

# Sustainability and Innovation: Challenges and Opportunities

Keynote Lecture in the Aula of the University of Zurich

## Calestous Juma – 19. Februar 2015, 18:15

Professor of the Practice of International Development at Harvard Kennedy School and Martin Luther King, Jr Visiting Professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

Persistent views in the global environmental movement hold that technological innovation a major source of threats to the environment. This is partly true. However, this lecture argues that innovation provides new opportunities for promoting sustainability. It covers four themes. First, it defines innovation as a central driver of the economy. Second, the lecture explores the sources of innovation, stressing the role of exponential technological growth and leapfrogging. Third, it outlines how to leverage innovation for sustainability through interactive learning among government, industry, academia and civil society. Finally, the lecture addresses societal responses to innovation and their implications for achieving sustainability goals. Overall emphasis is placed on how emerging regions such as Africa can provide international leadership in some fields of innovation for sustainability.



**Calestous Juma** is Professor of the Practice of International Development (on leave) and Director of both the Science, Technology, Globalization and Agricultural Innovation in Africa Projects at Harvard Kennedy School. He is also Faculty Chair of HKS's Edward S. Mason Fellows program and the Innovation for Economic Development Executive Program. He is a former executive secretary of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and founder of the African Centre for Technology Studies in Nairobi. He recently co-chaired the African Union's High-Level Panel on Science, Technology and Innovation has been elected to scientific academies including the Royal Society of London, the US National Academy of Sciences, the World Academy of Sciences, the UK Royal Academy of Engineering and the African Academy of Sciences. He is author of *The New Harvest: Agricultural Innovation in Africa* (Oxford University Press, 2011). His next book, *Pushback: Tensions between Technological Innovation and Incumbency* is under review. Calestous Juma is currently Dr Martin Luther King, Jr Visiting Professor (2014-2015) at MIT working on a book on technology, innovation and entrepreneurship for development. **Twitter@Calestous**

## Upcoming Lectures on Sustainability and Innovation

*Achieving Sustainability: should people be fitted to policies, or policies to people?*

**Paul Collier** – 19. März 2015, 18:15

Professor of Economics and Public Policy, Blavatnik School of Government  
at the University of Oxford

*Cradle to Cradle® Celebrating the Human Footprint – 40 years of environmental  
debate as the engine for innovation in quality*

**Michael Braungart** – 16. April 2015, 18:15

Professor at Erasmus University, Rotterdam and Founder of EPEA Hamburg

*Using agricultural biodiversity to face malnutrition and climate change*

**Ann Tutwiler** – 21. Mai 2015, 18:15

Director General, Bioversity International, Rome, Italy