Thematic Guidance to Inform Stakeholder Dialogues in the Post-Malabo Agenda Development Process

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ABSTRACT

This document aims to serve as a guidance paper delineating significant emerging issues, with the purpose of steering the Regional Economic Communities (RECs)-led Regional Stakeholder Engagement and Dialogues. It endeavors to furnish a thorough outline of pivotal topics to facilitate constructive discussions and foster collaboration among stakeholders. The identified emerging issues are strategically crafted to offer thematic guidance and enrich the dialogue process. By ensuring the central involvement and leadership of RECs and other CAADP stakeholders, the document seeks to empower meaningful engagement and catalyze advancements towards collectively pursued goals.

Twelve key issues have been captured in a highly summarized format. These topics could be discussed when CAADP constituencies meet at regional and continental levels to brainstorm on the past two decades of CAADP implementation to identify what should constitute the basis of a new strategy for agri-food systems transformation in Africa from 2025 onward. This quick review clearly shows that, while faced with serious and compounded risks attributable to different sources, Africa has a vast and untapped reservoir of solutions to its challenges. Thanks to scientific advances, these challenges and solutions are better analyzed and understood today than was the case just a decade ago. As such, the thematic guidance provided in this paper seeks to provide context, frame the topical discussions, and, more importantly, enrich what is anticipated to be a highly engaging dialogue series among CAADP stakeholders for each theme, in which key policy and strategic issues are up for discussion.
1. INTRODUCTION

In June 2023, an African Union-led meeting with CAADP constituencies and partners (AUC 2023)\(^1\) came up with six priority areas in response to the guiding questions. These included the following: (i) Re-development and re-formulation of National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs) and Regional Agricultural Investment Plans (RAIPs); (ii) Strengthening implementation of the 4\(^{th}\) and 5\(^{th}\) BR Cycles; (iii) Strengthening mutual accountability at national and regional levels through Joint Sector Review (JSR) mechanisms; (iv) Strengthening partnership, advocacy, communication and resource mobilization in support of CAADP implementation; (v) Shaping the post-Malabo agenda (process and content); and (vi) Knowledge management and learning: documenting lessons and best practices. The meeting also spent time reviewing possible learning, analytical and research questions that will inform the post-Malabo agenda.

From September 2023, AKADEMIYA2063 began to take action on the fifth priority area of “Shaping the Post-Malabo Agenda” and – borrowing heavily from the above report – undertook a thorough review of the commitment areas under the current Malabo Declaration, which made it possible to assess those commitment areas for their continued relevance, weaknesses, and strengths. This exercise also explored any opportunities to fill gaps, eliminate redundancies, and expand the agenda as necessary to meet the challenges and achieve the ambitions of the next 10 years of the CAADP agenda. The exercise kept in mind the need to build on key lessons from the past two decades of CAADP implementation to ensure that suggested adjustments are informed by evidence from the four cycles of the Biennial Review, including the challenges encountered in calculating the proposed indicators, their relevance, their number, as well as opportunities to redirect some of them.

Subsequently, a roadmap\(^2\) was developed with recommendations on how to expand the Malabo Commitments to better align with the requirements for successful transformation of agri-food systems in the present context.

Many of the commitments outlined in the Malabo Declaration express crucial values or objectives that should be upheld in the post-Malabo agenda.

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1. AUC. 2023. “AUC-AUDA-RECs-TP-DP Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Coordination Meeting” (Meeting, Casablanca, Morocco, July 5-6, 2023).
For instance, principles such as agriculture-led growth, regional cooperation, multi-stakeholder partnership, evidence-based planning, dialogue, review, and mutual accountability – as outlined in the first and seventh Malabo Commitments – will remain pivotal for future success and should be preserved. Likewise, the original CAADP targets of achieving a 10 percent share of agricultural expenditure and a 6 percent agricultural growth rate remain significant objectives to pursue in the post-Malabo agenda. However, new targets rooted in evidence and areas of focus should be introduced to better address the continent’s current circumstances and the evolving understanding of the drivers of agri-food systems transformation. Specific recommendations for broadening the scope of Malabo Declaration Commitments 3, 4, 5, and 6 should be discussed during the stakeholders’ dialogues. To achieve this, stakeholders involved in regional dialogues and engagement must meticulously review the current commitment areas, identifying those that remain relevant while pinpointing areas for improvement, as well as potential gaps to be filled. Additionally, obsolete elements should be identified and removed to streamline efforts and maximize impact. Understanding the challenges and opportunities inherent in this pursuit is crucial for formulating ambitious yet attainable goals for the African Union (AU) and its Member States (MS) over the next decade of the CAADP agenda in this domain.

