

CAADP Strategy and Action Plan: 2026-2035

(Building Resilient Agri-Food Systems in Africa)

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Acronym List

AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AfDB	African Development Bank
AI	Artificial Intelligence
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
AUDA-NEPAD	African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development
BR	Biennial Review
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
eBR	Electronic Biennial Review System
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ISDB	Islamic Development Bank
JSR	Joint Sector Review
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NAIP	National Agriculture Investment Plan
NWFP	Non-Wood Forest Product
RAIP	Regional Agricultural Investment Plan
REC	Regional Economic Community
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training

TWG	Technical Working Group
UNCTAD	United Nations Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
WB	World Bank
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WOAH	World Organization for Animal Health

CAADP Strategy and Action Plan: 2026-2035

1. Introduction

Africa has witnessed significant economic and agricultural growth over the past two decades, with its gross domestic product (GDP) doubling from 2000 to 2021 and its agricultural sector becoming the fastest-growing globally. Despite these advancements, challenges persist, particularly in meeting the ambitious goals and targets in the Malabo Declaration of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). While 12 African Union (AU) Member States have consistently improved their performance over four CAADP Biennial Review (BR) cycles, as of 2023, the BR report showed none is on track to meet the Malabo Declaration targets by 2025.

The limited progress toward meeting the Malabo Declaration's goals and targets revealed by the fourth CAADP BR report is consistent with the findings of the 2024 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report. With 20.4 percent of Africa's population experiencing hunger and 58 percent facing food insecurity, the continent is struggling to meet basic food and nutrition security needs. Rising costs have made healthy diets unaffordable for 924.8 million people, exacerbating food insecurity and malnutrition on the continent. Despite some progress in reducing stunting rates, malnutrition—which leads to higher rates of morbidity and mortality and reduces human capital development—remains a severe issue. At the same time, obesity and related health issues are becoming more prevalent, adding to the continent's economic and health burden. These statistics make clear that without intensified efforts, Africa will not meet its objective of ending hunger and malnutrition by 2025 or 2030.

Despite significant growth in agricultural production, African agriculture continues to face fundamental challenges. While land and labor productivity have grown steadily and rapidly over the last two decades, land expansion remains a major driver of agricultural growth. In addition, the sector, which is dominated by smallholder farming, faces issues such as insecure land tenure, limited investment in soil health, and high levels of land degradation. While large-scale commercial farming is gaining interest, smallholder farming remains crucial for optimizing labor and land use, promoting broad-based economic growth, and creating sustainable wealth.

CAADP has been instrumental in helping African countries define national agricultural development priorities. Despite these efforts, public investments in agriculture have been below expectations and inadequate. Only a few countries are on track to meet the goal of allocating 10 percent of public expenditure to agriculture annually. Economic challenges persist, as well, and inclusive growth and job creation, particularly in key agricultural value chains, are needed to alleviate poverty. In addition, addressing human development challenges such as food and nutrition insecurity requires securing land access for women, youth, and marginalized groups, while also diversifying income sources. Environmentally, the focus is on promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and on adapting to and mitigating climate change. Politically, the emphasis is on pursuing food

sovereignty and enhancing Africa's global standing by leveraging its vast agricultural potential.

The first decade of CAADP (2003-2013) presented both opportunities and challenges. On the positive side, 45 AU Member States signed CAADP Compacts, 31 countries developed National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs), four regional plans were finalized, and 28 countries completed the CAADP process and mobilized resources through the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program to implement their NAIPs. However, implementation progress has been hindered by policy burdens, resource constraints, and a lack of cross-sectoral cooperation.

Building on the momentum of the Maputo Declaration, the 2014 Malabo Declaration renewed the commitment to CAADP and set ambitious goals for 2025, including increasing finance and investment in agriculture, eradicating hunger, halving poverty rates, reducing malnutrition, tripling intra-African trade, and building the resilience of livelihoods and production systems. The Malabo Declaration also emphasized accountability through agricultural BRs and recognized the critical role of infrastructure and rural development in driving growth. While the Malabo CAADP agenda primarily focuses on agriculture, livestock, forestry, and fisheries, it also acknowledges the importance of related sectors like infrastructure and trade.

Recent shocks and stressors, including the COVID-19 pandemic, wars and conflicts on the continent, the Russia-Ukraine conflict, negative climate change impacts, and corruption, have significantly disrupted Africa's agricultural sector. These challenges underscore the necessity of a new CAADP agenda that can guide the transformation of Africa's agri-food systems beyond 2025.

In 2024, the AU Assembly voiced concerns about the continent's slow progress, noting that it was not on track to meet CAADP's Malabo Declaration goals and targets by 2025. This concern, along with emerging threats to African agri-food systems, has led to the development of a post-Malabo CAADP agenda that will be discussed at an Extraordinary Summit in 2025 in Kampala, Uganda. This agenda will focus on addressing existing and emerging challenges—and incorporate lessons learned over two decades of CAADP implementation—to build resilient and sustainable agri-food systems.

The Genesis and Continued Relevance of CAADP

In July 2003, during the Second Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly in Maputo, Mozambique, African Heads of State and Government adopted the Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa (Assembly/AU/Decl. 7(II)), marking the official launch of CAADP. The CAADP initiative was developed in response to low productivity, food insecurity, and under-investment in Africa's agriculture. African policymakers have long recognized that, beyond ensuring food security, agricultural transformation is essential for economic growth and poverty reduction. With its substantial contribution to African economies and its strong connections with other sectors, agriculture plays a pivotal role in job creation, wealth generation, and economic resilience. CAADP reflects

the collective recognition by African leaders of the critical importance of agricultural development for the continent's economic and social progress. The Maputo Declaration urged AU Member States to allocate at least 10 percent of their national budgets to agriculture and rural development and to achieve agricultural productivity growth rates of at least 6 percent per year. The Declaration focused on four key pillars: 1) sustainable land and water management, 2) market access, 3) food and hunger, and 4) agricultural research. It emphasized the principles of country-led and country-owned development processes and regional integration and cooperation.

The Maputo Declaration emphasized enhancing agricultural productivity by increasing budget allocations to the agricultural sector. The Malabo Declaration, adopted in 2014, broadened the CAADP framework by reaffirming its existing principles and targets while introducing ambitious new goals, including eradicating hunger and malnutrition, tripling intra-African trade, enhancing resilience, and strengthening accountability for actions and results. Both declarations emphasized the importance of including the perspectives of women, youth, and marginalized groups in agricultural development initiatives and highlighted the necessity of integrating climate-smart practices.

