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Africa at a Turning Point: *The Significance of the Kampala CAADP Declaration*

By Godfrey Bahigwa, Augustin Wambo Yamdjeu, and Hamady Diop

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Editorial

Since its adoption by the African Union (AU) in 2003, the [Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme](#) (CAADP) has been Africa's primary policy framework for agricultural transformation, wealth creation, food security, economic growth, and prosperity. It guides the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD), Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and Member States in driving agricultural transformation toward a self-reliant and productive Africa.

The recently adopted [Kampala CAADP Declaration](#) on **“Building Resilient and Sustainable Agrifood Systems in Africa,”** and the associated [CAADP Strategy and Action Plan \(2026-2035\)](#) will build on the success and deepen the progress achieved after two decades of CAADP implementation, during which Africa significantly improved in economic and agricultural growth, poverty reduction, nutrition outcomes, and agricultural trade expansion. The next 10-year cycle of CAADP implementation must further deepen its focus to incorporate lessons while responding to emerging issues to accelerate sustainable food system transformation within a context of climate change and multifaceted stressors and shocks.

The longevity and continued success of CAADP can be attributed to its credibility as a shared framework designed to guide Member States toward agricultural transformation and economic growth. Driven by the CAADP principles and values, with emphasis on African ownership and mutual accountability, alongside review and benchmarking, data and analytics have been central to CAADP's evidence-based planning and implementation approach. As Africa prepares for the implementation phase of the Kampala CAADP Declaration, which comes into force on January 1, 2026, evidence and robust data analysis will continue to remain indispensable to the successful implementation on the ground. This is the rationale behind AKADEMIYA2063's **Kampala Policy Brief Series**.

The purpose of the policy briefs is to serve as reference documents for policy analysts and planners across AU Member States as they prepare their programs in response to the Kampala CAADP Declaration. The policy briefs will provide a synthesis of a large body of research tackling topics of strategic relevance to Africa's development agenda in parallel with key issues to be addressed during the new phase of CAADP implementation, to provide insights, analyze emerging ideas, review crosscutting thematic areas, and propose policy recommendations that can be replicated for sustainable impact.

The evidence presented in the Kampala Policy Brief Series is derived from published research and data by AKADEMIYA2063's scientists and collaborators across Africa and outside the continent. These lessons will be accessible to policymakers, non-state actors, and other practitioners at continental, regional, and national levels, as well as development partners, to support the implementation of CAADP 2026-2035. In addition to packaging the lessons and insights into comprehensive yet accessible knowledge products, AKADEMIYA2063 is facilitating policy dialogue through webinars. During these sessions, the findings are presented to a broad range of stakeholders to guide programmatic interventions supporting the implementation of the Kampala CAADP Agenda.



Introduction

The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), established by the African Union (AU), serves as the continent's flagship policy framework to accelerate agricultural growth, reduce hunger and poverty, and advance food and nutrition security. Since its inception in 2003, the CAADP vision has evolved through successive declarations—Maputo, Malabo, and now Kampala—each reflecting Africa's evolving priorities and its commitment to achieving inclusive and sustainable agrifood systems transformation (AUC and AUDA-NEPAD 2025a).

Adopted in January 2025, the Kampala CAADP Declaration marks a critical inflection point in this journey. It signals a transformative shift from traditional, production-centered agricultural strategies toward a comprehensive food systems approach that acknowledges the interdependencies among agriculture,

nutrition, climate resilience, trade, and social equity. This new paradigm is designed to build resilient, inclusive, and sustainable agrifood systems capable of withstanding current and emerging challenges, including climate change, demographic transitions, rapid urbanization, and systemic inequalities that continue to undermine food security and rural livelihoods.

Unlike its predecessors, the Kampala CAADP Declaration intentionally aligns agrifood systems transformation with a broader development vision. It reinforces Africa's commitment to the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) outcomes and the African Common Position on Food Systems Transformation, emphasizing integrated, cross-sectoral solutions (AUC 2021a). The Declaration highlights six transformative commitments and 22 strategic goals that seek to empower women and youth, strengthen governance, mobilize finance, and enhance productivity, trade, and

nutrition outcomes across the continent. At the heart of the Kampala CAADP Declaration is a robust Theory of Change and a structured Results Framework, which together define the pathways, milestones, and indicators for achieving the agreed goals and targets. These tools are essential for ensuring coherence between national policies and continental objectives and enhancing mutual accountability through regular performance monitoring and reporting. They also represent a shift toward evidence-based and results-oriented policymaking, enabling AU Member States to track progress and course-correct as needed.

