The 25th Annual Conference of the African Seed Trade Association (AFSTA), which kicked off in Kigali on March 3, 2025 has recognized as a leading hub for fruit farming and seed trade in Africa. The country's growing reputation as a reliable and attractive location for seed production and trade was highlighted as a progressive approach.

Speaking at the event, Namuhoranye Innocent, the Director General of the Rwanda Seed Trade and Production Association and a board member of AFSTA, explained that Rwanda's role as a trusted host for this prestigious conference reflects its progressive approach to the seed trade industry.

"Rwanda has become a key player in the seed trade, not only due to its strategic use of technology but also its adherence to international laws and regulations, which make it an ideal market for other countries," he said.

The conference, which marks AFSTA's 25th anniversary, is a testament to Rwanda's continuous efforts in advancing agriculture across Africa. Amadou Sarr, President of AFSTA, praised Rwanda for its pivotal role in agricultural development on the continent.

"Rwanda's commitment to improving seed production and ensuring food security in Africa has made it a model for other countries. This conference is an opportunity to discuss how we can further support the agricultural sector, especially through private-sector involvement," Sarr remarked.

Rwanda's dedication to agriculture as a key economic pillar was echoed by Rwigamba Eric, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI). He emphasized the importance of investing in research and innovative seed production techniques to tackle climate change.

Rwigamba Eric, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI)

"Africa must invest in combating climate change and explore new ways to produce seeds that will withstand the changing environment and yield better results," Rwigamba said.

He pointed out that Rwanda has already taken steps to address these challenges,

including the opening of a laboratory in 2022 to monitor the quality of seeds before they are planted.

“Despite this progress, more reforms are needed for Africa to effectively produce high-quality seeds that can deliver good yields, especially in the face of climate change,” Rwigamba added. “We need to focus on investing in research, training people, and exploring new technologies to ensure we build a stronger and self-sufficient Africa when it comes to food production.”

Rwigamba’s comments were echoed by experts at the conference, who acknowledged the challenges posed by climate change but also the strides being made across the continent.



Namuhoranye Innocent shared that Rwanda is making significant advancements in producing high-quality seeds using technology, particularly in maize, which is produced entirely within the country.

Dr. Yacouba Diallo, the Director General of AFSTA, highlighted that one of the association’s proudest achievements over the past 25 years is its support for countries across Africa in developing seeds that can withstand climate change. “This has already yielded tangible results in helping Africans achieve food self-sufficiency,” Diallo said.

The conference also featured insights from industry leaders like Alleluia Amen of Agriseeds Ltd, a company that produces a variety of seeds, including maize. He shared that while the seeds they sell to farmers produce excellent yields, the unpredictable nature of climate change continues to be a significant challenge. “We are seeing good results, but the sudden changes in climate are still a major hurdle,” Amen explained.

AFSTA operates in 48 countries across Africa, with 28 of them, including Rwanda, hosting affiliated associations that help nations with seed production and marketing. The association continues to work towards fostering greater collaboration across the continent to overcome the challenges facing the agricultural sector.

Rwanda continues to strengthen its position in the seed trade industry, this event serves as a significant milestone in the country’s journey towards becoming a global

leader in sustainable agriculture.