CAADP Implementation and Lessons Learnt: 2003-2024

Since its inception, CAADP has been implemented through the development of NAIPs, the establishment of regional CAADP compacts, and the mobilization of resources for agricultural development, among other processes. The framework has significantly raised agriculture's political profile, resulting in increased investment, greater African ownership and leadership, and recognition of agricultural development as a vehicle for economic growth and poverty eradication. CAADP has also been critical in promoting evidence-based policy planning and implementation and strengthening inclusive performance assessment. Increased stakeholder participation, dialogue, and mutual accountability at the national and regional levels have promoted alignment and coordination of development programs and partnerships in agriculture.

In addition, the Malabo Declaration reinforced regional integration and trade, promoting the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to enhance market access and economic opportunities for farmers. It encouraged private-sector investment and public-private partnerships for infrastructure, job creation, and innovation. The Malabo Declaration also introduced the BR process as an instrument for mutual accountability for actions and results. The CAADP BR report is now the main reference document for anyone interested in tracking Africa's agricultural development progress. The BR monitoring and reporting mechanism will be taken forward in the post-Malabo CAADP agenda.

The Malabo phase of CAADP required a broader approach, encompassing related sectors necessary for agricultural growth, such as infrastructure, trade, energy, rural development, and information and communication technology (ICT). The NAIP has remained the main implementation vehicle for the Malabo commitments. The intent was to shift emphasis from setting up the process architecture to focusing on implementation, results, and impact.

To sustain the progress made under CAADP to date, African countries must prioritize several key areas. First and foremost, they must ensure sufficient financial resources are available and develop necessary technical and institutional capacities. Enhancing inter-ministerial collaboration is crucial, with central government agencies—particularly ministries of finance and planning—playing a pivotal role. Equally important are the engagement and empowerment of the private sector and women, marginalized groups, and youth in agriculture. In addition, reaffirming the commitment to allocate at least 10 percent of national expenditure to agriculture, while improving coordination across all levels, is essential for effective implementation and the achievement of CAADP goals and targets.

Despite the continent's uneven performance, CAADP trends data and empirical evidence highlight the importance of its implementation. For instance, an examination of key trends data shows that countries that have adopted CAADP and/or are advanced in implementing CAADP tend to perform better than those that have not adopted the framework or made much implementation progress. For example, during the period of CAADP implementation (2003-2022), countries that reached higher levels of CAADP implementation registered higher levels of annual growth in government agriculture expenditures and agricultural GDP than those that did not sign on to CAADP.

Further empirical evidence shows that CAADP implementation has a significant positive impact on public agricultural expenditures, official development assistance for agriculture, and land and labor productivity. Nonetheless, the research also shows that the effect of CAADP implementation on agricultural spending and official development assistance declines over time, indicating a substitution effect between government funding and external funding for agriculture. This is to be expected, as countries tend to bring in more external funding the further along they are in implementing CAADP.

Furthermore, implementing CAADP mutual accountability processes such as agriculture joint sector reviews (JSRs) has been shown to have a significant positive impact on governments' agricultural expenditures. Agricultural expenditures may increase with participation in JSRs because the CAADP process helps to strengthen political will to invest and it fosters accountability and peer pressure within the sector and among countries, which encourage investment. Countries implementing JSRs and other CAADP mutual accountability processes make more rapid progress towards agricultural transformation and structural change. The above trends and empirical evidence demonstrate that CAADP implementation and its mutual accountability mechanisms can deliver the desired outcomes and drive agricultural transformation.

Shaping the Post-Malabo CAADP Agenda

Designed to build upon the achievements of CAADP's Maputo and Malabo phases, the post-Malabo CAADP agenda embraces an agri-food systems approach that will enable stakeholders to address the challenges across the entire food value chain while aligning policies with broader development goals. This approach emphasizes environmental

sustainability to safeguard future food production and tackles malnutrition in all its forms (undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, etc.) by promoting diverse, nutritious, and affordable diets. It also supports economic inclusion, benefiting approximately 70 percent of the continent's population that relies on agriculture. Strengthening market access and regional trade, notably through the AfCFTA, has the potential to boost significantly intra-African agricultural trade by 2035, enhancing food and nutrition security, promoting local food varieties, and strengthening resilience.

Emerging technologies play a vital role in transforming Africa's agri-food systems to boost productivity and resilience. Promoting the use of technologies such as mechanization, innovative water management, digital agriculture, artificial intelligence (AI), and climate-smart agriculture is essential for driving sectoral transformation in line with the post-Malabo CAADP agenda.

Inclusive agro-industrialization is vital in driving economic growth, structural transformation, job creation, and shared prosperity. By integrating agricultural production into supply chains and value-addition, agro-industrialization unlocks the significant potential to transform Africa's agri-food systems, address food insecurity and nutrition, and reduce poverty. Strong political commitment and coordinated actions are essential to enhance the agro-industrial sector's performance, reduce poverty, and achieve Africa's development goals.

Building resilience is essential for adapting to and recovering from shocks, including climate change, pandemics, conflicts, and economic disruptions. Despite some progress, Africa is struggling to build resilience, with only two countries on track to meet resilience-building goals in 2023. The slow progress in building resilience undermines other goals, such as ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition and reducing poverty.

2. Vision, Rationale, and Principles for the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan: 2026-2035

CAADP's vision is **“Sustainable and Resilient Agri-food Systems for a Healthy and Prosperous Africa.”** This vision is consistent with Agenda 2063 (towards “the Africa We Want”) and the Africa Common Position on Food Systems, and it was reiterated in the first Africa Climate Summit Declaration of 2023. All agri-food system actors are collectively responsible for achieving this vision.

A significant shift in the new CAADP Strategy and Action Plan: 2026-2035 is the move from a narrow focus on agriculture-led growth to a broader agri-food systems approach. This strategic shift is informed by an understanding of the complex interplay between agriculture, nutrition, economic development, and other sectors. Policies must be better integrated to address trade-offs and interlinkages across aspects of sustainable practices from farm to fork, value chain complexity, and diet and nutrition, among other food factors. The CAADP

In the context of the post-Malabo CAADP agenda, **agri-food systems** encompass the entire network of activities, processes, and actors involved in the production, processing, distribution, consumption, and disposal of food and agricultural products.

Strategy and Action Plan also seeks to strengthen institutional capacity, fostering greater transparency, accountability, and inclusive stakeholder participation in the implementation and governance of agri-food systems.

This CAADP Strategy and Action Plan: 2026-2035 describes agri-food system transformation pathways and proposes strategic actions that will contribute to a more prosperous Africa. The Strategy and Action Plan calls for coordinated efforts, increased investments, and the adoption of innovative practices to achieve sustainable, resilient, and inclusive agri-food systems transformation. It seeks to diversify economies, create millions of local jobs, improve access to healthy diets, raise incomes, build social cohesion, and improve socio-economic stability, all of which contribute to peacebuilding and conflict mitigation in the long term. These outputs, ultimately, contribute to better livelihoods and improved diets and nutrition for all Africans.

