



## DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

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#### **African Agribusiness Forum opens in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea on the margins of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of AU Heads of State and Government**

**Malabo, Equatorial Guinea -22 June 2014:** The African Agribusiness Forum was today opened in Malabo, by the AUC's Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, Commissioner, H.E Tumusiime Rhoda Peace, who urged stakeholders to focus on enhancing positive changes towards prosperity that directly impact on the livelihoods of African citizens through an inclusive agricultural transformation process.

The African Agribusiness Forum, held ahead of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of African Union Heads of State and Government, is meant to enhance private sector engagement and inclusive agribusiness transformation in Africa.

The Summit is being held under the theme, "Transforming Africa's agriculture for shared prosperity and improved livelihoods; harnessing opportunities for inclusive growth and sustainable development," and is also being held in the 2014 AU Year of Agriculture and Food and Nutrition Security and the commemoration of the 10 year anniversary since the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) was adopted.

Commissioner Tumusiime said the last decade of CAADP implementation, has redefined and reshaped the critical path to the attainment of Africa's agricultural transformation objectives.

Mrs. Tumusiime informed the Forum that the recent AU Joint Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, Rural Development, Fisheries and Aquaculture, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2014 adopted a Resolution endorsing seven Africa Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation Goals (3AGTGs) for 2025 for consideration by the AU Heads of State and Government, at their Malabo Summit.

The joint conference recommended among other things the need to *enhance Public-Private Partnerships and Investment Financing for African Agriculture* and called on *stakeholders* to establish and/or strengthen inclusive public-private partnerships for at least five (5) priority agricultural commodity value chains with a strong linkage to smallholder agriculture and to strengthen the capacities of domestic apex private sector intermediary institutions for inclusive facilitation and coordination to ensure engagement of the private sector in CAADP implementation.

“This forum will, therefore, provide an opportunity for men, women and youth stakeholders in the agribusiness sector to discuss and develop concrete strategies for the realization of these recommendations,” she said. `

In a key note address, the new AUC Head of Division of Agriculture and Food Security Mr. Boaz Keizire, highlighted the key opportunities and challenges for enhancing Africa’s agribusiness value chains and the outcomes of the AU Joint Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, Rural Development and Aquaculture.

The opening session was also attended by AUC Commissioners for Trade and Industry and Political Affairs, T.E Fatima Acyl and Alcha Abdullahi, respectively.

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