From the outset, efforts have been made to define the modalities for the mobilization of technical expertise to help provide the data, analysis and evidence that will underpin a robust post-Malabo CAADP Agenda. These efforts have relied on an operational model made up of two workstreams: i) one on “Stakeholder Engagement and Dialogue”, and ii) one on “Data and Analytics”, with both working in tandem to deliver a single product: the New Strategy and Action Plan for Agri-food Systems Transformation in Africa.

The “Data and Analytics” workstream is sub-divided into 13 Technical Working Groups (TWGs) and will be facilitated by AKADEMIYA2063 as a technical partner, by providing technical backstopping to TWGs. The TWGs are convened by and composed of leading African centers of expertise, research institutions, academia, technical development agencies, as well as global partners. Their main role will be to (i) thoroughly examine each of the Malabo Declaration commitment areas to assess any necessary changes and expansions, (ii) identify the topical issues as well as emerging challenges, (iii) identify opportunities to deepen and strengthen these areas while addressing the challenges, (iv) propose ambitions for the next 10 years, and (v) identify potential indicators and targets to measure progress (please refer to TORs and other attached documents).

The “Stakeholder Engagement and Dialogue” workstream, underpinned by PolicyLink, will encompass a series of dialogues spearheaded by RECs with their Member States. This initiative will also welcome the submission of independent memoranda from diverse stakeholders and will facilitate additional thematic consultations. This comprehensive approach is designed to ensure a robust and inclusive process that truly captures the collective voice and insights of all parties involved.

This document aims to serve as a guidance paper delineating significant emerging issues, with the purpose of steering the RECs-led Regional Stakeholder Engagement and Dialogues.
It endeavors to furnish a thorough outline of pivotal topics to facilitate constructive discussions and foster collaboration among stakeholders.

The identified emerging issues are strategically crafted to offer thematic guidance and enrich the dialogue process with structured discussions. By ensuring the central involvement of RECs and other CAADP stakeholders, the document seeks to empower meaningful engagement and catalyze advancements towards collectively pursued goals.

**2 KEY ISSUES GUIDING THE POST-MALABO AGENDA DEVELOPMENT PROCESS**

The formulation of an agenda for the forthcoming decade of the CAADP and agricultural advancement in Africa necessitates a reliance on adaptive learning gleaned from two decades of implementation experience (AUC 2021a). It is imperative to discern between short-term challenges and long-term structural obstacles.

Among the myriad drivers of agricultural and food systems transformation, it is crucial to identify those that have been pivotal in Africa’s context and those that remain underutilized. This examination primarily focuses on technologies such as irrigation, transgenic technology, indigenous species utilization, policy innovations, climate-smart agriculture, and the digitization of agriculture.

2.1 Principles and Values of the CAADP Agenda (From Narrow Agriculture-led Growth to Agri-Food System)

CAADP must tailor its approach to meet the unique needs of Member States while aligning with their priorities (AUC 2021a). Key drivers threatening Africa’s food systems include conflicts (e.g. the Russia-Ukraine war, civil conflicts in Africa), pests and diseases (e.g. fall armyworm, desert locusts, COVID-19, PPR), and climate change (manifested in extreme droughts and flooding). Key drivers of transformation include sustained economic recovery, emerging medium- and large-scale farmers, urbanization, globalization, growth in the staples processing sector, and rising demand for animal source foods.

To uphold the first commitment of the Malabo Declaration in the Post-Malabo Agenda, a strategic shift towards agri-food system transformation is proposed. This entails clarifying processes and approaches to align with the post-Malabo agenda.

Expanding the seven commitments of CAADP to encompass related sectors like water and the energy network, as well as other necessary infrastructure along value chains, is essential for sustainable development. Incorporating these sectors will foster synergies and a holistic approach, ensuring efficient resource use and addressing interdependencies.

Moving beyond agriculture-led growth, CAADP must focus on desired outcomes and consider the entire agri-food system’s role in achieving them.