The successful implementation of the post-Malabo CAADP agenda requires coordinated efforts from a range of key players, each with distinct roles. **National governments** are responsible for developing and enforcing policies that create an enabling environment for agri-food systems transformation, including through investments in infrastructure, research, and extension services. **Continental and regional bodies**, such as AU entities (the African Union Commission [AUC] and African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development [AUDA-NEPAD]) and Regional Economic Communities (RECs), play a crucial role in facilitating cross-border collaboration, harmonizing policies, and monitoring progress toward the agenda's goals. **Farmers and agribusinesses** are central to adopting innovative practices and technologies that enhance productivity and resilience. **Development partners** and **international organizations** provide technical assistance, funding, and capacity-building support to accelerate the agenda's implementation. **Civil society organizations** and **community groups** advocate inclusive development, ensuring that the voices of marginalized populations, including women and youth, are represented in decision-making processes. Finally, **private sector actors** contribute through investments in technology, market development, and value chain integration, driving innovation and economic growth within the agri-food sector. Together, these players form a collaborative network essential for achieving the transformative goals of the post-Malabo CAADP agenda.

CAADP's Guiding Principles

This Strategy and Action Plan reiterates and maintains CAADP's traditional values and principles. The Kampala CAADP Declaration provides a firm basis for implementation and adherence to those principles.

Ownership and leadership: This principle emphasizes the importance of national, regional, and local leadership, which are key to achieving legitimacy and accountability. This means that the CAADP framework should be domesticated in national agriculture development plans and legislated to facilitate appropriation in national and sub-national budgets. National governments should take the lead in mobilizing public, private, development, and foreign direct investments, including remittances.

Holistic and integrated perspective to agri-food systems transformation: A key principle of the agri-food systems approach is its holistic perspective on development, which acknowledges linkages across agricultural development efforts. Unlike the traditional focus on increasing agricultural productivity for a few commodities, this approach integrates and aligns different thematic and policy areas of entire agri-food systems, from production, processing, distribution, and storage to consumption; it also encompasses both sustainability and waste management (Olayide, 2021; IFPRI, 2022; FAO, 2022). Countries generally have different agricultural development programs/initiatives dealing with different subsectors or sub-national ecological zones. In an agri-food systems approach, CAADP at the country level must bring these together to promote coherence and collective positive transformation.

Sustainability: As a guiding principle, sustainability emphasizes the need for practices that are socially, economically, culturally, and environmentally sustainable. To make this principle binding, sustainability criteria should be incorporated into policies and regulations. For instance, policies could mandate environmental impact assessments, consideration of social equity, and economic viability analyses for all agri-food projects and initiatives.

Inclusivity: Economic and social inclusion—of women, youth, and marginalized communities such as fisherfolk and pastoralists—is a vital component of the agri-food systems approach. Inclusivity in planning and implementation processes brings diverse perspectives and forges collaboration among different sectors and stakeholder groups.

Multi-stakeholder coordination and collaboration: Weak systems for collaboration and coordination have hindered the implementation of the Malabo CAADP agenda. As a principle, CAADP will continue to establish systems and processes to enhance greater cooperation, collaboration, and coordination among diverse players. Multi-stakeholder platforms will be used to enhance coordination and collaboration.

Evidence-based decision-making: The CAADP framework advocates and promotes the using reliable evidence to formulate and implement agricultural policies and strategies. Greater support to build stronger country data systems and institutionalize the CAADP BR process will strengthen evidence use in policymaking.

Mutual accountability and transparency: CAADP has stressed the importance of mutual accountability among all stakeholders. This commitment to transparency and accountability goes beyond the African Peer Review Mechanism, with the Africa Agriculture Transformation Scorecard and the Malabo CAADP BR Dashboard both serving as key instruments for facilitating the peer review mechanism enshrined in AU principles and values. CAADP BR reports reflect the need to build and strengthen mechanisms and platforms for mutual accountability and peer review at the country level. This element of review and accountability will be a key dimension of the implementation of the Kampala CAADP Declaration.

Subsidiarity and harnessing regional complementarities: CAADP emphasizes the need to harness regional support, noting that country-level interventions alone will be insufficient.

CAADP acknowledges that certain issues transcend national boundaries and, as such, require interventions beyond one country. The role of RECs is critical in this context. Therefore, the post-Malabo CAADP agenda recognizes the importance of multi-country cooperation, regional value chain development, transboundary infrastructure, and sustainable payment and settlement mechanisms to harness regional complementarities and harmony. At the continental level, the AUC and AUDA-NEPAD will play critical roles in coordination, capacity building, and the sharing of best practices among countries and regions to leverage regional strengths and complementarities.

Embracing technological advancement: This principle focuses on transforming Africa's agri-food systems through innovations like precision agriculture, digital tools, AI, and biotechnology. These technologies improve productivity, efficiency, and climate resilience while promoting inclusive growth by benefiting smallholder farmers, women, and youth. By enhancing resource management and market access, technology is vital for building sustainable agri-food systems and addressing Africa's food security needs.

To successfully implement the guiding principles of the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan: 2026-2035, it is essential to establish mechanisms that make these principles binding at national, regional, and local levels. Binding principles ensure that all stakeholders remain committed to the transformative agenda set forth by CAADP, promoting accountability, sustainability, and inclusivity in developing Africa's agri-food systems.

Holistic and integrated perspective: The transformation of agri-food systems can be made binding by creating cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms, such as inter-ministerial committees. Legislation mandating integrated planning, including technology considerations, would promote a cohesive strategy across sectors.

3. Trends and Drivers That Will Shape Africa's Food Systems in the Next Ten Years

Africa's agri-food systems are undergoing transformative changes influenced by numerous economic, demographic, environmental, climate, and technological factors. Over the next decade, understanding these dynamics will help stakeholders as they shape Africa's agri-food landscape to ensure food and nutrition security, drive economic growth, and enhance livelihoods across the continent. The primary trends and drivers are presented in this section.

Urbanization and Changing Consumption Patterns

The continent is rapidly urbanizing, and food consumption habits are changing as a result. Urban lifestyles that prioritize time efficiency have resulted in an uptick in the consumption of ready-to-eat meals and foods prepared away from home. The emerging processing sector has become the main bridge between smallholder farmers and growing domestic and regional markets. The resulting lengthening of agri-food value chains has increased their complexity, which necessitates more granular policies going forward.

Economic Growth and Rising Incomes

Sustained economic growth in many African countries has helped create a burgeoning middle class with more disposable income. This economic growth is driving demand for diverse and high-quality food products, including meat, fish and fish products, dairy, and processed foods. Such shifts, which are expected to grow over the next decade, influence both production and consumption patterns in the agri-food sector.

