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KAMPALA POLICY BRIEF SERIES

ISSUE #3, JUNE 2025

Leveraging Data and Analytics for Accelerated Agrifood Systems Transformation – *The Role of Data Platforms and Localized Expertise in Africa*

By Augustin Wambo Yamdjeu, Babacar Ceesay, and Wondwosen Tefera

ReSAKSS Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System by AKADEMIYA2063

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Suggested Citation: Wambo Yamdjeu, A., B. Ceesay, and W. Tefera. 2025. *Leveraging Data and Analytics for Accelerated Agrifood Systems Transformation – The Role of Data Platforms and Localized Expertise in Africa.* Kampala Policy Brief Series, No. 03. Kigali: AKADEMIYA2063. https://doi.org/10.54067/kpbs.03

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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 will be presented to a broad range of stakeholders to guide programmatic interventions supporting the implementation of the Kampala CAADP Agenda.

Executive Summary

Data is the foundation for evidence-based policy and program planning and implementation. Availability, accessibility, and timeliness of quality data are critical to all facets of the policy cycle, facilitating evidence-driven decision-making, progress tracking, corrective measures, defining baselines, informed analysis, and setting priorities and realistic goals and targets toward the effective implementation and assessment of policy initiatives. Over two decades, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) has gained legitimacy as a continental framework, notably due to the central role of data and knowledge in advancing Africa's agricultural growth and transformation. This brief covers the experiences of AKADEMIYA2063 and other stakeholders in supporting two decades of analytical work to help inform decision-making by the African Union (AU) institutions, Member States, and a wide range of CAADP constituencies who have heavily relied on the knowledge generated with the purpose of informing future actions. Furthermore, this brief leaves readers with a) an enhanced understanding of the CAADP historical context and the role played by data and analytics in informing decision-making processes, b) a set of tested best practices to guide programmatic data interventions in Africa's agrifood systems, and c) a functional model for facilitating stakeholder dialogue and multisectoral collaboration around data, towards accelerating the implementation of the Kampala CAADP Agenda. It offers a set of recommendations aimed at facilitating policymaking.

Introduction

The release of this brief is particularly timely, as it follows the adoption of the Kampala CAADP Declaration as the culmination of an inclusive and transparent process that heavily relied on mobilizing data and analytics to inform the agenda-setting for the new 10-year CAADP cycle for Africa. This is a key topic that builds on the core principles and values of CAADP, and it sees the requirement of evidence-based planning, implementation, and monitoring as one of the cornerstones of the quest for building resilient agrifood systems. In the context of the just completed Post-Malabo Agenda development process, AKADEMIYA2063 facilitated the definition of the modalities for the mobilization of technical expertise and provided the needed technical backstopping to meet the data, analytical, and evidence needs of crafting a robust successor to Malabo.

Data is the foundation for evidence-based policy and program planning and implementation. The availability, accessibility, and timeliness of quality data are critical to making data-driven decisions, tracking progress, and taking corrective measures. In Africa, however, data production lacks frequency and suffers from poor quality and inaccuracies. Thus, the continent needs to enhance the capabilities of national data ecosystems by adopting transformative approaches in data collection, management, curation, analysis, and utilization (Obonyo 2022). A data ecosystem involves various stakeholders, procedures, technologies, and legal or policy structures that play a role in creating, storing, managing, and utilizing data (Hlaka 2022).

Data and analytics are essential to gather evidence, establish baselines, conduct meaningful assessments, set realistic objectives and

targets, and monitor progress to ensure accountability for both resources and outcomes. Typically, data exists, but users face several challenges, including rogue, incomplete, and scattered data, making it inconsistent and challenging to use. In the instances where data is available, it is often not easily accessible or simply overlooked even when it is available. As such, having proper and effective data systems that deliver timely value can be pricy because it costs money to collect, curate, store, and deploy when needed; still, in environments under financial constraints, priority is not often given to having such systems in place.

Another issue often faced is the limited technical expertise that challenges the ability to use data even when the latter is available, accessible, and of the required quality. Lack of requisite expertise and limited capabilities are equally among the issues faced in the use of data, considering geographical constraints and the absence of infrastructure to manipulate encoded data. At the same time, well-defined systematic processes and channels exist for interpreting data to convey evidence for policy planning and implementation.

Historically, African institutions played a crucial role in the mobilization of data and knowledge for policy planning, formulation, implementation, and tracking at the local level. This was best illustrated throughout the past two decades of CAADP. This brief seeks to build on existing knowledge, address the following specific questions, and help put them in the context of Kampala: i) what has been the issue around leveraging data and analytics to inform planning, implementation, and performance tracking during the first two CAADP decades? ii) how has this been addressed? and iii) what lessons have been learned, and how can they be harnessed to better support the implementation of Kampala?