Crucially, the Kampala CAADP Declaration champions collaborative engagement, recognizing that governments alone cannot transform Africa's food systems. It calls for shared leadership among public institutions, the private sector, farmers, civil society, parliamentarians, research bodies, and development partners. By fostering such inclusive coalitions, the Declaration aims to build ownership and mobilize the diverse resources and expertise needed to unlock Africa's agricultural potential.

This policy brief aims to:

1. Highlight the significance and innovations of the Kampala CAADP Declaration in shaping Africa's agricultural transformation agenda;
2. Distill its key commitments, goals, and accountability mechanisms;
3. Clarify what sets Kampala CAADP apart from previous CAADP cycles;
4. Offer guidance on how countries can align and implement the Declaration effectively;
5. Anticipate challenges and propose solutions to drive impactful and inclusive food systems transformation across the continent.



1. What Distinguishes Kampala from Maputo and Malabo?

The CAADP has evolved through three major declarations—Maputo (2003), Malabo (2014), and Kampala (2025)—each reflecting Africa’s evolving agricultural priorities and addressing emerging challenges. While Maputo emphasized increasing agricultural investment and productivity, Malabo reinforced the importance of accountability and integrated agricultural policies with broader economic policies. Kampala builds on these principles and introduces a fundamental paradigm shift toward a holistic agrifood systems transformation approach.

The 2003 Maputo Declaration laid the foundation for CAADP by prioritizing increased agricultural investments (AUC 2014). It urged AU Member States to allocate at least 10 percent of their annual public expenditure to agriculture and targeted a 6 percent annual agricultural GDP growth rate. Its framework focused on sustainable land and water management, market access, food security, hunger reduction, and agricultural research and technology adoption. However, despite its ambitious vision, implementation varied across countries, with only a few meeting the 10 percent budget allocation target, limiting overall impact (AUC 2022).

Recognizing these challenges, the 2014 Malabo Declaration expanded CAADP’s scope by linking agricultural policies to broader economic policies, highlighting the interconnectedness of agriculture and development (AUC and AUDA-NEPAD 2025b). Malabo introduced ambitious goals, including eradicating hunger, halving poverty by 2025, and tripling intra-African trade in agricultural goods. It also strengthened accountability through the CAADP Biennial Reviews (BRs), which tracked progress and ensured measurable outcomes. While Malabo set the stage for deeper integration of agriculture with trade and poverty alleviation strategies, challenges like slow trade integration, persistent food insecurity, and climate threats hindered the full realization of its objectives.

Building on the Maputo and Malabo Declarations, the 2025 Kampala CAADP Declaration shifts the focus toward resilient and sustainable agrifood systems. It acknowledges emerging challenges such as population growth, climate change, environmental degradation, urbanization, and social instability. Kampala CAADP highlights agro-industrialization, gender and youth inclusion, sustainable water management, trade policies, and regional integration as key drivers of transformation. By adopting an agrifood systems approach, Kampala CAADP aligns with the African Common Position on Food Systems and global dialogues like the UNFSS (AUC 2021a). This broader framework emphasizes value chains, consumer behavior, environmental sustainability, and social inclusion, moving beyond the narrow focus on agricultural development.

A key innovation of the Kampala CAADP Declaration lies in its inclusive, transparent, and evidence-based development process. Unlike previous CAADP cycles, Kampala was shaped through extensive multi-stakeholder consultations involving AU Member States, RECs, farmers’ organizations, youth and women’s groups, civil society, parliamentarians, private sector actors, research institutions, and development partners (Wambo Yamdjeu and Diop 2024; Bahiigwa and Fotabong 2024). This participatory engagement was complemented by rigorous technical analyses, scenario modeling, and inputs from specialized Technical Working Groups, ensuring that the Declaration’s commitments are grounded in data, empirical insights, and policy lessons (AKADEMIYA2063 2024).