Population Surge

Africa's population is projected to double by 2050, reaching approximately 2.5 billion people. This explosive growth will increase the demand for food, presenting both challenges and opportunities. Meeting this demand will require significant advancements in agricultural productivity, efficiency, and food processing to keep up with changing consumption patterns.

Technological Innovations

Technological advancements are set to revolutionize Africa's agri-food systems. Innovations such as digital agriculture, biotechnology, and precision farming can enhance productivity, sustainability, and inclusivity. The widespread adoption of mobile phones, mobile money, and digital tools is accelerating access to information, financial services, and markets for farmers, thus driving agricultural growth and transformation.

Climate Change, Environmental Sustainability, and Social Stability

Climate change poses a formidable threat to agricultural productivity. Variations in precipitation, rising temperatures, and extreme weather events adversely affect crop yields and food security. Implementing sustainable land management and climate-smart agriculture practices is vital to mitigate these challenges. In addition, ensuring social and environmental stability by addressing factors like migration due to conflicts is crucial. Africa is currently the hardest hit by climate change, yet it also has the widest agricultural productivity gaps to close. This offers an opportunity to address both issues simultaneously with emerging climate-smart innovations and technologies.

While the above factors are pivotal, other emerging trends and drivers, as described below, also warrant attention.

Gender dynamics in agriculture: There is a growing recognition that empowering women in agriculture can help to transform Africa's agri-food systems. While women constitute a significant portion of the agricultural labor force in many African countries, they often face barriers to accessing resources such as land, credit, and agricultural inputs. Addressing these gender disparities can lead to substantial productivity and food security gains. Moreover, enhancing women's participation in agricultural value chains not only improves household nutrition but also strengthens community resilience and economic development. Empowering women in agri-food systems also ensures that they can improve their economic independence and autonomy, leading to better lives for

themselves, their families, and their communities. Gender-sensitive policies and interventions that support women farmers are, therefore, essential for the overall transformation of Africa's agri-food sector.

Youth engagement: Africa has a large and growing youth population. This rich youth capital presents a significant opportunity for agricultural and food systems growth, innovation, and sustainability. Engaging youth in agriculture is vital for the sector's future, in part because young people can drive the adoption of new technologies, modern farming techniques, and innovative business models. With training, mentorship, and access to resources such as land and finance, the youth can become key change agents in transforming traditional agricultural practices. Youth engagement in agriculture also helps to address issues of unemployment and rural-urban migration by creating meaningful employment opportunities within the sector. Furthermore, young people can inject fresh ideas and energy into agricultural value chains, promoting sustainability and long-term growth. Encouraging youth participation in agriculture is, therefore, a critical driver of agri-food system transformation in Africa.

Trade policies and regional integration: Trade policies and regional integration, especially through AfCFTA, are crucial for transforming Africa's agri-food. The AfCFTA promotes intra-African trade by lowering tariffs, removing trade barriers, and harmonizing standards, thus improving market access for agricultural products across the continent. By fostering stronger economic ties among African nations, AfCFTA helps create more resilient food systems that are less susceptible to external shocks and price volatility. Harmonizing trade policies and standards under AfCFTA facilitates smoother cross-border movement of goods, reducing costs and enhancing the availability of diverse food products. Moreover, AfCFTA-driven integration attracts investments in agricultural infrastructure and value-added processing, which are vital for boosting the competitiveness of African agriculture. Supporting these policies is essential for advancing the transformation of Africa's agri-food systems, promoting sustainable growth, and ensuring food and nutrition security across the continent.

Nutrition transition and diet: As incomes in Africa rise and urbanization advances, the demand for processed foods, including meat and dairy products, is increasing. Although there is a correlation between the consumption of fatty meat and the development of cardiovascular disease, current research indicates that the risks are more closely associated with the types of fats consumed rather than the meat and dairy products themselves, which are essential for improving child nutrition. Food processing is a vital component of ensuring food safety, extending shelf life, reducing food loss and waste, and preserving nutrients that are essential for maintaining health. It is crucial to differentiate between various forms of processing. While ultra-processed foods—which can contain few essential nutrients and include potentially harmful additives—may be nutritionally inadequate, not all processed foods are inherently detrimental to health. The nutrition transition in Africa reflects a shift from minimally processed traditional diets to diets high in ultra-processed foods that are rich in saturated fat, sodium, sugar, and refined carbohydrates. This shift, in conjunction with the rise in sedentary lifestyles, contributes to the triple burden of malnutrition, which encompasses undernutrition, overweight, and obesity, as well as related non-communicable diseases.

Sustainable water management: Sustainable water management is a critical driver of agricultural transformation in Africa, especially in regions facing water scarcity. Efficient water management practices, such as the adoption of drip irrigation, rainwater harvesting, and water recycling, are essential for maintaining agricultural productivity in the face of climate change and population growth. Access to reliable and sufficient water resources is a key determinant of crop yields and food and nutrition security. Furthermore, sustainable water management can help to prevent land degradation and ensure the long-term viability of agricultural lands. Policymakers and stakeholders must prioritize investments in water infrastructure, research, and capacity-building to promote the adoption of sustainable practices. By ensuring sustainable water resource use, Africa can enhance agricultural resilience and support the growth, reliability, and sustainability of its agri-food systems.

4. Strategic Objectives, Priority Interventions, Outputs, and Outcomes

To realize the continent's ambitious vision and goals, the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan: 2026-2035 follows the CAADP pathways to change (**Figure 1**), which describe the logic that connects the main strategic objectives, associated key strategic interventions, and expected outcomes and impact.

