some return of the youth, and we are encouraging that. The government has a policy of supporting women who have traditionally limited access to resources, of providing, ensuring them not less than 35% of the resources go to these women farmers. So it's beginning to change. Like my colleague has said, they produce the largest percentage of the food, and they have been the greatest impacted by the Ebola.

They have the same difficulty – access to land. We're doing something about it. We decided to go there. Not many African countries want to tackle land tenure issue; it's a can of worms. But we are there to ensure that we have equal access to land for small farmers. They have the challenges of access to credit. The hardest thing is getting people to think of agriculture as a business, which we would like to think it is. And their access to markets with our poor infrastructure, everything... Because it will have to be rebuilt, processing facilities, attracting the

private sector. I'm very happy we have a private sector person on this panel, because in our region, attracting the private sector to agriculture, they are not moving as fast as any of us want to see.

### **Lindiwe Majele Sibanda**

You say that land issues, land tenure is a hot potato, but you are ready with your gloves to tackle that one. How small is small? When we talk about the small holdings, we tend to generalize. When I go to Liberia, what is the standard size of the small holding farmer?

### **H.E. Florence Chenoweth**

About 1.5 acres of land. We have to think of it in where we're using the slash and burn to a large extent, and we are 100% – you know, we're in these high-forested areas. So de-stumping is a problem. So when they have 1.5 to 2 acres of land, a lot of it really is not planted.

### **Lindiwe Majele Sibanda**

Thank you very much. Let me move now to Rwanda. Honorable Minister, you've been in roads, infrastructure, terracing, and we heard yesterday that really this is what we need to be looking at – infrastructure. Those were some of the last words from our pioneer, our champion, Norman Borlaug, saying, "Fix the infrastructure if you want to take it to the farmer." You've been there. Now you are a minister. Bring us to your world in Rwanda. What are the challenges? What are the policies that will make it happen?

### **H.E. Gerardine Mukeshimana**

Thank you. In Rwanda in agricultural sector we operate under the strategic plan, which is supposed to transform agriculture from subsistence to a marketplace agriculture. So using that strategy, there's three pillars, the one which is aiming at increasing productivity or crops and livestock, the one which is looking at the research and technology generation, and also the value addition and linkage to markets.

So where I have been actively engaged is the infrastructure developments. So I used to lead efforts to develop irrigation infrastructures, but currently we kind of successful in developing hillside erosion control. There is another saying that I come from a hilly country with very small land holding. But fortunately that land holding is private, so every single farmer has his own land, and he has the title for it.

So the government is trying to develop those kinds of infrastructures. In erosion control, we end up doing what we call radical terracing. We have been doing a progressive terracing, grass planting, but that has not helped much, so this century we moved to what we call radical terracing. It's a kind of mechanical work. So you kind of divide the landscape into small plots so that you can reduce the slope up to zero or zero-something; and then, instead of water flowing downstream, it's entering into the soil. That initiative has been successful because, it sounds weird that you are investing in private land as a government, but that's the only way we can help. Because whatever we do, if the soil keeps moving downstream, it's not going to help.

So this approach has been kind of comprehensive. The people, men, women, children the age of working, they're working on developing those infrastructures. It's linked to a banking system where people who are laborers on that, they are making money, but the payment is being channeled through banks. And that money is the money that they use to buy the first round of inputs for production. And also such heavy investment, you don't want to use it for everything, so usually we encourage people to grow high-value crops on that.

And we have been investing also into rural roads to make sure that the trucking industry is functioning, our processing is being done, but still as government, you feel like probably we are working on a production and productivity side, but probably also let's look at supporting the private sector, because that's where you are encouraging people to produce. But what happens after they produce? So they need to be linked to a market. They need to be linked to value addition. But they are also, you find that there is a long way to go.

### **Lindiwe Majele Sibanda**

Thank you very much, Minister, for unpacking the policy that you have developed as government and are implementing and are reaping the fruits of success from that. But we also want to congratulate you, because as one day you were the first African country to sign on your CAADP compact. Declaration was 2003, and 2007 Rwanda was the first to sign. But more than that, you were the first African country to go then go into second phase. So you didn't just sign and sit. You signed, implemented. What were the fruits of the first five years of CAADP? Can you bring those to this room? What did CAADP do for you?