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Key policy and strategic issues to consider for discussion in the stakeholder dialogue could include:

i) How do we go from a narrow agriculture transformation to embrace an agri-food systems paradigm in the face of climate change?

ii) What is the future of smallholder agriculture, and will smallholder-driven agriculture still be the basis of agricultural development in Africa?

iii) Moving on from agriculture-led economic growth and transformation, how do we address the mainstreaming of agri-food systems into the post-Malabo CAADP agenda?

2.2 Enhancing Investment Finance in Agriculture

Financing can act as a powerful catalyst to propel the CAADP towards transformative change. While CAADP has demonstrably secured substantial donor resources for African development, a crucial next step is a comprehensive review of current commitment areas. This review should assess what remains relevant, identify areas for improvement to address existing gaps, and pinpoint elements that are no longer effective. An understanding of the evolving challenges and opportunities will ensure that the AU and its Member States are well-equipped to set ambitious goals for the next decade of CAADP. It is essential to define key indicators to track and measure these aspirations, and to establish methods for monitoring private sector investment in agriculture.

Furthermore, evaluating and profiling existing investment financing initiatives within the agri-food systems space can pave the way for better alignment with the Post-Malabo Agenda. It is paramount to prioritize private sector inclusion and to foster participatory planning processes, recognizing the indispensable role of all stakeholders in implementing both CAADP and the Post-Malabo Agenda. Encouraging investments in agriculture and attracting private sector involvement are pivotal, with a focus on leveraging internal resources to enhance the effectiveness of initiatives and ensure their long-term sustainability. Policy predictability within CAADP commitments can further incentivize private sector engagement, while partnerships that facilitate private capital formation, like Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and the CAADP Financing Platform (CAP-F), deserve particular emphasis. Finally, it is crucial to highlight the critical role of private sector investment and to demonstrate how CAADP can leverage its resources to support private sector engagement as a way of achieving transformative change in African agriculture and food systems.
2.3 Food Security, Nutrition, Health, and Food Safety/SPS

In Africa, the challenge of ensuring access to a sustainable, nutritious diet for all takes center stage, emphasizing the critical importance of food security. The affordability of a balanced diet is a significant concern, with millions facing difficulties in obtaining the necessary nutrients for optimal health. Widespread micro-nutrient deficiencies, especially among vulnerable communities, contribute to health complications and impede developmental progress. Complicating matters further is the double burden of malnutrition, where undernutrition coexists with obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs), causing problems for individuals and healthcare systems alike.

As efforts ramp up to achieve a sustainable, healthy diet for all Africans, it has become clear that addressing these interconnected issues requires comprehensive solutions. This entails enhancing agricultural practices, improving agri-food systems governance, and adopting a holistic approach to ensure equitable access to nutritious food while preserving environmental and social well-being. It is essential to embrace this collective responsibility if we are to forge a future in which every individual in Africa has the opportunity to thrive, nourished by a sustainable and healthy diet.

Key policy and strategic issues to consider for discussion in the stakeholder dialogue could include:

i) How can Africa raise its game in boosting productivity among smallholder farmers?

ii) What needs to happen for agricultural and economic growth to translate to the accelerated reduction and ending of hunger?

iii) What needs to happen for agri-food systems to ensure access to healthy food and better nutritional outcomes?

iv) How are the issues of food safety to be addressed in the context of rapidly transforming value chains and the burgeoning processing sector?

v) How can the principle of One Health be integrated into future agri-food system agendas?
2.4 Emerging Technologies, Biotechnology, Artificial Intelligence, and Productivity Growth

Emerging technologies, including biotechnology and Artificial Intelligence (AI), are poised to revolutionize agricultural transformation across Africa, encompassing staple crops, cash crops, livestock, poultry, fisheries, and aquaculture. Biotechnology offers innovative solutions for crop improvement, while AI applications empower farmers across various agricultural sectors to optimize resource allocation, improve crop yields, and mitigate risks. These advancements hold immense potential for enhancing productivity, resilience, and sustainability in agricultural systems, which is crucial for meeting the continent’s growing food demands amid climate change challenges. The presence of AI in Africa extends beyond mere technological phenomena, as it is a potent catalyst for transformative shifts, novel advancements, and societal development. The use of AI could help position the African continent to overcome its obstacles and establish a future characterized by economic success, environmental responsibility, and social inclusiveness (Ly 2023).

