The future of Africa’s youth does not lie at the bottom of the Mediterranean Sea. It lies in a more prosperous and inclusive Africa, one that promotes creativity and innovation, which expands economic opportunities for youth. It lies in an Africa that creates jobs for its own people. We must be audacious: for Africa must develop, and develop with pride.

"African leaders know that we can count on the Bank’s commitment to addressing issues of energy supply and climate change resilience, so that the High 5 vision translates into meaningful benefits for the people of Africa."

"Our expectations are that these Meetings will generate resolutions that will help Africa shape its post-2016 development agenda, and address the numerous ramifications of energy deficits and climate change confronting the continent."

"Without power nothing much can be done. Basic needs require that we get power from fossil fuels since it is expensive, for example, to set up solar panels to generate power for big industries. We need to harness all available resources because it is possible to develop both the energy and environmental sectors."

"We have heard enough of the theory. It’s now time for practical engagement to leverage Africa’s huge potential. We must look at energy as any other commodity that we trade among ourselves. We must invest in connectivity to enable those that have more electricity to share with those that have less."

"In Tanzania, we are reviewing the regulatory framework to enable the private sector to explore and develop the opportunities we have in coal, geothermal, wind, solar and uranium. We want to open doors for investments, take services to rural areas, as well as increase the industrial base."

"Today has shown us that - beyond financing - the key ingredient is leadership in creating the enabling environment in which technology can take the risk out of agriculture. The International Fund for Agricultural Development is committed to investing half a billion dollars each year towards the transformation of agriculture on this continent."

"If you don’t have electricity then you can’t have development. We need to have a common approach to matters of energy. We need to work together to arrive at tariffs."

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The 1970s

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Sundry images, 24/05/16

Tweet of the day #AfDBAM2016

“President #Kagame: We are tired of poverty & bad environment and one way to deal with the issues is to invest in industrialisation #AfDBAM2016”
FEED AFRICA

The High 5s

The High 5 agenda – five priority actions for the African Development Bank and for Africa – is the AfDB’s channel for focusing and scaling up its 2013-2022 Ten Year Strategy, to bring about the social and economic transformation of Africa. The High 5s are designed to deliver the twin objectives of the Ten Year Strategy: inclusive growth that is shared by all; and the gradual transition to green growth.

AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION BY2023
+ 150m people adequately fed
+ 100m people lifted out of poverty
+ 190m hectares with restored productivity

The Agricultural Transformation Agenda (AAT(A)1) supports the realization of key Sustainable Development Goals through the development of an inclusive and competitive African agrifood value chains. Underpinning this vision are four specific goals:
(i) Increase food security and improve nutrition
(ii) Promote agricultural productivity and competitiveness
(iii) Reduce poverty, inequality and nutritional diseases
(iv) Support food-based industrialization

The AfDB’s investment to quadruple from a current annual average of USD 612 million to about USD 2.4 billion

“Africa, the continent which – scandalously – imports $35 billion of food a year. And yet the continent which potentially has enough food to feed the world by 2025. Two-thirds of the world’s unused arable land will see to that.”

“The GOALS

Access to food – in quantity and quality – is a fundamental human right. It is also essential for ending hunger and malnutrition, and ensuring a healthier and productive workforce. Although agriculture employs over 60 percent of the African workforce and accounts for roughly a third of the continent’s GDP, Africa is the most food insecure region in the world with more than 232 million under-nourished people, or approximately one in four.

“Structural food insecurity is a particular challenge in fragile economies, which are disproportionately susceptible to resource and commodity price shocks and where poor agriculture infrastructure, governance and weak institutions result in low productivity and a heavy dependence on food imports. Women face systematic discrimination across the continent, for example in terms of land ownership, which severely limits their opportunities to benefit from agricultural value chains. This is further multiplied by insufficient access to inputs, household decision making, education, finance, and markets. FAO estimates that closing the gender gap could increase farm yields by 20-30%, and there is widespread evidence that closing the gender gap within households has wide-spread benefits for families.

As a result of these factors, Africa had an estimated net food import bill of US $35.4 billion in 2015, with about 15 food chains accounting for most imports, including 5 staple commodities such as wheat, sugar, rice, beef, soybeans.

Africa’s potential for agricultural production is enormous, with 60% of the world’s unused arable land. Increased food demand and changing consumption habits are leading to rapidly rising net food imports, which are expected to grow from US $35 billion in 2015 to over US $110 billion by 2025, which could be offset by increased African production. Export of primary agricultural production is still very high in Africa compared to other regions of the world. Therefore, agriculture offers a realistic prospect for large-scale job creation, especially in fragile economies. Given the importance of food and nutrition, promoting agricultural value chains and improving market access have the potential to diversify economies, raise incomes, increase food security and macroeconomic stability, contribute to mitigating climate change and prevent internal and external migration.

