

# UN Food Systems Summit +4 Stocktake

## SESSION REPORT

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Type (click one):

- ☐ Plenary
- ☐ Ministerial Roundtable
- ☐ High-level Panels
- ☐ Featured Event
- ☒ Investment Dialogue
- ☐ Stakeholder Action Session

## Increased and Targeted Investment through Public-Private Partnerships

29 July 2025 | 09:00 -10:50

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List of speakers, in all segments, and key messages

NAME AND TITLE OF SPEAKER	SEGMENT (opening, panel, closing, etc.)	KEY MESSAGES OR/AND RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS
1. Dr Ousmane Badiane, Executive Chairperson Akademiy2063	Keynote speaker	The keynote speaker frames PPPs within transforming economies, especially in Africa, highlighting the necessity of combining private sector innovation with public sector governance to meet rising demands for public goods amid constrained fiscal spaces. He references the Kampala Declaration's commitment to mobilize

		<p>\$100 billion in public and private investments for agri-food systems, underscoring the need for governments to increase budget allocations and create enabling environments for private investments. Dr. Badiane showcases successful PPP examples from Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, and the Africa Investment Forum, stressing the importance of fiscal space, debt management, and government procurement reform to unlock private sector engagement.</p> <p><b>In summarizing the session,</b> Dr Badiane, discusses the need to forge stronger partnerships between countries, development partners, and financial organizations to accelerate progress. The recently adopted Kampala Declaration provides a framework for this collaboration, but adjustments are needed on all sides. Emphasis is placed on engaging the domestic private sector in Africa, which is already investing significantly in infrastructure such as hospitals and schools. Governments must actively create a culture that integrates private sector involvement to leverage resources effectively, especially in areas where the private sector cannot operate. The transformation of African economies presents new opportunities for private sector growth, and building trust and partnerships between public and private entities is crucial for future economic development.</p> <p>There is optimism about the future despite challenges in the Official Development Assistance (ODA) landscape, which is expected to drive improvements in efficiency, innovation, and creativity in development efforts.</p>
2. Mr Brendan Gleeson, Secretary General, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Ireland	Panellist	<p>He emphasized that addressing the financing gap in food systems requires both public and private funding, rather than viewing private finance as a substitute for public finance. He highlighted the importance of specialized roles, noting that the private sector possesses expertise in production and supply chains that the public sector lacks, making private sector involvement indispensable for long-term food system development. This sets the stage for understanding how collaboration and complementary roles between sectors are crucial for sustainable progress. The Irish government</p>

		effectively manages public-private partnerships by involving the private sector in policymaking without ceding ownership, ensuring diverse voices including farmers and environmental groups are heard. Ireland employs mechanisms like the Irish Strategic Investment Fund to provide risk-backed loans, helping farmers and agri-businesses overcome financing barriers such as collateral requirements. Additionally, innovative PPPs in areas like animal health and cattle breeding demonstrate how public and private sectors can collaboratively address production challenges, improve efficiency, and reduce environmental impact, highlighting a long-term, cooperative approach that balances public goods with private enterprise.
3. Mr. Nasir Ingawa, General Manager, Partnerships and Investor Relations at the National Agricultural Development Fund (NADF), Nigeria	Panellist	Discussed Nigeria's innovative approach to addressing agricultural finance gaps. Established in 2023, NADF serves as a catalytic vehicle pooling resources from international finance institutions and private sector partners through diverse asset classes including grants, loans, and equity. The fund supports sustainable agriculture by leveraging unutilized infrastructure, such as river basins for all-season farming, and fosters partnerships at national and subnational levels, including land equity contributions from private entities, effectively mobilizing capital to invest across agricultural value chains.
4. Dr Jacob Oduor, Regional Lead Economist for West Africa, African Development Bank (AfDB)	Panellist	Elaborated on the institution's evolved approach to supporting public-private partnerships (PPPs) in agriculture. He highlighted three strategic pillars: strengthening enabling environments, providing project preparation and transaction advisory services, and financing PPPs through loans and equity. The Bank emphasizes creating conditions that attract private sector involvement by addressing gaps such as project readiness, risk mitigation via partial credit guarantees, and regulatory framework support, thereby fostering win-win outcomes. Examples include support for special agricultural processing zones in Nigeria, Togo, and Eswatini, alongside innovation incubation programs that link impactful technologies from small producers to private sector adoption. This comprehensive approach

