



Republic of Rwanda  
Ministry of Agriculture  
& Animal Resources



# The African Conference On Agricultural Technologies (ACAT) 2025

## High-Level Conference Report

June 9th–12th, 2025  
Kigali Convention Center,  
Kigali, Rwanda



**Nextgen Ag-tech Solutions  
for Africa's Farmers**

# ACAT 2025 Sponsors & Partners

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# ACAT 2025 at a Glance: Conference Highlights



Over 750 delegates from 35 countries gathered for the second African Conference on Agricultural Technologies (ACAT) in Kigali, Rwanda from June 9 to 12, 2025. Under the theme ***NextGen Agri-tech Solutions for Africa's Farmers***, the conference focused on advancing agricultural transformation through innovations tailored to the needs of smallholder farmers across the continent.

This high-level report highlights the key moments, outcomes, and commitments that emerged from three and half days of engagement across four thematic areas: **farmer-centric design, enabling environment, last-mile delivery, and stewardship**.

We sincerely thank the Government and the people of Rwanda – led by His Excellency President Paul Kagame, Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Dr. Édouard Ngirente, and Hon. Dr. Mark Cyubahiro Bagabe, Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources – for partnering with us to organise ACAT and for their exceptional hospitality. We are equally grateful to our partners, researchers, farmers, youth, private sector leaders, and all participants for their engagement and contribution in shaping a bold, shared vision, for the future of African agriculture.





# Key Takeaways



## ACAT 2025 participants agreed to:

- 1** Championing the co-creation of agri-tech solutions with farmers by replacing outdated top-down models with participatory, value chain-oriented extension and training approaches — including farmer-to-farmer knowledge exchange and smart village initiatives — to boost adoption, bridge the digital divide, and drive sustainable uptake of agricultural technologies.
- 2** Forging a new generation of inclusive public-private partnerships that secure long-term investments for robust agri-tech infrastructure, comprehensive agricultural training, coordinated multi-sector collaboration, harmonized regional policies, and equitable access to inputs, innovations, and support services — with special focus on empowering youth, women, and rural communities.
- 3** Implementing continental policy frameworks — including CAADP 2026–2035, the Kampala Declaration, and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) — to unlock agri-tech commercialization by creating an enabling environment for private sector growth, investment, and regional market integration.
- 4** Scaling proven integrated technology packages and strengthening last-mile delivery to ensure transformative solutions reach farmers by combining improved seeds, appropriate fertilizers, affordable mechanization, accessible digital advisory services, and efficient market linkages — an integrated approach vital for transforming African agriculture.
- 5** Empowering youth as key drivers of agri-tech development and adoption through targeted investments in youth-led innovations, mentorship, access to finance, supportive policies, and stronger linkages with investors and institutions that build skills and leadership.
- 6** Advancing transparent and ethical frameworks for integrating traditional knowledge into formal agri-tech research by safeguarding farmers', women's, and youth's intellectual property rights, data sovereignty, and benefit-sharing — backed by open-source licensing models, stronger local legal capacity, and training to help stakeholders negotiate for fair and inclusive agreements that broaden access to innovation.



# Leadership Reflections



“No single country, institution, or actor can transform African agriculture alone. African governments must work hand-in-hand with private sector players, research institutions, civil society, and most importantly, with the farmers themselves to birth and sustain a new era of farming, food production, processing, distribution and sales.”

**– H.E. Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, Former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria & AATF Goodwill Ambassador**





## Leadership Reflections



“Today, hard work alone is no longer sufficient. Agriculture must be sustainable and attractive, especially for our young generation. To achieve this, we need to integrate technology and innovation across our efforts to transform the sector. Technology and innovation are essential pillars of modern agriculture and are no longer optional.”

– ***Rt. Hon. Dr. Ngirente Édouard, Prime Minister, Republic of Rwanda***





## Leadership Reflections



“We must be bold. The future of our agriculture will not be inherited. We are here to define the investments we want, to shape the partnerships we need, and to reform the policies that must evolve to support inclusive and scalable innovation in African agriculture.”

**– Hon. Dr. Mark Cyubahiro Bagabe  
Minister of Agriculture and Animal  
Resource, Rwanda**



## Leadership Reflections



“We appreciate our partners who have allowed us to bring so many young people to ACAT this year and who have a laser-sharp focus on ensuring a new generation of young people are finding a passion for farming.”