Drawing on the implementation experience of past CAADP cycles—particularly the Malabo era and its Biennial Review findings—the Kampala framework introduces a robust Theory of Change and a detailed Results Framework, both of which offer structured, evidence-based pathways toward measurable outcomes, unlike the Malabo frameworks whose goals and targets were not rigorously rooted in evidence (AUC and AUDA-NEPAD 2025b). These tools support strategic planning, monitoring, and mutual accountability, enabling Member States to align national efforts

with continental goals. For the first time in CAADP’s history, the process produced an integrated policy package comprising a high-level Declaration, together with a 10-year CAADP Strategy and Action Plan (2026–2035), linking political commitments with operational implementation and results tracking.

Through its evolution from Maputo to Kampala, CAADP illustrates Africa’s evolving agricultural priorities and growing focus on resilience, sustainability, and interconnected systems. The success of this ambitious agenda rests on the political will, policy implementation, and financial commitments of AU Member States in the coming years. By addressing persistent and emerging challenges, Africa has the opportunity to build a future where agriculture drives economic growth, food security, and sustainable development (UNFSS Secretariat 2021).

2. Understanding the Kampala CAADP Declaration

The Kampala CAADP Declaration lays out an ambitious and transformative agenda around six commitments, which, if implemented, will collectively drive the transformation of Africa’s agrifood systems. These commitments include intensifying sustainable food production, agro-industrialization, and trade; boosting investment and financing for agrifood systems transformation; ensuring food and nutrition security; advancing inclusivity and equitable livelihoods; building resilient agrifood systems; and strengthening agrifood systems governance (AUC and AUDA-NEPAD 2025a).

The Declaration calls on AU Member States to integrate its objectives into national policies, strategies, and budgets through National Agrifood Systems Investment Plans (NASIPs). As such, realizing the commitments in the Declaration requires robust multi-stakeholder collaboration. Central to this process is the mobilization of private sector investment, enabled by coherent public policies and a regulatory environment that supports innovation and inclusive growth. Equally, continental and regional organizations such as AU and RECs are instrumental in harmonizing cross-border policies and fostering regional integration, particularly in support of intra-African trade and agricultural market development.

Within this ecosystem, parliamentarians play a key role by advocating for legal reforms and supportive policies that facilitate sustainable agrifood systems transformation, while donors align technical and financial support with the Declaration’s strategic goals to bridge investment gaps. At the grassroots level, farmers and rural producers are at the heart of this transformation, adopting innovative, climate-resilient practices that boost productivity and sustainability. Civil society organizations reinforce these efforts by through advocacy, monitoring NASIP implementation, and holding governments accountable for their commitments. Ultimately, the success of the Kampala CAADP Declaration hinges on the collective actions of governments, regional bodies, private sector actors, parliamentarians, development partners, and civil society.

Each of the six commitments of the Kampala CAADP Declaration is accompanied by specific, measurable targets.

The first commitment aims to revolutionize agrifood systems through sustainable practices that enhance productivity, promote value addition, and expand trade. Its targets include increasing agrifood output by 45 percent, halving post-harvest losses, and tripling intra-African trade by 2035, aligned with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

The second commitment focuses on mobilizing US\$100 billion in public and private funding, while ensuring that at least 10 percent of annual public expenditure and 15 percent of agrifood GDP are reinvested into the sector—creating a foundation for innovation and competitiveness.

The third commitment addresses food and nutrition security, targeting the elimination of hunger and a 25 percent reduction in stunting, wasting, and overweight across the continent, alongside improving diet affordability and safety.

The fourth commitment seeks to reduce extreme poverty by 50 percent and empower at least 30 percent of women, youth, and marginalized groups through expanded access to land, finance, and climate-resilient jobs.

The fifth commitment centers on building resilience to climate and economic shocks, with targets of 30 percent of agricultural land under sustainable management and 40 percent of households protected from external stressors.

The sixth commitment focuses on strengthening agrifood systems governance, promoting institutional capacity, data-driven decision-making, and integration of CAADP principles into national and regional agrifood systems investment plans.



Table 1: Commitments, goals and targets, intervention areas of the Kampala CAADP Declaration.