In addition to staple crops, the integration of emerging technologies presents significant opportunities for production and productivity growth in livestock, poultry, fisheries, and aquaculture. Biotechnology can be applied to enhance livestock genetics, develop vaccines, and improve feed efficiency, thereby boosting animal health and productivity. AI technologies enable precision farming techniques in animal husbandry, leading to more efficient resource management and higher yields. Moreover, advancements in aquaculture technologies, such as automated feeding systems and water quality monitoring, can enhance fish production and reduce environmental impacts.

However, to fully harness the potential of emerging technologies in agricultural transformation, challenges such as limited access to technology, inadequate infrastructure, and digital literacy gaps must be addressed across all sectors, including livestock, poultry, fisheries, and aquaculture. Furthermore, it is essential to establish ethical and regulatory frameworks for biotechnology and AI deployment in order to ensure environmental sustainability, biodiversity conservation, and the protection of human health. Collaborative efforts involving governments, research institutions, the private sector and civil society are crucial for promoting technology transfer, capacity building, and inclusive innovation ecosystems in these sectors. If it overcomes these challenges and seizes the opportunities, Africa can drive productivity growth, enhance resilience, and unlock the full potential of its agricultural sector, contributing to sustainable development and prosperity across the continent.

i) How can Africa boost mechanization and water management technologies across agri-food value chain segments?

ii) How can digitization be mainstreamed and leveraged at scale across all key value chains to enhance efficiency?

iii) What key policy, regulatory, technical, and institutional capacities are required for Africa to safely develop and deploy biotechnologies to sustainably raise productivity in the context of a climate crisis and the many resulting threats?

iv) What key policy, regulatory, technical, and institutional capacities are required for Africa to safely develop and deploy artificial intelligence and remote sensing to improve the availability, quality, and timeliness of data in African agri-food systems?

2.5 Halving Poverty through Inclusive Agricultural Growth

Emphasizing agri-food growth and transformation is paramount in driving economic development and poverty reduction across the continent. Halving poverty through agricultural growth in Africa necessitates a strategic focus on enhancing the robust performance and competitiveness of the domestic processing sector, enabling it to capture a larger share of the expanding domestic market.

In delineating these ambitions, stakeholders should reflect on progress towards poverty reduction and agricultural growth, taking into account the increased competitiveness of the domestic processing sector, the expansion of the agri-food market share, and enhanced economic opportunities for rural populations. Based on clearly set targets and benchmarks from the analytical work, the AU and its Member States should effectively monitor and evaluate their efforts in driving agricultural transformation and poverty alleviation. Ultimately, by prioritizing the robust performance of the domestic processing sector and fostering agri-food growth and transformation, Africa will be able to chart a course towards sustainable development, economic prosperity, and poverty eradication for its people.
1) What are the drivers for future growth and competitiveness?

2) What would it take to better integrate smallholder farmers into rapidly growing urban and regional markets?

3) On agro-processing:
   a. What are the current dynamics of growth and performance in the processing segment?
   b. How can the transformation agenda for future agri-food systems elevate the role of agribusiness and agro-processing in that agenda?
   c. What steps are required for building a successful agro-industry?
   d. What are the main institutional, technological, financial, and managerial issues to be overcome?

4) How important is a competitive processing sector to the future growth trajectory of African agri-food systems and the transformation of smallholder agriculture, and what roles will the sector play?

5) How can we more effectively address the issue of wealth creation and distribution for shared prosperity?

2.6 Boosting Intra-African Agri-food Trade

Africa’s competitiveness in food production and trade plays a crucial role in the continent’s economic development and its integration into global markets. Given that food is a primary commodity of trade, it is essential to explore strategies that convert it into a genuine driver of transformative change in Africa. This entails not only enhancing the productivity and quality of food production but also focusing on enhancing regional trade competitiveness and addressing non-tariff barriers and other constraints to trade across borders and between regional blocks. Effective implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is paramount in this regard, as it presents a significant opportunity to boost intra-African trade and unlock the full potential of the continent’s agricultural sector.

The specific focus of this thematic area will involve a comprehensive review of current commitment areas within the context of food production and trade. Stakeholders will need to identify those aspects that continue to be relevant, areas where improvements are needed to address existing gaps, and any elements that have become obsolete over time. Understanding the challenges and opportunities inherent in enhancing Africa’s competitiveness in agri-food production and trade is crucial for formulating ambitious yet attainable goals for the AU and its Member States (MS) over the next decade of the CAADP agenda in this domain.
Key policy and strategic issues to consider for discussion in the stakeholder dialogue could include:

i) What are the key tariff and non-tariff obstacles hampering cross-border and intra-African trade?

ii) What are key policy, regulatory and institutional measures that would reduce the above obstacles?

iii) What key investments need to be carried out at country and regional levels to boost the integration of regional markets?

iv) What key investments need to be carried out at country and regional levels to enhance the competitiveness of domestic agri-food sectors in regional markets?

v) Is the AfCFTA responding to the issues that affect the trade in agricultural commodities?

2.7 Enhancing Resilience of Livelihoods and Production Systems to Shocks (Health, Economic, Climate, etc.)

To ensure the resilience and sustainability of Africa’s agricultural sector in an era of dynamic challenges, CAADP must adapt its focus to address urgent and pressing issues. Climate change impacts, evolving trade dynamics, global and regional conflicts, and the need to rebuild trust in institutions all demand immediate attention. A comprehensive mapping of these shocks, alongside an analysis of existing responses at all levels – household, community, and national – is crucial. Such a mapping would involve reviewing current CAADP commitment areas for relevance, identifying gaps that require improvement, and recognizing obsolete elements.

By identifying both challenges and opportunities within this framework, CAADP can propose ambitious yet achievable goals for the next decade, guiding the AU and its Member States. This revised agenda should prioritize developing robust responses to shocks and crises at all levels, from individual households to entire countries. Through key indicators, CAADP can track and measure progress, ensuring interventions effectively build resilience and adaptive capacity within agricultural and food systems.

Moreover, CAADP’s ambitions should not solely focus on mitigating shocks. The program should also leverage opportunities for transformative change. Setting clear targets and benchmarks can guide stakeholders in implementing policies and strategies that strengthen Africa’s ability to withstand and recover from shocks, fostering sustainable development and prosperity across the continent.
i) How can we measure and track community vulnerability to shocks to allow for better preparedness and more effective response to protect livelihoods?

ii) What else is needed to better prepare countries and local communities for a variety of shocks that could pose a threat to household livelihoods?

iii) How can African countries boost institutional, physical, and financial capacities to respond to shocks and protect vulnerable communities?

2.8 Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change for Agri-food Systems

To address climate change – a critical challenge for African agriculture – CAADP needs to become a key player in mobilizing climate finance and supporting countries’ climate commitments. While African nations demonstrate strong political will, technical and financial limitations hinder their ability to fulfil obligations under the Paris Agreement.

CAADP must therefore prioritize the provision of policy and institutional guidance to Member States, and mobilize technical expertise to strengthen national, regional, and continental capacity for the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the development of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). This includes expertise in policy innovation, strategy, knowledge systems development, capacity building, operational support, data management, digital tools, and technology. Additionally, fostering partnerships and outreach activities is crucial. Leveraging existing expertise and operational capacity in Africa will be instrumental in assisting Member States to achieve their NDC and NAP targets, driving impactful climate action across the continent. As part of this, existing unique science and technology innovation capacity will need to be leveraged to help Member States achieve their targets with regard to NDCs and NAPs.

An in-depth review of CAADP’s current greenhouse gas emissions commitment area is essential. This review should identify ongoing efforts, highlight areas for improvement, and pinpoint any existing gaps. Understanding these dynamics is vital for formulating ambitious yet achievable goals for the AU and its Member States (MS) over the next decade of CAADP. These goals should prioritize providing clear guidelines and support mechanisms for designing and implementing NDCs and NAPs at national and regional levels, ensuring alignment with global climate change objectives.

To effectively track progress, key indicators should be identified and proposed. These indicators should measure the success of NDC and NAP development and implementation, as well as the impact on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing climate resilience across Africa. By setting clear targets and benchmarks, CAADP can guide stakeholders in implementing policies and strategies that contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, ultimately fostering sustainable development and resilience in African agriculture and food systems.
Key policy and strategic issues to consider for discussion in the stakeholder dialogue could include:

i)  What would it take to improve the clarification and quantification of mitigation and adaptation ambitions?

ii) How can we align the need for mitigation actions with the imperative to boost growth and improved livelihoods in the context of low carbon emissions?

iii) What should be key elements of a successful adaptation agenda at country level?

iv) What technological and institutional opportunities are there that could boost adaptation efforts?

v) What are the most effective monitoring and evaluation and mutual accountability systems?

vi) What kind of interactive data management infrastructure can be developed to track progress toward targets and commitments?

vii) What could be the most effective approach to coordinating stakeholder engagement, mobilization, and support?

