

**Summary of Remarks by Dr. Robert Bertram, Director, Office of Agriculture, Research and Technology, USAID**

- It's important to promote inclusion in food systems, including inclusion of women. "Feed the Future" programme by the US has seen women's empowerment as a key outcome.
- **Equalizing access to agricultural resources for men and women is key to increasing productivity, competitiveness, and inclusive growth.**
- Data matters about inclusion of women. Disaggregated data to support women's inclusion in agri-food systems.
- **Even among smallholder farmers, there is about 10-point disparity between men and women in access to finance.**
- Access to seeds system is also critical. Success stories in African counties in getting more resilient seeds.
- USAID is implementing a programme with AGRA to support women's inclusion, including through capacity building support.
- USAID also uses digital applications to support women access to financial services. Also programmes and campaigns to support youth participation in the agri-food systems.