### **H.E. Gerardine Mukeshimana**

Actually, we are using CAADP as a strategy to finance the strategic plans that we are doing. So there has been a framework where the government and all development partners we are meeting, and as we have had course the strategic plan, that's where we develop that kind of basket fund where everyone is coming in and putting funds to develop what we are developing.

So what I have said for our strategic plan, being increasing productivity, being into research and technology development, and extension services, being the value addition and the linkages to market – all of that has been supplemented by the CAADP plan. And now we are entering into the second phase, and we are really happy that we are getting development for another board to support.

### **Lindiwe Majele Sibanda**

Thank you very much. Private sector, private sector, private sector – we've heard that word. It used to be a dead word when I grew up. So now that we can talk about it comfortably, DuPont Pioneer, what are you doing for Africa?

### **Paul Schickler**

Thank you for the question and the opportunity. You know, when we hear the other speakers and also when we think about what we have talked about today and also the issues of this



week, the challenges are significant, very significant. But at the same time, as I look at the solutions, I try and look at them in a straightforward fashion. They're not simple, but I think straightforward helps. And when I think about the solutions, it comes to three areas, and that's what we're focused on and I think also many in the room are focused. The first is education, the second is partnership, and the third is making investments. So I think we've already heard those themes already.

So first on education. Our wonderful farmer from Ethiopia described how important education has been, not only to her success in farming but also to her children. So that is clearly something that needs attention. So what are we doing at DuPont Pioneer? We've got a great program also in Ethiopia. It's a partnership with the Ethiopian government and USAID. It has a lot of components to it, inputs, access to credit. But one of the components that is most important is education or extension.

We're in our second year. The first year we planted 320 demonstration plots, this year 3,200 demonstration plots. And it's all about demonstrating, showing and transferring knowledge to the farmer. Already we've impacted 4,000 farmers in Ethiopia. Our goal is to impact 100,000. So education clearly is one part of the solution. Second part is partnership. The Ethiopian example that I just cited is clearly partnership, but I'll give you another example that relates exactly to what the minister said about making agriculture a business.

So we have a program in South Africa, also in partnership with the Africa Farmers Association and John Deere where we're identifying 20 farmers but helping them be a seed producer. So not just growing the crop but turning their operation into a seed production activity, into a real business, and elevate it to that level. So I think that's another way to look at a partnership and also to develop the competency to run a business.

And then the third thing that I mentioned, of course, is investing. And that's, I think, really what makes the difference. We heard also from the minister about investing in infrastructure. But also what we as a business do is invest locally. In 2013 we put in place in South Africa a leading research hub, and it has really two opportunities for us. One is certainly to develop products for South Africa as well as products for all of Africa. But the second is to help bring in others into our research hub, academia, students, government, associations, farmers' associations, and have them learn and experience what science can do to productivity in agriculture.

So again that's what we're doing. I think it's sort of like I said, a straightforward approach to the very serious and complex problems. It is education, partnership and investing.

### **Lindiwe Majele Sibanda**

Thank you very much, Mr. Schickler. What you are saying is you are doing for others. You're in partnerships, you're educating, you are making sure you cultivate the seed for business to grow. But we heard from Rwanda that the private sector they have there is crying for help. Who is helping you?

## Paul Schickler

It comes back to the partnership. I mentioned these things that are important to us and I think important to our challenges that we face – education, access, turning agriculture into a business – and in each one of those cases, we’re doing it in partnership. So education, I mentioned USAID, but also we’ve got a broad partnership across the entire continent of Africa with 4-H to help educate two million youth across the continent over the next number of years, and we’re doing that in partnership.

I mentioned the activity in South Africa with John Deere. We have other activities where we’re trying to bring students from the continent to the United States for training on science and technology. If we’re really going to make a difference long term on the continent of Africa, regulatory systems and seed systems need to be created. Again, that’s going to be done through partnership.

