



**COMMUNIQUE OF THE 8<sup>TH</sup> AFMA CONGRESS HELD AT THE SAROVA  
PANAFRIC HOTEL, NAIROBI, 25-29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2012**

The 8<sup>th</sup> AFMA congress was held at the Sarova Panafric Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya on 25<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> November 2012. It was attended by delegates from across Africa and Europe. It was officially opened by Dr. Wilson Songa, the Agriculture Secretary, who represented the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kenya. It was also graced by Prof. John Wibberley, one of the keynote speakers, who also represented the Honorary Secretary of the International Farm Management Association (IFMA). The theme of the Congress was “*Repositioning African Agriculture through Productivity, Market Access, Policy Dialogue and Adapting to Climate Change*”.

The Congress was organized under the following sub-themes: Agricultural Productivity and Competitiveness; Farm and Agribusiness Management; Food Security and Climate Change; Agricultural Credit, Trade and Marketing; Gender and Agricultural Development; Natural Resource and Conflict Management; and Innovation, Technology Development and Dissemination.

The congress featured paper presentations, case study presentations, discussions and field visits involving a range of stakeholders including academia, farmers, farm managers, agricultural entrepreneurs, researchers, and public service officials. The congress resolved that:

1. The successful hosting of the 8<sup>th</sup> AFMA congress in Nairobi, Kenya, demonstrated the commitment of The Africa Farm Management Association (AFMA) to provide stakeholders in Farm and Agribusiness Management in Africa a platform for policy dialogue and sharing experiences to advance agriculture in the continent;
2. Agricultural productivity and competitiveness in Africa does not match its potential thus making the African Green Revolution a mirage. This is confirmed by the widespread low agricultural productivity and food insecurity in many African countries. Consequently, farmers need to be encouraged to use superior production technologies for increased productivity, food security and competitiveness;
3. The incentive structure in most African countries is not adequate to propel African agriculture to the next level. African farmers continue to face low access to credit, non-affordable inputs and poor prices for their produce. There is therefore need to streamline the incentive structure with a view to improve use of superior technologies and make farming a worthwhile engagement. Farmers need to be encouraged to come up with succession plans for their farms with clearly defined responsibilities;



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4. Africa has inadequate infrastructure and weak institutions supporting agriculture. Dilapidated road network, poor coverage by Information and Communication technologies, and poorly developed markets are common features across Africa. African governments therefore need to invest more on infrastructure development and strengthen institutions through Private Public Partnerships (PPPs);

5. Investment in Research and Development in Africa is below the threshold required for takeoff. This is demonstrated by the few countries that have honored their CAADP commitment to invest at least 10% of their budgets in Agriculture. As a way of generating a reservoir of home grown technologies, African governments should invest more in R&D. Further, success stories should be scaled up and shared across the continent;

6. African agricultural value chains are poorly developed with most being subsistence. This is demonstrated by the poorly developed agricultural markets, limited on-farm value addition and limited farmers' influence on the value chains they're working in. A deliberate effort should be taken to strengthen linkages in the agricultural product value chains. Further, measures should be taken to encourage farmers to undertake farming as a business and resort to collective action for improved bargaining power in procurement of inputs and sale of produce;

7. Agricultural advisory services in many African countries have poor forward and backward linkages with farmers and research. Consequently, there is low adoption of agricultural technologies by farmers. There is need for interdisciplinary approach in research, training, extension and development. Further, community based teaching and learning (intensive collaboration with community for teaching, training and research) that translates into practical development is needed;

8. Many Central Banks of Africa do not have divisions that deal specifically with lending for agricultural development. This has contributed to untimely disbursement of funds and poor targeting of beneficiaries. There is need for Central Banks in Africa to have agricultural departments and commercial banks to have agricultural desks dealing with agricultural issues. Similarly, there is need to identify the right target groups when formulating credit schemes; these groups should be trained on credit use before disbursement of funds;

9. Climate change is with us and is already impacting on African agriculture, presenting a great challenge to the sustainable use of resources. This is evidenced by erratic weather patterns with devastating floods and droughts in different parts of Africa. This is exacerbated by reluctance by insurance companies to cover agricultural enterprises. National governments in Africa should take deliberate measures to conserve natural resources and facilitate sustainable agricultural systems. Early warning systems and mitigation measures should be put in place to guard against risks resulting from climate change;

10. African governments should show a strong political commitment, will-power and consistency in policy planning and implementation for development. This commitment will ensure food security and poverty reduction across the continent. In addition, governments need to review policies in place with an objective of embracing successful ones. There is need to systematically embrace land reform policies in Africa with a view to improving equitable distribution of income from agriculture;



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11. AFMA affirms that it will continue to champion the need for African farm and agribusiness stakeholders to take lead in the identification and resolution of African problems, thus the slogan “*African problems, African solutions*”;

12. That the next AFMA congress shall be held in Cape Town, South Africa in 2014;

13. The officers of AFMA for the period 2012 to 2014 shall be as follows:

President	Dr. Philip M. Nyangweso
Past President	Ms. Grace Evbuomwan
Vice President	Mr. Mfusi Mjonono
Secretary General	Dr. Mark Korir
Southern Africa Representative	Ms. Jean Pankuku
East & Central Africa Representative	Mr. Willy-Marcel Ndayitwayeko
West Africa Representative	Dr. Samuel Asuming-Brempong;

14. The AFMA congress appreciates the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), Moi University, the Horticultural Crops Development Authority (HCDA) and other well wishers for the financial, material and technical support to the 8<sup>th</sup> AFMA Congress in Nairobi, Kenya.

Dr. P.M. Nyangweso

AFMA President

Dr. M.K. Korir

AFMA Secretary General

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