

NEWSLETTER

May 2024 Issue

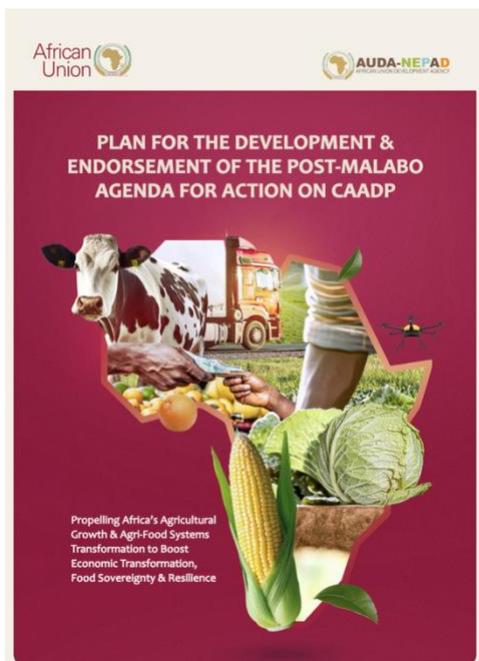
AGRODEP Modeling Consortium and the Post-Malabo Agenda Development Process

What is the Post-Malabo Agenda?



In July 2014, African Heads of State and Government adopted the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods. They spelt out a set of seven commitments against which to track the continent's performance in its collective efforts to transform agriculture

sustainably. At the end of this year, the lifecycle of the vision encapsulated in the Malabo Declaration will elapse. Therefore, there is a need to develop a renewed vision to guide transformational actions to fix the agri-food systems for the next ten years ahead.



Proactively, the African Union Commission (AUC) initiated the Post-Malabo Agenda development process around the first quarter of 2023 with a stakeholder consultation held in Nairobi and involving African Union institutions and external development and technical partners. From several subsequent engagements, the African Union (AU) led the development of a Concept Note that makes a case for a robust, inclusive, and evidence-based Post-Malabo Agenda, given that Africa's agricultural transformation goals under the Malabo Declaration have not been met, areas of significant progress notwithstanding (AUC 2023)¹.

The concept note further proposes a roadmap that outlines key steps that will be undertaken in the lead-up to the development and adoption of the Post-Malabo Agenda by the end of 2024. On March 8, 2024, the African Union officially launched the 4th CAADP Biennial Review Report and Post-Malabo Roadmap.

What is a Technical Working Group (TWG), and how does it operate?

The AU has identified two main workstreams to help facilitate the Post-Malabo Agenda development process, including (i) the "Stakeholder Engagement and Dialogue" workstream and (ii) the "Data and Analytics" workstream. From the engagement with AU institutions and their technical and development partners, 13 TWGs were identified and mapped out as part of the model adopted to roll out the Post-Malabo Agenda development process. TWGs will mainly be tasked to examine each Malabo Declaration commitment area to assess any needed changes and expansions, propose ambitions for the next ten years, and identify potential indicators and targets to measure progress.

Table: Mapping of Technical Working Group (TWG) Conveners and Co-conveners

TWG	Thematic Area	Convener	Co-convener
TWG 1	Principles and Values of the CAADP Process (from narrow agriculture-led growth to agri-food system)	University of Ibadan, Nigeria	DARBE
TWG 2	Enhancing Investment Finance in Agri-food	University of Pretoria, South Africa	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)
TWG 3	Food Security, Nutrition, Health, and Food Safety/SPS	University of Ghana, Ghana	AUC Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa

¹ African Union. 2024. *Plan for the development and endorsement of the Post-Malabo Agenda for Action on CAADP*. Addis-Ababa.

TWG 4	Emerging Technologies, Biotechnology, Artificial Intelligence, and Productivity Growth	Makerere University, Uganda	African Biosafety Network of Expertise
TWG 5	Halving Poverty through Inclusive Agri-food Growth and Transformation	University of Cape Town, South Africa	UN Economic Commission for Africa, Ethiopia
TWG 6	Boosting Intra-African Agri-food Trade	UN Economic Commission for Africa, Ethiopia	Trade Law Centre (TRALAC)
TWG 7	Enhancing Resilience of Livelihoods and Production Systems to Shocks (Health, Economic, Climate etc.)	Centre de Suivi Écologique, Sénégal	IGAD AUDA-NEPAD
TWG 8	Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change for Agri-food Systems	AKADEMIYA2063	University of Ghana, AgMIP
TWG 9	Inclusivity and Equality in Agri-food Systems	AUDA-NEPAD	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)
TWG 10	CAADP Theory of Change and Results Framework	International Food Policy Research Institute	AKADEMIYA2063
TWG 11	Implementation and Coordination Capacity (Delivery Mechanisms) and Mutual Accountability	AUDA-NEPAD	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)
TWG 12	Communication and Advocacy	AUC-DIC/DARBE	Policy Link
TWG 13	CAADP BR Data Management and Mutual Accountability	AUC-DARBE	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)

Source: Adapted from AKADEMIYA2063 (2024)².

The AU has appointed Conveners to lead individual TWGs and will be responsible for mobilizing technical contributions from the members and reporting back to AKADEMIYA2023 with their specific findings and recommendations. AKADEMIYA2063 will serve as convener for TWG 8 and Co-convener for TWG 10.

What is the role of AKADEMIYA2063?

At the request of the AU, AKADEMIYA2063 has agreed to lead the "Data and Analytics" workstream and proposed a work plan that provides details of the work to be completed. The scope of work is largely based on the formation of Technical Working Groups (TWGs) by thematic areas or relevance to the agri-food transformation.

In collaboration with partners, AKADEMIYA2063 has been tasked to provide overall leadership to the "Data and Analytics" Workstream of the Post-Malabo Agenda development process. More specifically, this mission involves (i) leading the establishment and mobilization of the TWGs, (ii) contributing to the provision of data and analytical work, including through leading or co-leading selected TWGs and providing additional analytical outputs, (iii) developing resources for implementation support, and (iv) facilitation of the

² AKADEMIYA2063. 2024. Post-Malabo Agenda Development Analytical Support Workstream. Kigali: AKADEMIYA2063.

quality assurance process of the TWGs. These four functions are seen as mutually reinforcing for an effective and comprehensive delivery under this workstream.

What makes the AGRODEP Modeling Consortium a critical cornerstone for the Post-Malabo Agenda development process?

As you know, AKADEMIYA2063 facilitates the AGRODEP Modeling Consortium, and members of the latter have contributed to numerous analytical exercises at the national, regional, and continental levels under the Consortium's Policy Analysis and Advisory Services (PAAS) function. Under PAAS, AGRODEP members with expertise in key thematic areas, such as climate change, impact evaluation, and intra-African trade, are organized into task forces prepared for deployment to contribute to filling needs for evidence emanating from local policymaking processes.

To bring in AGRODEP members to support the implementation of the Post-Malabo Agenda, AKADEMIYA2063 encourages you to closely assess the scope of work of the different TWGs and express interest in joining those in which you have expertise and interest. Following the establishment of TWGs, AKADEMIYA2063 will play a brokering role to facilitate and connect interested AGRODEP members to the process so that their contributions assist the Post-Malabo TWGs in producing their analytical outputs and contribute to national or regional policy planning and implementation processes. Crowding in a critical mass of AGRODEP members will help to ensure that high-quality local expertise is available wherever needed to support the implementation of the Post-Malabo Agenda.

We encourage you all to get closer and make your input count for what could potentially turn out to be one of the most impactful legacy visions Africa has ever had.

AGRODEP Members' Capacity Needs Assessment Survey

The AGRODEP survey, administered online from February 6 to 20, 2024, aimed to comprehensively assess its members' skills and training requirements, ensuring that future capacity-building activities effectively meet their needs. The survey sought to achieve several specific objectives, including:

- i. **Understanding Training Needs:** The survey sought to understand members' specific training needs and preferences to tailor and deliver capacity-building programs more efficiently.
- ii. **Alignment with Challenges:** It aimed to ensure that AGRODEP's training programs align with the evolving challenges faced by members in agricultural policy and economic development.
- iii. **Engagement and Ownership:** The survey sought to foster a sense of engagement and ownership among AGRODEP members by involving members in the decision-making process in setting training priorities.
- iv. **Resource Allocation:** To assist AGRODEP in optimally allocating resources by focusing on the most critical training needs expressed by its members.

- v. **Preferred Delivery Methods:** Lastly, the survey helped to understand members' preferences for training delivery methods, whether through workshops, online courses, conference presentations, research grants, or other formats.

