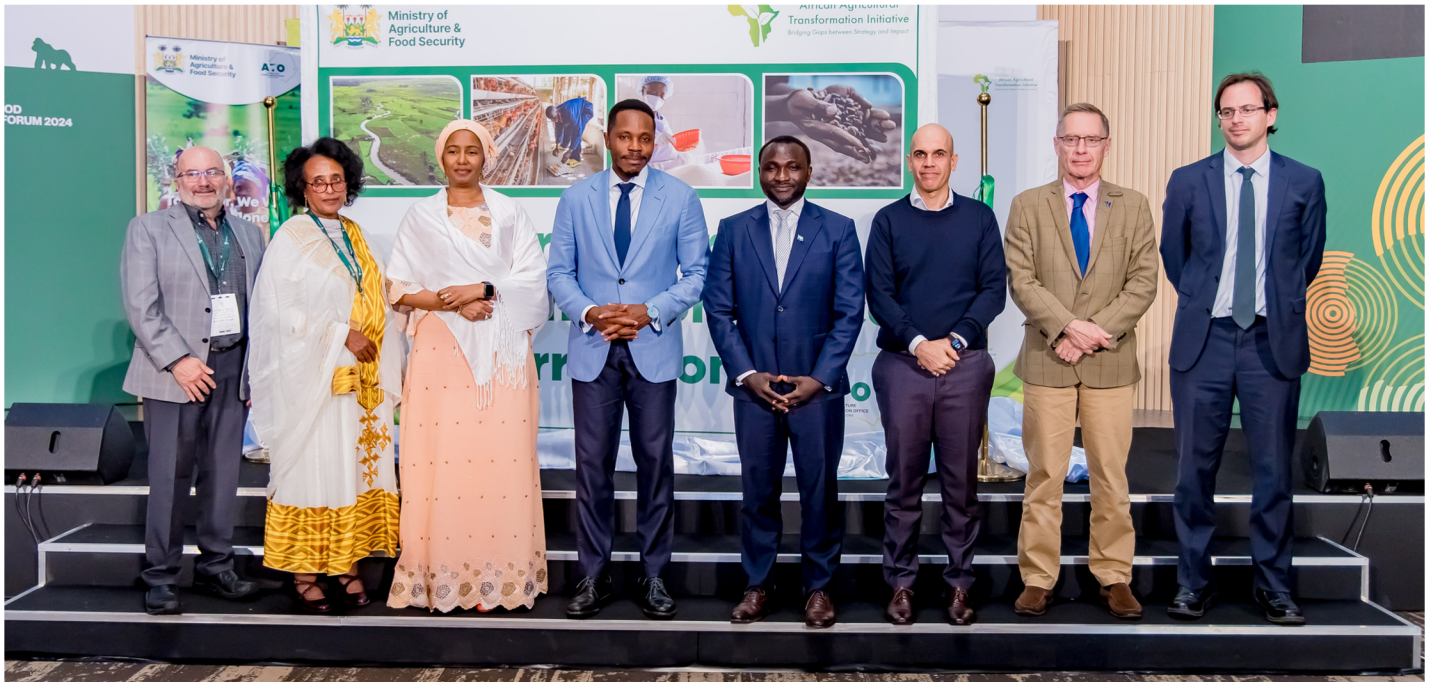




The **Transforming Agriculture** digest



#FeedSalone is live!

On September 4th, 2024, AATI in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security of Sierra Leone marked a major milestone with the launch of the Agriculture Transformation Office (ATO) on the sidelines of the Africa Food Systems Forum 2024 in Kigali, Rwanda. The ATO will support Sierra Leone's journey toward sustainable agricultural growth, food security, and economic development.

The ATO's launch is a critical step toward achieving these goals, with political will, financial backing, and strong partnerships driving success.

Key Takeaways from the Launch:

- Agricultural transformation in Sierra Leone depends heavily on political support and financial investment from the government, alongside collaborative partnerships with AATI, the private sector, and the donor community.
- The ATO, as a delivery unit, requires not only government backing but also technical and analytical capabilities, a focused agenda, effective communication, and a strong resource mobilization strategy.

The launch event was attended by notable dignitaries who shared valuable insights on agricultural transformation, including Dr. David Moinina Sengeh, Chief Minister of Sierra Leone, Hon. Dr. Henry Musa Kpaka, Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Sierra Leone; H.E. Pastor Umo Eno, Governor of Akwa Ibom State, H.E. Umar Namadi, Governor of Jigawa State; H.E. Mizengo Pinda, former Prime Minister of Tanzania and Chairman of the Presidential Food and Agriculture Delivery Council, Tanzania; and H.E. Mohamed Béavogui, former Prime Minister of Guinea.



Nane Nane: Celebrating Tanzanian Farmers



Nane Nane Day celebrates the significant contributions of farmers to Tanzania's economy. This annual agricultural exhibition was held on 8th August in Dodoma, Tanzania. It brought together farmers and agricultural stakeholders (including universities, research institutes, and private sector entities, development partners) to showcase new technologies, ideas, and solutions for the sector.

This year's event was attended by the ATO Tanzania and AATI, highlighting the Agricultural Master Plan (AMP), a comprehensive roadmap for transforming Tanzania's crops, livestock, and fisheries sectors. Developed with support from IFAD, AGRA, and McKinsey, the AMP aims to:

- Increase agricultural household income by 20%.
- Boost productivity by 50%, leading to a 15% reduction in malnutrition.
- Achieve 6 billion USD in export revenue.
- Develop 1,000 MSMEs across value chains.
- Position Tanzania for upper-middle-income status by 2050.

The highlight of the event was a visit to the ATO booth by President Samia Suluhu Hassan and Hon. Hussein Mohamed Bashe, Minister of Agriculture, where Ms. Safia Boly, AATI Executive Director, briefed the President on the organization's collaboration with the Ministry to transform Tanzanian agriculture. President Samia Suluhu Hassan expressed her gratitude for AATI's support in this effort to transform the agriculture sector.

Hon. Hussein Bashe also acknowledged AATI's instrumental role in strengthening the ATO and developing the AMP as Key efforts toward transforming the sector agricultural sector.



Focus on Women and Youth in Agriculture Transformation



On 26th June 2024, the African Agricultural Transformation Initiative (AATI) in partnership with the with the Ministry of Agriculture for Tanzania, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Mastercard Foundation, hosted a webinar focused on the role of women and youth in agricultural transformation. The webinar showcased success stories and highlighted the early achievements, as well as Tanzania's Agriculture Transformation Office (ATO) strategy to support women and youth in the sector.

Key Takeaways:

- Women and youth play a critical role in the agriculture sector, but they face significant barriers such as limited access to resources, technology, and financing. Social norms and legal restrictions further prevent them from owning or inheriting land, traveling to access markets, and making decisions about land use and investments. These challenges are compounded by limited access to education and skills training, which restricts their ability to engage in value-added activities beyond basic crop and livestock farming.
- The link between climate change and gender inequalities is crucial. As climate change affects agricultural productivity, it disproportionately impacts women, who are often more reliant on agriculture for their livelihoods. Moreover, women may have less access to adaptation resources, such as climate-resilient seeds and technologies, and are less likely to participate in decision-making processes about climate policies and interventions. If these gender gaps are not addressed, climate change will likely exacerbate existing inequalities, further hindering women and youth from achieving their full potential in the agricultural sector.
- To engage more women and youth in agriculture, we need to implement targeted approaches that provide better access to land, financial resources suited to their needs, modern equipment, information, and skills development. Ensuring an inclusive environment will help create sustainable growth in the sector.



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Launch of ATO Sierra Leone

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