1. Outline

The Malabo Montpellier Panel convenes 17 leading experts in agriculture, ecology, nutrition and food security to guide policy choices by African governments to accelerate progress toward food security and improved nutrition in Africa. The Panel identifies areas of progress and positive change across the continent and assesses what successful countries have done differently. It then identifies the most important institutional innovations and policy and program interventions that can be replicated and scaled up by other countries. The related Malabo Montpellier Forum provides a platform to promote policy innovation by using the evidence produced by the Panel to facilitate dialogue and exchange among high-level decision-makers on African agriculture, nutrition and food security.

Since January 2017, the Malabo Montpellier Panel has published three reports: *Nourished: How Africa Can Build a Future Free from Hunger and Malnutrition* (September 2017); *Mechanized: Transforming Africa’s agriculture value chains* (July 2018); and *Water-Wise: Smart Irrigation Strategies for Africa* (December 2018). The thematic areas covered under these reports tie in closely with the AfDB's Hi 5 Agenda.

This event hosted at the African Development Bank will cover the thematic areas covered under the Panel’s first three reports and bring together members of the Panel to present the key findings and recommendations, and to exchange with the experts at the AfDB.

The event will also be an opportunity to discuss the way forward regarding the appropriation of the outcomes of the reports by policy makers and planners in order to inform policy reforms and investments to be supported by the Bank and other Development Partners. Particularly, the discussion will focus on the communication approach followed by the Panel so far and identifies possible improvement if necessary. Finally, during the event some insights on priority topics for future reports by the Panel will be discussed.

2. Proposed agenda

**9:30 – 10:00 Registration & coffee**

**10:00 – 10:30am Opening Session**

- Welcome: Dr Martin Fregene, Director Agriculture and Agro-industry Department - AfDB
- Opening Address: Dr Jennifer Blanke, Vice-President Agriculture and Human Development - AfDB
- Introduction to the Malabo Montpellier Panel: Prof Sir Gordon Conway, Professor of International Development - Imperial College London and Dr Ousmane Badiane, Director IFPRI AFRICA
Thanks to the progress of the past couple of decades, African countries have started to reverse trends in poverty, hunger, and malnutrition. The ambitions contained in the Malabo Declaration, the African Union's Agenda 2063, and global development goals are recognition of the size and complexity of the challenge that still lies ahead. Sustaining the progress to realize the goals of ending extreme poverty and hunger will require continued improvement in the quality of policy and program design and implementation. The Malabo Montpellier Panel's first report, Nourished: How Africa Can Build a Future Free from Hunger and Malnutrition, takes a systematic country study approach, analyzing which policy decisions were taken to substantially reduce malnutrition levels and to promote healthier and more diverse diets. It also looks at innovation in nutrition to advance these goals, and make the most vulnerable — smallholders and women - more resilient and prosperous in the face of stresses such as urbanization, demographic changes and climate change. A set of policies and practices are identified that, if scaled up, could have significant impact on nutrition, child survival, and development in Africa. The experience of the seven countries covered in the report shows what can and needs to be done to substantially improve a country's nutritional status.

Presentation: Prof Sheryl Hendriks, Director of the Institute for Food Nutrition and Well-being - University of Pretoria
Discussants: Dr. Ann Defray, Public Health, Security and Nutrition - AfDB
Q&A

12:00 – 12:15 Coffee break

12:15 – 13:45 Session II (90mins) – Mechanization
Chair: Dr. Atsuko Toda, Director Agricultural Finance and Rural Development Department- AfDB

Africa has the least mechanized agricultural system in the world. Yet, there are several examples across the continent where innovative technologies and successful mechanization practices are improving the capacity of smallholders and other operators to grow, store, process, transform and transport their crops and products. Mechanization is not just about tractors. Successful mechanization along the whole value chain will have to be a priority in future development and growth agendas for African smallholder agriculture. Mechanization is also not just about technology either. Rather, its success depends on investment in research and development, technical capacity to build and operate machines, availability and maintenance of spare parts, financing, adaptability to local needs, application to different environmental conditions, and impact on local employment. Increasing the uptake of mechanized technologies along agricultural value chains therefore requires a comprehensive, systemic approach. The discussion draws on the Malabo Montpellier Panel's second report, Mechanized: Transforming Africa’s agriculture value chains, which systematically analyses the steps taken by seven countries at the forefront of progress in mechanization.

Presentation: Dr Noble Banadda, Professor and Chair of the Department of Agriculture and Bio Systems Engineering - Makerere University
Discussants: Dr Edward Mabaya, Manager Agribusiness Development Division - AfDB
Q&A
13:45 – 14:45 lunch break

14:45 – 16:15 Session III (90mins) – Irrigation
Chair: Engineer Francis Bougaire, Manager Water Coordination and Partnerships Division – AfDB

Africa is seeing a surge of interest in irrigation among small-scale farmers as climate change brings more erratic weather. Currently, only 6 percent of arable land in Africa is irrigated, compared to 14 and 37 percent in Latin America and Asia respectively. At the same time, a growing population across the continent demands more, reliable and continuous supply of food. It is estimated that without additional investment in irrigation, the share of people at risk of hunger could increase by 5 percent by 2030 and 12 percent by 2050. Elevating irrigation to a top policy priority and bringing irrigation to scale could help ensure the continent’s food security in the face of more extreme weather conditions and be an engine of agricultural transformation. The Malabo Montpellier Panel’s third report, Water-Wise: Smart Irrigation Strategies for Africa, summarizes the key findings of a systematic analysis of what six African countries at the forefront of progress on irrigation have done right. The report has identified a set of policies and practices which, if brought to scale, could significantly improve the resilience and livelihoods of rural communities and spur overall agricultural growth and transformation in Africa. By adapting these lessons to countries’ specific contexts and scaling them up across the continent, African governments can meet their national and international commitments to agricultural growth and transformation.

Presentation: Dr Debisi Araba, Director, Africa Region, International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)
Discussants: Engineer Mamadou Kane, Agricultural Finance and Rural Development Department - AfDB
Q&A

16:15 – 17:00 Closing Session - The way forward
Co-chairs: Dr Ousmane Badiane
Dr Martin Fregene

3. Malabo Montpellier Panel members at the event

- Dr Ousmane Badiane, Africa Director, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and co-chair Malabo Montpellier Panel
- Prof Sir Gordon Conway, Professor of International Development at Imperial College London and Malabo Montpellier Panel member
- Dr Debisi Araba, Director, Africa Region, International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and Malabo Montpellier Panel member
- Dr. Ruben Echeverria, Director General International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)
- Prof Sheryl Hendriks, Director of the Institute for Food Nutrition and Well-being at the University of Pretoria and Malabo Montpellier Panel member
- Dr. Fadel Ndiame, Interim Vice President Policy and State Capability Division – Alliance for a Green Revolution
- Dr. Noble Banadda, Professor and Chair of the Department of Agriculture and Bio Systems Engineering, Makerere University