



Conference

8th AgriFin Learning Event (ALE)

SPARC at the 8th ALE: Bringing together tech providers, policy makers, firms and investors to find solutions to scaling climate-smart tools, digital agriculture, fintech and innovation in drylands.

Event date and time

[Promoting innovative solutions](#) [Supporting livelihoods and markets](#) [Working in a changing climate](#) [Gender equality and social inclusion](#) [Africa](#)



A farmer in the Kibirichia area of Mount Kenya – Image by Neil Palmer / CIAT - CC BY-SA 2.0

Supporting Agtech, fintech development and digital climate information services is key to strengthening rural economies and building resilience in drylands across Africa. This year's [8th AgriFin Learning Event](#) (ALE) in Nairobi, Kenya, took place from Tuesday, October 15 to Wednesday, October 16, and focused on 'Enabling Rural Economy: Creating lasting impact for the digital ecosystem in Africa'.

The SPARC team led a series of events bringing together tech providers, policy makers, entrepreneurs and investors to lead conversations about the barriers faced, and the opportunities to be harnessed, when scaling climate-smart tools, digital agriculture, fintech

and innovation in rural regions.

Day One: Tuesday, October 15 - Theme: Pathways to Scaling Digital Agricultural Finance

Livestock generate significant value in Gross Domestic Product, livelihoods, and food systems. Despite this, the sector is disproportionately underfinanced across Africa. In Kenya alone, private-sector investments in agriculture continue to grow steadily, but the analogue in livestock is negligible. Even with these barriers, demand for livestock products continues to grow, as is investor appetite. In our sessions on Day One, with our partners [Gatsby Africa](#), SPARC member organisation [the International Livestock Research Institute \(ILRI\)](#); Spotlight - a project by [Global Livestock Advocacy for Development](#) (GLAD); [AgThrive](#), and [Northern Rangelands Trust Trading](#), we explored how we can bridge this gap in finance.

Our sessions drew on research on '[Unlocking investment for the Kenyan livestock sector](#)', and included a roundtable on 'Insurance Pathways' on Tuesday, October 15 and a masterclass on 'Drylands financing: Livestock sector' on Tuesday, October 15. Watch the masterclass here:

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