## Lindiwe Majele Sibanda

Excellent. Africa, when private sector comes and says they want to help, the answer is partnerships. Go find 4-H, go find John Deere, go find the helpers, and partner and do business. Not just governments should be the provider. We’re in it together.

## Question and Answer Session

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Sibanda Ladies and gentlemen, I do not want to monopolize this. I want to open up for questions from the floor. We don’t have much time. If you can queue up behind the mics, I think we’ll have the opportunity to pick up a couple of questions. All right, over to you.

Question Hello. My name is Carli Moore, and I’m a college student from North Carolina State University, and I have a question. How receptive are smallholder farmers to outside influence? And how do you incorporate indigenous knowledge into the education system, specifically the people who live there know more about it than people coming in. How do we match their indigenous knowledge with the knowledge we have from research institutions? Thank you.

Sibanda Thank you very much. Any other question? That’s a broad one for all the panelists to answer. All right, who wants to take that one? Minister Sesay.

H.E. Sesay Well, in Sierra Leone we have introduced a research and extension strategy of establishing innovation platforms. There is this platform brings together the researchers, the extension, the farmers, and also the private sector as well as the civil society, to determine research priorities and to determine whether the technologies that are developed by research deliver by extension are creating the desired impacts and to provide a feedback along the line. So it’s like the technology, development, adoption, and feedback system, along the line of the researchers, extension, the farmers and everybody. So that brings on board what the experiences of farmers, as well as researchers and extension can bring on the table.

Shickler ...go from the public sector to the private sector again. One of the pleasures that I have in the private sector with DuPont Pioneer is to interact with growers, with farmers. And I do that here in the United States, I do it in Rwanda, I do it in Uganda, I do it in Kenya, Thailand. It's one of the, like I said, the great pleasures that I have. But the purpose of that is to listen. I want to listen to the problems, and I want to listen to the cultural practices, because we can learn as much from, in words that the students use, the indigenous locals as I think we can share in science knowledge. So it really is two ways.

Sibanda Excellent. We've got another question lined up, so please introduce yourself and fire.

Question I'm Chris Wasike. I work with one of the public universities in Kenya, and my question is a very simple one. I would like to know from the panel, what is their commitment towards agricultural research? Because I am a firm believer that technology has to be backed by research. And looking at the smallholder farmers, how diverse they are – how is the model of research being formed in such a way that it can be able to support the smallholder system?

Sibanda Thank you very much. I know exactly who should answer that question. Minister Gerardine, you were associated with an African center of excellence, BecA, the BecA-ILRI hub in Ethiopia where really you've got – in Kenya, my apologies – state of the art technologies, state of the art missionary, and all the brains. And you yourself are an expert in genetics. Take us there. Have you taken that to your higher office, or that's left outside and you're now just doing politics? Share with us.

H.E. Mukeshimana [inaudible] integrating into doing the politics. I have been at BecA, which is a center of excellence for science and technology in Africa. So what we used to do and are still doing it for African agricultural science in so many ways. First of all, there are capacity-building components, but the capacity-building components are educating African scientists the state of art technologies to do science. But also these people who are there for capacity-building, they bring in their questions, their questions from their countries, from farmers; and this research is the research which is solving issues that are already in the field. That's one way of doing science for agriculture.

But every country in Africa has its own research centers for agriculture. Such institutions are not as strong as you would wish them to be, but they are doing their best to do research which is responding to the real world needs.

Sibanda Thank you, so we've got a champion now for ILRI-BecA hub. You've been there, you've benefited, now you are a policymaker – take it to the world and tell them we need more investment for research and research that is to feed policy, not research for just publication. Thank you.

Minister Sesay, can I just give you 30 seconds because we've got a long queue now of people who want to ask questions.