Key Results/Highlights



The survey was sent out to all 288 members, out of which 79 responded. Most respondents were male (77%), with only 23% female. The survey responses provided some insights into AGRODEP members' challenges, training needs, and preferred modes of delivery that are useful in guiding the development and delivery of relevant and impactful capacity-building initiatives.

The main challenges identified included data unavailability and low modeling and analytical skills. To address the modelling and analytical skill gaps, the respondents identified several training programs, including impact evaluation analysis, resilience of agri-food chain analysis and analytical software training. Respondents expressed a strong interest in improving their skills in software like STATA and GAMS. Specific skills identified for enhancement included Impact Evaluation with Difference-in-Difference, Quasi-experimental Impact Evaluation Methods, and CGE Modeling. The majority of the respondents prefer in-person workshops followed by workshops and online courses. Webinars and mentoring were less favored options.

Call for Applications for Research Grants and Publications Support Awards



AGRODEP is seeking to mobilize and strengthen its members by offering them small research grants and publication support awards. These initiatives aim to support priority research proposals aligned with the evidence needs for agricultural development policies in African countries or regions. The publication support award will help researchers

publish their findings in reputable journals.

Call for Applications: AGRODEP is inviting its members to apply and compete for five research grants of up to USD 5000 each and five publication support awards of up to USD 3000 each. The call is open exclusively to AGRODEP members.

Scope of Applications: proposals should address relevant and priority issues in agri-food systems transformation policies in African countries or regions. Research proposals must

be based on already available primary or secondary data, while support to authors is only available for articles ready for publication.

How to Apply: Visit the [Grants and Awards](#) page on the AGRODEP website for the application instructions and templates.

Review Process: applications will undergo a rigorous review process based on criteria such as eligibility, scientific merit, relevance to agricultural development, feasibility, and budget justification. A panel of reviewers will evaluate the proposals to ensure quality and relevance.

AGRODEP Conference Working Paper Series



The publication of papers from the AGRODEP conference offers an invaluable opportunity to disseminate the latest research findings and insights generated during the event. We are excited to share that numerous papers presented at the recent AGRODEP conference are currently in the final stages of editorial review and will soon be ready for publication. These papers cover a diverse array of topics in agricultural economics and policy, reflecting the forefront of research and the insightful discussions held during the conference. In line with our commitment to disseminating knowledge and encouraging dialogue, we have planned to release these papers regularly, with publications scheduled every three months. This systematic approach ensures that each paper receives the attention it merits while facilitating

a continuous flow of fresh research for the broader community. Stay tuned for further updates as we gear up to present the latest discoveries and recommendations from our esteemed network of researchers and practitioners. Read [Working Paper No. 1](#) by Saadatou Alkassoum Sangaré.

AGRODEP Membership Application for AI and Remote Sensing Network

AGRODEP is pleased to announce that it will disseminate a membership application form for the Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Remote Sensing Network in the near future. This form is intended for AGRODEP members wishing to join the network to collaborate on cutting-edge research in agricultural economics and policy. The form covers personal information, professional experience, education and training, publications, technical skills and capacity-building needs. It also includes questions relating to specific areas of interest in AI and remote sensing and motivations for joining the network. Researchers with technical knowledge of AI and remote sensing are encouraged to provide further details of their experience and involvement in relevant studies or projects.

We look forward to receiving applications from passionate members keen to contribute to advancing knowledge and innovation in agricultural research by harnessing the opportunities offered by emerging technologies.

AGRODEP Members on the Post-Malabo Agenda



"The Post-Malabo Agenda, which is proposed to focus on agri-food systems transformation in Africa, should bring on board the lessons learnt in the Malabo era and build the capacity of Member States to deliver the commitments. The AGRODEP members should be strategically trained to join the technical experts at the regional and national levels."

Dr. Olawale Olayide

AGRODEP Member and Senior Lecturer, Department of Sustainability Studies, Faculty of Multidisciplinary Studies, University of Ibadan, Nigeria



"I expect the Post-Malabo Agenda to focus on expanding and consolidating the tangible gains of the Malabo era agenda, and those measures that will guarantee the transformation of Africa's sustainable food systems while insuring against old and emerging threats and shocks".

Prof. Dr. R.O. Babatunde (FNYA, FCICOPS)

AGRODEP Member and Professor of Development and Agricultural Economics, Department of Agricultural Economics and Farm Management, University of Ilorin, Nigeria

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