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# **REGIONAL CONSULTATION ON POST-MALABO AGENDA**

# **WESTERN AFRICA REGION**

**CONCEPT NOTE & AGENDA**

**Background and Context**

The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) is the premier initiative that provides a framework for the African Union Commission (AUC), AUDA-NEPAD, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and Member States to develop and implement strategies to achieve agricultural transformation, wealth creation, food security and nutrition, economic growth, and prosperity for all in line with the African Agenda 2063. After two decades of CAADP implementation (Maputo 2003, Malabo 2014), the continent has made significant progress in economic and agricultural growth, reduced poverty, and malnutrition, expanded agricultural trade, and public agricultural investments. Despite this progress, immense challenges remain and more still need to be done. This challenge is exacerbated by global issues, including climate change, geopolitical tensions and conflicts, disease pandemics, and economic downturns. In addition, the changing African Agri-food system due to changes in the demographics, urbanization, technology, dietary habits, increasing dietary diversification and consumption of processed food, and employment in the processing sector calls for innovation, adaptation, re-invigoration and scale up if Africa is to achieve CAADP commitments.

ECOWAS developed the ECOWAS Agriculture Policy (ECOWAP), which remains the guiding document for managing and governance agriculture in West Africa. The ECOWAP, launched in 2005, two years after the development of CAADP, is neatly linked with CAADP and continues to be designed, domesticated, and reviewed in line with the CAADP. ECOWAP @10 was celebrated in 2015 and re-designed to serve as a working document until 2025. To this effect, ECOWAS Member States have had their National Investment Plans and the Regional Agricultural Investment Plan as instruments to reflect the ECOWAP/CAADP initiatives. It is, therefore, imperative that CAADP, ECOWAP, RAIP, and NAIPs are due for review and re-design.

**Looking back on 20 years of CAADP implementation**

Designed to be a practical instrument and framework by which Africa was going to drive efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, CAADP emphasizes the importance of evidence to inform policy design and implementation, inclusive participation of multiple stakeholder groups at all stages of the policy process, and mutual accountability for actions and results. All of these principles contribute to the formulation of high-quality policies and help to ensure that successful policies are scaled up while unsuccessful policies are adjusted. CAADP has raised the profile of agriculture and encouraged greater policy and investment focus on the sector, with its strong linkages to overall economic growth.

After two decades of CAADP implementation, the continent has made enormous progress in terms of economic and agricultural growth, improvement in poverty and nutrition outcomes, expansion of agricultural trade, and public investments in agriculture. Key achievements in these areas are summarized below.

**Strong agricultural and economic growth:** Africa realized sustained economic growth in the last two decades, more than doubling its GDP from US$1.2 trillion in 2000 to US$2.7 trillion in 2021[[1]](#footnote-1). Economic growth was especially high during the early 2000s, with 5.5% growth in GDP in real terms between 2000 and 2008. GDP per capita also showed rapid growth in the 2000s, with more moderate growth in the 2010s until the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Africa has had the fastest growing agricultural sector of all world regions since 2000. Like overall GDP, agriculture value added more than doubled in the past two decades, increasing from US$ 192 billion to US$ 427 billion between 2000 and 2021. During the same period, labor productivity grew by over 40 percent and land productivity more than doubled. The agricultural sector continued to grow consistently throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Robust growth in intra-regional and global agricultural trade:** Between 2003 and 2021, the value of intra-African agricultural trade increased by 175 percent from US$ 5.4 billion to US$ 14.9 billion. Africa’s global agricultural exports signiﬁcantly increased from US$ 25.3 billion in 2003 to US$ 73.2 billion in 2021. Currently around 20 percent of Africa’s agricultural exports are directed within the continent. A share that has stagnated and needs to be raised significantly.

**Improvement in most poverty and nutrition outcomes:** Africa’s headcount poverty index declined by around one third over the past two decades, from 46.0 percent in 2000 to 32.4 percent in 2019. The prevalences of wasting and underweight in children under five also declined by around one third during the same period, while child stunting declined by over 20 percent. The overall prevalence of undernourishment declined steadily until the mid-2010s, before increasing slightly in the second half of the decade and more sharply with the advent of the pandemic in 2020.

**Increasing public investment in agriculture:** In absolute terms, public expenditure on agriculture (PAE) increased from US$ 10.7 billion in 2000 to US$ 17.0 billion in 2021. Growth in PAE was especially strong during the early-mid 2000s, increasing at an annual average of 4.1 percent from 2000 to 2008. In a context of rising public investments in areas including infrastructure and social protection, the shares of PAE in total public expenditure and in agriculture value added declined over the past two decades, indicating an opportunity to boost agricultural investment by returning more of the wealth resulting from strong agricultural growth back to the sector. Nevertheless, current agricultural public investment has risen to double the levels seen in the 1990s.