Commitment	Goals and Targets (by 2035)	Intervention Areas
1. Intensify Sustainable Food Production, Agro-Industrialization, and Trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase agrifood output by 45 percent • Reduce post-harvest loss by 50 percent • Triple intra-African agrifood trade • Raise locally processed food to 35 percent of agrifood GDP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve inputs, promote sustainable practices, support technology adoption, expand agro-processing, and strengthen trade and value chains.
2. Boost Investment and Financing for Agrifood Transformation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilize US\$100 billion in public and private investment • Allocate 10 percent of annual public expenditure to agrifood systems • Reinvest at least 15 percent of agrifood GDP annually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale up infrastructure and investment, enhance financial access, and support flagship projects with climate finance
3. Ensure Food and Nutrition Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve zero hunger in AU Member States • Reduce stunting, wasting, and overweight by 25 percent each • Ensure 60 percent of the population can afford a healthy diet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote nutritious diets, strengthen food safety, invest in animal health, and expand social safety nets
4. Advance Inclusivity and Equitable Livelihoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce extreme poverty by 50 percent • Reduce the yield gap between men and women farmers by 50 percent • Empower at least 30 percent of women, youth, and marginalized groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve rural services, expand access to land and finance, promote inclusive jobs, and implement social protection
5. Build Resilient Agrifood Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 percent of agricultural land is under sustainable management • 40 percent of households are protected from climate and economic shocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in climate-smart R&D, early warning systems, and indigenous practices; support farmer adaptation with finance.
6. Strengthen Agrifood Systems Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate the Kampala CAADP Declaration into all national and regional agrifood investment plans by 2028 • Ensure all AU countries incorporate the CAADP Biennial Review by 2030 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Align national plans, strengthen institutions, improve data-driven decision-making, and empower producer organizations

Source: Kampala CAADP Declaration (AUC and AUDA-NEPAD 2025a).

What distinguishes the Kampala CAADP Declaration from previous CAADP cycles is its systematic and evidence-based design. The commitments and goals were developed through a broad and inclusive process, led by inclusive stakeholder engagement and Technical Working Groups and validated by thematic experts. This marked a departure from earlier cycles by introducing a structured approach to goal setting—anchored in data, empirical analysis, and scenario modeling. Informed by lessons from the Biennial Review process and a foundational study titled *Sustaining CAADP Momentum* (AUDA-NEPAD 2016) and two decades of implementation of CAADP, the Kampala Declaration addresses gaps in performance monitoring, institutional coordination, and resource mobilization.

The *Sustaining CAADP Momentum* study identified four strategic drivers critical to long-term success: (i) intensifying smallholder productivity, (ii) improving the efficiency and global integration of African markets, (iii) enhancing the resilience of livelihoods through risk mitigation, and (iv) strengthening inclusive governance of natural resources. These insights underscore the Kampala CAADP Declaration’s emphasis on strengthening institutions, investing in knowledge systems, fostering local leadership, and securing adequate and sustainable financing. Unlike the more fragmented approaches of the past, Kampala offers a forward-looking, evidence-informed blueprint for transformative change across Africa’s agrifood systems.

3. Domestication of the Kampala CAADP Declaration

A recently concluded African Union-led coordination meeting on CAADP, held in Abuja, Nigeria, focused on identifying the steps and actions required to assess and accelerate the domestication of the Kampala Declaration by individual countries (AUC 2025). Drawing on lessons from earlier efforts to translate the Maputo and Malabo Declarations into actionable national plans, the meeting proposed a set of indicative actions. As part of the AU’s readiness to support the rollout of the Kampala CAADP Declaration, these actions—once validated by key constituencies at the continental level—are intended to serve as a recommended roadmap for guiding AU Member States and RECs in aligning their policies and investment frameworks with the Declaration’s transformative commitments.

3.1. Translating Momentum into Action

Building on Abuja’s momentum, there is now a clearer recognition of the need for a structured, inclusive, and evidence-based domestication process. Translating the Kampala CAADP Declaration from a high-level political commitment into tangible national outcomes requires more than policy alignment. It demands deliberate coordination, institutional leadership, and broad stakeholder participation. A well-defined process will ensure the Kampala CAADP Declaration’s six commitments are embedded within national planning and investment frameworks and are backed by the technical capacity, financing strategies, and governance arrangements necessary for successful implementation.

3.2 Understanding Domestication: Roles and Responsibilities

The domestication process must extend beyond government and technical stakeholders. Civil society organizations, farmers, youth networks, women’s groups, and the private sector all have a critical role to play. Their engagement is essential not only for implementation but also for building legitimacy and ownership. Public communication and awareness-raising will be equally important to ensure that the Kampala CAADP Declaration resonates beyond policymakers and is embraced by all actors across the agrifood systems.

