



Science Week

CGIAR Science Week Programming of High-Level Plenary Sessions April 7 – 11, 2025 UN Campus - Nairobi, Kenya

Date, Time and Description	Panel Sessions & Speakers
Plenary 1 Date: 7 April 2025 Time: 15:00 – 18:00 EAT <p>The CGIAR Science Week will open with a high-level plenary session that underscores the organization's unwavering commitment to international agricultural research and the critical role of sustained global investment in innovation, technology, and science. This session will serve as a cornerstone for the week, setting the stage for exploring transformative solutions to the complex challenges facing agri-food systems. Recognizing the interconnected and context-specific nature of these challenges, the session will reflect on past successes and lessons learned while embracing new approaches that prioritize inclusivity, partnership, and innovation. A key focus will be on how</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Segment 1: Opening Ceremony - Welcoming Science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Moderator: Jeff Koinange • Sequence 1.1: Welcome remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ H.E. Zainab Hawa Bangura, Under-Secretary General & Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) ○ Dr. Ismahane Elouafi, Executive Managing Director, CGIAR • Sequence 1.2: Official Opening with the Chief Guest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hon. Mutahi Kagwe, Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development to introduce Chief Guest ○ Hon. Musalia Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary, Republic of Kenya • Sequence 1.3: Council of the Wise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Moderator: Prof. Lindiwe Sibanda, CGIAR System Board ○ H.E. Goodluck Abele Jonathan, Former President, Nigeria ○ Dr. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, Former President, Mauritius ○ H.E. Mohamed Beavogui, Former Prime Minister, Republic of Guinea



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CGIAR can foster mission-driven collaborations—particularly through South-South cooperation—to ensure that agricultural advancements reach those who need them most, especially marginalized and underserved farming communities. By welcoming diverse perspectives and leveraging cutting-edge research, this plenary will guide the reimagining of a sustainable and resilient future for people, the planet, and food systems worldwide.

- H.E. Dr. Ibrahim A. Mayaki, Former Prime Minister of Niger and African Union Special Envoy for Food Systems

- **Sequence 1.4:** High-Level Roundtable Discussion – Innovations and Partnerships for Food Security

- Moderator: Jeff Koinange
- Dr. Manuel Otero, Director General, IICA
- Ms. Surita Sandosham, CEO and President, Heifer International
- Prof. Dr. Wendy Umberger, CEO, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)
- H.E. Nosipho Nausca-Jean Jezile, Chairperson, Committee on World Food Security
- Ms. Fatema AlMulla, Project Study and Development Specialist, International Affairs Office, Presidential Court, United Arab Emirates

- **Sequence 1.5:** Science for the Future

- Dr. Rachel Lambert, Senior Adviser, FCDO
- Ms. Nkateko Nicole Langa, Research Officer, IWMI
- Prof. Holger Meinke, Chair, Independent Science for Development Council (ISDC)
- Video messages:

Mr. Maurizio Martina, Deputy Director General, FAO (video message)

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Segment 2: Empowering Inclusivity

Moderator: Jeff Koinange

- **Sequence 2.1** - Panel Discussion: Addressing the challenges of our time with inclusive innovation.