		aims to bridge the gap between policy development and actual project implementation, ensuring impactful PPPs that drive agri-food system transformation in Africa.
5. Mr Ramesh Moochikal, Managing Director and CEO of Africa Improved Foods	Panellist	Shared insights on his company's successful public-private partnership (PPP) model in Rwanda. Operating for eight years, the company produces nutritious foods aimed at reducing child stunting, currently feeding 1.6 million people daily with plans to expand to 10 million. The partnership involves the Rwandan government, Dutch private sector firm Royal DSM, IFC, and FMO, combining local agricultural sourcing from 90,000 small-scale farmers with cutting-edge food processing technology. This PPP exemplifies how efficient government support, access to technology, and multilateral collaboration can drive impactful, sustainable food system solutions that improve nutrition and livelihoods across Africa. Highlighted Nigeria's proactive approach in enhancing agricultural finance through the establishment of the National Agriculture Development Fund (NADF). This quasi-private entity mobilizes capital by blending public and private resources, offering diverse financial instruments such as grants, loans, and equity to de-risk investments and attract private sector participation. The NADF also facilitates better policy coordination across multiple government agencies and leverages underutilized infrastructure like river basins for all-season farming, thus enabling sustainable agricultural growth and inclusive partnerships.
6. Ms Emeline Fellus, Senior Director, Agriculture and Food & Member of the WBCSD Extended Leadership Group	Panellist	With the panel discussion transitioning to the second session focusing on the future and evolution of public-private partnerships (PPPs) in agri-food systems, Ms Fellus from the World Business Council for Sustainable Development highlighted the shift from small-scale, isolated PPPs to large, landscape-based approaches that integrate multiple stakeholders to address sustainability challenges amid climate change. She emphasizes the need for systemic collaboration and innovative financing models to connect and scale investments in regenerative agriculture globally, citing initiatives like the Landscape

		<p>Accelerator in Brazil as examples of this evolving PPP model. This approach aims to connect fragmented investments, unlock finance, and foster partnerships across sectors to maximize impact and achieve sustainable development goals. She also discusses on the evolution of public-private partnerships (PPPs) toward more systemic, landscape-based approaches that address broader sustainability challenges. She highlights the increasing willingness of the private sector to engage in large-scale, multi-stakeholder initiatives that integrate environmental, social, and economic goals. Reference is made to the Landscape Accelerator in Brazil as a prime example, where diverse actors collaborate to finance regenerative agriculture over vast areas, emphasizing the need to connect investments and unlock further financing to scale impact effectively.</p>
<p>7. Mr Samuel Kamau Nganga, Regional Manager, International Finance Corporation (IFC)</p>	<p>Panellist</p>	<p>The contribution centers on the vital role of public-private partnerships (PPPs) in agricultural development, with a particular focus on aligning incentives and leveraging digital technology to mitigate risks and enhance efficiency. He highlighted how technology and data now enable better risk pricing and contract flexibility in agriculture PPPs, exemplified by successful agroprocessing zones in Ethiopia. He envisions a future where entire countries adopt such “park” models to foster stable investment environments. The conversation underscores the importance of systemic approaches and incentive alignment between public and private sectors to foster sustainable PPPs in agri-food systems. Market systems perspectives support aligning incentives among partners. He highlights the use of digital technology to “buy results” rather than just inputs, enabling outcome-based agreements that reward achieving specific milestones, exemplified by a Nigerian client rapidly scaling outreach to hundreds of thousands of farmers. This approach fosters reliable partnerships across government and private sectors, enhancing the scalability and impact of PPPs in agriculture.</p>

