



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Harnessing science and innovation for increased agricultural productivity and competitiveness in the context of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

Senior Officials Meeting 26-28 March 2024

Theme: Resilient agrifood systems and inclusive rural transformation

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FAO Regional
Conference for Africa

Conférence Régionale
de la FAO pour l'Afrique



The Issue:

Given Africa's well known problems related to **poor performance** of its agriculture and the consequent dire state of food and nutrition security, it is widely believed that **Science and Innovation** are **key drivers** of agricultural productivity and competitiveness, especially in the context of the **African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)**, which aims to **create a single market for goods and services** across the continent.

Key actions on harnessing science and innovation

Invest public sector
research and
development (R&D)

Improve access market
to information &
resources such as
inputs, credit and other
advisory services

Embrace science-based
technologies

Establish smart
regulatory environments

Increase opportunities
for value addition and
Regional Value Chains

Key actions on harnessing science and innovation

Promote access to
quality inputs

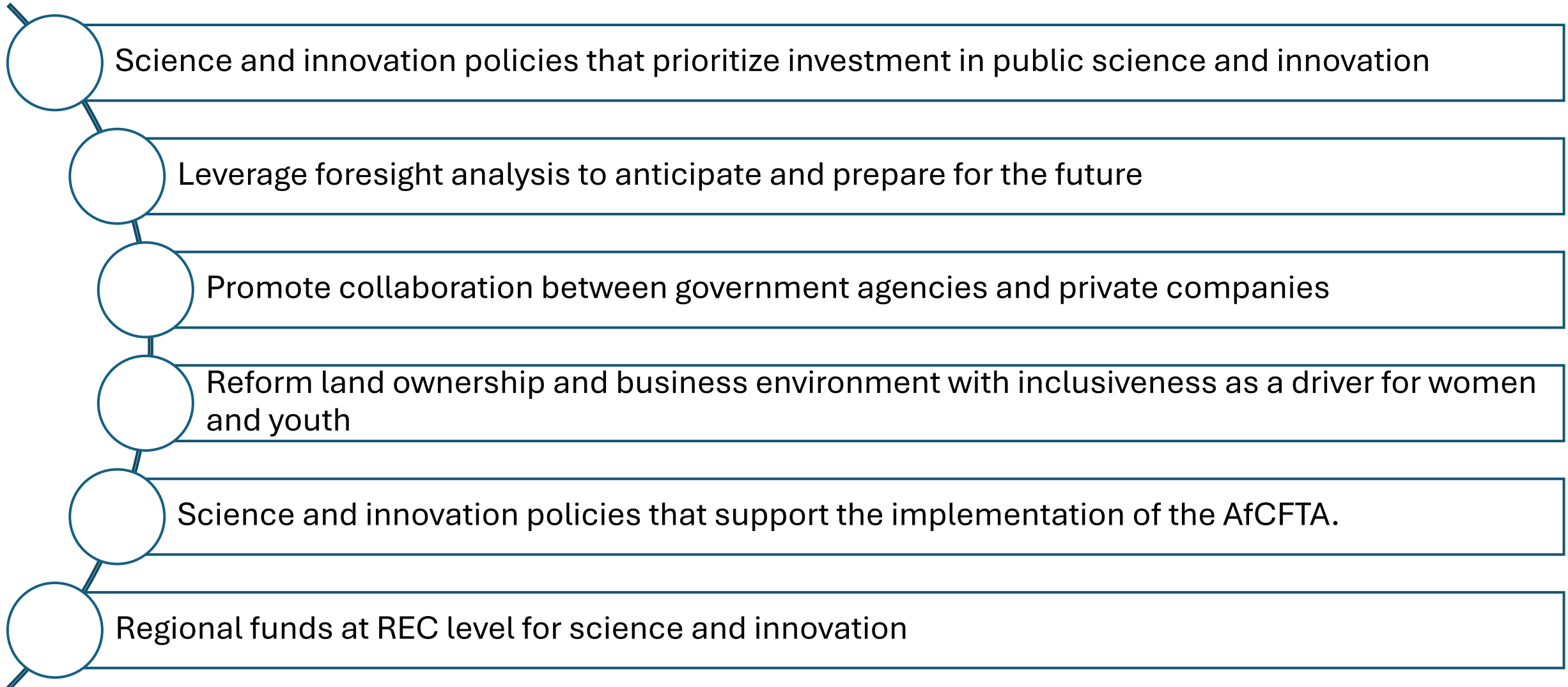
Improve storage to
ensure food safety

Enhance Investments
in productive, market
and trade-related
infrastructure

Improve digital trade
corridors

Improve linkages
between agricultural
education and
research

Actions by member states



Actions by FAO



Policy implications

- African member states should focus on the following key actions:

