

# AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS SOCIETY OF TANZANIA (AGREST)



## 13TH SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

# CALL FOR PAPERS

The 13th AGREST conference and Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place from Wednesday 1st to Friday 3rd December 2021 at National Carbon Center in Morogoro. The theme of the conference is "MEETING AGRICULTURAL AND AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES BEYOND VISION 2025". Tanzania's economy has been growing at a high rate between 6% -7%, propelling the country to a low middle-income status. This high growth rate was expected to go hand in hand with high rate of poverty reduction. However, this is not the case as poverty level have dropped from 34.4% in 2007 to only 26.4% in 2018 (NBS/HBS). The low rate of poverty reduction despite high economic growth rates is attributed to dismal performance of the agricultural sector. This is because agriculture employs over 63 percent of the labour force, but its growth rate was only 5% in 2018 (using 2015 prices) compared to other sectors such as construction which grew by 12.9%.

It is widely accepted in the literature that GDP growth originating from agriculture is at least twice as effective in reducing poverty as GDP growth originating outside agriculture. However, this is seemingly not the case in Tanzania. Scholars have attributed the low performance of the agriculture sector with low productivity. Wineman et al. (2019) assert that although there is a structural shift from small-scale subsistence farms to medium-scale commercial farms in Tanzania, there is little or no evidence that land productivity is increasing. Even though the study concludes that labour productivity is increasing, the increase emanates from a consistent decline in labour intensity, but not from increasing productivity. The role of agricultural productivity in economic growth is central when countries undergo structural transformation. The agricultural productivity growth is the most significant source of economic growth of most developing countries. According to Rostow (1960) revolutionary changes in agricultural productivity are essential conditions for successful economic take-off.

In African context (rapid growth of urban population resulting to a trillion-dollar food market by 2030), to harness agribusiness opportunities to promote rapid and sustainable economic growth; food security and poverty reduction, low levels of agricultural productivity, access to infrastructure and technological innovations must be addressed fully. Evidence from empirical literature show there is a causal link between growth in agribusiness sector and long-term socio-economic sustainability. Factors that drive the increase in competitiveness (economic infrastructure, technological innovation, and trade liberalization) of the agribusiness sector have been shown to increase agricultural productivity and thus its increased contribution to GDP. Thus, to further the transformation of the Tanzania's economy and cementing her middle-income status, the performance of the agricultural sector in terms of productivity is vital. As the contribution of agriculture to GDP declines, productivity need to increase as well as contribute to the commodity value chain upstream. Value addition ultimately becomes central in the quest for increased productivity.



It is against this background, the 13th AGREST scientific conference seeks to dialogue on agricultural development challenges beyond 2025 taking advantage of the FYDP III soon to be launched. It is expected that the scientific dialogue will eventually contribute to forging improved and accelerated approaches to transform agriculture. The conference would like to answer the following questions five key questions: -

- ***What is the nature and extent of agricultural productivity challenge in development of agricultural value chains?***
- ***Is Tanzania's economic transformation affected by agricultural productivity challenges?***
- ***What is the role of policy, science, technology, skills and research in addressing agricultural productivity challenges?***
- ***Are there any opportunities that public and private sector can take advantage of because of productivity challenges?***
- ***How the drivers/risk factors facilitate or impede agribusiness development in Africa***

AGREST conference is intending to receive a wide range of contributions addressing the complex issues of agriculture production, agripreneur, financing, investment, policy changes, agri-food processing, and community development in Tanzania. We therefore welcome all types of contributions: empirical, theoretical, conceptual, and general review from practitioners and researchers. The following are sub themes of the conference: -

- The role of trade policy, research, science and technology in addressing agricultural productivity
- The nexus between productivity, labour intensity and GDP
- Agricultural intensification, output prices and income
- Enhancement of the seemingly missing middle in agricultural value chains because of improved productivity
- Moral hazards, ethics, nutrition, and health concerns in productivity induced value chain practice
- Agribusiness Innovations towards sustainable economic growth
- Agribusiness financing and its dilemma
- Agrifood marketing practices
- The role of infrastructure and logistic in agriculture development
- Human resource management issues in agribusiness value chain
- Challenges and opportunities facing agrifood SMEs in agribusiness value chain
- Unlocking legal issues that face agripreneur in fishing, livestock and farming business for sector development
- Stimulating animal feed business for livestock and fisheries sectors growth

### **Important Dates are as follows:**

- Submission of abstract – 30th June 2021
- Notification of acceptance – 7th July 2021
- Submission of full papers – 15th October 2021
- Deadline for payment of conference fee – 27th November 2021

Good quality papers will be published in the AGREST proceeding. All submissions should be done online through the following email: [agrest@sua.ac.tz](mailto:agrest@sua.ac.tz). For clarification, you can use the same emails or phone number +255754 284455 or +255655254417.