– **Prof. Aggrey Ambali, Chair,  
Board of Trustees, AATF**





## Leadership Reflections



“AATF reaffirms its commitment to walk this path with you—as your partner, your resource, and your ally in building a resilient and food-secure Africa powered by science and African excellence. As innovators, we commit to being the bridge to link public and private sector to the farmer.”

**– Dr. Canisius Kanangire,  
Executive Director, AATF**

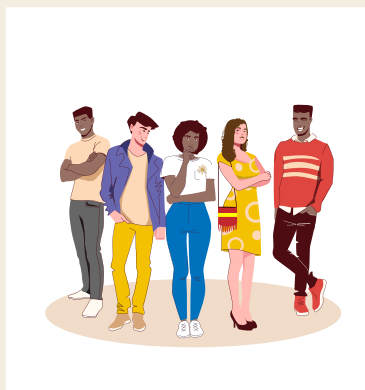


# ACAT 2025 in Numbers



**816**

delegates from  
**38 countries** in  
attendance



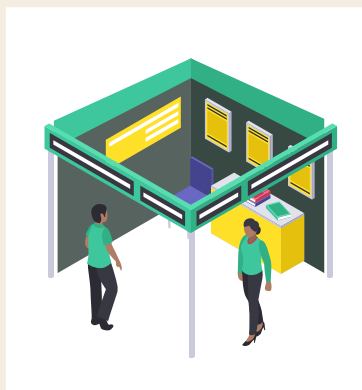
**160+**

youth



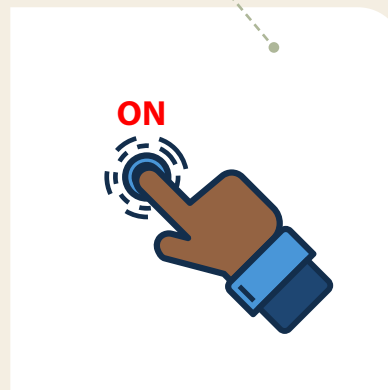
**128**

speakers



**29**

exhibitions of  
products and  
technologies



**8**

live technological  
demonstrations



# Program Highlights



The ACAT 2025 program featured 4 high-level plenaries, 4 Technical Interactive Panels (TIP), 5 Strategic Dialogues on Agricultural Technology in Africa (SDATA), 8 live demonstrations of scalable technologies and 29 exhibitions of technologies and products.

## Day 1 – Farmer-Centric Design: Developing Need-Based Solutions

Day 1 of ACAT 2025 set the tone with a bold call: “put farmers in the driver’s seat of Africa’s agricultural transformation.” Across every session, one message rang clear – farmers are not just end users, but equal partners in innovation. From co-creation to hands-on training, the day showcased how farmer-led design can unlock real impact on the ground. Participants powerfully reframed the narrative around agricultural innovation and reinforced the call for sustainable transformation in African agriculture that demands moving beyond top-down models. Technologies must be **co-designed, contextualized, and farmer-owned**, with systems built on **trust, inclusivity, and respect for indigenous knowledge**.



The Technical Interactive (TIP) sessions brought sharp insights into what works: participatory design, continuous feedback, and building trust across the ecosystem. The spotlight on digital infrastructure pushed for AI, blockchain and localized data tools-backed by more creative financing through government incentives for private sector investment, blended financing and microloans. **Farmers’ voices were heard loud and clear, calling for locally relevant, hands-on tech and proving that peer-learning models like smart villages can drive a lasting, ground-up change.**

## Day 2 – Enabling Environment: Investment and Partnerships for Agri-tech Solutions



Day 2 of ACAT 2025 delivered a high-energy push for policy leadership, partnerships, and innovation to drive Africa's agricultural future. Participants called for bold, coordinated action to scale agri-tech by creating enabling environments through **smart policies, increased public investment, inclusive public-private partnerships, aligning national and regional frameworks to accelerate adoption and ethical integration of traditional knowledge into modern systems to drive sustainable, locally grounded solutions.**



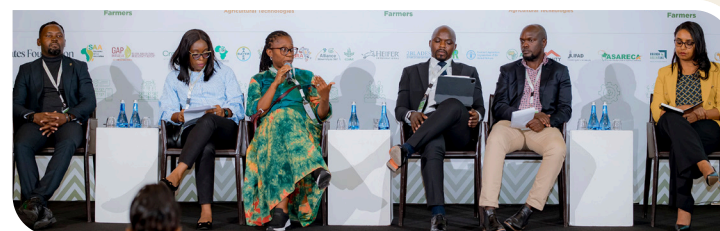
Officially opened by Rwanda's Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Dr. Édouard Ngirente, the day spotlighted how enabling environments and trust-based collaboration can unlock large-scale transformation. Rwanda's bold investments in youth, climate-smart tech, and digital agriculture stood out as a replicable model – backed by real impact stories like deployment of improved cassava, maize, and potato varieties, utilization of autonomous drones for the delivery of semen in remote locations improving artificial insemination rates, AI-powered advisory tools, and pest management platforms that are private sector driven.