The Bank has developed a strategy for long-term agricultural transformation in Africa. In October 2015, the Bank organized a high-level Ministerial Conference on “Feeding Africa – An Action Plan for Transforming Agriculture in Africa” in Dakar to map out how to unlock Africa’s agricultural potential and boost job creation in view of diversifying economies.

“Africa, the continent which – scandalously – imports $35 billion of food a year. And yet the continent which potentially has enough food to feed the world by 2025. Two-thirds of the world’s unused arable land will see to that.”

The AfDB President, Akinwumi Adesina

The goal is to make Africa a net food exporter by 2025. Transformation will involve mobilizing resources and capital, representing a significant opportunity for potential to drive inclusive and green growth actors along the value chains. Transforming an initial set of agricultural value chains will require approximately US $280-340 billion over the next decade. Such an investment is supported by a new report, Transforming an initial set of agricultural value chains.

“Promoting agricultural value chains can provide a high return on investment. For each dollar invested, a return of five to ten dollars can be expected.”

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The African Development Fund

The African Development Fund is a great instrument of hope. It makes concessional loans to poorer African countries. In over 40 years it has granted and loaned over $40 billion in almost 40 countries. In 2016, it is going through its 14th Replenishment.

**Context**

Every year, Africa imports one third of global rice production with West Africa alone importing nearly 20% (5.2 million tonnes). By 2020, if domestic production continues to be outstripped by growing demand, Africa will need an extra 17 million tonnes of husked rice, costing several billion in already rare foreign exchange. Any increase in the price of rice on the international market will have a negative impact on food security, particularly for poor households.

Increasing production of African rice is, then, another strategy for reducing poverty and food insecurity, in West Africa in particular, where rice is the basic foodstuff whose cultivation is showing the fastest increase. In 2005, seven countries of West Africa – Nigeria, Mali, Sierra Leone, Benin, Ghana, Guinea and the Gambia – sought assistance from the Bank to strengthen their food security at regional level, through financing dissemination of new technology and sharing knowledge about the new varieties of NERICA (New Rice for Africa) rice.

**Objectives**

- To improve food security and reduce poverty for farming households.
- To increase national rice production with a view to reducing imports.

**Impacts**

- Food security strengthened through better yield resistance to dry spells because NERICA rice varieties mature more quickly and are much more weed-resistant. Varieties with a protein content 25% higher than the average for other varieties of rice on the international market.
- Level of poverty reduced for 241,000 families, whose incomes will be tripled thanks to improved yields from NERICA rice (2,500 kg/ha, against 800 kg/ha for traditional rice).
- Savings in foreign currency spending and increased revenues from exports in rice and its seeds between regional member countries and with other countries.

**Testimony**

Mathieu Aïmontche
45, farmer
Village of Lélé, Benin

“The population in the towns is increasing and so is demand, which makes NERICA rice a success ... With yields 3 times higher on average, this project has meant I could buy a motorcycle, it has contributed to household expenses and helped me build a house.”

**Key facts**

- **Approval**: 2005
- **Funding**: US $34 million
- **Region**: West Africa (Nigeria, Mali, Sierra Leone, Benin, Ghana, Guinea and the Gambia)
- **Beneficiaries**: 241,000 families

**ADF, 2008-2013**

- **3.3 MILLION** People benefited from access to electricity
- **10.2 MILLION** Beneficiaries from micro-finance initiatives
- **5.6 MILLION** Benefited from improved agricultural practices
- **13.5 MILLION** People benefited from improved access to water and sanitation
- **16 COUNTRIES** Benefited from improved transparency and accountability services
- **10.2 MILLION** Beneficiaries from improved access to education
- **49.2 MILLION** People benefited from improved access to transport
- **4.6 MILLION** Benefited from new or improved access to education

**Sector – Agriculture**

Multinational NERICA rice distribution project: Towards sustainable agriculture
The Bank and Zambia

The Bank has supported Zambia since 1971, to the tune of over USD 1 billion. It walks alongside Zambia on the country’s journey of development.

Agriculture for a better life

Zambia has a large land resource of 42 million hectares, and yet only 1.5 million hectares are cultivated annually. The country is also home to 40% of the water resources in Central and Southern Africa. In 2009, the agricultural output accounted for 20% of the GDP.

The Bank has supported Zambia since 1971, to the tune of over USD 1 billion. It walks alongside Zambia on the Bank’s own country strategy, development plan, and the revised 6th national development Plan, and the government of Zambia’s National Vision 2030, in line with the government of Zambia’s strategy. The Bank’s added value to the strategy includes promotion of value chain development activities such as agriculture infrastructure related to irrigation and livestock, in order to positively impact job creation, increased productivity, and market linkages.

