

**Special Seminar with AGRA President**  
**AGRA-JICA-JIRCAS**  
12:15-13:45, August 22, 2025, Yokohama, Japan

**1. Title**

Special Seminar with Ms Alice Ruhweza, AGRA President: Building Climate Resilient Agrifood Systems in Africa – the Role of Science and Public-Private Partnership

**2. Background and Objective**

African agriculture has the largest land area in the developing world, teeming with young populations. While the agricultural sector is growing fastest, it has the highest dependence on food imports due to stagnant crop yield improvements over the past decades, due to inherent low fertility soils often combined with insufficient and inefficient applications of agricultural inputs. This in turn leads to soil degradation and deforestation under the growing population pressures, making African agrifood systems responsible for driving climate change and consequently, more vulnerable to shocks.

Today, under increasingly variable climates, African agriculture is faced with daunting challenges to feed its rising population, which is projected to double by 2050. There is an unprecedented need to urgently build climate-resilient agrifood systems in Africa through interventions to overcome constraints that define stagnant crop productivity. Indeed, the continent can be turned into thriving markets if scientifically guided interventions can identify Africa's untapped potential in natural and human capitals, especially those of smallholder farmers. Achieving these opportunities requires an enabling environment that empowers smallholder farmers to boost production with healthy soil and resilient crops and to gain access to rapidly growing agricultural markets through public-private partnerships.

AGRA, previously known as Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, is a proudly African-led institution focused on scaling agricultural innovations that help smallholder farmers towards increased incomes, better livelihoods, and improved food security. This Special Seminar welcomes Ms. Ruhweza, AGRA President to discuss AGRA's strategic partnership with Japanese partners from development, research and private sectors how to build climate resilient agrifood systems in Africa.

**3. Organizers: AGRA-JICA-JIRCAS**

**4. Date & Time: August 22 (Fri), 2025. 12:15-13:45**

**Venue: Hall D. TKP Garden City PREMIUM Minatomirai**

3-6-3 Minatomirai MM ParkBuild.

<https://www.kashikaigishitsu.net/facilitys/gcp-minatomirai/access/>

## 5. Program (TBC)

Time	Slot	Speakers
12:15-12:20	Opening Remarks	Mr. YAMAGUCHI Hiroyuki, Vice President, JICA
12:20-12:25	Introduction of AGRA President	Mr. Amameishi, CARD Secretariat
12:25-12:40	Keynote by AGRA President	Ms. Alice Ruhweza, AGRA
12:40-12:45	Q&A	
12:45-13:15	Showcasing Japanese partners' engagement in building climate resilient agrifood systems in Africa (each speaker gives 8-min talk)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Dr. ASANUMA Shuichi, Special Advisor, Economic Development Department, JICA</li><li>- Dr. TSUJIMOTO Yasuhiro, Project Leader of the "Africa Rice Farming System" Project, JIRCAS</li><li>- Dr. NAKAMURA Satoshi, Project Leader of the "Africa Upland Farming System" Project, JIRCAS</li><li>- Mr. Norbert.Pons, CEO, Agro 2 Agri (A2A)</li></ul>
13:15-13:40	Dialogue with AGRA President	Ms. Ruhweza and Speakers
13:40-13:45	Closing Remarks	Mr. KOYAMA Osamu, President, JIRCAS