



The Transforming Agriculture Digest



Advancing the Feed Salone Initiative: Updates on the ATO's Progress

Since its launch in September 2024, the Agriculture Transformation Office (ATO)-Sierra Leone has been making significant strides in supporting the Feed Salone initiative. The team has been working closely with the AATI delivery team to identify strategic niches and priority areas where the ATO can make the most impact. In parallel, they have recruited core staff and are in the process of setting up the office to ensure smooth and effective operations.

The ATO has also engaged extensively with the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Dr. Henry Musa Kpaka, holding several productive meetings to align priorities. In a recent session, the Minister clarified his expectations for the ATO and assigned technical teams under each Feed Salone pillar to collaborate with the ATO. These teams are now working together to co-develop detailed implementation plans for each pillar, ensuring alignment with the initiative's goals.

Through these efforts, the ATO is laying the groundwork for transformative, evidence-based interventions to drive progress in Sierra Leone's agricultural sector.



ATO Tanzania 2025: Vision, Priorities, Action



As we look ahead to 2025, ATO Tanzania is set to build on its efforts to drive agricultural transformation. The coming year will focus on laying a strong foundation for implementing the Agricultural Master Plan (AMP) and enhancing the effectiveness of our flagship initiatives. Key priorities include:

- **Socialization and Launch of the AMP:** We will prioritize creating awareness and ensuring successful socialization of the AMP across stakeholders, from the national to local government, small holder farmers and private sector etc.
- **Establishment of Committees and Operational Systems:** Dedicated committees, Terms of Reference (ToRs), and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) will be established to oversee and guide the flagships. Regular meetings with key strategic stakeholders will ensure smooth follow-up on implementation progress.
- **Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Dashboard Development:** An M&E expert will develop a comprehensive MEL results dashboard to track performance and outcomes, facilitating data-driven decision-making for ATO and its partners, and the commitment made the lead ministries to implement the AMP (2024/2025).
- **Resource Mobilization and Financial Systems:** Develop an investment plan for mobilising resources to support the flagships.
- **Policy Discussions and Validation:** Meetings will be organized to discuss key policy documents, validate necessary changes, and align efforts with national priorities.
- **Flagship Implementation and Coordination:** Flagship meetings will begin in earnest to drive implementation, foster collaboration, and deliver measurable impact on the ground.
- **Strengthen the ATO Team – recruitment of strategic and key positions to accelerate provision of technical support to Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) and Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries (MLF).**

Through these priorities, ATO Tanzania aims to accelerate agricultural transformation, enhance stakeholder engagement, and position Tanzania as a leader in sustainable agricultural development.



Hatching ideas: Highlights from Tanzania's Poultry Futures Forum 2024



Dar es Salaam, October 16-17, 2024 – The Poultry Futures Forum brought together key stakeholders to address challenges and opportunities in advancing poultry farming across the SADC region. Representing ATO Tanzania, Director Elizabeth Missokia participated in leadership dialogues, emphasizing solutions to critical sector issues in Policy, access to financing, affordable quality feeds, and market access.

Elizabeth reaffirmed ATO Tanzania's commitment to supporting the AMP initiatives, which include several flagship projects designed to unlock potential within the poultry sector:

- Scaling upstream and downstream market linkages for smallholders through SME development.
- Increasing the production of maize, a main poultry feed source, to boost supply.
- Addressing regulatory challenges to promote the commercialization of wheat, soybeans, poultry, and aquaculture.
- Expanding cold chain facilities at airports and seaports to support increased exports and enhance processing.
- Digitalizing farmer registration to improve support across the agriculture ecosystem.
- Extending digitalized farmer support services to improve outreach.
- Increasing access to finance through risk-sharing mechanisms.
- Strengthening food security with strategic feed and food reserves.

Key Outcomes

The forum underscored the need for a formal poultry strategy, increased feed crop production, expanded hatcheries for indigenous poultry, and improved data systems for decision-making. Public-private collaboration emerged as vital for technical expertise sharing, trade growth, and partnership building.

ATO Tanzania pledged to advance these priorities by working closely with stakeholders to implement the AMP and drive sustainable growth in the poultry sector.

About the AMP

The AMP is a 25-year strategy to transform agriculture, focusing on smallholders, SMEs, and the private sector to ensure inclusive growth and resilience.



Meet the Team: AATI's New Delivery Team



The African Agriculture Transformation Initiative (AATI) is proud to introduce its newly established Delivery Team, a group dedicated to advancing agricultural transformation efforts in Tanzania and Sierra Leone. This team is tasked with supporting the Agricultural Transformation Offices (ATOs) by creating and operationalizing delivery mechanisms—essential systems designed to accelerate the implementation of strategic agricultural initiatives and bridge the gap between strategy and impact.

What the Delivery Team Does

Their work will focus on:

- **Visioning and Strategy Development:** Helping ATOs identify opportunities for growth and key areas of intervention, culminating in a national strategy that sets the agenda for agricultural transformation.
- **Institutional Strengthening:** Enhancing delivery infrastructure through diagnostics, monitoring & evaluation, performance management, resource mobilization, and evidence-based policymaking.
- **Roadmaps for Flagship Projects:** Developing detailed implementation plans for priority projects to ensure alignment with strategic goals.
- **Embedding delivery mechanisms into government systems** through training and skills transfer.

Building Capacity for Sustainable Transformation

To foster sustainable agricultural transformation, the Delivery Team will organize delivery labs, curate best practices, and offer tailored training to ATOs. Their goal is to create a culture of collaboration, learning, and continuous improvement while equipping governments to deliver results.

