



# INNOVATIVE TOOLS TO ENHANCE FOOD SECURITY IN AFRICA

*A contribution to debates on the EU Comprehensive Strategy with Africa*

**A Joint TMG Research gGmbH – Institute for  
European Environmental Policy (IEEP) Event**

**8 DECEMBER 2021, 10:00 – 11:30 CET (UTC+1)**

**VENUE: ONLINE**

## **SYPNOSIS**

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In the face of the Covid-19 crisis and an imperative to “build forward better” it is not surprising that digital transformation has been identified as a core pillar of future EU-Africa cooperation. Digitalisation is viewed as an important avenue for tapping the creativity and entrepreneurial spirit of Africa’s large youth population, hence helping to stem rising unemployment, a growing rural-urban divide, and other socio-economic challenges facing the continent.

While there are many positive examples of homegrown digital innovations, the reality is that most African countries continue to grapple with a complex mix of development challenges, and recent economic gains have been eroded by accelerated climate change as well as the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. This is in turn aggravating food insecurity, natural resource-based conflicts, poverty and social exclusion.

Against this complex backdrop, IEEP and TMG Research are co-organising a webinar to examine whether digital tools, as envisaged in the European Commission’s Joint Communication, “[Towards a Comprehensive Strategy with Africa](#),” offer concrete solutions to these entrenched challenges. It will specifically question whether digital transformation is possible without explicitly addressing one the most fundamental challenges for Africa today: how to build more inclusive and climate-resilient food systems. A core thrust of the discussions will be the role of digitalisation in advancing the right to food and other human rights by bridging knowledge, capacity and governance gaps that lock out entire communities (and their institutions) from participating meaningfully in decision making processes that affect their lives and livelihoods.

# PROGRAMME

10:00

**Welcome and introductory remarks by co-moderators**

- Alexander Müller, Managing Director, TMG Research
- Jes Weigelt, Head of Programmes, TMG Research

10:10

**Digital transformation in achieving Zero Hunger – perspectives for Germany’s G-7 Presidency**

Sebastian Lesch, Head, Agriculture Department, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

10:20

**European Commission’s vision for digital transformation in Africa**

Leonard Mizzi, Head of Unit, Sustainable Agri-food Systems and Fisheries, European Commission Directorate-General for International Partnerships

10:30

**The food and nutrition security imperative: Why tackling the entrenched challenges of food insecurity and climate vulnerability in Africa is at the heart of a sustainable recovery from Covid-19 and driving achievement of the SDGs**

- Elizabeth Kimani-Murage, Head, Maternal and Child Wellbeing, African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC)
- Barend Erasmus, Dean, Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, University of Pretoria

10:40

**Democratising digitalisation pathways for Africa: How to design policies that “leave no one behind”**

- Mawaki Chango, Founder & CEO, DigiLexis Consulting, Togo
- Tunde Fafunwa, Advisor, Economic Commission for Africa & Managing Partner, KITSKOO

10:50

**A response to the European Commission’s Joint Communication ‘Towards a Comprehensive Strategy with Africa’**

EU Parliament Representative

11:00

**Moderated Discussion**

11:25

**Wrap up by Co-Moderators/Hosts**

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