8. Mr Ishmael Sunga, CEO Southern Africa Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU)	Panellist	Mr. Ishmael Sunga, representing smallholder farmers, highlights critical challenges faced by farmers, emphasizing the lack of essential backbone infrastructure such as water, health facilities, energy, roads, and digital connectivity, which hampers rural livelihoods and agricultural productivity. He stresses that addressing these fundamental needs through massive, long-term investments in infrastructure is essential and can only be achieved through strong, inclusive partnerships. Furthermore, he advocates for genuine farmer inclusion in PPPs, urging a shift from partnerships done “to” farmers toward co-created PPPs that empower farmers as active drivers rather than passive beneficiaries, coining the term “public-private-people partnerships” (PPPP) to emphasize inclusivity and shared governance. He underscores that PPPP as a vital tool for overcoming isolation, increasing transparency, enhancing governance, and accelerating scale and efficiency. He calls for project preparation facilities that empower farmer organizations to initiate and lead PPPs aligned with their needs.
9. Mr Daniel Huba, Head of Africa Office, Mastercard	Panellist	Mr. Daniel Huba from Mastercard discusses how digital technology serves as a transformational tool in public-private partnerships (PPPs) within agri-food systems by enabling smallholder farmers to access critical services like inputs and markets through digital credentials. He emphasizes technology’s role in building trust, quantifying impact, and fostering collaboration among diverse stakeholders, highlighting the Mobilizing Access to Digital Economy Alliance, a multi-partner initiative aiming to reach 100 million people by 2034. He also underscores the need for scalable blended finance solutions, accessible digital infrastructure, and inclusive governance mechanisms to ensure sustainable and equitable PPPs that benefit all actors in the food system.
10. Mr Roy Machoko, Food Systems Coordinator, Office of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary- General, Resident Coordinator	Moderator	Summarized the discussion into 8 key take-aways:  <b>1. Role of Government: Strategic Public Investment</b> Governments should streamline public investment to focus on public goods and enabling

and Humanitarian Coordinator  
for Somalia

infrastructure that catalyze broader development. This will minimize the problem of Government crowding out private sector.

## **2. De-risking Private Sector Investments**

Governments and International Financial Institutions (IFIs) must develop dedicated instruments to de-risk private sector investments. Creation of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) helps mitigate risks in public-private partnerships (PPPs) by offering incentives and regulatory support.

## **3. Instruments to Drive PPP Growth**

Development of tailored financial and legal instruments is essential to foster PPPs is very important in stimulating investments in PPPs: e.g. blended finance, guarantee schemes, and PPP units within ministries to coordinate efforts.

## **4. Territorial Approaches for Effective Targeting**

Territory based strategies are crucial for tailoring interventions to local contexts. Territorial approaches ensure resources are allocated efficiently and impact is maximized at the community level.

## **5. Inclusivity: Smallholder Farmer Engagement**

PPPs must be inclusive, serving the interests of smallholder farmers. Inclusion should span design, implementation, and benefit-sharing, ensuring farmers are not marginalized.

## **6. Systems Approach to Address Bottlenecks**

A systems approach is needed to tackle structural bottlenecks affecting financing for PPPs in agrifood systems. Aligning government and private sector incentives with long-term development goals is key to sustainable impact.

## **7. Sustainability in PPP Design**

PPPs should be designed with environmental, social, and economic sustainability in mind. Incorporating climate resilience, resource efficiency, and long-term viability is essential.