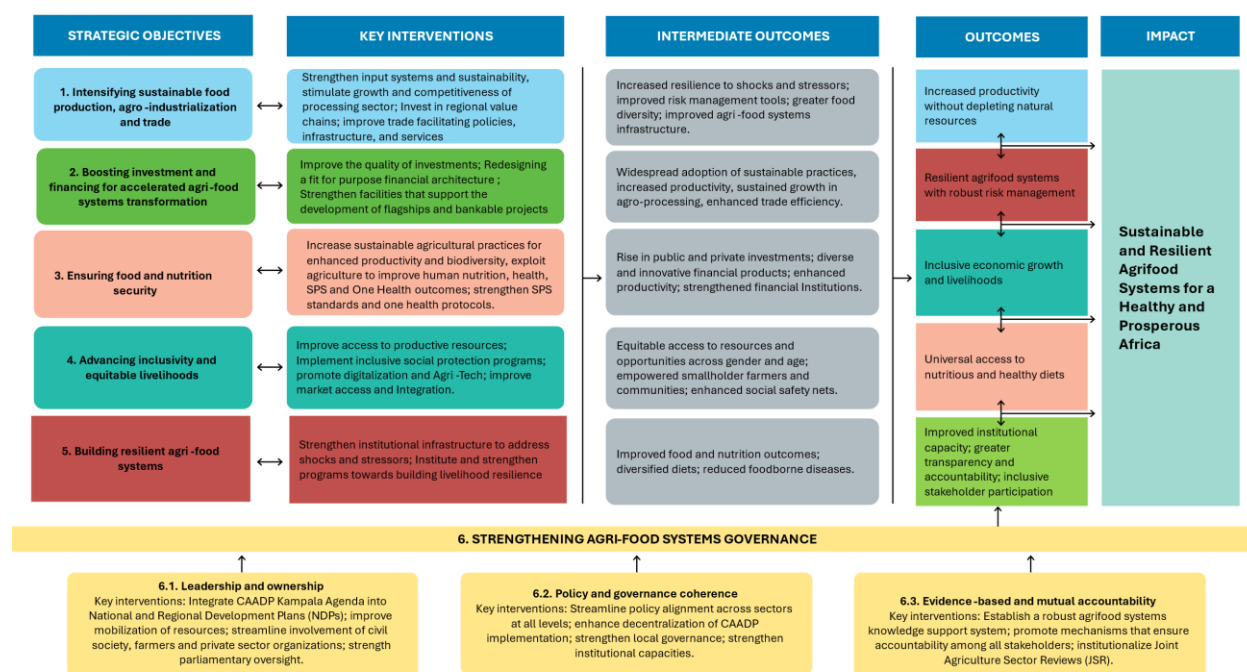


Figure 1: CAADP Pathways to Agri-Food Systems Transformation

Strategic Objective 1: Intensifying Sustainable Food Production, Agro-Industrialization, and Trade

This strategic objective aims to contribute to the transformation of agri-food systems through the sustainable production of agricultural products for consumption, value addition, and trade (within countries, on the continent, and beyond). It also aims to contribute to food and nutrition security, foster economic growth, create wealth and jobs, ensure environmental sustainability, and mitigate the impact of other shocks.

The objective will not only boost productivity but also ensure that this growth is environmentally sustainable. The strategy emphasizes the need to strengthen agricultural input systems, including improved access to quality seeds, feed, fodder, pollination services, fertilizers, water, and technology. It also calls for stimulating agro-industrialization growth by enhancing the sector's competitiveness and sustainability. Investments in regional value chains and improvements in trade policies, infrastructure, and services are essential to connect African farmers with broader markets, thereby enhancing economic opportunities and food and nutrition security.

Achieving this objective requires interventions that tackle the major challenges associated with low food production and productivity, notably by improving access to high-quality inputs and technologies. Challenges associated with the agri-food sector's competitiveness and sustainability will be addressed by integrating smallholder farmers, women, and youth into value chains and regional markets as well as by building their entrepreneurial skills, enabling them to form small and medium enterprises (SMEs) that stimulate agro-industrialization. Enhancing intra-African trade will involve investments in regional value chains and improvements in trade policies, infrastructure, and services. To achieve this objective, the following strategic interventions will be undertaken:

Sustainable Food Production

1. **Strengthen and ensure functional input systems (seed systems, fertilizer, water, extension services).** Key actions include:
 - Increase investments in agricultural research and technology development
 - Increase the availability, affordability, and quality of agricultural inputs
 - Improve incentives for producers to adopt technologies
 - Modernize and revitalize agricultural extension services at scale using digital technologies, remote sensing, and AI
 - Enhance regional cooperation and policy harmonization and alignment
 - Enhance the engagement of women and youth, who are key actors in input supply chains, in input systems
 - Address rural development issues by promoting farmer-managed seed systems and climate-resilient indigenous seeds and emphasizing the circular economy within the CAADP process
 - Increase the adoption of smart agricultural water management solutions that ensure efficient and equitable use of the continent's water resources
 - Establish farmer-led agri-tech research and extension services with effective feedback mechanisms to drive innovation and meet market demands

2. **Strengthen the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices.** Key actions include:
 - Implement conservation agriculture
 - Implement integrated pest management that enhances productivity and environmental stewardship
 - Promote tools and practices that integrate natural ecosystems with agriculture to support biodiversity and ecosystem resilience
 - Address the critical issue of post-harvest losses in crops and animal products, while developing cottage processing and storage facilities to better support smallholder farmers
 - Outline guiding principles for sustainable agricultural practices, incorporating climate-smart agriculture, and explicitly address the circular economy to promote sustainable resource use and waste management

3. **Create an enabling policy and regulatory environment for emerging technologies, biotechnology, AI, digitalization, and the development of precision agriculture.** Key actions include:
 - Invest in expertise and technical infrastructure
 - Facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practices
 - Build frameworks that support and facilitate knowledge exchange and the adoption of best practices along the value chain by all stakeholders, including women and youth
 - Provide policy and financial support to these emerging technologies
 - Support the formulation and adoption of national and regional legislation for emerging technologies and their use
 - Develop functional partnerships between technology developers and users
 - Support the formulation and adoption of national legislation for emerging technologies and their use
 - Make digital decision-making tools available to all agri-food system stakeholders, from farmers to consumers
 - Increase access to and use of digital tools and approaches that enhance efficiency across agri-food systems
 - Address barriers to technology access by women and youth

Agro-Industrialization

4. **Stimulate the growth, competitiveness, and sustainability of agro-industrial enterprises, with a focus on SMEs.** Key actions include:
 - Create an enabling environment that ensures reliable access to raw materials
 - Improve energy and infrastructure services that enable agro-processing SMEs to thrive
 - Build institutional infrastructure for skills development and technology innovations
 - Advance innovative financing and risk management instruments for SMEs
 - Tackle the proliferation of private food safety certification
 - Advocate trade fairs in Africa, enhance communication for local sales
 - Develop the entrepreneurial capacity of women- and youth-led SMEs

- Support partnerships and collective action among stakeholders in the agri-food system to increase bargaining power, especially for smallholder farmer
5. **Integrate smallholder farmers, women, and youth into value chains and regional markets.** Key actions include:
 - Invest in technical and vocational education and training (TVET), incubation centers, and accelerators to empower rural youth and women farmers with practical skills and start-up resources for entering the agricultural workforce
 - Leverage digital technologies that connect smallholder farmers with SMEs in the emerging processing sectors
 - Upgrade women and youths' skills and capacity for engaging in agribusiness
 - Address barriers to the equal participation of women and youth in agribusiness
 - Adopt affirmative procurement and trade policies that integrate women and youth into local, national, regional, and international markets
 6. **Develop and integrate value chains to stimulate value addition along entire value chains.** Key actions include:
 - Promote a value chain approach at the national level
 - Build agro-industrial synergies between countries and across industries to foster mutual interdependence between African economies
 - Facilitate the twinning of SMEs with bigger companies for intermediate input supplies, technology, and skills transfer
 - Stimulate markets and adopt market development practices that boost uptake of locally produced products
 7. **Enhance compliance with sustainability requirements.** Key actions include:
 - Implement programs that support enterprises and entrepreneurs' growth, with a focus on SMEs
 - Implement programs that support women- and youth-led enterprises to comply with mandatory and voluntary sustainability requirements