As such, this brief offers an opportunity to: i) discuss the historical role of data and analytics providers and localized technical expertise in driving resilient and sustainable agrifood systems in Africa. It also invites to reflect on the contemporary experience of leveraging African expertise for evidence-based and impactful policy outcomes in the continent's agricultural sector; ii) highlight and profile existing and past data and analytical mechanisms that support the implementation of the CAADP Malabo Agenda, and discuss the various pathways for their contextualization in the Kampala CAADP era; and iii) discuss the role of African knowledge institutions/centers of excellence in informing the policy formulation cycle.

Following from the above objectives, this brief is expected to leave readers with a) an enhanced understanding, in the CAADP historical context, of the role played by data and analytics in informing decision-making processes, b) a set of tested best practices to guide programmatic data interventions in Africa's agrifood systems, and c) a functional model for facilitating stakeholder dialogue and multisectoral collaboration around data, toward accelerating the implementation of the Kampala CAADP Agenda.

1. Review of CAADP Data Platforms and Expert Networks

1.1 Country Data system/ecosystem

From its inception, CAADP has advocated for a change of mindset to fully embrace strong evidence-based planning and implementation. To a large extent, adherence to this core principle has been achieved in African countries. However, establishing well-resourced and effective country data ecosystems remains a challenge. Reinforcing country-level data ecosystems addresses the limitations related to data availability, quality, and use that Africa faces, leading to improved evidence-based decision-making. All entities that create, transform, and use data are considered actors in a country's data ecosystem. Engaging and empowering key actors is essential to strengthen a country's data system. The diverse range of entities in the data ecosystem includes national statistical offices, ministries, planning offices, academia, the research community, and the private sector, among others (PARIS21 2022).

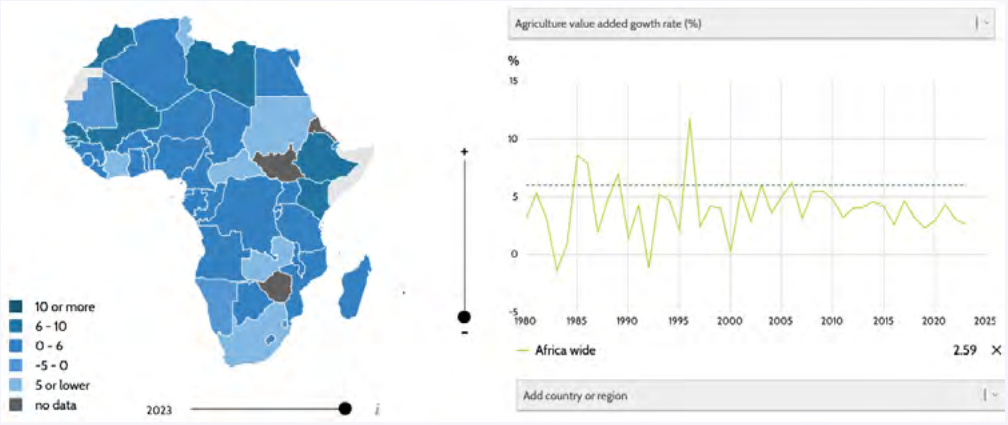
During each Biennial Review (BR) cycle, availing quality data was a challenge many countries faced. During the 4th BR process, for example, about 40 percent of the required data was missing at continental level. In addition, the problems with data quality suggest that nearly half of the countries may lack sufficient data to perform a thorough evaluation of their progress in executing the Malabo Declaration (AUC 2024). This is a significant issue that needs due attention and requires correction measures. The CAADP Strategy and Action Plan for the Kampala (2026-2035) period advocates for building stronger country data systems to strengthen evidence use in policymaking (AUC and AUDA-NEPAD 2025).

1.2 Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (ReSAKSS)

Since the early days of CAADP, a few programs have been initiated to enhance the capacity to generate and utilize evidence in decision-making. Established in 2006, ReSAKSS played a significant role in collecting, curating, and storing key data, providing access to data, analytical tools, and knowledge products to support CAADP benchmarking, review processes, and mutual learning. Having high-quality, regular, consistent, and up-to-date data is essential for ensuring evidence-based policymaking. As part of its role to provide data and analysis to inform CAADP implementation processes, ReSAKSS has been striving to make up-to-date, high-quality data available by performing quality checks and conducting continuous data follow-ups.