Momentum carried into a technical interactive panel (TIP), which focused on building sustainable Agri-tech business models. Success cases from Rwanda, Nigeria, and CGIAR showed that Ag-Tech coupled with favourable policies, better infrastructure, open data access, and meaningful backing for youth-led ventures leads to innovation at scale. Ministers from across the continent doubled down on regional alignment and innovation investment during a powerful Ministerial Dialogue chaired by Hon. Dr. Mark Cyubahiro Bagabe, the Minister for Agriculture and Animal Resources, Republic of Rwanda. The day wrapped up with the Researchers Dialogue, pushing for ethical, science-driven integration of traditional knowledge and bioeconomy models. The message was clear: **Africa's agri-future must have all hands on deck, requiring new and long-term public-private partnerships for increased investments and harmonized regulations that support African Ag-Tech innovators and scale solutions across the continent.**



## Day 3 – Last Mile Delivery: Commercialization and Scaling of Agri-tech Solutions



Day 3 of ACAT 2025 zeroed in on last-mile delivery – showcasing bold innovations and partnerships that are breaking barriers between agricultural technology development and getting it into the hands of smallholder farmers. Participants underscored that effective last-mile delivery requires robust local distribution networks, farmer-centered extension services, accessible digital platforms, affordable financing, and inclusive market linkages. They called for scaling these solutions by **investing in youth and women entrepreneurs, fostering inclusive public-private partnerships, and safeguarding local innovations through transparent, ethically managed intellectual property frameworks that ensure fair and equitable commercialization.**

The morning plenary delivered standout examples of impact at scale, from Rwanda's Home-Grown School Feeding Program feeding 4.5 million students with food sourced from climate-resilient crops to Bayer's \$35M seed facility in Zambia and blight-resilient potato varieties from the Michigan State University-led Feed the Future Global Biotech Potato Partnership project that included partners like Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), AATF, and International Potato Center (CIP) in Africa. Projects like the Climate Smart Remote Sensing initiative that combines real-time environmental parameters from weather

stations with AI to deliver climate-smart decisions made it clear that data must be localized and translated in farmers' languages for real change. Digital platforms such as (Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB) and Bank of Kigali TecHouse, M-PESA, and Orange Money illustrated how tech-enabled finance and smart partnerships are helping private sector input providers unlock access to farmers and increase resilience at the last mile.

The fourth TIP shifted focus to Intellectual Property and Licensing, calling for inclusive commercialization pathways that reward innovation while ensuring accessibility – highlighted by AATF's royalty-free model and Tanzania's Technology Innovation Support Centers (TISCs).

Meanwhile, the Youth Dialogue pushed for investment in youth as co-creators of agricultural change, emphasizing intergenerational knowledge exchange and enterprise support. The Private Sector Dialogue inspired urgency for climate-smart investments, calling for better financial access, insurance solutions, and harmonized regulations. Across all sessions, **reaching the last mile requires delivering a suite of services, products, and technologies to farmers, allied investments and public-private partnerships for commercialization, and investment in African institutions.**

## Day 4 – Stewardship: Cultivating a sustainable future with Agri-tech Solutions



ACAT 2025 closed on a powerful note, marking a pivotal moment to reflect on bold commitments made throughout the week and to chart a united path forward for Africa's agricultural transformation. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to scaling sustainable agri-tech by **harmonizing regulations, de-risking agriculture through incentives, advancing ethical IP frameworks, and investing in inclusive, youth-led innovation and regenerative practices** to drive long-term transformation across Africa's food systems.