Focus on high-impact innovations

Prioritize investment in science and innovation

Improve access to resources and services for smallholders

Enhance efficient use of inputs

Increase opportunities for value addition of local and underutilized agricultural products

FAO is available to guide and support member states in harnessing science and innovation

Matters brought to attention of the Regional Conference

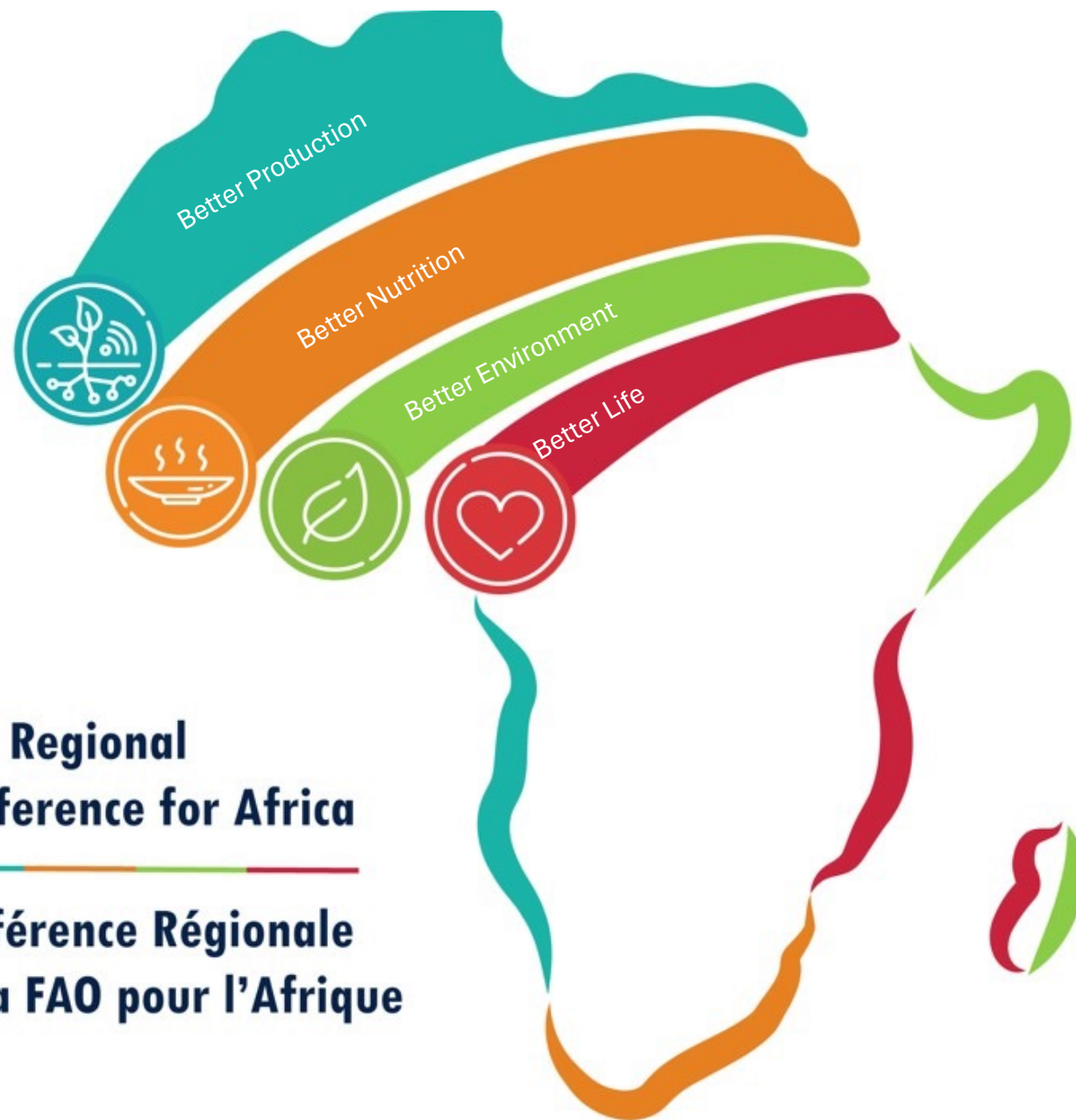
Members to:

- recognize that science and innovation plays a crucial role in boosting agricultural productivity, competitiveness and food security for a successful implementation of the AfCFTA.
- encourage experience sharing and mutual learning regionally within Africa as well as among regions using FAO's and relevant partners' platforms.
- reassure member states and RECs to fully implement the recommendations given in the paper.

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Thank you

Merci

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Obrigado

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