The Small-Scale Irrigation Project (SSIP) is one of the Bank’s most successful projects to date. The project was designed to increase food production and household income, covering 1,980 hectares in Chins Avgwe, Mazabuka, and Sinazongwe districts for crop production. The Bank invested USD 8.77 million into this project. However, in May 2007 it was clear that the remaining funds were going to be inadequate to complete the project successfully. With this in mind, the Bank secured an additional Euro 9.6 million from the Finnish government. With this commitment, an additional 1,413 hectares of irrigated land benefitting 977 households in Nega Nega, Kanakapenga, Sinazongwe, and Nzenga were developed. In addition 150 hectares of sugarcane has been planted in Nega Nega, with the smallholding farmers able to sell the sugar cane to bigger sugar production companies such as Nakambala Sugar and Zambia Sugar.

The Cashew Infrastructure Development Project (CIDP) approved by the AfDB in 2015 aims to help revive the cashew industry, which is also one of government’s priorities. The objective is to contribute to poverty reduction and improve household incomes through cashew production and processing. The project will be implemented over a five-year period in 10 districts of the Western Province. The CIDP will benefit about 60,000 smallholder farmers, including 30,000 women and 7,000 young people, each planting one hectare of cashew trees. It is also expected that the project will create about 6,000 full time jobs, 3,000 for women and 1,000 for youths. Rural poverty in Zambia is high, and this project is expected to trickle down to individual households.

“The year I think we are going to get something because we have planted more than last year.”

says Rosemary Ngosa Musumali, a wife, mother, and resident of Nega-Nega, a rural area situated in Zambia’s Southern Province’s Mazabuka district.

Rosemary Musumali: a sweeter life

Nega Nega Small Scale Irrigation Project (SSIP) Beneficiary

As a beneficiary of the AfDB’s Small Scale Irrigation Project (SSIP), Rosemary glances at her sugarcane field, smiles at her youngest daughter and says, “We are going to sell it to Nakambala Sugar and manage to buy a few things for the school children.”

“Our life was not okay before. We used to plant maize but unfortunately due to water logging the crop did not bear fruit. Even when we added fertilizers, and the like, the crop still did not bear fruit. Those days were hard, we were failing to buy uniforms for the children, to even send them to school,” Rosemary said. “We are very happy to have this project and we hope you, our donors will continue to help us. Our life has changed, the children and even the women are working here and getting money.”

The Nega-Nega SSP is a transformative business approach adopted by the Bank which seeks to raise farm productivity, household income and improve the livelihoods of the small-hold farmers and women. It falls in line with both the Bank’s Ten Year Strategy (2013-2022) and its Gender Strategy (2014-2018). The two pursue inclusive and green growth in Zambia.

Although the Nega-Nega SSP came to an end in September 2011, the project continues to benefit small-hold farmers. Under the SSP farmers can generate income all year round and switch from subsistence production to market oriented production, by growing sugar cane and selling it to Zambia Sugar Plc. Rosemary excitedly states, “Our children are going to have more chances to go to school, even university, they are going to reach university.”

Infographics corner

ANIMATING & QUANTIFYING OUR WORK AROUND AFRICA

Central Africa Backbone (CAB) Project (Cameroon Component)
The way we were

The 1970s

1970
Abdulwahab Labidi (Tunisia) elected 2nd President

1972
African Development Fund (ADF) created

1974
1st General Capital Increase (US$ 206 million)
ADF began operations

Bank loans/grants: US$ 135.5 million

1975
The Board of Governors approved the establishment of the Nigeria Trust Fund
First Bank projects in Education and Health sectors

1976
Kwame Donkor Fordwor (Ghana) elected 3rd President.
2nd General Capital Increase (US$ 556 million)
ADF-I Replenishment of US$ 327 million (to 1978)

1977
The Board of Governors approved in principle the admission of non-regional countries to the Bank. Negotiations began.

1979
The oil price shocks of 1973 and 1979 had a bad impact on African economies. Africa persuaded to seek external resources, and eventually the Bank decided to open its capital to non-African members.

Bank loans/grants: US$ 519.9 million

At the helm

Abdulwahab Labidi (Tunisia) President, 1970-1976

Kwamé Donkor Fordwor President, 1976-1979

Where we met

1970 Fort Lamy (Ndjamena), Chad
1971 Kampala, Uganda
1972 Algiers, Algeria
1973 Lusaka, Zambia
1974 Rabat, Morocco
1975 Dakar, Senegal
1976 Kinshasa, Zaire
1977 Port Louis, Mauritius
1978 Libreville, Gabon
1979 Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire