



## Knowledge grows

Dr. Million Belay  
General Coordinator,  
Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa

10<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear Mr. Belay,

Thank you for reaching out and for sharing your concern regarding the role and activities of AGRA. You raise important questions that we all need to ask ourselves as we work to shift our global food systems in support of: 1) Planetary Health; 2) Nutritious, sustainable diets; and 3) Equity and social inclusion.

Many of the required solutions are on the table, but we still need to drive for further insight and knowledge based on science and an open and transparent discourse. We also need to come to the table being humble and recognizing that there is hardly a silver bullet that will address the complexity and magnitude of the challenges ahead.

We have over the years collaborated with AGRA in two main areas, one being the AGRF, or what we would like to call the Africa Food Forum, the other in relation to mobilizing youth entrepreneurship across the food sector. These are both joint partnerships and does not represent funding to AGRA as such.

On AGRF we have joined forces with FAO, IFAD, the African Union, as well as other private actors and foundations, to create a common arena where we can discuss the challenges and opportunities in relation to food production and consumption across Africa. We are grateful for AGRA's willingness to host this partnership platform, but it has been important to us since its inception for it to be an open and inclusive arena where all stakeholders can meet and engage. We hope that also the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa will find the AGRF as an opportunity for an honest exchange, rather than seeing it as a battleground for fixed positions.

You and your members represent an important voice of those who are often the most vulnerable. How to serve them while ensuring food security, economic opportunity and environmental sustainability for a growing population across a diverse continent sits at the heart of the issues we need to discuss.

Our commitment to the continent is to help enable an honest discourse, to build knowledge and to stimulate an active private sector, from farmer to consumer. Our collaboration with AGRA sits within this ambition and is part of a broad stakeholder engagement. We take note of your information as we continue our efforts in support of African agriculture.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Svein Tore Holsether".

Svein Tore Holsether  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Yara International