By supporting countries in operationalizing their strategies and strengthening institutions, the Delivery Team is a critical driver of AATI's mission to turn plans into lasting impact.



Spotlight on the Team that will be Driving Agricultural Transformation in Sierra Leone



The Agricultural Transformation Office (ATO) in Sierra Leone is delighted to announce the onboarding of its core team. These dedicated professionals bring diverse expertise and a shared commitment to advancing the Feed Salone initiative.

- Momoh Thomas Bockarie, Head of Programs
- Alieu A. Sesay, Data Scientist
- Amadu Jalloh, Pillar Lead for Mechanization and Irrigation
- Chabayanzara Ephraim, Pillar Lead for Agricultural Technology (AgTech) and Climate Smart Agriculture
- Tamba Tengbeh, Communication, Resource Mobilization, and Partnerships

This team represents a robust mix of leadership, technical expertise, and strategic vision to tackle Sierra Leone's agricultural transformation priorities. Their collaborative efforts will focus on driving innovative solutions, building partnerships, and supporting the delivery of impactful outcomes under the Feed Salone initiative.

In the accompanying photo, from left to right: Tamba Tengbeh, Amadu Jalloh, Chabayanzara Ephraim, Alieu A. Sesay, and Momoh Thomas Bockarie.

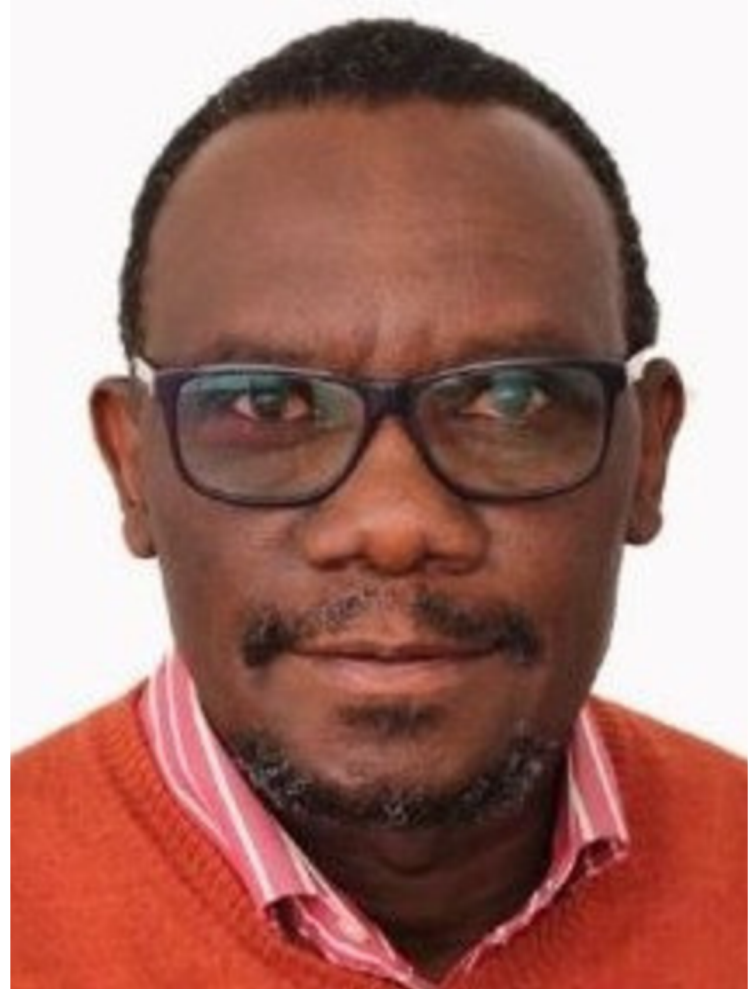
We welcome the team aboard and look forward to their contributions as they work to transform agriculture and improve food security in Sierra Leone.



Meet the Team: ATO Sierra Leone's Director

Dr. Leonard Oruko joined the African Agricultural Transformation Initiative (AATI) in October 2024 as the Director of the Agricultural Transformation Office in Sierra Leone (ATO SL). In this role, he leads efforts to support the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security in implementing the Feed Salone—a flagship program focused on achieving food sovereignty and inclusive economic transformation. With over 30 years of experience in agricultural research and development, Leonard is at the forefront of advancing Sierra Leone's agricultural development agenda.

Leonard's notable experience includes serving as one of the founding directors of Ethiopia's Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA) and supporting the Policy and State Capability initiative at the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). Besides his leadership role in the results measurement and learning function at the ATA, he was instrumental in developing and overseeing the implementation of the organization's corporate strategy. As a consultant at AGRA, he conducted a comprehensive analysis of the state capability program, providing recommendations on priority investment and implementation modalities for improving the organization's impact.



More recently, Leonard served as a Group Director of Food and Agriculture Banking at Equity Group Holdings (EGH), where he developed strategies to increase lending to the agricultural sector across six African countries, focusing on innovative financial solutions for smallholder farmers and agribusinesses. Prior to this, he held leadership roles with the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA), the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) and IDinsight, where he supported evidence-based policymaking and program design.

Leonard holds a PhD in Agricultural Economics from the University of Reading, an MSc in Agricultural Economics, and a BSc in Agriculture from the University of Nairobi. His extensive experience, coupled with a strong belief in the power of political will to drive agri-food systems transformation, positions him to make a significant impact in Sierra Leone.

"There is no substitute for political will as the primary driver of agri-food systems transformation. Sierra Leone offers the best opportunity for putting into practice all the agrifood systems transformation principles, given the unwavering political will, the calibre of leadership at the Ministry and the commitment from partner organizations working in the sector."



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