IITA Transforming African Agriculture

CGIAR SCIENCE FOR A FOOD-SECURE FUTURE



Save the Date

Building on 60 Years of Science to Advance Africa's Agrifood Systems Transformation

29 June – 2 July 2027 **Livingstone · Zambia**

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), in collaboration with CGIAR, will organize an international science conference from 29 June to 2 July 2027 in Livingstone, Zambia, to mark 60 years of science and partnerships. In 1967, IITA set out to help transform Africa's food systems through science. This Conference marks that milestone by bringing together six decades of scientific achievements and asking what the next generation of science must deliver.

The Conference speaks directly to the strategic priorities of the CGIAR Africa 2045 Strategy—ensuring its conclusions feed straight into Africa's own agenda for transformation. It will serve as a high-level platform to showcase innovations, foster partnerships, and advance solutions for transforming Africa's agrifood systems. The event participants will come from national and international research organizations and universities, alongside students and early-career scientists.

Conference Themes

01 Bundling Innovations: Regenerative & Circular Production Systems

Producing more with less: breeding for efficiency and climate resilience, circular use of agricultural and food waste, and restoring soil health — bundled together to deliver change at scale.

02 The Nutrition–Climate Nexus: Healthy Diets in Resilient Systems

Treating nutrition and climate as two sides of one challenge: designing sustainable, healthy diets and climate-resilient food systems together, rather than one after the other.

03 Making Informed Decisions: Digital Intelligence for Agrifood Systems

AI, data, and digital platforms for breeding, advisory, and early warning — and the harder question of why decisions still move more slowly than the data that should inform them.

04 Science of Scaling: Evidence-Based Delivery of Innovations

Why some innovations reach the scale needed to shift entire food systems, while others remain successful pilots — and what it takes to build durable delivery systems.

Conference Structure & Outputs

What to expect

- Thematic plenaries introduced by globally recognized keynote speakers, with presentations from IITA, CGIAR Programs, and others
- Poster sessions with targeted engagement of young scientists
- A strategy workshop charting future science priorities for the CGIAR Africa 2045 Strategy
- A spouse program featuring the touristic and cultural highlights of Livingstone

Expected outputs

- Special issue of a top scientific journal
- Report on potential CGIAR research for the CGIAR Africa 2045 Strategy
- New partnerships between IITA, CGIAR, national systems, and advanced research institutes

Mark your calendar. Registration: https://iita.org/iitaat60-zambia/expression-of-interest/