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	<p>Moderator: Dr. Juan Lucas Restrepo, Director General, The Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Elizabeth Nsimadala, President, Eastern Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF) • Dr. Nicoline de Haan, Platform Director, CGIAR Gender Equality, Youth & Social Inclusion Impact Platform • Dr. Guy Faure, European Commission, DG INTPA • Dr. Sylvia Henga, Policy Officer, IGAD <p>• Sequence 2.2 – Scene Setting on Partnerships</p> <p>Moderator: Jeff Koinange</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Selim Louafi, Deputy Director for Research and Strategy, CIRAD • Dr. Ravinder Khetarpal, Executive Director, Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) • Prof. Dr. Hildegard Lingnau, Executive Secretary, Global Forum on Agricultural Research and Innovation (GFAiR) • Dr. Kathryn Toure, Regional Director, Eastern and Southern Africa, IDRC <p>• Sequence 2.3 - Panel Discussion: Power in Partnership</p> <p>Moderator: Jeff Koinange</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Ruth Oniang'o, Editor-in-Chief and Founder, African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition and Development (AJFAND) and Rural Outreach Africa • Dr. Essam Yassin Mohammed, Director General, WorldFish
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Younes Addou, Vice-President Agribusiness and Sustainability, InnovX, OCP Group • Dr. Aggrey Agumya, Executive Director, Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) • Ms. Estherine Fotabong, Director of Agriculture, Food Security, and Environmental Sustainability, AUDA-NEPAD
<p>Plenary 2 Date: 8 April 2025 Time: 10:30 – 13:30 EAT The plenary session will focus on fostering regional integration, scaling innovation, and amplifying the impact of CGIAR's research in addressing agricultural challenges. Anchored in the ASEAN-CGIAR Innovate for Food and Nutrition Security Regional Program—launched at the 45th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) in 2023—this session will highlight efforts to enhance collaboration within the ASEAN region and explore South-South cooperation. By scaling bold, integrated innovations, CGIAR aims to build climate-resilient agri-food systems, improve livelihoods across the value chain, and ensure</p>	<p>Segment 1: Building Bridges Moderator: Jeff Koinange</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sequence 1.1: Panel Discussion: ASEAN Focus: Fostering Regional Integration & South-South collaboration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moderator Dr. Shenggen Fan, Systems Board Member, CGIAR - Dr. Yvonne Pinto, Director General, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) - Mr. To Viet Chau, Deputy Director General, International Cooperation Division, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Vietnam - Dr. John De Leon, Executive Director, Philippine Rice Research Institute - Ms Bongiwe Njobe, Board Chairperson, Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) - Mr. Satvinder Singh, Deputy Secretary-General, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Economic Community, ASEAN Secretariat (video message) • Sequence 1.2: Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Wang Jian, Co-founder and Chairman of the Board of Directors of BGI Group <p>Segment 2: Growing Legacy</p>



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more affordable, nutritious food while safeguarding the environment. Additionally, the session will examine CGIAR's research portfolio for 2025-2030, focusing on strategies to effectively scale scientific advancements to reach farmers and consumers worldwide. By aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and global agricultural transformation efforts, this discussion will showcase how CGIAR's cutting-edge research translates into tangible benefits for communities and drives meaningful progress toward a sustainable and food-secure future.

Moderator: Jeff Koinange

- **Sequence 2.1: Presentation:** CGIAR's Portfolio 2025-30 Update

- Dr. Ismahane Elouafi, Executive Managing Director of CGIAR
- Dr. Sandra Cristina Kothe Milach, Chief Scientist, CGIAR

- **Sequence 2.2: Panel Discussion:** Growing Legacy

- Moderator: Jeff Koinange
- Dr. Bram Govaerts, Director General, International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT)
- Dr. Ganga Rao, Chief Scientist, International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA)
- Dr. Marco Wopereis, Director General, World Vegetable Center
- Mr. Jason Jabbour, Deputy Chief Scientist, UNEP
- Dr. Soumya Swaminathan – Chairperson, M S Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF)
- Dr. Inga Jacobs-Mata, Director: Water, Growth and Inclusion, CGIAR
- Dr. Innocent Musabyimana – Chief Agricultural Technologies Officer, African Development Bank (AfDB)
- Dr. Andrew Jarvis, Director, Future of Food, Bezos Earth Fund
- Dr. Xun Xu, President, BGI-Research

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Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT)