The ReSAKSS monitors progress on more than 30 indicators that are part of the CAADP Result Framework (RF) indicators, and data is regularly collected using secondary data from country sources and international databases. While the CAADP RF indicators are developed to track the progress in the implementation of the Malabo Declaration, the CAADP BR process, which commenced in 2015, introduced further indicators specifically focused on assessing all seven commitments of Malabo through the Africa Agriculture Transformation Scorecard. It is important to note that there exists considerable overlap between the indicators of the CAADP RF and those of the CAADP BR. The findings arising from the analysis of the CAADP RF data are reported through the ReSAKSS flagship Annual Trends and Outlook Reports (ATORs) and the ReSAKSS online platform (www.resakss.org). In every edition of the ATOR, one chapter is dedicated to reporting on the tracking of key CAADP indicators and the implementation process. The ReSAKSS website serves as the main platform for tracking progress on CAADP. It assembles a collection of CAADP indicators from various sources, and through its interactive feature, the website allows users to customize and compare CAADP indicators across African countries and regions. It also enables users to visually track the progress toward the various CAADP targets, such as the 6 percent annual agricultural productivity growth target (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: Visualization of CAADP indicators using the ReSAKSS website



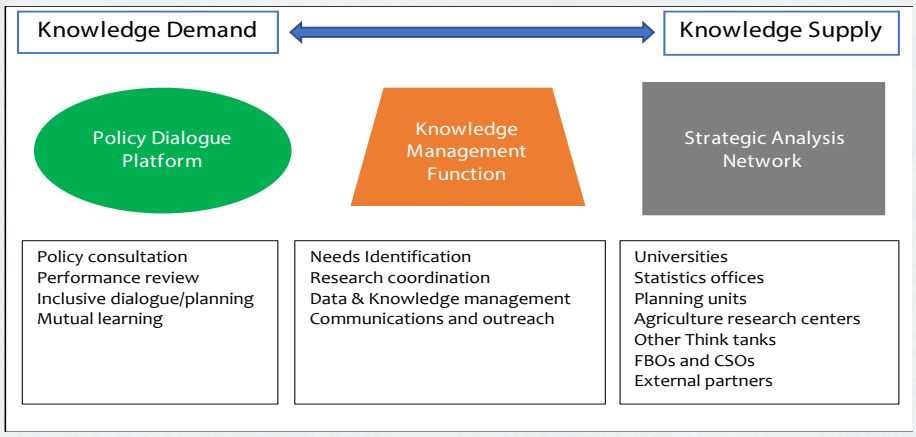
Source: ReSAKSS website.

The ReSAKSS website and social media platforms help publicize and disseminate key messages to stakeholders. From 2022 to 2024, the ReSAKSS website recorded an average of 6,925 unique visitors and 18,000 page views annually. By the end of April 2025, the Facebook and X accounts used to engage with key partners and promote ReSAKSS's work had 3,534 and 4,123 followers, respectively.

1.3 Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System

At the country level, ReSAKSS has provided support for the generation of data and evidence to guide the design and implementation of programs and interventions that enhance the effectiveness of the CAADP process. Specifically, ReSAKSS has established and operationalized a country-level Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (SAKSS) in over a dozen African countries to meet the specific analytical and capacity needs. The SAKSS acts as a broker of strategic analysis and knowledge, connecting demand and supply to inform evidence-based decision-making (see Figure 2). The SAKSS is a network comprising individuals and institutions that aims to deliver timely, credible, and evidence-based knowledge and analysis to inform agricultural and rural development strategies in the continent (Phiri 2014). The establishment of country-level SAKSS has been beneficial for the countries by offering analytical and data support for the planning and execution of diverse programs and initiatives within the agricultural sector.

Figure 2: Country SAKSS-linking data, analysis, and policy



Source: Ulimwengu et al. (2020).

The SAKSS nodes established in various countries have achieved notable success. These achievements encompass providing valuable data and analysis to policymakers and supporting the implementation of national agriculture strategy documents. Moreover, they promoted collaboration among researchers, policymakers, and other stakeholders.

1.4 Local Analysis Network

In countries where SAKSS platforms have been established, ReSAKSS has actively engaged with national governments to enhance the SAKSS structure and develop it into a fully-fledged local analysis network (LAN). The LANs brought together centers of expertise engaged in data and policy research at the national level to support policy and program planning and implementation. By creating LANs, the SAKSS linked local knowledge hubs with governmental agencies.

