Leveraging innovation to transform agriculture and energy in Africa

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The State of the Africa Region online summit kicks-off at the World Bank Headquarters earlier today. The seminar is an opportunity to reflect on the main trends shaping the continent’s economic landscape. Discussions will cover Africa’s ongoing economic recovery, the changing composition of public debt, and the ways in which African countries can harness and scale up disruptive technologies and innovations in the agriculture and energy sectors to leapfrog into a more prosperous future.

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Albert Zeufack, Chief Economist, Africa, World Bank Group said, "Africa growing again post-crisis and macro reform important but more structural reform needed to return to pre-crisis levels - but shorter-term debt also growing. The good news is Africa’s growth is likely to be up to 3.1 percent for 2018 and 3.6 percent for 2019 and 2020. But public debt is rising, he added. Africa must create a favorable environment for new technologies and push the private sector to accelerate their development, says Makhtar Diop, Vice President Africa World Bank. We are putting fiber optic cable every time we build a road in Africa now. This will provide information to farmers, too. We also need more students trained in STEM: science and math to maintain these technologies ourselves.

In the future, we are going to see smaller mini-grids providing cheaper, more accessible electricity in Africa's rural communities said, Thierry Tanoh, Minister of Energy, Cote d'Ivoire, at the World Bank.