Building on the CAADP implementation guidelines (2016) and the food systems guidelines (2024) and as part of the outcomes of the Abuja coordination meeting, the following steps outline a proposed pathway for Member States to operationalize the Kampala CAADP Declaration:

Formal Notification and Commitment

- Issue a formal notification of the Kampala Declaration to AU Member States.
- Demonstrate national commitment by integrating the Declaration into planning frameworks and initiating implementation efforts.

Guidelines Development and Stakeholder Engagement

- Develop comprehensive guidelines to steer domestication and implementation processes.
- Facilitate inclusive stakeholder engagement, including CSOs, farmer groups, youth, women's networks, and the private sector, to ensure broad-based support during implementation.

Analysis and Planning

- Conduct stocktaking or baseline analysis of national agrifood systems to evaluate current conditions.
- Prepare national reports outlining transformation goals, milestones, and measurable indicators for tracking progress.
- Perform economy-wide modeling and ex-ante policy analysis to assess the feasibility of proposed actions and inform evidence-based investment planning.

Investment Planning, Implementation, and Execution

- Develop and implement evidence-based national agrifood systems investment plans through inclusive consultations.
- Integrate these plans into domestic policies and programs to ensure alignment with national and continental priorities.

Monitoring, Reporting, and Adjustments

- Strengthen mutual accountability frameworks by integrating Joint Sector Reviews (JSRs) and the CAADP Biennial Review into monitoring systems.
- Build robust data systems and establish regular progress tracking and reporting mechanisms at national, regional, and continental levels.
- Utilize monitoring outcomes to make informed readjustments, refine strategies, and address emerging challenges to ensure continual improvement in the implementation process.

The domestication process begins with the formal notification of the Kampala CAADP Declaration. Following the Extraordinary Summit that adopted the Declaration, the AU will issue a *Note Verbale* to all 55 AU Member States, encouraging them to present the documents at the Cabinet level and initiate planning discussions. Member States are then expected to demonstrate political commitment by integrating the Declaration's objectives into their national agrifood strategies and investment frameworks. Past experiences from the Maputo and Malabo cycles—where countries used Cabinet memoranda or legislative instruments—provide a useful precedent.

A key next step is the development of comprehensive implementation guidelines. During the Malabo era, these were created through inclusive technical consultations and peer learning. The Kampala rollout will require a similarly participatory approach grounded in regional ownership. In parallel, joint missions by AUDA-NEPAD, AUC, and RECs will play a critical role in aligning national efforts with continental ambitions and avoiding overlaps with existing food systems transformation initiatives, particularly those launched after the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit.

Stakeholder engagement is essential for national alignment. Governments should convene inclusive dialogue platforms to raise awareness, introduce the Kampala CAADP Declaration, and promote a shared understanding of its implications. These events should engage actors from across the agrifood systems, supported by sustained communication and advocacy efforts to mobilize action at all levels.

A detailed stocktaking or baseline analysis workflow should follow, mapping agrifood indicators, institutional capacities, policy gaps, and political economy considerations. Based on this analysis, each country will develop a national report (AUC and AUDA-NEPAD 2017) outlining key priorities, transformation goals, and milestones. These plans will be backed by economy-wide modeling to test feasibility and ex-ante policy analysis to identify reforms and interventions with the highest potential for impact.

The process culminates in the development of a national agrifood systems investment plan. This plan must be grounded in evidence and shaped through inclusive dialogue to ensure ownership and alignment with both national priorities and the broader Kampala commitments.

3.3 Beyond Domestication

Looking ahead, the domestication process will continue to evolve. Countries may need to reassess internal coordination (AUC 2021b) structures, strengthen institutional arrangements, refine knowledge management systems, and update accountability mechanisms. The Kampala framework should be fully integrated into existing platforms such as the Joint Sector Review, the CAADP Biennial Review, and national Monitoring and Evaluation systems. These efforts will help ensure the Kampala Declaration is domesticated and fully operationalized, driving meaningful, inclusive, and measurable transformation across Africa's agrifood systems.