After 20 years of CAADP implementation, Africa is in a remarkably better position than at the time of the Maputo declaration in 2003. GDP and average incomes, agricultural output and productivity, agricultural trade and agricultural investments are significantly higher while hunger and poverty have declined. Despite this progress, immense challenges remain. The COVID-19 pandemic interrupted economic growth and caused deterioration in hunger and nutrition outcomes which may require years to recover from. However, even before the pandemic, the rapid progress since the early 2000s had begun to slow on several fronts. In particular, decelerating economic growth and increasing undernourishment present significant challenges to maintaining the progress achieved under CAADP. There is need to deepen the CAADP process and redouble effort to sustain and accelerate progress.

**The Post-Malabo Agenda**

With the Malabo declaration ending in 2025, the African Union and its partners have embarked on an ambitious process to outline the next 10-year agenda for the continent. The Post Malabo Agenda development provides an opportunity for stakeholders to look at the above challenges within the realm of emerging trends and opportunities to establish a new Agenda for the continent. The CAADP Malabo Declaration emphasizes the engagement of public and private stakeholders in driving the African agricultural transformation Agenda. The Post Malabo Agenda development process will involve stakeholder consultations, research and analysis, design and drafting, and political mobilization across the continent, culminating in the declaration of a new agenda and commitments by the Heads of State and Government (HOSG) by the end of January 2025. This process will consider the review of the ECOWAP for West Africa to ensure consistency, relevance, and complementarity while avoiding duplication of efforts.

To ensure wider participation, contribution, representation, and ownership by the Member States, the African Union (AU) and the Regional Economic Communities will conduct regional consultations with their Member States and Stakeholders to provide input for the ECOWAP/CAADP Post Malabo Agenda. Engaging policymakers and stakeholders at national, regional, and continental levels to provide evidence and to reflect on progress, achievement, lessons, and emerging trends will inform priorities and strategies for the new agenda as well as how the countries and stakeholders can enhance their capacity, double their efforts and collaboration to tackle the challenges.

**Objectives of Regional Consultation on ECOWAP/Post Malabo**

The main objectives of this meeting are to:

* Facilitate outreach, awareness, socialization, building momentum, and political buy-in for the ECOWAP/CAADP Post Malabo process and issues.
* Facilitate stakeholder reflections and learning on the last 20 years of ECOWAP/CAADP to inform the future.
* Enable stakeholders to provide input and inform the ECOWAP/CAADP post-Malabo agenda.
* Have a wider perspective and build consensus on key issues and technical options.
* Develop a synthesis report to inform the final drafting of the ECOWAP/CAADP post-Malabo agenda.

**Proposed Design and Structure of Regional Consultation (Process and Approach) on Post-Malabo**

The Regional Consultations will involve four critical technical and political processes/steps outlined below.

1. **A virtual preparatory meeting of six stakeholder groups in the agriculture sector was held on Thursday,** 16 May 2024. At this meeting, participants discussed and agreed on Guidelines for Member States and Regional Stakeholders’ technical preparation and input,
2. **Three days (June 12-14, 2024) Regional Technical consultative meeting** for the Six stakeholder groups technical experts. This will be a well-structured meeting that includes:
	1. Technical input presentation on the success and failure of ECOWAP/CAADP Malabo. May include pre-analysis/synthesis, topics, and questions provided by AU/ECOWAP/TWG to frame the discussions.
	2. Member State presentation indicated above.
	3. Reflection, discussion, and input on the new Agenda

*Note: Discussion should focus on national, regional, and continental engagement and roles.*

1. **Political level consultation** meeting for Ministers (1 day), date July 18, 2024
2. Submission for **Regional Consultation Input** for Drafting Post Malabo Agenda

To ensure that the regional consultation input (feedback) is integrated into the post-Malabo Agenda (drafting), the process will:

1. Have technical framing and input presentation from TWG based on the stage of the work. This can be in terms of preliminary analysis findings, defined topics, or questions on specific areas that require deliberation. TWG will participate in regional meetings to provide content and to capture deliberations.
2. Additionally, the outcome from Regional Consultations will be synthesized, consolidated, and submitted to the drafting team for consideration.

**Recommended Participants**

RECs will generate a list of participants in consultation with the Post Malabo Process Coordination/ Facilitation team in a way that ensures better representation and inclusivity and captures critical expertise and critical voices.

**The list of participants for the regional consultation on June 12 to 14, 2024 will include** Member States representatives of the six stakeholder groups; REC Focal Points, representatives from relevant technical departments; representatives of Post Malabo Process TWGs, experts from the ECOWAP thematic groups and the six stakeholder groups (Government – ECOWAS Parliament, development partners, research institutions, private sector, agricultural farmers, Non-State Actors, Civil Society Organizations), regional organizations, regional biennial Review (BR) experts.

**Agenda**

**Annex**

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**Contact Persons**

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1. All statistics provided in this section are from the ReSAKSS database (<https://www.resakss.org/node/11>) unless otherwise stated. Dollar values are given in constant 2015 US$ unless otherwise stated. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)