- H.E. Sesay Yes, I just want to say that I think there is need for transformation of the agricultural research system in Africa. They must move from that traditional system of looking at an aspect, for example, input supply. They should now look at the value chain. We are approaching the agricultural value chain systems in agriculture. They have to look at appropriate inputs, production systems, value addition and marketing. And they have to also look at agriculture as a business. What technologies can really help the farmers to do farming as a business? They themselves have to train their psyches as well as the farmers, and taking agricultural as a business and therefore produce those technologies that will enhance and enable the farmers to do farming as a business.
- Sibanda We've got to emphasize that more. The Malabo Declaration says, prioritize five commodity value chains. Researchers, latch onto those and provide support – government is ready. Can I get the questions quick, name and question, and my panel will write those down, and we just have ten minutes to respond. Thank you. Over to you.
- Question Sure, great. We're so lucky and privileged to have an actual small farmer with us here from Ethiopia, so I would like to hear her answer to the previous question about matching her own indigenous knowledge of farming with extension services, outside expert advice, and specifically how it helped her increase, if she could give some examples of how it helped her increase her productivity and yields and income.
- Sibanda Thank you very much. Next question, please.
- Question Hi. I'm Rose McClough from University of Minnesota. We heard earlier about the gender gap in education and agricultural development, and I'm curious what sorts of efforts have been made in your respective countries and the DuPont partnership to address this issue?
- Sibanda Thank you.
- Question Yeah, Matthew Blair, and I have a question both for the ministers and Pioneer in terms of diversification and research on other crops other than the top four that we heard about in the morning from the Gates Foundation representative. Thanks.
- Sibanda Thank you. I'm sure our farmer will also talk about that in terms of whatever crops rather than the top four. Next question, please.
- Question My question – How do you translate science that is already known into action?
- Sibanda Thank you. Brief and to the point – take it to the people, science into action.
- Question Good morning, my name is Iftikhar Mustafa, from the Global Agriculture Food Security program, and I'm pleased that this program has projects both in Sierra Leone and Rwanda. My question to the ministers is that the farmer

organizations, the smallholder farmer organizations – access to finance, access to capacity-building – are seen as challenges. How are you trying to ensure that these smallholder farmer organizations not only have access to these credit and the capacity, but is sustainable, and they are able to leverage the private sector?

Sibanda Excellent, thank you. Last question.

Question Hello. I'm Charlie Mitchell. I'm a student from the Global Youth Institute, and I was wondering – how are you getting this 21<sup>st</sup> century technology to the farmers?

Sibanda Thank you. Over to the panel. I would like to start with the farmer. My sister, we've got a challenge. We know we've got our own indigenous knowledge, which had sustained you, and now we have new knowledge, the science-driven knowledge. How are you working together? Are they telling you to forget about the old and just latch onto the new? Or you are in your way able to integrate the two and make it work for you? Bring us to your world.

Dagnachew I have told you already what I've become successful before, but I used to have only 2.1 hectares of land, and I didn't have any success when I was using traditional agriculture practice system. But when the extension package came to our area and they showed us, they demonstrate to us how to use fertilizer, how to use selected varieties, and how to use compost – and I learned that.

Before I used to produce only from 10 to 15 kilogram of teff per hectare, but after that I start using compost and fertilizer and also making a line cultivation, I started producing my plant on line, and that increased my productivity.

Then this success brought for me to be recognized by Oxfam America, and they took me to Addis, and they introduced me different type of agriculture packaging, a modern agricultural system. And that helped me to double my output, and as a result I become more successful, and that helped me to come here in front of you.

In my country I do have a lot of problem and even if the government is teaching us, and we do have problem with water. And what I did is I started collecting water, because there is no rain. And by using that collected water, I start using, planting my trees. And that came through the extension package. And so this extension package helped me to go there. And that education helped me to become more empowered, and that demonstration helped me to become more successful.

For example, selected variety of seeds. That selected variety of seeds are not accessible for majority of us and specifically because women farmers are undermined. Even there is women violence for us, and all this try to be eradicated by the support of our government, but our government is not wholly equipped to eradicate all the problems. And that is why the Oxfam package helping me to change and become a role model.

So I like to thank the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for helping me for all this change.