2.9  Inclusivity and Equality in Agri-food Systems

Going forward, CAADP must prioritize inclusive agri-food systems transformation, empowering women, youth, and marginalized communities and strengthening institutions for inclusive and equitable agri-food system transformation. This requires mainstreaming the necessary institutional innovations in the design and implementation of the Post-Malabo Agenda to ensure long-term success.

Inclusivity and equality are paramount across all segments of agri-food systems. The use of clear indicators is necessary as a means of prioritizing gender mainstreaming, the gender transformative agenda, and addressing youth employability and employment. Additionally, empowering smallholder farmers – critical players in the agricultural system – can lead to significant positive changes for the broader population, aligning with CAADP’s commitment to supporting vulnerable groups.

To achieve inclusive development, it’s crucial to have clear roles and responsibilities for non-state actors (NSAs), along with mechanisms for sustained engagement. The direct participation of farmers and other NSAs in policy processes is essential to ensure their needs are met and that initiatives are impactful. Strengthening NSA and farmer involvement will enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of agricultural development efforts, driving progress towards food security, poverty reduction and economic growth.
Looking ahead, a new strategy is needed to sustain farmer and NSA engagement in CAADP, building on past experiences. This strategy should focus on designing and implementing inclusive and equitable National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs) and Regional Agricultural Investment Plans (RAIPs), with a specific emphasis on youth-friendly and gendered approaches. By prioritizing inclusivity, equality, and tracking progress through key indicators, CAADP can pave the way for transformative change in African agriculture, ensuring truly sustainable and inclusive development.

i) What are the key policy, institutional, technical, financial and other obstacles to empowering smallholder farmers, youth and women as actors across all agri-food segments?

ii) What opportunities are there to overcome these obstacles and boost participation by women, youth, and marginalized groups in agri-food system value chains?

iii) What else needs to be done to ensure equitable distribution of wealth among all actors along agri-food system value chains?

2.10 Implementation and Coordination Capacity (Delivery Mechanisms)

Despite its acknowledged success as a locally driven development process, challenges persist for CAADP. Effective coordination across technical and financial domains remains critical for its success. While African member states have made significant investments over two decades, ensuring long-term progress requires a concerted focus on implementation and building institutional capacity. Understanding the reasons behind the differing performance among countries is crucial to informing tailored strategies for those facing challenges.

Several key areas within the CAADP framework demand improvement to enhance the impact of the framework as a whole. Streamlining processes is imperative, allocating less time to formulation and more to implementation. Partner support to the AU, particularly through mechanisms like sustainable staffing, can enhance predictability and consistency in CAADP’s operations. Strengthening engagement with CAADP focal points at the country level and improving coordination among development partner agencies are vital steps towards optimizing the initiative’s effectiveness.

To maximize its impact, CAADP must prioritize addressing current agricultural challenges directly and ensure that interventions resonate at the community level. This entails clarifying institutional mandates and ensuring that interventions are felt on the ground. Enhanced coordination among institutions, including the harmonization of policies across governance levels, is crucial for creating a predictable policy environment. Such collaborative approach fosters synergy and would help minimize duplication, while enhancing the effectiveness of interventions.
Developing a partnership engagement and coordination strategy can further bolster collaboration among stakeholders and streamline efforts towards achieving CAADP’s objectives. Addressing these challenges and implementing these recommendations would further strengthen CAADP, ensuring it continues to play a pivotal role in driving the transformation of African agriculture.

Key policy and strategic issues to consider for discussion in the stakeholder dialogue could include:

i) What factors have been the greatest hindrance to the effective implementation of CAADP/NAIPs and CAADP/RAIPs and how could these be addressed?

ii) What are the good practices that could be scaled up? Under what conditions?

iii) What are the most effective country systems that have been successful in driving implementation?

iv) What is our understanding of the positive spillovers from the CAADP process (especially the BR process)?

v) On partnership mapping, what mechanisms can be put in place to understand what each institution is doing to facilitate collaboration and cooperation?

vi) Take another look at country CAADP coordination structures to strengthen and reinvigorate them. What works?

vii) How can we encourage more private sector participation in the CAADP Post-Malabo process and make those actors the central players in driving implementation?

viii) How much are the issues of policy consistency, coherence, and harmonization at all levels hindering implementation?