Trade Enhancement

8. **Strengthen market access and trade facilitation.** Key actions include:
 - Reform policies and regulatory measures that constrain access to domestic, regional, and international markets
 - Reduce tariffs and non-tariff trade barriers that impede regional and intra-African trade
 - Develop programs that lead to AfCFTA's full ratification and implementation in the agricultural and food sectors
 - Develop and implement policies that promote intra-African trade and agri-food products and services with inclusion of women and youth trade protocols
 - Develop models that foster collaboration between smallholder farmers and SMEs to ensure inclusive benefits from trade and improved market access
 - Integrate sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures and data into regional trade policies, particularly within the AfCFTA framework, to enhance alignment and facilitate smoother trade practices

9. Invest in regional value chains, food baskets, and trade corridors. Key actions include:

- Invest in and implement trade-facilitating policies, infrastructure, and services (energy, road, rail, ports, communication, quality assurance, agro-parks) for connecting food surplus to deficit areas
- Implement the activities outlined in the AU Common Africa Agro-Parks program
- Improve youth and women's access to intra-regional markets in the context of AfCFTA
- Strengthen women and youth cooperatives along value chains
- Establish comprehensive training and certification programs in trade facilitation and related professions that target women and youth

Key Outputs

Implementation of the outlined strategies will yield several key outputs, including frameworks, policies, plans, programs, and regulations at all levels (local, national, regional, and continental) that are developed or improved and implemented in areas related to technology generation and adoption, food production, agro-industrialization, and trade. Other outputs include the investments made, infrastructure and services developed or improved, technologies and tools generated or made available, partnerships created, access to resources improved, trade barriers removed, and skills and capacities developed. The outputs will be differentiated across agri-food system sectors and subsectors, along value chains, and across different stakeholders, including smallholder farmers, women and youth, and SMEs.

Intermediate Outcomes

The outputs will contribute to several intermediate outcomes, including improvements in agricultural input availability and quality, coupled with enhanced agronomic practices supported by effective extension services to increase farmer productivity and reduce environmental impact. Enhanced regional cooperation and policy alignment will cultivate a more favorable environment for agri-food systems transformation. Furthermore, enhanced access to digital tools, emerging technologies, and precision agriculture—facilitated by more robust public-private partnerships—will propel agri-food system productivity and competitiveness. The capacity of SMEs, particularly those led by women and youth, will be supported through augmented access to finance and superior product quality. Ultimately, expanded and diversified export markets, stabilized food prices, and robust market information systems, coupled with strategic infrastructure investments, will bolster these outcomes.

Strategic Objective 2: Boosting Investment and Financing for Accelerated Agri-Food Systems Transformation

Boosting investment and finance is a critical strategic objective for achieving a sustainable agri-food system transformation as outlined in the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan. The target of allocating 10 percent of total public expenditure to agriculture (2003 Maputo and 2014 Malabo Declarations), which only a few countries have achieved, seems to have distracted the discourse on the investments and financing mechanisms needed to de-risk

the sector and to catalyze private sector investments and financing. With the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan's focus on agri-food systems, all sources of investment and financing—public sector (domestic and overseas development assistance) and private sector (domestic and foreign)—should be considered.

The CAADP Strategy and Action Plan underscores the importance of enhancing investment quality to ensure funds are efficiently used and allocated to sustainable and impactful projects and programs. This requires redesigning the financial architecture to meet agri-food systems' needs and strengthening the facilities that support the development of flagship initiatives and bankable projects. In addition, the redesigned financial architecture must include special financing opportunities to support entrepreneurship within agri-food systems, particularly for youth and women. Such efforts are expected to boost productivity and attract private-sector investment, contributing to long-term economic growth. To achieve this objective, the following strategic interventions will be undertaken:

1. **Improve the quality of public and private sector investments.** Key actions include:
 - Establish effective public-private-partnerships for sector investments
 - Repurpose producer support to areas with higher cost-effective outcomes
 - Promote alternatives to traditional investment and finance, such as providing land access to youth and women, while creating an Africa-wide food systems investment fund to support sustainable agricultural initiatives
 - Develop strategies to enhance the policy environment for agriculture, including scaling up debt-for-climate swaps
 - Delineate the government's responsibilities in creating an enabling environment for private sector investment and ensure that resulting strategies balance public and private interests appropriately
 - Specify critical investment areas such as access to credit, youth and women's empowerment in agriculture, technology adoption, post-harvest loss reduction, and infrastructure development
2. **Increase public sector investment in agri-food systems.** Key actions include:
 - Increase investments in agricultural research and development, innovations, technologies, and energy, water, irrigation, and other infrastructure (packaging, refrigeration, storage, marketing, etc.)
 - Promote participatory and gender-responsive planning, implementation, and monitoring of investments
 - Develop and promote de-risking instruments by central banks that encourage commercial banks to increase lending to the agri-food sector
 - Enhance public and private-sector investments in critical infrastructure such as roads, energy, and storage facilities, including along with food baskets and corridors
 - Catalyze private sector investment through de-risking and risk-sharing blended finance models
 - Develop fiscal and non-fiscal measures, including tax incentives/breaks, regulatory reforms, and diaspora bonds, that increase investments, including from remittances, in agri-food systems.

3. **Strengthen capacities for developing flagships and bankable projects.** Key actions include:
 - Build government capacity for developing implementable flagship and bankable projects
 - Boost the quality of project design and implementation to reduce rent-seeking and corruption and increase efficiency and effectiveness
 - Strengthen government capacity to understand funding opportunities and requirements and navigate various financing platforms
 - Develop and implement flagship projects for scale and impact
 - Revise existing NAIPs and Regional Agricultural Investment Plans (RAIPs) or design new ones with flagship projects and business models that make them attractive for public and private financing
 - Design and implement financial literacy programs for farmers and SMEs

4. **Improve access to investment financing for agri-food systems transformation.** Key actions include:
 - Develop and strengthen mechanisms and platforms for harmonizing and coordinating investment mobilization at all levels (local, national, regional, continental)
 - Create a gender-responsive and inclusive African agri-food systems investment financing mechanism for mobilizing green and development funds for concessionary sovereign loans and grants

Outputs

The implementation of the strategic interventions will yield several outputs, including innovative financing frameworks and models, public-private partnerships, and de-risking and risk-sharing blended finance mechanisms. Enhanced and expanded financial literacy programs reach will be crucial. Other outputs include investment incentives for SMEs and farmers, agricultural finance deals, and innovative financing models that will be essential for the sector's growth.