Based on the experience learned from the LANs that were formalized in over a dozen countries where SAKSS platforms were established, ReSAKSS supported the establishment and operationalization of LANs in four countries since 2023, including in Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Senegal, and Zimbabwe (AKADEMIYA2063 2024b). The LANs in each country are composed of the public sector (ministries, statistics offices, and departments), food business operators, civil society organizations (including farmers' unions), development partners, academia, research institutions, and the private sector. Emerging findings from the pilot countries with full LANs suggest that the implementation of these expert networks brought improved coordination, facilitated policy dialogue and capacity building, and encouraged improved evidence utilization by the policymakers.

In the four countries where the LANs were fully operationalized, they were successful in providing technical, analytical support, and capacity development for CAADP implementation. For broader impact at continental level, the LANs need to be upscaled and expanded into more countries during the Kampala period. To ensure sustainability and enhance the adoption of the LAN during the Kampala era, it is crucial to consider the following key requirements derived from the operationalization of the LAN across the four phase 1 countries: i) appropriate level of funding is key and mobilizing resources is critical for successful implementation; ii) ensuring sustainability and avoiding dependence on project funding, enable the LAN to function in the national systems; and iii) encourage strong partnership for generation, dissemination, and utilization of research evidence.

1.5 AGRODEP Modeling Consortium

The African Growth and Development Policy (AGRODEP) Modeling Consortium (AKADEMIYA2063 2025a) is enabling a critical mass of world-class economic modelers across Africa to take a leading role in addressing strategic development issues across the continent, including helping meet the analytical needs of the CAADP implementation agenda.

AGRODEP facilitates the use of economic modeling tools, promotes access to data, and provides training, research grants, and networking opportunities to its network of Africa-based experts, equally supporting collaboration between these experts and their peers outside the continent to build a dynamic research community that can respond to the continent's emerging and long-term needs.

Thematic networks under the AGRODEP Modelling Consortium serve as fora for scientific exchange, training, and capacity-building for more than 300 members from 36 African countries, 28 percent of whom are women. Currently, the following 06 networks operate in thematic areas of great interest to Kampala: Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Network, Value Chain Analysis Network, Resilience Measurement Network, Impact Evaluation Network, Climate Change Network, Regional Trade and Integration Network. Regular meetings and conferences allow AGRODEP members to receive feedback on their latest research and learn from world experts about state-of-the-art methodologies. Meanwhile, capacity-strengthening and training workshops serve as a platform to promote technical and methodological innovation to ensure that the Consortium remains a world-class entity.

Competitive grants and publications support awards to promote scientific advances and support research activities, such as participation in scientific conferences.

2. Accountability Mechanisms

2.1 Electronic Biennial Review (e-BR)

While the BR framework laid a strong foundation for promoting evidence-based accountability across the continent, the implementation of its first cycle in 2017 highlighted several operational challenges. At the time, Member States submitted their reports using static MS Word templates, which were transmitted to Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and later compiled manually into spreadsheets. This workflow proved to be time-intensive and prone to versioning issues, formula errors, and data inconsistencies.

Recognizing the need for a more efficient and transparent process, the African Union Commission (AUC), with support from ReSAKSS, launched the electronic Biennial Review (e-BR) platform ahead of the second cycle in 2019. The new platform marked a major step toward the digital transformation of the BR process. Designed as a centralized and user-friendly web application, the e-BR ensures real-time collaboration between Member States, RECs, and the AUC and supports seamless data entry, validation, and analysis.

As a web-based system, the e-BR is designed to simplify and standardize BR data collection, validation, and reporting across countries, RECs, and the AUC. Key features of the e-BR platform include:

- *Web-based accessibility*: Users at the country, regional, and continental levels can access the same platform using any internet-enabled device. This ensures real-time collaboration and harmonized data entry.
- *Role-based access*: The system accommodates different user profiles (e.g., national focal points, REC coordinators, AUC supervisors), ensuring that users can only access features and data relevant to their responsibilities.
- *Automated score computation*: Once data is entered, the platform calculates indicator and theme scores based on the technical notes. This removes the risk of formula errors and ensures consistent application across countries.
- *Built-in validations and restrictions*: The platform includes logic to flag inconsistencies, require mandatory fields, and apply restrictions informed by Technical Working Group (TWG) guidance.
- *Generation of outputs*: It can instantly generate country profiles and regional and continental scorecards in all six official AU languages—Arabic, English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, and Kiswahili.

Harnessing lessons from three rounds of critical of the BR architecture and process, the platform has also evolved over time. New language support has been added to accommodate French speakers. The scoring methodology and system constraints are updated each cycle based on technical feedback and lessons learned. Notably, interoperability features, such as integration with the ECOWAS Monitoring and Evaluation system, have been introduced to allow data reuse and reduce duplication.

