



# Creating an enabling environment for digitalization to transform African Agriculture

## Side-event at the African Green Revolution Forum 2019

Organized by the *Program of Accompanying Research on Agricultural Innovation* (PARI)

Implemented by the Center for Development Research (ZEF) and the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)

**Date:** Tuesday, 3 September 2019

**Time:** 02:30 – 04:30pm

Africa has been digitalizing fast. The mobile phone spread with astonishing speed across the continent and has transformed the way that people communicate, access information and conduct financial transactions. Emerging digital technologies, such as blockchains, big data, artificial intelligence and robotics, have the potential to fundamentally change African economies. However, while some countries have moved ahead, others are trailing behind. For digitalization to take off, the right framework conditions need to be in place to support the development, operation and impact of digital services for farmers and the entire value chain. **This session will shed light on the types of conditions that are needed to accelerate the digital revolution in Africa's food and agriculture sector, including conducive policies, infrastructure, financing, skill development and start-up support.** It will draw on research undertaken in three frontrunner countries in Africa to inform the debate and involve leading thinkers to discuss how to put the lessons into practice.

**Session Outline** (speakers tbc)

**Chair:** Prof. Joachim von Braun, Director at ZEF

### Presentations by PARI researchers

#### **What can we learn from digital pioneers in Africa? Insights from Kenya, Ghana and Nigeria**

Dr. Lawrence Mose, Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO)

Dr. Philip Dayo, Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN)

Dr. Rose Omari, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research of Ghana (CSIR)

#### **Taking digitalization to scale - key lessons for African agriculture**

Dr. Heike Baumüller (ZEF, Germany)

**High-level panel**

**Hon. Dr. Gerardine Mukeshimana**, Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources, Rwanda

**Mbwana Alliy**, Managing Partner, Savannah Fund, Kenya

**George A. Sarpong**, Managing Director, Kosmos Innovation Center, Ghana

**Sandra Abrokwa Owusu-Kyerematen**, Country Director, Viamo

**Dr. Eleni Gabre-Madhin**, Founder and CEO, blueMoon Incubator, Ethiopia

**Ishmael Sunga**, CEO, Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions

**Dr. Yemi Akinbamijo**, Executive Director, Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa