Role of Universities in transformation of food systems in Africa

Infopoint Virtual Conference: "North-South Partnership in Research and Education for the Transformation of Food Systems“

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1. Food systems underpinned by diverse farming systems

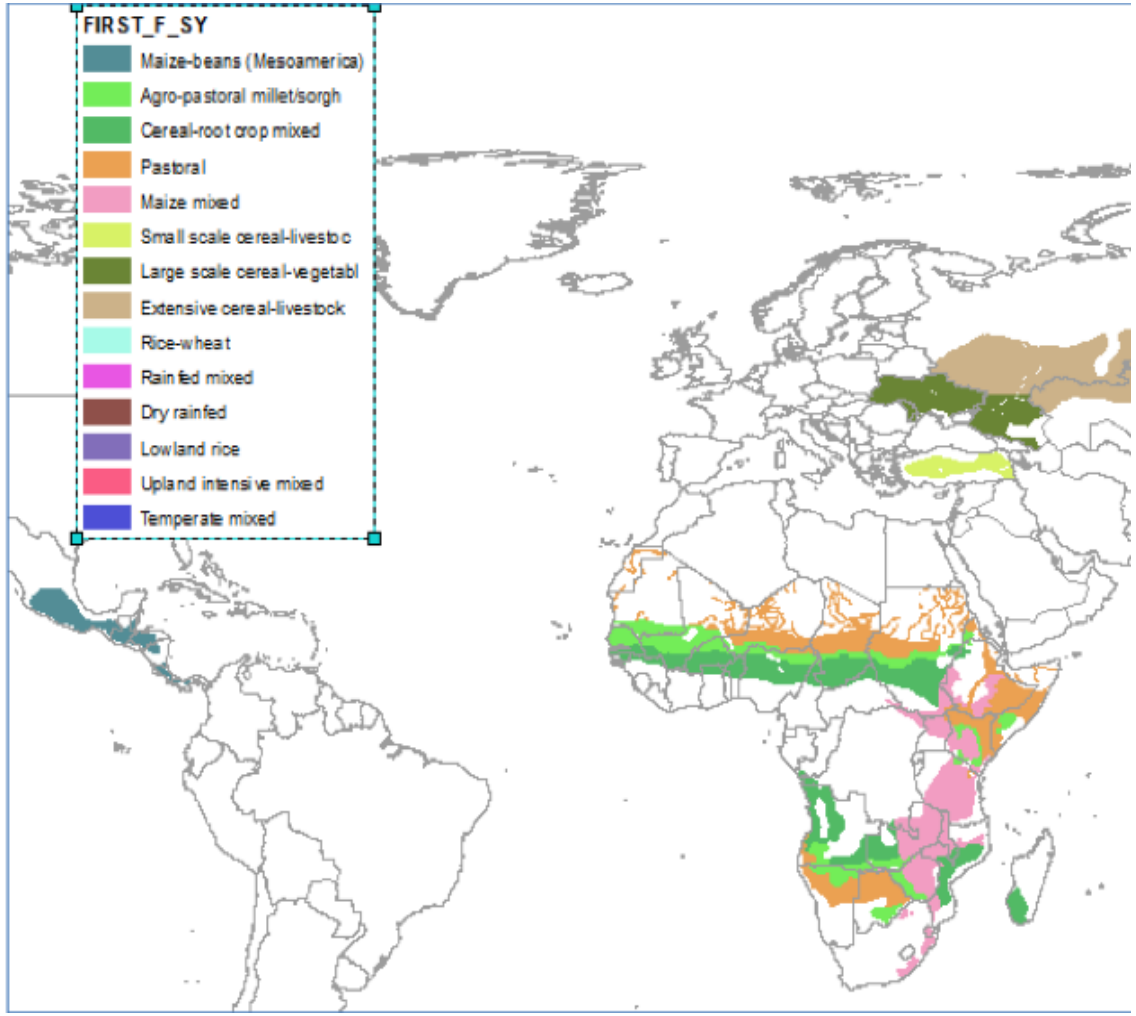
Predominated by

East and southern Africa-

a) Maize mixed farming system- humid tropics
b) Extensive cereal systems in dryer ecologies
c) Agro-pastoral systems semi-arid ecologies

West and Central Africa

a) Cereal-root crop mixed farming system- humid tropics
b) Extensive cereal systems in dryer ecologies
c) Agro-pastoral systems semi-arid ecologies



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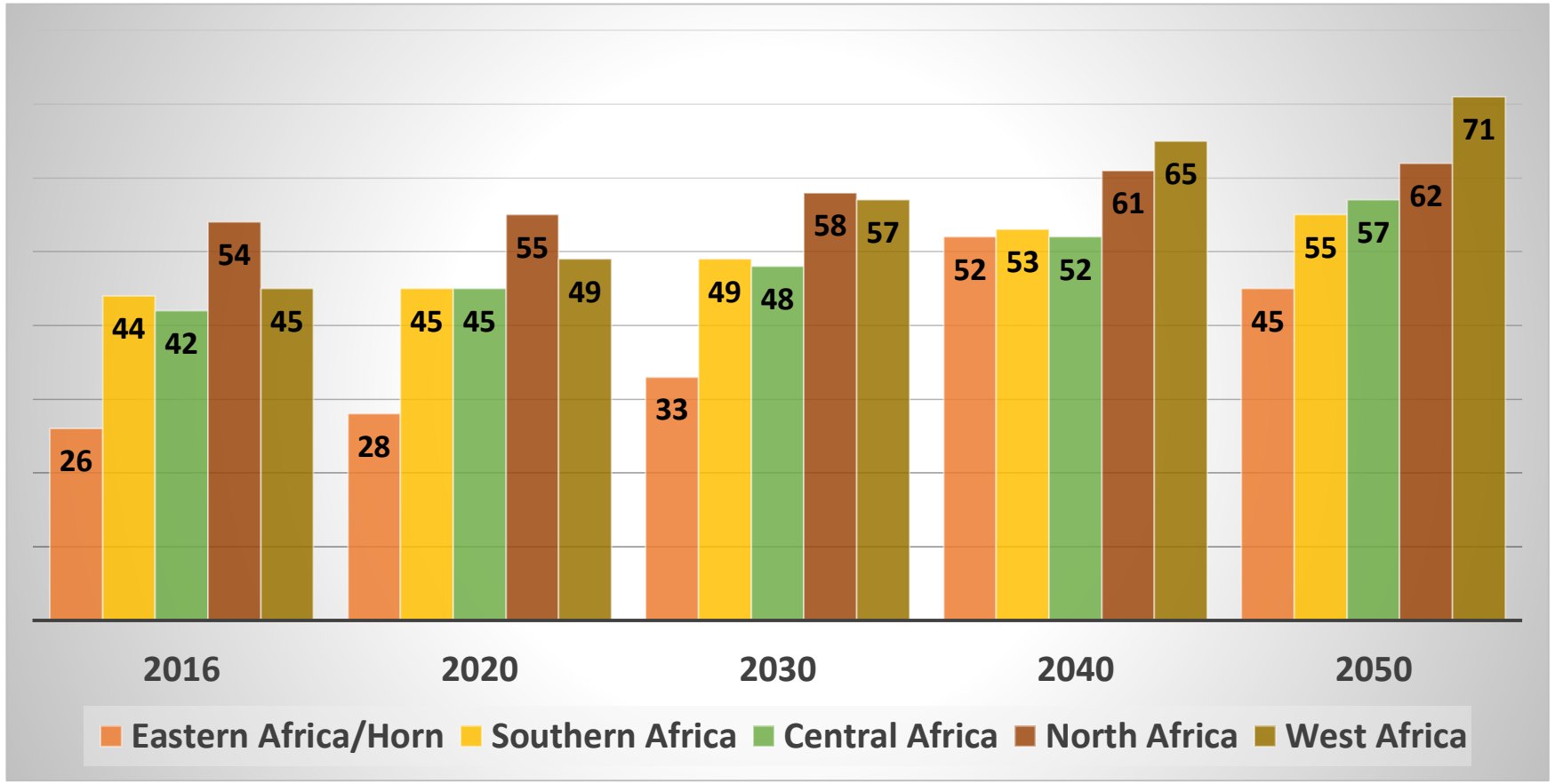
2. Food for whom: The double challenge of feeding urbanising and rural populations



Source: United Nations World Urbanization Prospects, IFs version 7.22.

>870 Million
people will live in rural areas by 2030

An increase from **720 million** by 2016.

Eastern Africa to have the largest rural population in Africa by 2050

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3. Projected food demand by 2030: 2-3 three fold increase for most commodities compared to demand in other regions

	World	Developed countries	Developing countries	Sub Saharan Africa	South Asia
Food products	16	3	18	**56**	19
Cereals, Food	18	12	20	**0**	0
Cereals, all uses	20	0	24	**47**	37
Roots and Tubers	21	1	27	**62**	32
Sugar and sugar crops (raw sugar equivalent)	21	5	20	**60**	11
Pulses, dry	26	6	36	**64**	41
Vegetable oils, oilseeds and products (oil equivalent)	25	8	35	**63**	76
Meaat and dairy, excl butter(freshmilk equivalent)	23	7	34	**50**	37
Other foods (Kcal)	20	7	24	**48**	31
Total foods (kCa)	**20**	**4**	**23**	**55**	**25**

Source: Robert F. Townsend 2015 World Bank

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4. Energy for production. A need for green tech