## **8. Digital Technologies:**



		To enhance financing for PPPs in agrifood systems, it is essential to leverage digital technologies as strategic enablers of growth. Digital solutions can improve transparency, efficiency, and accountability in PPP frameworks, while also facilitating data-driven decision-making, innovative financing models, and real-time monitoring performance.
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### Overall session summary, conclusions and recommended actions (max 250 words)

The dialogue reaffirms that PPPs are indispensable to transforming agri-food systems but must evolve to be more inclusive, innovative, and aligned with sustainability principles. The integration of digital technology, effective risk-sharing mechanisms, and farmer-centric approaches are pivotal to scaling impact and closing financing gaps in a rapidly changing global context. The discussion highlighted the critical need for enhanced collaboration between governments, private sector, and development partners to effectively scale public-private partnerships (PPPs) in Africa's food systems. Emphasis is placed on creating enabling environment through improved fiscal space, risk mitigation instruments, and policy coordination, alongside leveraging digital technologies to increase transparency, efficiency, and inclusivity. The panel also stresses the importance of aligning incentives, fostering trust, and ensuring that PPPs deliver sustainable social, economic, and environmental benefits, while addressing the evolving challenges posed by changing global development landscapes and financing gaps.

In particular:

#### 1. Bridging the Financing Gap Requires Multi-Sector Collaboration

The estimated \$300-400 billion annual gap to finance SDG-related food systems cannot be met by public funds alone due to shrinking official development assistance and fiscal constraints. PPPs offer a tested framework to mobilize private capital, leveraging government vision and governance with private innovation and resources. This collaboration is critical for accelerating agricultural transformation and food system resilience, especially in Africa where the financing gap is stark.

#### 2. Alignment of Incentives and Roles Is Fundamental for PPP Success

Ireland's experience highlights the necessity of clearly delineating roles where governments focus on public goods and policy frameworks while private actors handle commercial operations. This balance prevents crowding out of private investment and ensures both sectors complement rather than compete with each other. Inclusive policymaking that integrates private sector voices fosters trust and long-term commitment.

#### 3. Enabling Environments and Institutional Capacities Drive PPP Effectiveness



The African Development Bank's multi-pillar approach underscores the importance of robust regulatory frameworks, transaction advisory services, and project preparation facilities. Many African countries have strong policies on paper but lack the institutional mechanisms and ready-to-invest projects that attract private capital. Strengthening these capacities and offering risk mitigation tools such as partial credit guarantees make PPPs more bankable and attractive.

#### 4. Innovative Financial Instruments and De-Risking Are Key to Unlocking Private Investment

Nigeria's National Agriculture Development Fund illustrates how blending public and private financing through grants, loans, and equity at favourable rates can overcome high commercial borrowing costs (e.g., above 30% interest). Such instruments lower entry barriers and incentivize private sector participation, enabling investments in infrastructure, irrigation, and agri-processing.

#### 5. Inclusive PPPs Must Engage Farmers as Active Partners, Not Passive Beneficiaries

The farmer representative's call to transform PPPs into "Public-Private-People Partnerships" points to a critical gap in many initiatives: the limited involvement of farmers in partnership design and decision-making. Farmers are often the largest aggregate investors yet lack the agency or capacity to shape PPP agendas. Addressing infrastructure deficits (water, roads, digital connectivity) and fostering co-creation enhance effectiveness and equity in agri-food systems.

#### 6. Digital Technologies Are Catalysts for Transparency, Efficiency, and Scale

Mastercard's Community Pass and IFC's tech-driven programs demonstrate how digital platforms enable smallholder farmers to access inputs, markets, and finance. Technology reduces information asymmetry, builds trust among partners, and facilitates outcome-based contracts by quantifying impacts. Digital infrastructure is positioned as an equalizer that can help scale PPPs across geographies and value chains.

#### 7. Sustainability Must Integrate Environmental, Social, and Economic Dimensions

The World Business Council for Sustainable Development stresses that sustainable PPPs should target multiple outcomes: farmer livelihoods, greenhouse gas emissions reduction, soil health, biodiversity, water management, and nutrition. This holistic approach ensures that efforts to enhance productivity do not come at the expense of environmental degradation or social inequities, aligning business competitiveness with planetary health.