Intermediate Outcomes

Implementing the proposed strategies aims to increase and improve the quality of both public and private investment in agri-food systems. This includes optimizing the financing and timing of funds allocated to NAIPs and RAIPs, bolstering financial infrastructure, and enhancing understanding of investment needs across agri-food subsectors. As a result, the overall financing available to the agriculture sector will grow, in part because lending risks for financial institutions will be reduced and access to financial services expanded, particularly for smallholder farmers. Furthermore, leveraging digital technologies can help decrease costs and reduce the risk of loan defaults among smallholder farmers.

Strategic Objective 3: Ensuring Food and Nutrition Security

Despite laudable progress in improving food and nutrition security across the continent, much remains to be done for the large portion of the population facing food insecurity. Addressing this issue poses significant challenges for policymakers and stakeholders in

light of the increasingly complex and interconnected nature of agriculture, food security, nutrition, health, and food safety. The challenges are manifested through the lack of diversified nutrient-dense crops, the high cost of healthy diets, limited consumer food choices, and SPS-related obstacles. Food-borne illnesses, for example, affect about 130,000 people annually, resulting in high medical costs in addition to lost productivity (from work or school days missed). Yet, a healthy and productive workforce is essential for the continent's socio-economic transformation.

The CAADP Strategy and Action Plan highlights the role of agri-food systems in eliminating hunger and all forms of malnutrition. It advocates adopting practices to improve the availability, affordability, and consumption of healthy and safe diets for improved human health outcomes. It also emphasizes consumer education and the development of diet quality and nutrition-sensitive policies, strategies, and programs at the national, sub-regional, and regional levels. Strengthening SPS and One Health protocols is essential for safeguarding public health and ensuring that the food produced in Africa is safe and nutritious.

The interventions, which are designed to address significant challenges within the agri-food system, focus on enhancing the capabilities of smallholder farmers and SMEs. These actors are indispensable for food production, yet they frequently find it difficult to meet essential SPS standards. The objective of the proposed interventions is to enhance the capacity of these actors to comply with the relevant standards, thereby improving food safety and quality while promoting sustainable agricultural practices. The private sector is critically important throughout the agri-food value chain, from input supply to production, processing, and distribution. Maximizing the private sector's potential is possible only when the public sector creates an enabling environment that supports food security. Ensuring the affordability and accessibility of nutrient-dense foods is a principal objective, particularly for the vulnerable populations disproportionately affected by food insecurity.

The success of these interventions will depend on the active involvement of stakeholders, including government agencies, private companies, civil society organizations, and local communities, all of whom must work together to enhance food and nutrition security. In essence, these endeavors aspire to construct a more sustainable and equitable food environment by addressing obstacles at each phase of the agri-food system, thereby cultivating resilience and inclusivity. To achieve this objective, the following strategic interventions will be undertaken:

1. **Create agri-food systems that enhance human nutrition and health outcomes.** Key actions include:
 - Encourage the diversification of agricultural production, including by increasing the production and consumption of nutritious traditional and indigenous African crops
 - Encourage the cultivation of diverse, nutrient-dense crops, including biofortified crop varieties, and strengthen the value chains for nutrient-dense foods
 - Improve access to nutritious foods by supporting homestead gardening and small-scale livestock, fisheries, and aquaculture production, especially among marginalized populations and communities

- Establish and expand home-grown school feeding initiatives that prioritize locally sourced foods, enhancing nutritional quality while supporting local farmers and communities
 - Strengthen nutrition policies and programs, with a focus on nutrition education and awareness-raising initiatives that help consumers make healthier dietary choices
 - Enhance agricultural extension services and mainstream nutrition education
 - Integrate nutrition-sensitive interventions in the agricultural sector
 - Support programs that celebrate traditional foods and cultural cuisines, emphasizing Africa's rich food heritage, while strengthening value chains for nutrient-dense foods and integrating a nutrition-focused approach across all supported value chains
 - Use the annual commemoration of Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security to deepen Member State engagement and promote Africa's rich food heritage
 - Support programs that close the gender gap in food and nutrition security
 - Increase access to fruits, vegetables, and animal-source foods through local markets
2. **Strengthen nutrition policies and programs, nutrition education, and consumer awareness.** Key actions include:
- Strengthen the capacity to develop nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive policies, strategies, and programs linked to agri-food systems at all levels and ensure linkages with existing national multisectoral bodies to fight malnutrition
 - Roll out dietary guidelines that influence policies and programs to integrate healthy diets into sustainable agri-food systems development agenda
 - Develop and implement policies that promote healthy food environments, indigenous livestock and non-forest wood products
 - Conduct professional training in nutrition education, including strengthening individual and institutional capacities to design, implement, adapt, and evaluate effective nutrition education actions, policies, and programs
 - Integrate nutrition education into school curricula
3. **Strengthen SPS standards and One Health protocols.** Key actions include:
- Formulate and enforce comprehensive food safety laws and regulations aligned with international standards at the national, sub-regional, and regional levels
 - Fast-track the establishment of the Africa Food Safety Agency
 - Establish or strengthen the capacity of national food safety authorities to oversee food safety standards and practices
 - Upgrade laboratories, testing facilities, and related infrastructure
 - Train inspectors and regulators on SPS standards
 - Implement traceability systems and emergency response plans
 - Develop and adopt One Health guidelines and protocols
 - Raise awareness of the importance of SPS standards
 - Foster national coordination and harmonization of food safety and trade standards to streamline processes, improve quality assurance, and facilitate cross-border trade

4. **Address socio-economic dynamics and strengthen innovative social safety nets that tackle nutrition.** Key actions include:
 - Strengthen social protection and economic empowerment programs, targeting vulnerable households and those affected by shocks and crises
 - Ensure both cash-based and food-based social protection and social safety net interventions prioritize healthy foods
 - Provide tailored support for vulnerable and marginalized populations
 - Promote mechanisms such as debt relief, strategic food reserves, and food price subsidies, while ensuring that each country develops a clear food security policy that guarantees uninterrupted food supply, establishes buffer reserves, and develops disaster preparedness and response plans for both natural and manmade disruptions

Key Outputs

Key outputs include improved food and nutrition security policies, regulations, and programs; increased production and consumption of traditional and indigenous nutritious foods; strengthened value chains that promote nutrition-dense foods; food safety and SPS standards and protocols; strengthened food safety infrastructure and capacities; and agricultural sector policies and programs that meaningfully integrate nutrition-sensitive interventions

Intermediate Outcomes

Key intermediate outcomes include improved food regulations and safer food systems, increased access to and consumption of more nutritious foods, reduced cases of illness resulting from a lack of food, and fewer foodborne illnesses and outbreaks. Other intermediate outcomes include improved dietary diversity and nutrient intake, improved food safety and quality, enhanced public trust in food systems, improved nutrition and health outcomes, and reduced malnutrition and diet-related diseases (reduced prevalence of stunting, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight, obesity, and related non-communicable diseases).

