

# Kenya National Agriculture Summit under way

Kenya is hosting a two-day National Agriculture Summit as industry players look at innovative ways of invigorating agricultural growth and bolstering commitments across the value chain. The summit comes in the wake of mounting challenges ranging from weak value chain linkages that have taken a toll on food producers to conflicting policies that have limited the agriculture transformation agenda.



Image source: Gallo/Getty

The summit will also see the launch of the National Private Sector-led Agriculture Sector Apex body that draws its membership from government, the private sector and development bodies, unveiling its three-year roadmap. The mandate of the secretariat will be to provide a unified approach to tackling some of the challenges the sector faces while exploring the scope for scaling up sustainable innovations to make an impact on a larger scale.

## Innovative, proactive approaches needed

“As agriculture continues to play a pivotal role to the bulk of the population and to propel the country’s economic growth, we need united, innovative and proactive approaches that address all issues across the value chain while coordinating interventions from government, the private sector, farmer organisations and development partners. The idea is to make sure that we are speaking in one voice for the good of the industry and leaving no one behind,” said Dr Bimal Kantaria, the co-chair of the National Private Sector-led Agriculture Sector Apex body.

The summit, themed ‘Building partnerships for the transformation, growth and competitiveness of the agriculture sector in Kenya’, will also see the unveiling of an agricultural transformation roadmap that over the next three years will define challenges and actual interventions for all the value chains. The government will also present the Agriculture Sector Growth and Transformation Strategy.

Key thematic areas of discussion at the conference include unpacking challenges and opportunities in the agriculture sector of Kenya, building synergy to address these challenges, financing options for agribusiness enterprises and the promise of devolution and its impact on agriculture in the last eight years, among others.

## Big Four Agenda

The summit is timely coming as the world ushers in the last decade to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 and Kenya looks to 2020 to achieve the Big Four Agenda in which food security remains an anchor target. Based on this, the gathering will seek to drive the conversation around the role of industry players in not only ensuring that these goals are met, but also in collaborating with other stakeholders to take deliberate steps in achieving these goals.

“This summit is historic considering it is the first time we are doing this. It is a culmination of a number of stakeholder engagements since 2019. We hope that by the end of the summit, we will have come up with a unique way of identifying the major challenges affecting the sector and have a structured way of addressing them while instituting mechanisms that will strengthen the new partnership complete with metrics to measure commitment and progress. Time is ripe for us to transform the agriculture sector,” said Kantaria.

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