



Media Release

For Immediate Release

To: All Media

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Attention: News Editors / Agricultural writers

THE ARC TO LEAD AFRICA'S SCIENTIFIC VOICE AT THE 10TH SCIENCE SUMMIT DURING THE 79TH UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY: ADVANCING AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FOR FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Agricultural Research Council (ARC) is poised to play a key role at the 10th Science Summit, part of the 79th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA79), which will be held from September 10 to 27, 2024, in New York, USA. The summit, under the theme "*How Science and Innovation Accelerate the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*," will bring together thought leaders, policymakers, and scientists from around the world, including Africa, to tackle urgent sustainable development challenges.

As a leading African Science Council and a strategic partner of Intelligence in Science (ISC), co-conveners of the summit, the ARC will represent Africa's scientific community. The ARC's participation will spotlight the continent's role in addressing food security, climate resilience, and sustainable agriculture, aligning with the UN's Agenda 2030. The focus will be on how cutting-edge agricultural research can help achieve key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

Africa Leading Agricultural Innovation

Despite agriculture being a major economic sector in Africa, employing over 60% of the population, the continent remains one of the most food-insecure regions globally. Challenges such as low productivity, dependence on rain-fed farming, and climate change vulnerability persist. The ARC's involvement in the summit highlights its commitment to promoting resilient agricultural systems and sustainable development through innovative research and technology transfer.

ARC-Led Sessions: Influencing Global Agricultural Policy

At the summit, the ARC will host several impactful sessions, including a key session on September 26, focused on showcasing Africa's contributions to global agricultural research. The CEO and President Dr Litha Magingxa will lead a high-level panel discussion on "Harnessing Science for Agricultural Transformation in Africa". The session will be an opportunity to put the African transformation agenda on a global stage.

Agricultural research is often overlooked by many governments, despite its significant contribution to the GDP of developing countries, and its centrality to food systems. During the main session on September 26th, the ARC will emphasise the critical need for funding agricultural research to tackle hunger and mitigate the climate crisis, which could seriously threaten African economies if not addressed.

The ARC will join a larger South African delegation led by President Cyril Ramaphosa, which includes the Department of Science and Innovation, the National Research Foundation, and the Human Sciences Research Council, all working together to present a unified African perspective in global scientific discussions.

Dr. Litha Magingxa, President and CEO of the ARC, said, "The need for resilient and sustainable agricultural systems has never been more urgent. Through our participation in the Science Summit, the ARC aims to drive transformative solutions that support Africa's agricultural development while tackling global challenges such as climate change and food security."

For interview opportunities with Dr. Litha Magingxa, President and CEO of the ARC, please contact Joy Nonzukiso Peter via WhatsApp at +27 82 990 0407.

Follow the ARC on social media platforms for more information.

Ends.

Issued by:

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Notes to the Editors

About the Agricultural Research Council

The Agricultural Research Council is a premier science institution that conducts research with partners, develops human capital and fosters innovation in support of the agricultural sector. The ARC provides diagnostic, laboratory, analytical, agricultural engineering services, post-harvest technology development, agrochemical evaluation, consultation and advisory services, food processing technology services as well as various surveys and training interventions. For more information visit the ARC website at: www.arc.agric.za