4. Navigating Challenges in Domesticating the Kampala CAADP Commitments

The Kampala CAADP Declaration and its accompanying CAADP Strategy and Action Plan: 2026-2035 present a transformative vision for Africa's agrifood systems. However, achieving this vision requires addressing significant challenges. One such challenge is the lack of institutional and policy alignment, as many African countries grapple with fragmented governance structures. Ministries managing agriculture, trade, finance, and the environment often work independently, complicating efforts to integrate the Declaration's commitments into cohesive national frameworks. Establishing inter-ministerial task forces and fostering collaboration between RECs and the AU could provide the coordination needed to harmonize priorities across sectors and regions.

Financial constraints represent another significant barrier. The ambitious objectives of the Declaration demand substantial investment, yet many countries face limited domestic budgets, inconsistent donor support, and insufficient private-sector engagement. High debt burdens further exacerbate the difficulty of securing long-term funding for agricultural initiatives. Exploring innovative financing mechanisms, such as public-private partnerships, blended finance, and agriculture-focused sovereign bonds, could attract the financial resources necessary to drive progress and unlock Africa's agricultural potential.

Robust monitoring and accountability systems are equally crucial for success. Previous CAADP cycles revealed inadequacies in data infrastructure, which hinder the ability to track progress and measure impact. Investments in digital agriculture, real-time data collection, geospatial technologies, and AI-driven analytics could revolutionize decision-making processes and enhance transparency. Partnerships with research institutions and private-sector data firms would also expand Africa's agricultural knowledge base, enabling evidence-based policymaking and adaptive strategies.

Building human capital is another priority. Effective implementation of the Declaration requires skilled personnel, yet many countries face capacity deficits, including insufficient technical expertise and limited access to training programs. Investing in vocational training for youth and women, establishing regional hubs for peer-to-peer learning, and creating agribusiness incubation centers could empower the next generation of agricultural leaders to drive transformation at all levels.

Environmental vulnerabilities add further complexity, as climate change continues to threaten agricultural productivity across Africa. Smallholder farmers are particularly affected by extreme weather events such as droughts and floods, which disrupt food systems and exacerbate food insecurity. Promoting climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices—such as drought-resistant crops and sustainable land management—while accessing global climate finance mechanisms, including the Green Climate Fund, will be essential for building resilience and ensuring long-term sustainability.

Finally, the success of the Kampala CAADP Declaration depends on inclusive stakeholder engagement. Farmers, youth, women, agribusinesses, and civil society organizations must play active roles in shaping policies that affect their livelihoods. Governments can create multi-stakeholder platforms to facilitate collaboration and ensure agricultural strategies reflect real-world needs. Agricultural innovation hubs and digital advisory services can further drive cooperation among key actors, fostering solutions that are both innovative and practical.

By addressing these challenges, Africa can seize the opportunity to turn obstacles into drivers of sustainable development. Through coordinated efforts, resource mobilization, strengthened data systems, capacity building, climate resilience, and stakeholder inclusion, the bold vision of the Kampala CAADP Declaration can become a reality, advancing a future where agriculture serves as the backbone of a prosperous and resilient Africa.

5. Strengthening Tools and Systems for Effective Implementation

There is an existing set of tools and instruments developed over the years to support the domestication of previous declarations and the implementation of CAADP.

On domestication and planning – CAADP had developed under the Malabo cycle a set of resources, including various tools and instruments to provide the guidance needed to action in alignment with the spirit of the Declaration, but also on the technical domestication of the Declaration into the National Agriculture Investment Plans (NAIPs). There is a range of existing resources that various stakeholders can tap into to support countries embarking on the domestication of the Kampala CAADP Declaration and also provide them with the necessary knowledge on support to implementation, tracking, and reporting on performance as a part of the accountability mechanisms in the food systems, knowledge management, and communication. It will be critical that all countries are guided by one domestication guideline to ensure consistency across the NASIPs.

On tracking and reporting – The provisions for performance reviews every two years were introduced in CAADP in the Malabo Declaration and, more specifically, through the seventh commitment. To translate that commitment into tangible action, a process was designed, agreed upon at the technical level, and endorsed by the AU leadership. Since the Biennial Review process was initiated in 2016, the AU, working with several players, has successfully led four CAADP Biennial Review cycles. The fifth and last cycle of the Malabo Declaration was recently initiated and is ongoing; the report will be presented for consideration in October or November 2025 to the AU Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water, and Environment (ARDWE).

