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PRESS RELEASE

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## Green revolution at the Heart of AfricaDays 2018, Hosted by HEC Paris

The second edition of AfricaDays, hosted by Europe's top business school, HEC Paris, put the spotlight on agriculture in Africa. On April 3, Africa's main economic actors met on campus to discuss the most pressing issues in African agriculture and the solutions needed to answer the challenges they pose.

Experts such as Jean-Luc François (AFD), Patrick Caron (CIRAD), Thierry Blandinières (InVivo), shared their experiences with visiting guests, including Karim Lofti Senhadj, OCP Africa Managing Director, Henriette Gomis Billon, General Secretary of the SIFCA Foundation of Côte d'Ivoire and Bruno Mettling, CEO of Orange Africa. They were among the hundreds of participants who attended the groundbreaking event which focused on the theme "**What future for African agriculture? The green revolution 2.0**".

Agriculture is the continent's largest economy, employing 65% of the active population. It is also a sector with a crucial stake in the future of the planet. Indeed, at present, the African continent has 1.2 billion inhabitants, a figure set to reach 2.5 billion people in 2050.

The debates were enriched by the work done by three students from the HEC Paris Master in Management. Entitled **The Seed Project**, and backed by the OCP Group, the trio traveled the world during their gap year (Africa, India, Indonesia, Australia, Brazil, United States), in search of the key factors for successful companies in the agricultural sector. AfricaDays's panel discussion highlighted how technological innovation can play a key role in unlocking Africa's agricultural potential and developing a new production model with positive economic and societal impact.

This year's **HEC-OCP Award** went to **ACRE Africa**, a Kenyan startup rewarded for its innovations in crop insurance.

*"We encourage new initiatives to improve the quality of African production and harvests. Africa has 65% of the world's uncultivated arable land, and is still struggling to feed its people. The HEC-OCP Prize aims to provide financial and technical*

*resources to innovators to think and develop solutions made-in-Africa*", said Karim Lotfi Senhadji.

*"HEC Paris' commitment to Africa is a long-term one. We are a partner of African economies, providing our expertise and contributing to the training of future decision-makers in Africa and its diaspora. The yearlong AfricaDays events are excellent opportunities to combine skills and knowledge of the field. They are also platforms to bring together and give thought to those who have the means to change policies and mentalities,"* said François Collin, International Director of HEC Paris.

HEC Paris wants to make the annual Africadays meetings the place of productive and sustainable exchanges between decision-makers and innovators on African themes. The 2017 edition, organized over three days, had more than 2,400 participants.

### **About HEC PARIS**

Specialized in the field of teaching and research in management, HEC Paris offers a complete and unique range of training for tomorrow's decision-makers: the Grande Ecole program, Specialized Masters, MSc, Summer School, MBA, Executive MBA, TRIUM Global Executive MBA, PhD and a wide range of programs for executives and executives.

Founded in 1881 by the Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry, HEC Paris, a founding member of the Paris-Saclay University, brings together 108 research professors, 4,500 students and 8,000 executives and directors in training each year.

HEC Paris is ranked 2nd business school in the overall ranking of European business schools, published by the Financial Times in December 2017.

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