2.2 Joint Sector Review

Agriculture Joint Sector Reviews (JSR) serve as an essential component of mutual accountability within CAADP. During the Malabo cycle, it was acknowledged as the primary mechanism for implementing the mutual accountability framework. The recently released Kampala CAADP Declaration also reaffirms the significance of JSR as an integral component of CAADP mutual accountability; the Declaration anticipates that by 2030, all countries will integrate the CAADP BR process into their national agriculture JSR platforms (AUC and AUDA-NEPAD 2025).

ReSAKSS has been working to strengthen agriculture JSRs since the adoption of the Malabo Declaration. Between 2015 and 2019, ReSAKSS conducted JSR assessments in more than 20 countries and two RECs. The assessments examined the institutional and policy environment and the efficacy of

agricultural review practices. Moreover, the assessments pinpointed areas that require improvement to assist countries and RECs in establishing JSR processes that are consistent, thorough, and inclusive. Results from the JSR evaluations have offered valuable insights into the country JSR processes.

2.3 CAADP Pillar Lead Institutions (PLI model)

Under the CAADP Maputo era, the "Pillar Lead Institutions" (PLIs) were defined as organizations or networks of expertise responsible for helping implement each of the CAADP pillars (NPCA 2010). The experience of mobilizing expertise was mostly marked by the deployment of African centers of excellence invited by the AU to serve as conveners assigned to facilitate the domestication of the Maputo Agenda. Such a move became necessary as the process was facing a crippling challenge of weak technical and institutional capacity that was seriously affecting the pace of implementation. Under these arrangements, and in an advisory transnational role, PLIs contributed to the preparation of operational framework documents for key CAADP Pillars, which were the technical underpinnings of the CAADP process (World Bank 2016) and provided good analytical support to the main issues. More specifically, PLIs contributed thematic expertise in respective areas, helped cross-fertilize lessons learned, promoted regional and continental networking, and assisted with quality assurance (GDPRD 2009)[1].

Table 1: CAADP Pillar Lead Institutions and their deliverables

CAADP Pillar	Pillar Lead Institutions	Main Deliverable
Pillar 1: Extending the area under sustainable land management and reliable water control systems	University of Zambia and Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS)[2]	Framework for Sustainable Land and Water Management (FSLWM)
Pillar 2: Improving rural infrastructure and trade-related capacities for market access	Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of West and Central Africa (CMA/WCA)	Framework for the Improvement of Rural Infrastructure and Trade-related Capacities for Market Access (FIMA)
Pillar 3: Increasing food supply and reducing hunger	University of Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa and CILSS	Framework for African Food Security (FAFS)
Pillar 4: Agricultural research, technology dissemination and adoption	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)	Framework for African Agricultural Productivity

Source: NPCA (2010).

Funding for the CAADP PLIs came from the multi-donor trust fund (MDTF) to facilitate CAADP operations at continental institutions such as the AUC Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (AUC-DREA) and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), as well as four RECs (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa – COMESA, Economic Community of Central African States – ECCAS, Economic Community of West African States – ECOWAS, and Southern African Development Community – SADC, each receiving a multi-year funding through individual child trust funds (World Bank 2016).

As highlighted in the final evaluation of the MDTF, despite the relevance of CAADP and that of the PLI model, in principle, it quickly became apparent that while the PLIs could make important contributions in their technical areas, most of them lacked the capacity to deliver CAADP technical knowledge, particularly at the national level consistently and effectively.

1 This document was developed by the CAADP Development Partners Task Team of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development in collaboration with the AUC and AUDA-NEPAD. The document was reviewed, revised, and endorsed by participants at the CAADP Donor and Partners meeting in Addis Ababa, on September, 6-9, 2009.
2 In French "Comité permanent Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel."

The termination of the funding also meant the immediate cessation of PLI operations, and this development was probably the clearest illustration of the unsustainability of the PLI model. Key lessons from this experience include the notion that a broader network of expertise is required to satisfy the necessary capacity in the respective areas, with the PLIs expected to convene networks of experts in pillar areas who are available to assist countries in CAADP implementation and groom these experts.

2.4 Technical Networks Model

Back in 2016, the CAADP Technical Networks (TNs) were designed as communities of practice coordinated by the AU to provide technical support and capacity development to AU Member States, RECs, and other CAADP implementers by pooling together and using the technical knowledge currently existing in Africa to address capacity gaps to enable technical agencies to provide the capacity enhancement, in their area of expertise. From the onset, the AU coordinated the seven TNs initiated to accelerate CAADP implementation through collaborative platforms by harnessing and providing technical support (AUDA-NEPAD 2020).