Moving into Kampala, a revised accountability mechanism will be needed. The new look Biennial Review (BR 2.0) will have to be designed, building on existing assets from the current process. However, the existing set of indicators will be revised and streamlined along the new goals and targets set in the Kampala CAADP Declaration.

6. Policy Considerations

As the Kampala CAADP Declaration sets the stage for a more integrated and resilient agrifood system in Africa, a number of strategic considerations emerge to guide its effective implementation. These considerations build on the Declaration's core values—sustainability, inclusivity, and results orientation—while reinforcing the need for deliberate actions by all stakeholders to reach smallholder farmers, youth, and women. The following reflections offer concrete pathways to turn commitments into results and impact.

Effective implementation will depend on institutionalizing governance structures (UNFSS Secretariat 2021) that are both integrative and inclusive. This requires establishing inter-ministerial coordination platforms that align policies across agriculture, environment, finance, education, and trade. Crucially, these platforms must formally recognize and engage the voices of smallholder farmers, youth organizations, and women-led groups. Their participation is essential to ensure national strategies reflect lived realities, address persistent inequalities, and promote socially responsive and demand-driven policies. RECs and the AU can support these efforts through facilitation, technical guidance, and the harmonization of cross-border frameworks.

To ensure that the Kampala CAADP Declaration delivers measurable results, countries must operationalize its Theory of Change and Results Framework through inclusive, localized planning. National and sub-national agrifood systems investment plans should be developed using participatory tools that engage local governments, cooperatives, women entrepreneurs, and youth networks. These stakeholders are not just implementers—they are accountability agents who help verify that policy intentions translate into tangible improvements. Furthermore, alignment with global and continental frameworks such as the SDGs, NDCs, and UNFSS pathways will ensure coherence and simplify reporting, while enabling more efficient resource use.

Meeting the financing needs of the Kampala CAADP Declaration will require expanding public investments and leveraging innovative funding mechanisms. More importantly, finance must be accessible and equitable. Smallholder farmers, women, and youth—who often face disproportionate barriers to credit—should be prioritized through targeted instruments such as microfinance schemes, blended finance, climate adaptation funds, and agri-youth enterprise programs. Donors and financial institutions must support governments in designing de-risking tools and guarantee mechanisms that attract private investment into underserved rural areas. This will not only close financing gaps but also unlock the full economic potential of Africa's agrifood systems.

Finally, building resilient agrifood systems will demand long-term investments in capacity development and knowledge systems. Smallholder farmers, youth, and women must be empowered through inclusive training programs, rural innovation hubs, and digital advisory platforms tailored to their contexts. Governments should strengthen extension services, improve vocational training, and facilitate peer learning across countries and regions. Partnerships with research institutions, regional centers of excellence, and community-based organizations will be key to generating and scaling context-relevant innovations. This people-centered approach will ensure that the transformation envisioned in the Kampala CAADP Declaration is not only implemented but also sustained from the ground up.

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ABOUT AKADEMIYA2063

AKADEMIYA2063 is a pan-African non-profit research organization with headquarters in Kigali, Rwanda, and a regional office in Dakar, Senegal.

Inspired by the ambitions of Agenda 2063 and grounded in the recognition of the central importance of strong knowledge and evidence systems, the vision of AKADEMIYA2063 is an Africa with the expertise we need for the Africa we want. This expertise must be responsive to the continent's needs for data and analysis to ensure high-quality policy design and execution. Inclusive, evidence-informed policymaking is key to meeting the continent's development aspirations, creating wealth, and changing livelihoods for the better.

AKADEMIYA2063's overall mission is to create, across Africa and led from its headquarters in Rwanda, state-of-the-art technical capacities to support the efforts by the Member States of the African Union to achieve the key goals of the African Union's Agenda 2063 of transforming national economies to boost growth and prosperity.

Following from its vision and mission, the main goal of AKADEMIYA2063 is to help meet Africa's needs at the continental, regional and national levels in terms of data, analytics, and mutual learning for the effective implementation of Agenda 2063 and the realization of its outcomes by a critical mass of countries. AKADEMIYA2063 strives to meet its goals through programs organized under five strategic areas—policy innovation, knowledge systems, capacity creation and deployment, operational support, data management, digital products, and technology—as well as partnerships and outreach activities. For more information, visit www.akademiy2063.org.

Building Resilient and Sustainable Agrifood Systems in Africa



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