

**Dr. Jimi Adesina**  
**Participation in week 3 webinar (18 May 2022)**

Dr. Adesina emphasized the need for an **expansive understanding** of social protection to enhance food security and nutrition in Africa. What does this mean?

An expansive understanding comes from a wider understanding of social protection as an element of social policy. It must be emphasized that social protection should not be used just in reaction to external shocks, but also as a *preventative measure* – intended as protection against vulnerability.

An example of the expansive view concerns agrarian support, given large proportion of Africa's population that lives in rural areas and given how African has become food import-dependent in the last 30 or 40 years. So, as a *preventative measure*, support to small holder farmers must include knowledge transfer, finance, seed provision and enhancement of agricultural infrastructure – these are particularly important to ensuring food security. This has been harshly brought to the fore with the current war in Ukraine – it is shining a light on the difficulties for Africa due to food import-dependence.

Support for small holder farmers ensures a smoothening of income and also a smoothening of consumption (across the farming cycles/seasons). Therefore, countries' national food strategic reserves play a key part in preventative support.