In 2020, after some four years in operations, the AUDA-NEPAD undertook a participatory review of the TNs, an exercise that involved a broad range of CAADP partnering institutions. The review revealed that members of the TNs were drawn from organizations with a track record of technical expertise in at least one of the pillars of CAADP, with presence in the continent, resources, credibility, and willingness to be part of the TN to support the implementation of the CAADP. All the TNs had a convening organization, identified based on the following criteria: a proven track record of leadership and delivery, a core mandate relevant to the domain under consideration, proven evidence of performance over time and constituency trust, and willingness to contribute to the process.

In their deployment, TNs found it challenging to integrate their work with that of lead organizations and members since their members' resources were earmarked for other projects. In a nutshell, the review found that little had been achieved in mobilizing resources, with a few reporting some success in securing seed funding from donor support, the contribution of members, and convening organizations. Because the participation in the TN activities was voluntary, the former remained largely inactive due to the technical experts' limited ability to commit. Most of the TNs did not travel to Member States to provide the intended support. Only a few of them had received support requests from countries through consultative meetings. Yet, the establishment of continuous consultative meetings with countries and continuous interaction between the networks and country CAADP teams was suggested as an appropriate method to activate and catalyze demand and identify Member States' needs besides those already gleaned from the BR report outcomes. Members of the TNs could also set up an account on a common platform for regular communication and meetings to avoid overlapping and unnecessary competition for the smooth implementation of activities.

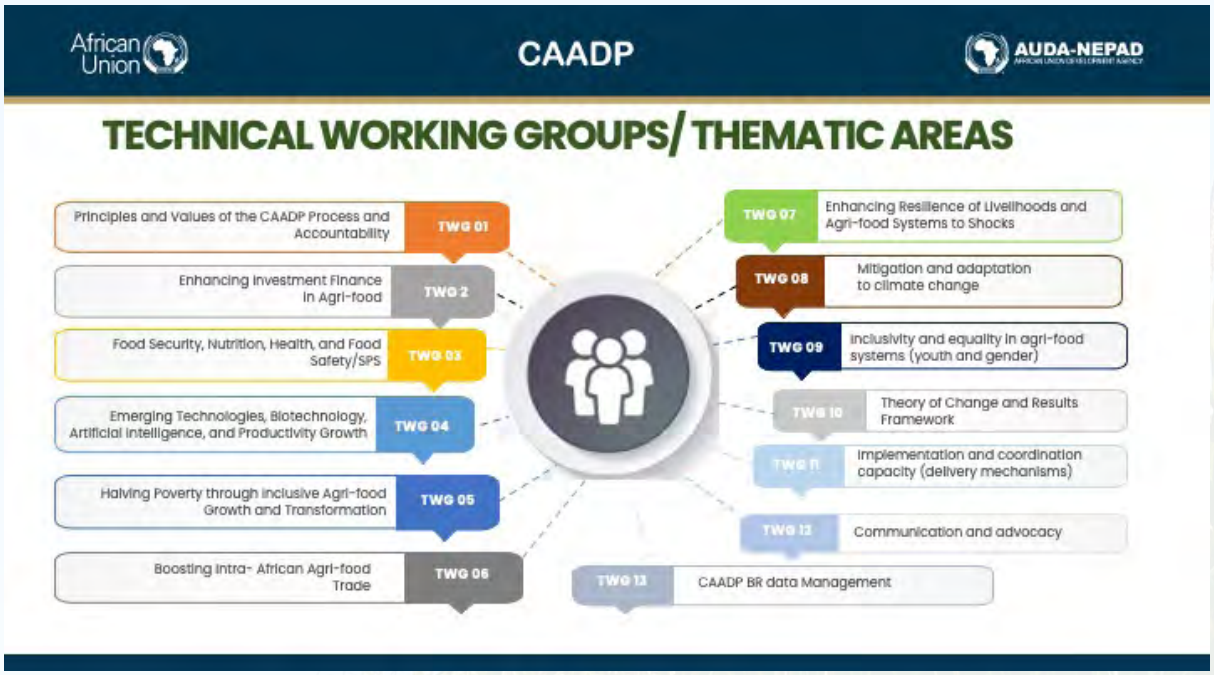
The above challenges combined deterred the TNs from developing into vibrant institutions. The model was supported by Africa Lead, a timebound project of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) Feed the Future Program, and technically facilitated by PICO East Africa, a contractor specializing in multistakeholder process facilitation.

