



# State of play: EU-Africa cooperation on food systems

Presentation to the Development Committee of the European Parliament

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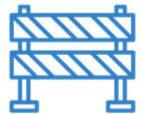
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## Some stylised facts about Africa's food systems



African food systems are structurally weak

- High reliance on food imports
- Vulnerability to disruptions in global value chains
- Vulnerability to price shocks
- Low agricultural productivity



Barriers to intra-regional food trade



Inadequate physical and financial infrastructures

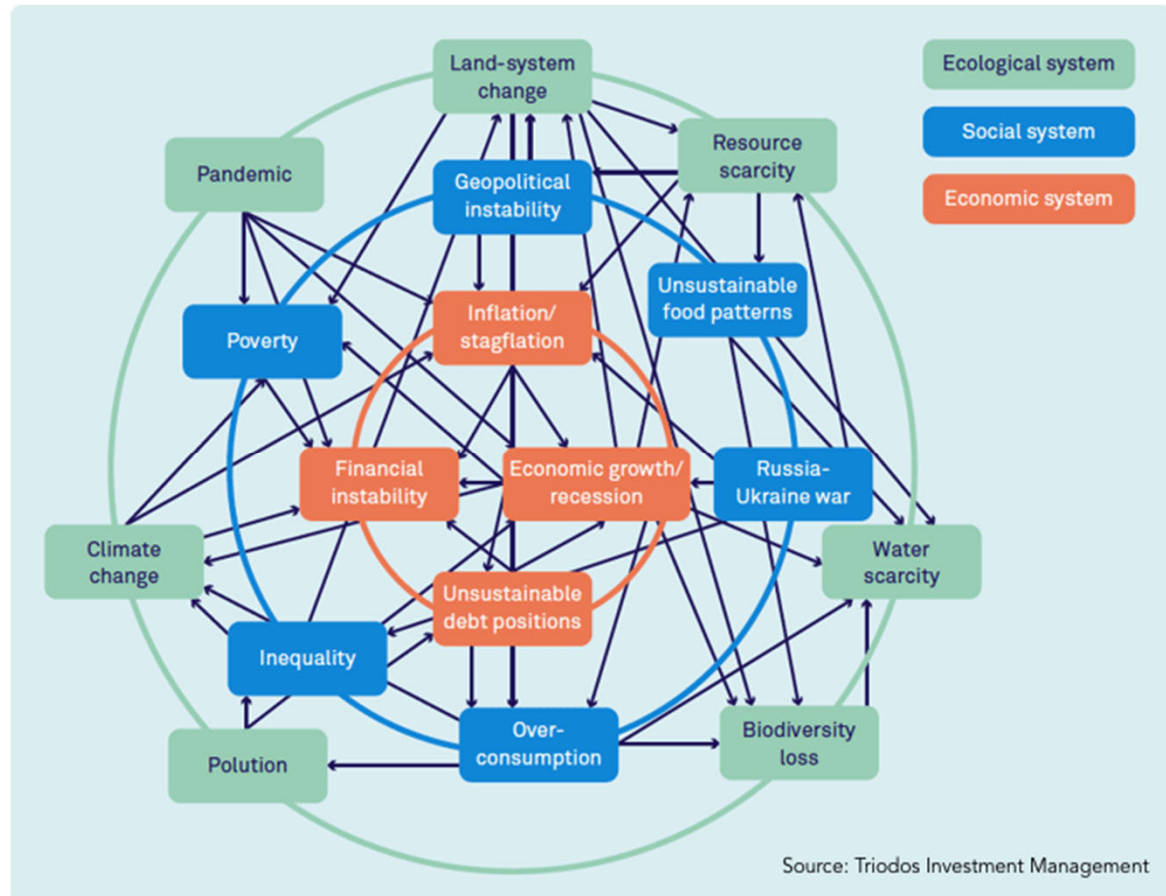
## Some stylised facts about Africa's food systems (2)

### Polycrisis impacting negatively on food insecurity

- Climate change

tensions

- Conflict
- Pandemic
- Debt burden



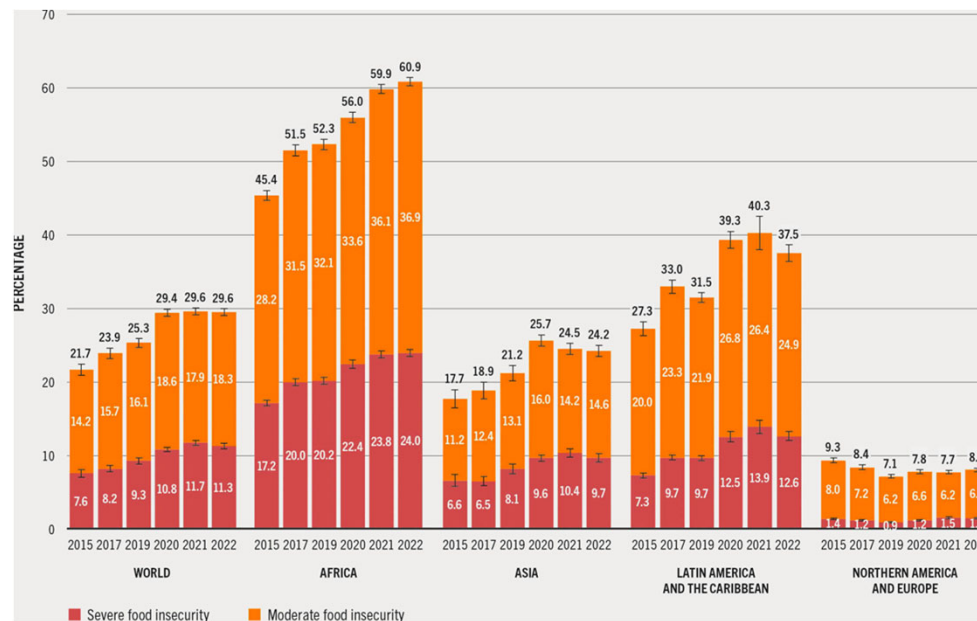
## Some stylised facts about Africa's food systems (3)