Day 4 spotlighted the urgent need for responsible stewardship in Agri-tech – emphasizing ethical innovation, inclusive access, and sustainable growth. The morning plenary made it clear: the future of Agri-tech depends not just on breakthrough solutions, but on how they are implemented. From AUDA-NEPAD's Genome Editing Programme to policy strategies for de-risking investment and scaling regenerative systems, the session showcased how Africa can lead with integrity and impact. **The enduring success of Ag-Tech hinges on its responsible and ethical implementation, demanding thorough stewardship of intellectual property to foster a landscape of shared benefit for farmers, enterprises, and consumers alike.**





# Technology Demos

Live tech demos were a highlight of ACAT 2025, offering hands-on exposure to cutting-edge, farmer-focused solutions across the agricultural value chain. Key innovations included Zipline Rwanda's autonomous drones for remote delivery of swine semen, bovine artificial insemination, and animal vaccines to agro-vets across Rwanda, Volkswagen's clean-energy electric tractors, and AquaEdge's app for efficient water use. Other notable demonstrations featured climate-smart tools by AATF and Michigan State University, a data intelligence platform from Virginia Tech, FAO Rwanda's urban farming systems, AI agronomic support via WhatsApp by iSDA, rabbit artificial insemination methods by Kigali Rabbit Center, and a low-cost seed pathogen detector from Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board.



# Special Events

ACAT 2025 featured dynamic, partner-led sessions that advanced the themes of collaboration, youth empowerment, and local innovation.

## Empowering Young Agri-Innovators: Mentorship, Pitches & Partnerships



During ACAT 2025, the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) with support from FAO, Equity, I&M and Heifer hosted youth-focused sessions titled ***Empowering Young Agri-Innovators: Mentorship, Pitches & Partnerships***, engaging 160 youth from across the continent. These sessions provided a platform for mentorship, showcasing innovations, agribusiness pitching, and strategic networking. Two key themes emerged: the need for concrete actions to support youth in agriculture – including investments in financial and human capital – and the critical role of mentorship, branding, and market access to youth-led agri-innovations. The Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources, Rwanda, Hon. Dr. Mark Cyubahiro Bagabe attended the session pitches, underscoring government commitment to Africa's youth. These efforts exposed the young participants to critical skills, networks, and partnerships they need to play an active role in transforming Africa's agriculture.



## TAAT – Fostering Functional Seed Systems for Delivery of Next-Gen Ag Innovations in Africa



The Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) session highlighted the importance of functional seed systems in delivering next-generation agricultural innovations across Africa. The program showcased its achievements in scaling climate-resilient technologies – such as improved crop varieties and livestock breeds – to over 20 million farmers, resulting in an estimated 25 million tonnes increase in food production. Funded by the African Development Bank, TAAT emphasized investments, enabling policies, and strategic partnerships as critical to strengthening seed systems and transforming food systems across the continent.

## Gates Ag One – Alliance for Cowpea Improvement in Africa (ACIA)



Gates Ag One introduced the ACIA, a collaborative initiative aimed at accelerating locally driven crop innovation through strategic partnerships. ACIA brings together researchers, breeders, seed producers, and farmers to develop farmer-responsive, climate-smart solutions to combat major cowpea pests, addressing both in-field and storage challenges. As Ms. Kira Everhart-Valentin, Alliance Manager for Cowpea at Gates Ag One, explained, ACIA is committed to enhancing food security, farmer livelihoods, and environmental health across the continent. The session underscored the importance of partnerships in delivering localized, nutritious food solutions, with the Deputy Minister of Education, Ghana, Hon. Clement Abas Apaak, expressing his strong support for the initiative. He noted how pleased he was to see cowpea featured at such a prominent continental and international platform, emphasizing its everyday significance in Ghana, where “every household and market has cowpea.”

# Wrap-Up

ACAT 2025 concluded with a high-level closing session that brought the conference full circle, presenting a powerful synthesis of the week's dialogues – from youth and private sector to farmers and ministers. The ACAT 2025 communique called for an African-led, tech-powered transformation rooted in local realities and collective accountability. With a resounding commitment to break down silos, elevate youth innovations and leadership, and drive long-term, inclusive investment, the summit reaffirmed ACAT as the premier platform for Agri-tech in Africa. The journey to scale agri-tech for the benefit of Africa's smallholder farmers continues to the third edition of ACAT – in Nairobi, May 2027.





# Links to Resource Materials

- Communiqué: The final communiqué from ACAT 2025 is available [ACAT2025 Communiqué](#)
- SDATA summary report [SDATA Melting Pot Report 2025](#)
- Speaker Presentations are available here: [ACAT2025 Speaker Presentations](#)
- Daily video highlights are available here: [ACAT2025 Daily Video Highlights](#)
- Event Photos: Photos from the event for external use are available below
  - [Day 1 Photos](#)
  - [Day 2 Photos](#)
  - [Day 3 Photos](#)
  - [Day 4 Photos](#)

# Exhibitors