### 2.11 Communication and Advocacy

The CAADP implementation agenda needs a comprehensive communication strategy to enhance stakeholder engagement, rally public support, and drive resource mobilization. This strategy sets out to highlight the value proposition of the strategic framework, notably its inclusive character, established platforms, mutual accountability through peer review, and the achievements of the Malabo Declaration policy framework. Clear messaging that emphasizes the tangible benefits of the CAADP and anticipated outcomes of the Post-Malabo Agenda in driving agricultural transformation and fostering sustainable development across Africa is crucial.
Equally important is revitalizing leadership at all levels. Supporting initiatives like the High-Level Heads of State and Government (HOSG) breakfast can reignite commitment and action towards the CAADP goals. These platforms foster political will, facilitate strategic discussions, and serve as a forum to facilitate resource mobilization for implementing CAADP initiatives.

By addressing internal challenges and effectively communicating its contributions to Africa’s agricultural transformation agenda, CAADP can become more attractive to development partners. Demonstrating the real-world impact of CAADP interventions through proactive communication and targeted outreach efforts will secure the support needed for CAADP’s continued success in driving agricultural development and food security in Africa.

Key policy and strategic issues to consider for discussion in the stakeholder dialogue could include:

i) What are the most effective communication channels, and how can they be streamlined for strategic impact?

ii) What are the mechanisms for documenting success stories at national, regional, and continental levels?

iii) Identification of target audiences to facilitate periodic information sharing.

iv) Curation of content from stakeholders to feed into strategic storytelling through identified channels.

v) Revamping and mobilization of media communities to facilitate linkages between implementation and reporting.

2.12 CAADP BR Data Management and Mutual Accountability

Accountability tools like the Biennial Review (BR) not only deliver transparency and oversight but also serve as effective accounting tools within the CAADP. Efforts have been invested in strengthening data systems through partnerships, with a focus on enhancing monitoring and evaluation capabilities. However, there is acknowledgment that the full potential of the BR data remains untapped for various use cases and advocacy purposes. Despite commitments from partners to provide future support, concrete financial commitments have yet to materialize.

Simplifying the CAADP process, particularly in terms of data utilization and associated procedures, could yield significant benefits. This streamlining would enhance efficiency and effectiveness in leveraging BR data for decision-making and policy formulation. Diversifying and expanding stakeholder engagement at the country level, particularly regarding BR data, is essential. Identifying and involving various actors within countries who can utilize BR data can amplify its impact. There is an imperative to implement a data policy within the AU to monitor progress and evaluate the effectiveness of CAADP initiatives. However, it is crucial to address data privacy concerns in order to safeguard sensitive information.
The AUC plans to address these privacy issues during an upcoming meeting with Member States in November. Integrating the BR into national systems will further enhance data accuracy, completeness, and accessibility, thereby facilitating better decision-making within CAADP.

This work will entail a comprehensive review of current commitment areas to identify relevance, gaps, and areas for improvement. Proposing ambitious objectives for the AU and its Member States over the next decade of the CAADP agenda will require careful consideration of challenges and opportunities. Additionally, identifying key indicators to track and measure these ambitions is essential for ensuring progress towards CAADP’s overarching goals.

i) What scope is there to better integrate JSR and BR processes at the country level?

ii) How could country level activities by development partner organizations be brought into the JSR processes?

iii) What have we learnt from the BR process?

iv) How can we make the BR more useful as a planning tool rather than just as a backward-looking exercise?

v) With respect to JSRs, how can we make them more effective and institutionalize them within country and regional processes?

3. CONCLUSION

This issue paper has attempted to capture in a very summarized form the 12 key issues that could be discussed when CAADP constituencies meet at the regional and continental level to brainstorm on the past two decades of CAADP implementation and to look ahead at what should constitute the basis for a new strategy for agri-food systems transformation in African from 2025 onward.

The review clearly shows that although Africa is faced with a variety of serious and compounded risks, it also has a vast and untapped reservoir of solutions to its challenges. Thanks to scientific advances, these challenges and solutions are better analyzed and understood today than was the case just a decade ago. As such, the thematic guidance given in this paper seeks to provide context, frame the topical discussions, and more importantly, enrich a highly anticipated and engaging dialogue sessions among CAADP stakeholders.
4. LIST OF REFERENCES

AUC. 2023a. “AUC-AUDA-RECs-TP-DP Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Coordination Meeting” July 5-6, 2023, Casablanca, Morocco.


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