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<p>Plenary 3 Date: 9 April 2025 Time: 10:30 – 13:30 EAT This plenary session will explore transformative strategies and innovations driving agricultural resilience and sustainability across Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean (LAC). In Africa, the discussion will center on key regional commitments, including the African Union's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) outcomes and the Kampala Declaration. It will examine how CGIAR's 2030 Research and Innovation strategy aligns with these frameworks, leveraging science and technology to address complex challenges and advance resilience and prosperity. Meanwhile, in LAC, the session will highlight how initiatives like AgriLAC Resiliente—CGIAR's regional initiative—have been integrated into agri-food innovation systems to strengthen competitiveness, enhance food and nutritional security, and mitigate climate and environmental</p>	<p>Segment 1: Targeting Transformation – Africa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sequence 1.1: Panel Discussion: Embracing Regional Targets (AU/CAADP & Kampala commitments) Moderator: Prof. Frans Swanepoel, Research Fellow in Residence, Future Africa, Centre for Advancement of Scholarship, University of Pretoria (UP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr. Alioune Fall, Former Chairperson, Director General, Institut Sénégalais de Recherches Agricoles (ISRA) - Dr. Babafemi Oyewole, CEO, PAFO - Dr. Baboucarr Manneh, Director General / Regional Director, West and Central Africa, AfricaRice / CGIAR - Prof. Cliff Dlamini, Executive Director and Head of Mission, CCARDESA - Dr. Eliud Kiplimo Kireger, Director General and CEO, KALRO - Ms. Julian Barungi, Programme Officer, Policy, ASARECA • Sequence 1.2: Panel Discussion: 2050 vision for Africa: a dialogue between CGIAR leaders and some key partners Moderator: Prof. Frans Swanepoel, Research Fellow in Residence, Future Africa, Centre for Advancement of Scholarship, University of Pretoria (UP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr. Aly Abousabaa, Director General / Regional Director of Central and West Asia and North Africa, ICARDA / CGIAR - Dr. Éliane Ubalijoro, CEO / Director General, CIFOR-ICRAF / World Agroforestry - Dr. Najat Mokhtar, Deputy Director General, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
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challenges. By fostering networks of collaboration and scaling impactful solutions, this session will showcase the role of cutting-edge research in shaping a sustainable agricultural future across both regions.

- Dr. Martin Fregene, Director, Department of Agriculture and Agro-Industry, AfDB
- Dr. Simeon Ehui, Director General / Regional Director, Continental Africa, IITA / CGIAR
- **Sequence 1.3:** Panel Discussion: Transforming Africa's Food Systems: Vision and Leadership
- **Moderator:** Prof. Frans Swanepoel, Research Fellow in Residence, Future Africa, Centre for Advancement of Scholarship, University of Pretoria (UP)
- Ms. Nancy Rapando, Africa Food Future Leader, WWF
- Dr. Purnima Menon, Senior Director, Food and Nutrition Policy, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
- Dr. Ruben Echeverría, Senior Advisor, Agriculture Development; System Council Voting Member, BMGF / CGIAR
- Dr. Daniel Mwendah M'Mailutha, CEO, Kenyan National Farmers' Federation (KENAFF)
- Prof. Appolinaire Djikeng, Director General / Senior Director, Livestock-Based Systems, ILRI / CGIAR
- Mr Ougfaly Badji, Lead Global Food Security Specialist | Agriculture, Water Resource & Rural Development, IsDB

Segment 2: Harvesting Innovation - Latin America & Caribbean

Moderator: Dr. Marcela Quintero, Associate Director General, Research Strategy and Innovation, The Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Ansari Hosein, Executive Director, Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) • Dr. Jorge Ganoza, Head, INIA Peru • Dr. Marilia Regini Nuti, Food Scientist, Researcher in Sustainable Agriculture for Nutrition and Health, Embrapa • Dr. Simon Heck, Director General / Senior Director, CIP / CGIAR • Dr. Sarada Krishnan, Director of Programs, The Crop Trust • Dr. Víctor Manuel Villalobos Arámbula, Former Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development, Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development of Mexico.
<p>Plenary 4 Date: 10 April 2025 Time: 15:00 – 18:00 EAT As global agriculture and food systems face unprecedented challenges—from climate change and resource constraints to food security and economic stability—science, innovation, and strategic partnerships are more critical than ever. This plenary session will highlight CGIAR’s pivotal role in harnessing research, technology, and collaboration to drive resilient and sustainable agri-food solutions. With a focus on fostering scientific</p>	<p>Segment 1: Connecting Science Moderator: Jeff Koinange</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sequence 1.1: Enabling Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opening Remarks: Dr. Paulin Basinga, Director, Africa, Gates Foundation ○ Dr. Sara Moussavi, Thematic and Operational Research Unit, Chief, United Nations World Food Programme ○ Mr. James Lomax, Sustainable Food Systems and Agriculture Programme Officer, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) ○ Dr. Nompumelelo Obokoh, Vice Chair, Independent Science for Development Council (ISDC) / CEO, CGIAR / South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP)



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advancements and securing sustained global investment in research, the discussion will explore forward-thinking approaches to enhance food, land, and water systems. Additionally, the session will delve into the growing frontiers of agricultural transformation, examining the role of artificial intelligence in accelerating evidence synthesis, the coordination of critical research needs, and the integration of global, local, and Indigenous knowledge. By connecting science with actionable strategies, this session will underscore the power of innovation in shaping a more sustainable and food-secure future.

