

Six key levers that collectively can ignite Africa's agricultural renaissance

- 1. Shifting legislation and policies to support wider range of agricultural projects**

Governments have a crucial role to play in the creation of a regulatory environment, incentivizing the development of large-scale commercial farming using cutting-edge technologies while also supporting small-scale farmers to improve their productivity and competitiveness in the market.

- 2. Improving access to capital for private sector**

Creating an environment attractive to private sector investors by developing bankable business cases and managing investment risks through improved local financing capacity, leveraging opportunities for sustainable finance instruments such as social bonds and loans, blended finance and impact investing.

- 3. Addressing the infrastructure gap**

Reliance on outdated, poorly maintained—or even nonexistent—infrastructure inhibits productivity and access to market. Infrastructure needs to be improved to the point at which seed, fertilizer, equipment and other production necessities—manufactured in Africa—can be transported to farms.

- 4. Resolving supply chain issues**

Supply chain costs, corruption and rent-seeking by third parties hinder African agriculture, but innovative solutions such as geospatial mapping, integrated supply chains and collaboration with supermarket chains can be part of the solution. A comprehensive overhaul of both upstream and downstream supply chains is necessary to add millions of tons of new cereal.

- 5. Improving productivity of small-scale farmers**

Small-scale farmers are essential to African agriculture but they need improved access to irrigation, technology and support for storage and transportation. Small-scale agricultural operations have very direct links to community upliftment and, with the appropriate institutional and advisory support, such projects offer viable opportunities for sustainable finance instruments.

- 6. Adapting to climate change**

Adapting Africa's food systems to climate change is an imperative, not a choice. More ambitious and innovative adaptation interventions, research and pragmatic planning are crucial in addressing agricultural challenges in the face of water scarcity. Significant improvements in productivity will reduce the need to cultivate vast tracts of virgin land in order to meet the continent's demands.