

CLOSING REMARKS FROM JANE KARUKU, AGRA PRESIDENT

Thank you all for an excellent day. Thank you especially to IDRC for giving us a fantastic start to the African Green Revolution Forum. This event has given us energy, discussions have sparked that will continue, and has set the momentum for the rest of the week. We all particularly enjoyed the after lunch skit on climate change and climate smart agriculture. It captured a lot of key messages in a short period of time.

Thank you to IDRC President Jean Lebel and Lindiwe Sibanda for hosting this event. I add my thanks as well to all the presenters and participants in this excellent meeting.

We're looking forward to carrying this discussion forward over the next several days, and building on what we have heard here today.

I want to mention just a few key takeaways from some of the presentations made today.

First, as Jean Lebel reminded us, we need to accelerate growth in the agricultural sector, and to do this we must work to encourage private sector involvement and investment. I am happy now we are starting to talk positively and proactively with the private sector because they are so key for sustainability and scaling up these investment to a level required for transformation for African agriculture.

Gone are the days when development and political leadership did not trust the private sector and now we are all talking about partnerships?

The Honorable Minister for agriculture in Nigeria, Akin Adesina reminded us of the importance of Governments in catalyzing agricultural growth and that they alone cannot carry the entire burden for success.

However governments are very key since they are responsible for policy environment; setting supportive and enabling policies as well as ensuring their regulation enforcement across all activities in the value chains.

The Honorable Minister, H.E. Akin Adesina also said that we need to see farming as a business. Because if it is a business, it will be profitable and sustainable and worth the effort.

Clearly, the longer-term sustainability of the African green revolution requires private investment, and we are witnessing a rapid scaling up in the flow of private capital from commercial banks and other financial sources into the agricultural sector.

Everyone must invest from governments and am happy to say governments have started to invest by committing 10% of their GDPs to agriculture; the private sector must invest in

agriculture including research; donors must invest; farmers must invests and private sector both local and multinationals must invest.

In summary, the takeout today is about partnerships. Research must be demand driven; demand for opportunities and for problem solving and we all must invest in research to ensure that we have good solutions to issues facing us today.

We must build partnerships so that we can scale out all the good things we are doing. In the next 2-3 days at AGRF let us all take advantage of the people in the rooms and learn from each from what is working and what is not working. Partnerships is about building.

I believe we can make it!

Thank you and have a great evening!