2.5 Technical Working Group (TWG) Model

In 2024, the AU launched the "Post-Malabo Agenda Development" process, providing the political leadership and drive to renew the continent's agrifood systems transformation agenda. This has culminated in the adoption of the new 10-year Strategy on CAADP (2026-2035). The operational model adopted for the process comprised two workstreams, including one on "Stakeholder Engagement and Dialogue" and the other one on "Data and Analytics," intentionally timing and synergizing their efforts toward delivering the new strategy (Wambo Yamdjeu and Diop 2024). To that effect, 13 TWGs (see Figure 3) made up the "Data and Analytics" workstream, all facilitated by AKADEMIYA2063 as a technical partner. The TWGs were convened by and composed of leading African centers of expertise, research institutions, academia, technical development agencies, as well as global partners, with the

main role 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 (AKADEMIYA2063 2024a).

Figure 3: TWGs and Thematic Areas in the Post-Malabo Agenda Development Process



Source: Bahiigwa and Fotabong (2024).

Besides the technical facilitation of the work of the TWGs, some financial support was needed to meet the staff time for the coordinating entities. Judging from the consistency in the engagements among participating institutions and individual experts, the group coordination by the assigned conveners and co-conveners, and, more importantly, the timely delivery by all the groups on the 13 individual technical reports, this model has proven to be effective in bridging the data gaps that needed to be filled to make this process conclusive.

3. Policy Lessons

Reviewing the above experiences in the context of the new 10-year CAADP strategy that underscores, under Strategic Objective #6, the importance of addressing the data and analytics challenge and promoting greater continental and regional collaborations in collecting and sharing data is critical. This post-summit phase of the AU's Post-Malabo Development process presents an opportunity to leverage lessons from the foregoing experiences to facilitate effective implementation and domestication at continental and country levels.

3.1. **Institutionalization of Knowledge-sharing:** It is recommended to have a consortium of like-minded knowledge institutions working together to promote greater knowledge development and data sharing through integrated web-based platforms, while individual experts are linked to the effort through innovative, collaborative research (strategic analysis), capacity-strengthening, and dialogue. Reinforcing country-level data ecosystems should be a primary focus to ensure the effective management and utilization of data. High-quality data is essential for efficient monitoring and analysis and for formulating policies based on solid evidence. Enhancing data availability and management can significantly improve the effectiveness of data reporting and analysis throughout the Kampala CAADP period. The experience we have

obtained demonstrates that LANs facilitate the availability of a greater amount of data and analysis, which in turn helps provide more evidence-based solutions for policymakers. During the Kampala CAADP years, if properly resourced, well institutionalized, and linked to the official country data systems, the LANs can assist and streamline the country BR process from data collection to validation and submission. However, to achieve better results and impact, it is crucial to clearly articulate the concept and role of the LAN. Also, enabling the LAN function in the national systems is crucial to sustain evidence and outcome-based policy planning and implementation.

3.2. **Strengthening the Interoperability of the e-BR:** As the CAADP framework transitions into its third decade, the BR will remain the principal mechanism through which Africa tracks progress, identifies gaps, and informs collective action. More specifically, one could consider expanding and integrating the e-BR Platform by scaling its use beyond CAADP indicators to become a broader policy tracking and accountability tool and strengthening interoperability with REC and national platforms (including LAN platforms). It would be equally helpful to explore strengthening local data ecosystems and expertise by investing in localized expertise (LANs, TWGs, AGRODEP) to co-generate data and analytics with national institutions and promote demand for data and analytics by policymakers through regular policy dialogues anchored in BR results.

3.3. **Leveraging African Expertise in Economic Modeling:** Because the role of economic modelers will remain central to help translate the Kampala CAADP Agenda into concrete action, it will be crucial that AGRODEP Modelling Consortium, in this context, continues to serve as an active mechanism to help African countries maintain their strategic focus by optimizing policies and strategies across the continent, with a plan to set up an AGRODEP Kampala Task Force to increase the critical mass of expertise to support implementation.

3.4. **Enhancing Linkages between Technical Networks:** There is a clear need to ensure more formalized provision of overall coordination and designing of work programs of the TNs by the AU by drawing the activities from the AU work programs. The institutionalization of the TNs through formal registration, operating guidelines, and a resourcing strategy will boost the contributions of the experts. Furthermore, there is added value in integrating the TNs into already existing and well-functioning networks, such as the BR TWGs, given that most TN members of the TNs are also members of the BR TWGs. This will limit duplication of efforts and competition for limited funding and create an enabling environment for the TNs to function more effectively. Overall, enhancing multi-level coordination to formalize linkages between TNs, BR TWGs, LANs, and modelers could facilitate co-production of knowledge, ensuring feedback loops from analysis to action and establishing regional consortia to harmonize tools and methodologies across RECs.

