



## #ACAT2025 highlights for day one



#ACAT2025 kicked off on Monday at the Kigali Convention Centre under the theme ***“NextGen Ag-Tech Solutions for Africa’s Farmers.”***

More than 800 delegates are gathered in Kigali for the four-day conference to explore and deliberate on next-generation agricultural technologies that have the potential to transform African agriculture and empower farmers.

Rwanda’s Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources, Hon. Dr. Mark Cyubahiro Bagabe, underscored that empowering farmers begins with equipping them with the knowledge and resources they need to make informed decisions. This, he noted, enables them to optimize

their practices and better navigate the complexities of modern agriculture.

Dr. Canisius Kanangire, the Executive Director of AATF, noted that when farmer-centered technologies are implemented within a supportive and enabling environment, they significantly increase productivity, improve livelihoods, and drive economic empowerment.

“For over two decades, AATF has coordinated the formation and implementation of public-private partnerships aimed at facilitating development and access to agricultural technologies that address production challenges, enhance yields, and contribute to the continent’s economic growth while enhancing community health and wealth.

### Building robust digital infrastructure in rural areas



In a session focusing on building robust digital infrastructure in rural areas, experts addressed the urgent need for robust digital infrastructure in Africa’s rural farming communities. Panelists outlined several critical challenges, including limited internet connectivity, digital illiteracy, affordability issues, and inadequate infrastructure maintenance.

Additional barriers, such as language differences and a disconnect between technology developers and end-users—farmers—continue to hinder widespread adoption. However, promising solutions are emerging, including drone-based delivery of agricultural inputs such as swine and bovine semen, and AI-powered tools offering localized agricultural data.

Key takeaways emphasized the importance of co-designing technologies with farmers, simplifying digital tools, building trust through training, and shifting rural mindsets toward embracing modern agriculture. These efforts aim to help smallholder farmers maximize yields on limited land and contribute to food security for a growing population.

With the right support and enabling environment, experts agreed, Africa's smallholder farmers can successfully transition from subsistence farming to sustainable, thriving agribusinesses. A curtain-raiser for this session was a project showcase titled *"Enhancing Livelihoods through Agro-processing Technology"*

#### Farmer Representative Voices: Sharing Experiences and Insights





Farmers attending the Conference have voiced clear demands to technology developers and policymakers.

They called for greater involvement in the development of agricultural technologies, stressing that farmers should not be treated merely as end-users but as active participants in shaping solutions that address their real needs.

In addition, the farmers urged authorities to close policy gaps that hinder the uptake of agricultural technologies across Africa. They also advocated for stronger collaboration to facilitate technology sharing through integrated models and an ecosystem-based approach, as well as increased investment in farmer-led innovations to ensure grassroots solutions receive support and recognition.

The farmers further emphasized the need to scale up existing technologies, foster collaboration, and place farmers at the center of agricultural innovation, with a strong call to ensure that the necessary resources are made available to support these efforts.

AATF and AgriEdge partner to boost the uptake of digital agricultural technologies in Sub-Saharan Africa



***L-R:** Prof. Aggrey Ambali, Board Chair, AATF; Dr. Canisius Kanangire, Executive Director, AATF and Faissal Sehbaoui, the Chief Executive Officer and Founder of AgriEdge, during the announcement of the partnership*

AATF and AgriEdge are pleased to announce a partnership to enhance the development and uptake of innovative digital agricultural technologies in Africa to boost farmers' productivity.

Through this collaboration, AATF and AgriEdge will diversify technologies for improved livelihoods of smallholder farmers on the continent, including diversification of technologies for improved livelihoods of smallholder farmers.

The collaboration will allow exchange of technology-based innovations, information and knowledge that will empower Africa's farmers, researchers, decision makers, and technology users.

---

---

This email was sent to [Hatungarichard123@gmail.com](mailto:Hatungarichard123@gmail.com)  
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)  
AATF · P.O. Box 30709 · ILRI Campus, [Naivasha Road](#) · [Nairobi 00100](#) · [Kenya](#)