621 Million

African do not have access to electricity

of SSA is consumed by south Africa

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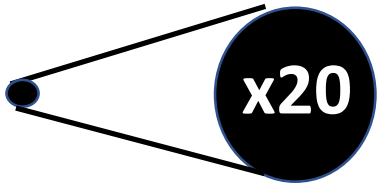
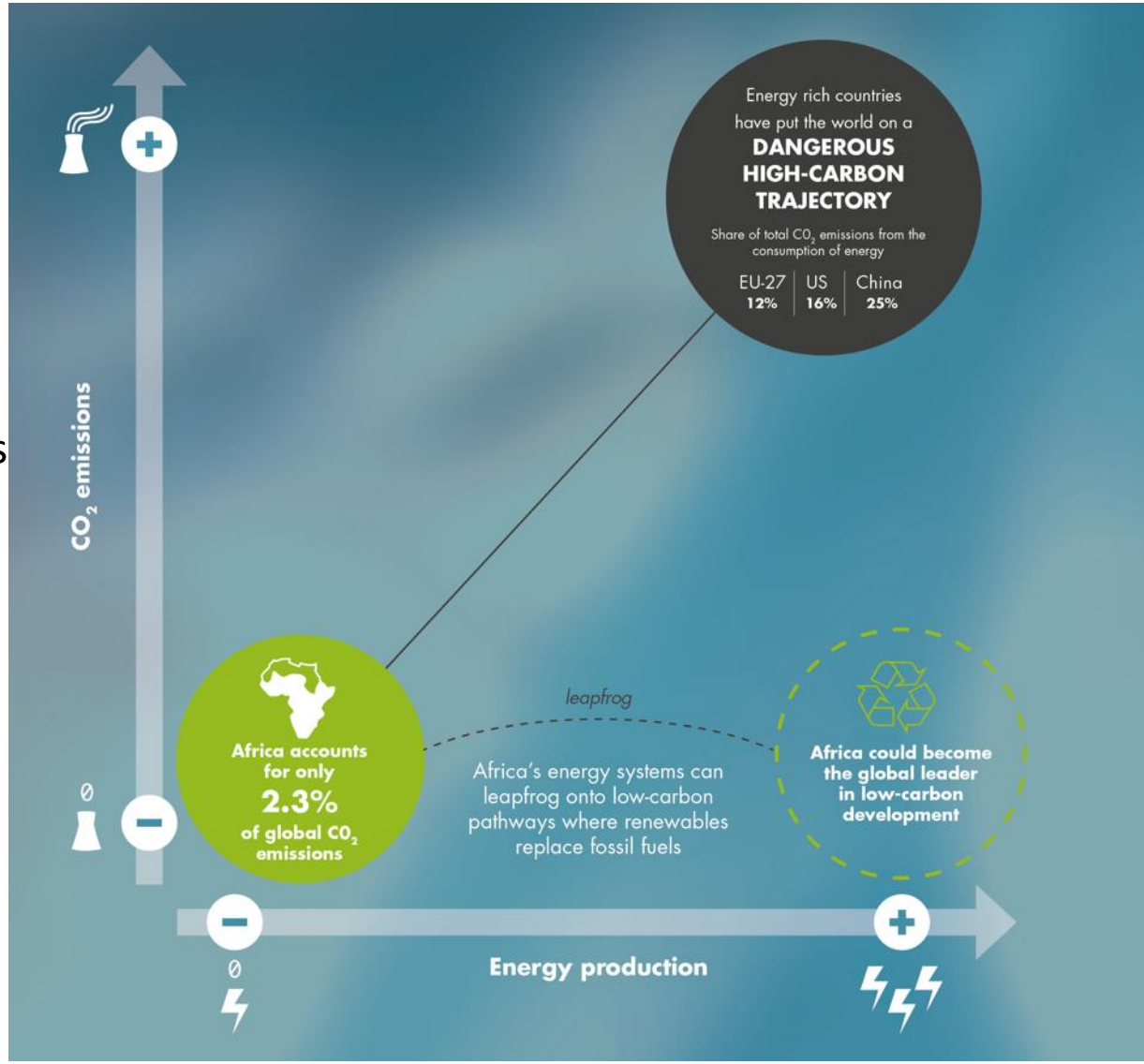
OF THE POPULATION rely on solid biomass (fuel wood + charcoal for cooking)

In Africa the poorest households spent



MORE PER UNIT OF ENERGY THAN THE WEALTHIEST HOUSEHOLDS connected to the power grid



Source: Africa Progress Panel 2015.

5. Implications for Universities and other Research agencies

1. Strategic investment in agrifood systems research to develop sustainable production to consumption systems for

- Increased resilience of production systems
- Improved productivity (water use efficiency, low carbon emission, renewable energy dependent)
- Increased employment opportunity and trade

2. Water and energy

- Water for production dependent on re-greening projects. Harnessing diverse Africa's botanical resources for greening and conservation.
- Water efficient crops and livestock needed
- Intensification of capacity for research to deployment of renewables energy.

3. Inclusivity and diversity

- Innovations that address gender and other inclusivity gaps
- Nutrient dense crops that meet nutrition needs of children, women, youth and other vulnerable populations

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6. Going Forward - Africa and Europe need to Partner to:

- Strengthen resilience and productivity of the diverse agri-food systems using an integrated approach
- Develop contextualized green technologies for production and industrialization
- The European Green Deal should support Africa's research agenda and invariably involve universities
- Capacity development is key for building Africa's response capacity and for generation of technologies and innovations
- African Universities working with European Universities provide a strong platform for innovations, foresight and policy support

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