Planting for the future - Food security and innovative agriculture
Virtual Side Event- 22.4.2021, 1:15 PM EST Last year has been a year of unprecedented urgency and great opportunity. The planet is

One large-scale initiative, Adaptation of African Agriculture, was launched by Morocco at the
2016 COP22 in Marrakech. The “AAA” initiative involves 38 African countries, especially from
the Sahel region, where severe drought and desert locusts have sharply increased humanitarian
need. The initiative is an important response not only to climate change but also to food
insecurity and was endorsed by the African Union as a major tool for channeling climate finance
and for implementing projects to enable African agriculture to cope with climate change. By
improving the living conditions of vulnerable farmers and promoting employment in
agriculture, more is achieved to scale up adaptation practices to climate change, to build

Speakers

Dr. Agnes Kalibata is the UN Secretary-General’s 䜁Ḁcial Envoy for 2021 Food 䱰stems
Summit.
Dr.
Kalibata
 works with the United Nations
System and key partners to provide leadership, guidance and
strategic direction for
 the 2021 Food Systems Summit. She is responsible for outreach and cooperation
with key leaders, including governments, to ensure
 that
 the Summit serves as a catalytic process within the
Decade of Action to improve food systems around the world, and
 to deliver on the Sustainable
Development Goals (SDGs) and
 the
 Paris Agreement. Born in Rwanda to smallholder farmers displaced
during the struggle for independence in the early 1960s, Dr. Kalibata was raised in
 a refugee camp in
Uganda, where her parents grew beans and maize, and kept cows. The education of Dr. Kalibata and her
siblings was funded through the family’s income from agriculture, ultimately allowing her to study
entomology and biochemistry at Makerere University before earning her Ph
.D from the University of
Massachusetts Amherst. After graduating, Dr. Kalibata joined the International Institute of Tropical
Agriculture (IITA) at Kawanda Agricultural Research Institute, where she started a career as a research
scientist through a combination of research and study between IITA and Makerere University, and the IITA
and University of Massachusetts, before returning to Rwanda to become the Minister of Agriculture and
Animal Resources (MINAGRI) from 2008 to 2014. During
 this time, Dr. Kalibata led
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Foreign Affairs. These activities include the preparation and expediting of many