



REGIONAL LAUNCH OF FOURTH BIENNIAL REPORT AND PRELIMINARY 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. Successive CAADP-Malabo Biennial Reviews since 2017 indicate that only one country is on track to meet the CAADP Malabo Commitments. 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 as well as 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.

Regional Launch of the Fourth Biennial Review Report

One of the seven Malabo commitments is Commitment 7, which highlights mutual accountability, requiring a biennial review process that culminates into a biennial review report. This has been done consistently from 2017 to 2023 when we had four Biennial review reports. After each Biennial Review Report is endorsed by African Heads of State, the African Union Commission launches the report at the continental level. Cascading it downwards, ECOWAS organizes a regional launch where the report is officially presented to the ECOWAP Six stakeholder groups to know about the report, critic the report, and agree on how each group would contribute to advocacy and influence implementation of recommendations to not only improve the region's scores but to effect change in the countries and ultimately, the region.

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 also 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 BR Launch and Consultation on Post Malabo

The main objectives of this meeting are to:

- Formally present the fourth Biennial Review Report to the ECOWAP Six stakeholder groups

- Provide analysis that would critic the Biennial Review Report
- Agree and develop major steps to improve on the region's performance
- 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 into and inform the ECOWAP/CAADP post-Malabo agenda.
- Have a wider perspective and begin building 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. **Virtual preparatory meeting** of six stakeholder groups in the agriculture sector of member states and the region. At this meeting, participants will discuss and agree on Guidelines for Member States and Regional Stakeholders' technical preparation and input, which may include National Consultations, Regional Consultations, and Presentations (Country and Regional). This meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 17 May 2024 starting from 08:00 am GMT.
Zoom link:
<https://araa-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcocu2hrzkqE9OA4IMZvkzQ99zts5GVKBWa>
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:
 - a. 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.
 - b. Member State presentation indicated above.
 - c. Reflection, discussion, and input on the new Agenda

Note: Discussion should focus on national, regional, and continental engagement and roles.
3. **Political level consultation** meeting for Ministers (1 day), date TBD
4. 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 and in a way that ensures better representation, inclusivity and captures critical expertise and critical voices.

I. The list of participants for the virtual meeting scheduled for May 16-17, 2024 will include Member States representatives of the six stakeholder groups:

- Government (Technical Directors, CAADP Focal Point Persons, Directors of Agriculture sector-related ministries, departments, agencies, and Members of Parliament).
- Civil Society Organizations (Lead and at least 3 other experts)
- Private Sector (Lead and at least 3 other experts)
- Farmers Organizations (Lead and at least 3 other experts)
- Researchers (Lead and at least 3 other experts)
- Development Partners (Lead and at least 3 other experts)
- Non-State Actors (Lead and at least 3 other experts)

RECs 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.

Proposed Agenda for the Virtual Preparatory Meeting

The objective of the virtual preparatory meeting is to prepare regional stakeholders and Member States for the physical, technical, and ministerial level meetings. The meeting will discuss the process and agree on the preparations that regional stakeholders and member states must make (share guidelines) and the timeline, roles, and expectations for the meeting.

AGENDA

ITEM	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	TIME	DURATION
DAY I – THURSDAY 16 MAY 2024			
Participants settle in (Online and offline) Guidelines on zoom	ECOWAS	08:30 – 09:00 am	30 minutes
Introduction of participants	Facilitator	09:00 – 09:15 am	15 minutes
Official Opening	ECOWAS	09:15 – 09:20 am	05 minutes
BIENNIAL REVIEW REPORT			
Presentation of the fourth BR Report	ECOWAS	09:20 – 09:45 am	25 minutes
Analysis of the BR Report (BR 1-4)	Regional BR Expert	09:45 – 10:15 am	30 minutes
Open discussion	Facilitator	10:15 – 10:30 am	15 minutes
Recognition of Countries and Regional teams and action planning	ECOWAS	10:30 – 11:00 am	30 minutes
COFFEE BREAK		11:00 – 11:30 am	30 minutes
POST MALABO CONSULTATION			
Background and Overview of Post Malabo	AU	11:30 – 11:40 am	10 minutes
Background and Overview of ECOWAP after 2025	ECOWAS	11:40 am – 12:00 pm	20 minutes
Presentation and Discussion on Plan and Design for the Physical Meetings (OBJECTIVES)	Coordination Team Members	12:00 – 12:15 pm	15 minutes
Presentation and Discussion on Plan and Design for the Physical Meetings (AGENDA)	Coordination Team Members	12:15 – 12:30 pm	15 minutes
Presentation and Discussion on Plan and Design for the Physical Meetings (STRUCTURE)	Coordination Team Members	12:30 – 12:45 pm	15 minutes
Open discussion on Objectives, Agenda & Structure	Facilitator/ECOWAS	12:45 – 01:30 pm	45 minutes
LUNCH		01:30 – 02:30 pm	60 minutes
Presentation and Discussion on Plan and Design for the Physical Meetings (TECHNICAL PREPARATION/EXPECTATIONS/ROLES)	Coordination Team Members	02:30 – 03:30 pm	60 minutes

ROADMAP	Coordination Team Members	03:30 – 03:45 pm	15 minutes
Participants (Category & Numbers)	REC	03:45 – 04:00 pm	15 minutes
Logistics	REC	04:00 – 04:10 pm	10 minutes
Open discussion	REC	04:10 – 04:20 pm	10 minutes
Closing	REC	04:20 – 04:30 pm	10 minutes

Contact Persons

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