- Ms. Monika Froehler, CEO, Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens

- **Sequence 1.2: Catalyzing Solutions**

- Ms. Alice Ruhweza, President, AGRA
- Dr. Daniel Elger, CEO, Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI)
- Mr. George Richards, Director, Community Jameel
- Mr. Santiago Alba-Corral, Vice President Programs and Partnerships, IDRC
- Ms. Katie Taft, Communications and Engagement Lead, Gates Ag One
- Ms. Valérie Verdier, CEO, French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD)

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AGRA and CGIAR sign MOU.

Segment 2: Charting New Paths

- **Sequence 2.1: Panel Discussion: Wealth in Diversity**
- Moderator Dr. Juliana Dias Bernardes Gil, Chief Editor, Nature Food
- Dr. Susan Kaaria, Director, African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD)
- Prof. Liu Luxiang, Executive Director General, Institute of Crop Sciences, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences; Director of the Management



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	<p>Team of G2P, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Adegbola Adesogan, Professor of Ruminant Nutrition, Associate Vice President of Food Systems Institute, and Director of Strategic Partnerships for the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems, University of Florida <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sequence 2.2: Panel Discussion: Building Water-Resilient Food Systems • Moderator Dr. Juliana Dias Bernardes Gil, Chief Editor, Nature Food • Dr. Mark Smith, Director General, International Water Management Institute (IWMI) • Dr. Pathak Himanshu, Director General, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) • Dr. Martin Kováč, Founder and Leader of the Expert Platform, Climate Club <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sequence 2.3: Panel Discussion: The Future of Agri-Foods – Moderator: Dr. Juliana Dias Bernardes Gil, Chief Editor, Nature Food – Dr. Johan Swinnen, Director General, IFPRI – Dr. Patrick Caron, Vice Chair, System Board, CGIAR – Dr. Canisius Kanangire, Executive Director, African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) – Dr. Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted, Director for Nutrition, Health and Food Security Impact Area Platform, CGIAR – Prof. Salwa Karboune, Professor - McGill; Associate Dean (Research) Scientific Director, Consortium for Research, Innovation and Transformation of Agrifood
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<p>Plenary 5 Date: 11 April 2025 Time: 15:00 – 16:30 EAT Closing the plenary session will articulate the vision of collaboration and continue to build, consolidate and nurture partnerships based on shared priorities to deliver for food security, economic stability, gender equality and climate resilience.</p>	<p>Moderator: Jeff Koinange</p> <p>Sequence 1 – Reflections on CG Science Week</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - H.E. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations (Video Message) - Dr. Eliud Kiplimo Kireger, DG and CEO, KALRO - Dr. Juergen Voegelé, Chair - CGIAR System Council Board & Vice President, Sustainable Development, World Bank (Video Message) - Dr. Rachel Chikwamba, Chair, Science, Innovation, Impact and Partnership Committee of the Integrated Partnership Board, CGIAR <p>Sequence 2: Remarks from Centre DGs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr. Ismahane Elouafi, Executive Managing Director, CGIAR - CGIAR Director Generals: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Aly Abousabaa, Director General, International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) 2. Dr. Appolinaire Djikeng, Director General, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) 3. Dr. Baboucarr Manneh, Director General, AfricaRice) 4. Dr. Bram Govaerts, Director General, International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) 5. Prof. Alex O. Awiti, Principal Scientist and Agroecology Lead [on behalf of Dr. Eliane Ubalijoro, Chief Executive Officer, Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF)] 6. Dr. Essam Yassin Mohammed, Director General, WorldFish
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Dr. Johan Swinnen, Director General, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) 8. Dr. Juan Lucas Restrepo, Director General, Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) 9. Dr. Mark Smith, Director General, International Water Management Institute (IWMI) 10. Dr. Simeon Ehui, Director General, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) 11. Dr. Simon Heck, Director General, International Potato Center (CIP) 12. Dr. Pathak Himanshu, Director General, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) 13. Dr. Yvonne Pinto, Director General, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) <p>Sequence 3: Closure of the CGIAR Science Week</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chief Guest, Government of Kenya / Hon. Mutahi Kagwe, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Republic of Kenya
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