African economies are generally not resilient to external shocks - when confronted with external shocks, food security worsens



Rising food insecurity - 61% food insecure compared to 30% global average (FAO et al. 2023)



## Some ongoing efforts from the EU

- Team Europe
- Global Gateway
- EC bilateral aid programs 2021-27 led by EU Delegations in-country (Multiannual Indicative Programmes – MIPs)
  - Often incorporated as a priority sector under the overall “green deal” priority area)
  - Engaging less with RECs and the AU, and more at the country-level
- The allocated 350m EUR ‘food production/resilience of food systems’ component of the EU-crisis-support for ACP countries (i.e. Sub-Saharan-Africa, total 600m)



## Some ongoing efforts from the EU

- Other investment pipelines by Public Dev. Banks (EIB, CDP, AFD, KfW, etc); IFAD for the implementation of the Agricultural Public Dev Banks Platform
- Increasing focus on marginalised segments / commodities
- Blended finance schemes and guarantees like the EFSD+ being coordinated in-country via Team Europe AU-EU Innovation agenda



# Yet, concerns about relations, actions and

## Several challenges persist: **impacts**

### Farm to Fork Strategy:



- EU 'stuck' before 2024 elections
- Opposed internally by farmers constituencies
- Little space to advance and/or discuss **its external dimension**



Weakened state of the general AU-EU partnership (also resulting from ongoing war in Ukraine and crisis in the Middle East)



Reduced budget for cooperation with Africa

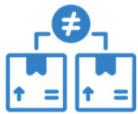


Declining ODA from DAC (7.4% reduction to Africa, despite total rising by 13.6%)

## Yet, concerns about relations, actions and impacts (2)



Inadequate climate financing



Value capture - huge price discrepancies (materials exported vs finished goods imported)



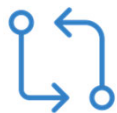
Diverging views on the 'food systems' agenda between Europe and Africa



Blended finance in agri-food still marginal and fragmented; implementation of EFSD+ guarantees slow in many countries



Limited scale & reach of underserved groups in agri-food systems



Joint AU-EU agricultural ministerial: no operational mechanisms to follow up on the commitments



## Opportunities: what does Africa need and want from Europe?



Context-appropriate technology and R&I investments (including tech transfer)



Building local capacity for value addition and VC-logistics



Diversification of investment into other marginalised value chains and actors



Scale up financial support

- More blended finance and rechanneling of special drawing rights (SDRs)
- More ODA
- FDI - mobilising private sector investment at scale;
- Support with (financing the) implementation of national food systems pathways, NAPs and NDCs

## Opportunities: what does Africa need and want from Europe?



Open trade (stopping anti-globalization sentiments and moves toward protectionism); fair trade



Support to intra-regional African trade (African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)) to reduce food dependency from outside the continent



More better donor coordination (with Team Europe as an approach)



More buy-in of EU member states in practice, including additional resources and private sector engagement

## Opportunities: what can Africa offer Europe?

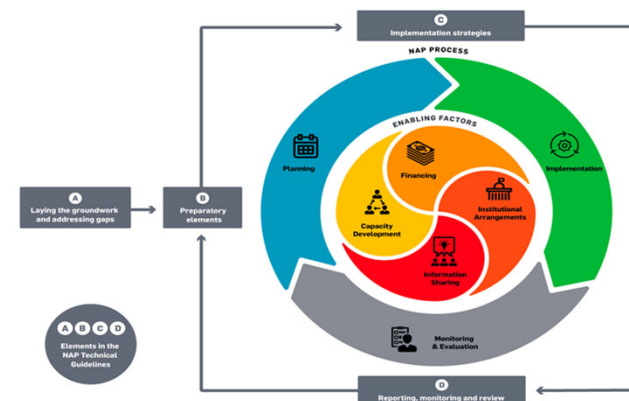
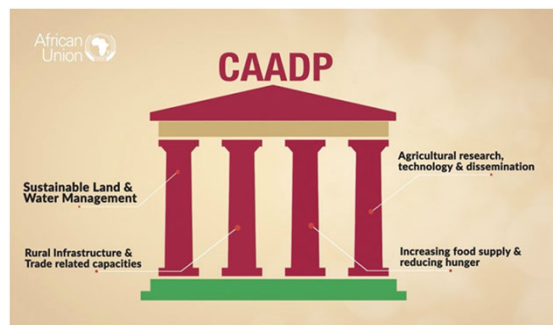
- Large potential for investments in the national and regional economy
  - In terms of natural resources (60% of the remaining arable land in the world and relatively large water resources)
  - Growing urban and regional markets
- Human capacity (with the fastest growing young population globally)
- Prevention of cascading risks or issues to Europe (i.e. increased illegal migration to EU, increased global emissions from food systems etc)

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# Conclusion

- The processes and instruments chosen to deliver the support to African countries' food systems should guarantee local ownership.
- This can be done by funding targets that align with Africa's own existing plans, from Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Investment Plans, and UNFSS National Transformation Pathways to National Adaptation Plans (NAPS)



# Thank you!

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