

**ABSTRACT
PARALLEL WORKING SESSION**

ELIMINATION OF HUNGER

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**Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger in Africa:
the role of Faculties of Agriculture in African Universities**

Many now believe that it was a mistake over the last decade or so to downgrade agriculture as a priority area for support in Sub Saharan Africa and this has left many countries in this region struggling to feed their populations.

Agricultural productivity in Sub Saharan Africa needs to increase significantly if hunger and poverty are to be reduced and the global community has begun to mobilise itself in this respect through such initiatives as the Global Donor Partnership for Agriculture and Food Security.

Africa too has taken action and the Maputo Declaration committed African Governments to investing at least 10% of their GDP into agriculture and rural development. However, the infrastructure in Sub Saharan Africa for supporting such investments has been badly eroded over the period of neglect for agriculture. This is particularly so for agricultural training where human capital is developed such that there is a trained cadre of the population able to support new initiatives, but it is also true for agricultural research which is needed to ensure that there is a continual flow of appropriate research outputs to meet the development needs of Africa's farmers.

African Universities have a critical role in both of these areas and the paper considers the current state of faculties of agriculture in African Universities, how curricula for agriculture degree programmes could be modernised, how a new generation of agricultural researchers could be trained and what role Universities might play in their National Agricultural Research Systems.