Ensuring accountability, quality, standards, and timely delivery are vital requirements to constantly monitor and regularly communicate on progress reports based on a pre-agreed action plan and periodic evaluation of their contributions, internal review system, and putting in place performance indicators. Together, these recommendations offer policymakers some tested insights for strengthening the data-policy nexus under the new Kampala CAADP strategy—anchored in African institutions, driven by localized expertise, and powered by collaborative platforms like the e-BR, AGRODEP, TNs, and LANs.

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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.

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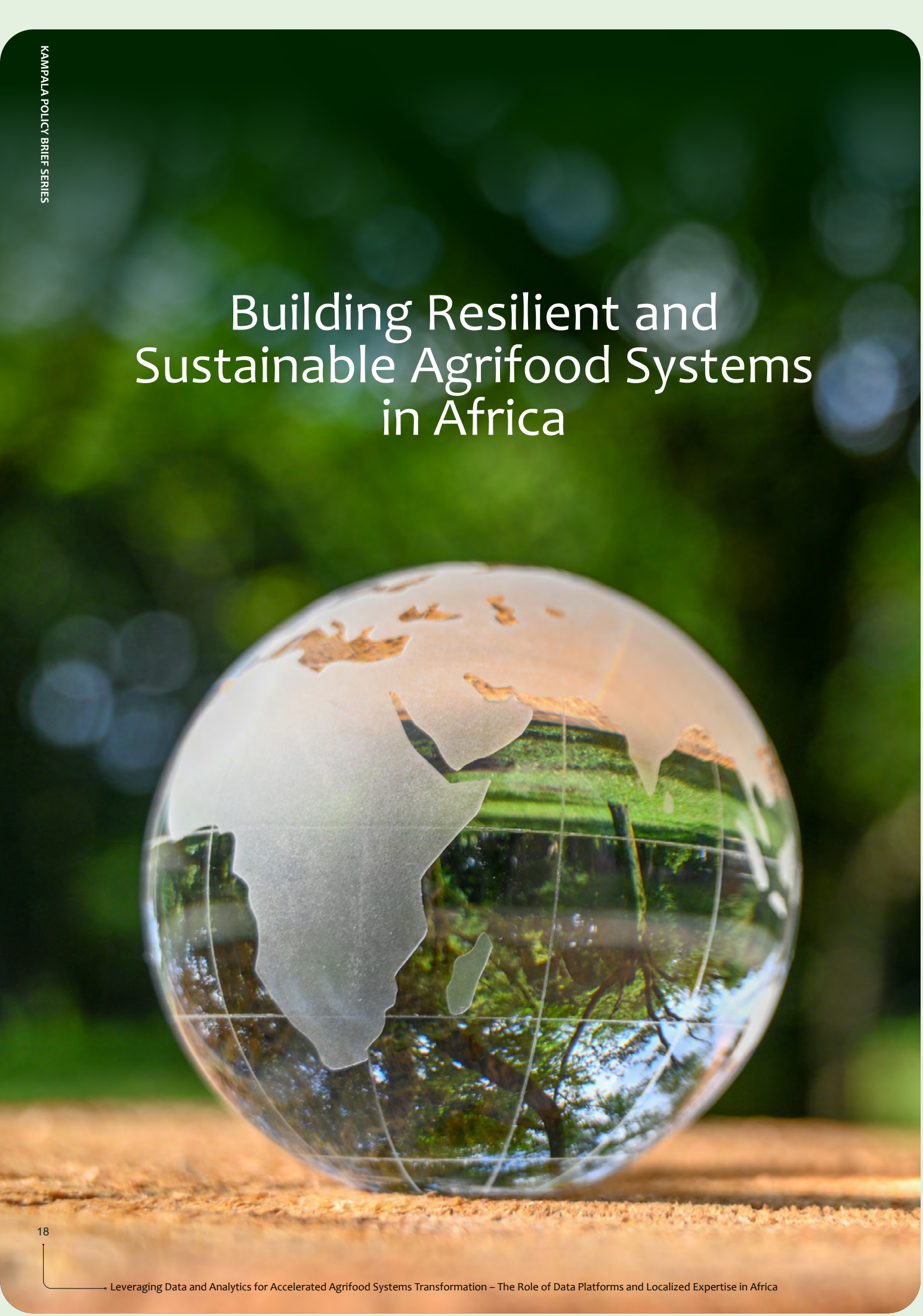
Building Resilient and Sustainable Agrifood Systems in Africa



AKADEMIYA2063 is supported by the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Gates Foundation, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the Mastercard Foundation. The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the partners.

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