Sibanda You can't have it any better. This is a farmer who's embraced technology, and it's working for her, and she's integrating that with her indigenous knowledge. Honorable ministers, in my 8 to 5 job I'm told always have the one-minute elevator speech. I want to turn that to you now – one-minute elevator speech to respond to all the questions, because I want us to be on time.

In a nutshell, we've asked questions. What are your answers – in Sierra Leone, in Liberia, in Rwanda, then private sector? Let me start with private sector – you always have the one-minute elevator speech. I'll make yours 30 seconds.

Schickler I'll specifically address the one question about other crops, which is a challenge; because research, as the discussion is had, is expensive. But to enable other crops, it comes back to partnerships. So my example is sorghum. Sorghum is not a commercial crop for DuPont Pioneer in Africa, but what we've done is, through partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Howard Buffett Foundation, brought biofortified sorghum as a staple crop through research, technology collaboration, now working through regulatory systems to enable that opportunity to be in front of smallholder farmers.

Sibanda My sister Florence Wambugu in the audience will be excited to hear that. She asked a question yesterday.

Schickler She will, that's correct.

Sibanda Rwanda, one-minute elevator response?

H.E. Mukeshimana I want to respond to the question about the gender gap and the science and technology into action. The gender gap is still a big issue, and most of the women in Africa are into production; that's the bottom of the chain. So we need to get them in higher level, and that's a challenge that all of us here are facing, to get them from the production to the other sides of the chain.

The science and technology into action – that is requiring partnership. They generating data in science is one thing, but taking it down where it's supposed to be is another thing. So all of us, we need to work together to make sure that we are delivering the right message to where it is meant to be.

Sibanda Excellent, thank you very much. It was actually one minute. Over to Liberia.

H.E. Chenoweth Well, very quickly on the gender gap, we have a woman as president, and she is also a farmer. So when it comes to agriculture, we don't have too much problem in that gap. On diversification, we do push for that, because we're trying to get our people to stray away from one staple food – not easy, but they're making good progress.

How do we translate the science? We have found that the easiest way is to involve the small farmers right from the start. We involve them by training them as trainers, so they learn, they appreciate things, and then they take it up or spread it to other farmers. And farmers are not stupid – if they see the science working, and they see money in what it is leading to, they will adapt it. If it means just putting their money in the hole and not making money from it, they simply let it pass. I just didn't want to let you forget that Liberia became number seven on the continent for signing the CAADP, and we have also gotten our gaps funding. That means that we're close to the end of CAADP one, and we will go on to CAADP two.

Sibanda            Congratulations, Liberia. Sierra Leone? One-minute elevator response.

H.E. Sesay        Well, I want to talk about how would the smallholders leverage support from the large-scale investments. Incidentally in Sierra Leone since 2008, I was able to pass through cabinet, a policy on promoting large-scale investments in agriculture through a package of incentives. And that has really attracted a lot of private sector investment, especially for indirect investment in Sierra Leone. To create more opportunities, we are trying now to integrate the smallholders into these large-scale investments for them, the smallholders to practice agriculture as a business through forms of grower schemes. We are saying that if you are taking land for your production, it can only be 60 to 70%. The balance you have to contract out to smallholders, either a packet of support for them to also supply you their produce and so forth. And that is one of the strategies.

Sibanda            Excellent. So our ministers do do one-minute elevator responses. Thank you very much. I hope in this session we've been able to take you to Africa, showcase that Africa has a plan through CAADP, showcase that it's not just a plan on paper but there has been implementation. There are success stories. Africa is moving into second-phase CAADP, and what is key is the partnerships and African private sector is up for the game for the international community, and what they want is partnerships to make things happen.

Thank you to our farmer, who has grounded the conversation. Thank you to private sector who showcased that they are in Africa, they are working with partners, and government is providing the conducive environment. And thank you to our eloquent ministers, who are scientists, development economist, showing that Africa is taking research to policy and making sure there's a conducive environment for us to feed the Africa of today and the Africa of 2050. Thank you very much.

### **Ambassador Quinn**

And thank you, thank you to Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda for a superb job of moderating this panel and keeping it focused and on time. So let's have a round of applause for her. Thank you.