Strategic Objective 4: Advancing Inclusivity and Equitable Livelihoods

This strategic objective acknowledges that the transformative change in Africa's agri-food systems needs to be inclusive. The CAADP Strategy and Action Plan underscores the need to improve access to productive resources for marginalized groups, including women, youth, smallholder farmers, fisherfolk, and pastoralists. It addresses the inequality and power imbalances that constrain women, youth (women and men), and other marginalized groups. Inequities that affect these groups are exacerbated by climate extremes, disasters, conflict, economic slowdowns and downturns, and the unaffordability of healthy diets, which disproportionately affect them. Further, these constraints are shaped and reinforced by social norms and structural inequalities.

By implementing inclusive social protection programs, ensuring financial inclusion, and promoting the use of digital technology in agriculture, this strategic objective aims to empower these groups to participate fully in the agri-food systems economy. Enhancing

market access and integration is also crucial for making sure that all farmers, regardless of their scale, can benefit from Africa's growing agri-food markets.

Smallholder farmers, women, and youth contribute significantly to agri-food systems. However, evidence shows that they often have more limited access to productive resources and services than the average large-scale farmer, man, and adult, respectively, which affects the returns on their labor and other investments in agri-food systems. Lower returns lead to worse socio-economic outcomes. The interventions here tackle this challenge and others through inclusive policies, institutions, programs, and investments that improve infrastructure and access to social services in rural areas and among marginalized communities, promote gender equality, and develop entrepreneurial and leadership skills among marginalized groups. To achieve this objective, the following strategic interventions will be undertaken:

1. **Improve infrastructure and access to social services** in rural areas and among marginalized communities as per the Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Food. Key actions include:
 - Invest in energy, road, ICT, and irrigation infrastructure
 - Improve access to education, health, water, and sanitation
2. **Facilitate access to secure productive resources for women, youth, and marginalized groups** via targeted programs on land, finance, markets, information and networks, and inputs such as seeds and fertilizers. Key actions include:
 - Implement gender-sensitive land policies that provide secure land tenure and rights for women and youth
 - Ensure equitable access to markets, ICT, and affordable finance for women, youth, and marginalized groups
 - Invest in technologies, including labor-saving and climate-smart technologies, that meet the needs of women, youth, and marginalized groups
 - Improve access to agricultural land for women and youth
3. **Implement inclusive social protection programs.** Key actions include:
 - Extend social protection coverage to agri-food system workers, including farmers
 - Provide access to comprehensive, adequate, and sustainable social protection, including social insurance and social assistance to all vulnerable groups
 - Implement social protection programs that recognize, reduce, and redistribute rural women's unpaid care work
4. **Enhance economic empowerment and strengthen capacities.** Key actions include:
 - Enhance the skills and capacities of women, youth, and marginalized groups through training and education
 - Promote leadership opportunities for women and youth in agri-food systems and decision-making bodies

- Create decent job opportunities in agricultural value chains for women, youth, and marginalized groups
- Develop green finance mechanisms and products adapted to women's needs and accessible to women cooperatives and women-led agribusinesses
- Actively include marginalized groups such as women, youth, and smallholder farmers in agri-food systems by enhancing their access to financial services, markets, and technology

5. Implement inclusive policies and institutions. Key actions include:

- Ensure policies and institutions are responsive to the needs of women, youth, and marginalized groups
- Develop and implement inclusive policies that support the participation of women, youth, and marginalized groups in agri-food systems
- Strengthen institutions to support gender equality and youth empowerment in agri-food systems
- Strengthen gender and age-disaggregated data collection and analysis
- Integrate gender-sensitive policies and programs to promote equitable livelihoods throughout the agricultural value chain
- Develop initiatives that empower marginalized groups to engage fully and effectively in agricultural value chains

6. Ensure decent pay, equal pay for equal work, and workplace safety for women and youth in agri-food systems. Key actions include:

- Develop and implement policies on equal pay for equal work for women and youth agri-food systems workers
- Develop and promote standards for agri-food system workplaces to ensure they are free from sexual harassment in line with International Labour Organization Convention (ILO) C190

Key Outputs

Key outputs include rural infrastructure and social service improvements that make living and doing business in rural areas attractive. Other outputs include social protection programs with greater coverage in terms of beneficiaries reached, skills development training for target marginalized groups, and inclusive policies.

Intermediate Outcomes

The intermediate outcomes include increased equality for and participation of women, youth, and marginalized groups in agri-food systems, increased access to training for marginalized groups, improved skills and knowledge of marginalized groups, and more inclusive policies.

Strategic Objective 5: Building Resilient Agri-Food Systems

The fifth strategic objective is to build resilient agri-food systems that can withstand and adapt to various shocks and stressors, including climate change, market fluctuations, and social upheavals. The strategy emphasizes strengthening the institutional infrastructure to

address these challenges effectively. This requires an investment in a deeper understanding of the nature and drivers of vulnerability. Such insight is crucial to developing strategies that enhance preparedness and response capacity during shocks. By instituting and fortifying programs that enhance livelihood resilience in normal times, the strategy aims to help communities maintain food security and sustain agricultural productivity even in the face of adversity.

Africa's agri-food systems are under severe strain from a complex interplay of climatic, environmental, socio-economic, political, technological, and health-related challenges. Food imports, reliance on rain-fed agriculture, inadequate infrastructure, and conflict, among other factors, exacerbate vulnerabilities. In addition, climate change poses a significant challenge, with extreme weather events affecting production, productivity, and water resources. Limited financial resources and economic instability hinder adaptation efforts. Thus, a comprehensive and multifaceted approach to building resilient agri-food systems, aligned with the five critical resilience capacities—preventive, anticipative, absorptive, adaptive, and transformative—is essential. Key priorities include infrastructure strengthening, capacity building, knowledge systems, early warning systems, policy coherence, and coordinated responses, in addition to the promotion of climate-smart agriculture, including irrigation, diversification, and building farmer resilience. To achieve this objective, the following key intervention areas will be implemented:

1. **Invest in human and bio-physical capabilities**, as well as social, institutional, and knowledge systems, to better understand, prevent, anticipate, and respond to major shocks that affect agri-food systems. Key actions include:

- Invest in human capabilities and knowledge systems to better understand and manage agri-food system shocks, stressors, and threats and strengthen scenario and foresight planning and predictive modeling
- Support the integration of TVETs in preparing last-mile delivery actors essential for a robust and functional agri-food system
- Invest in early warning systems that enable better, more timely decision-making and proactive measures to mitigate disruptions
- Develop, strengthen, and fund institutions and programs that create, support, disseminate, and encourage the use of data and knowledge
- Promote precision agricultural technologies, including geospatial data and AI, that can monitor and report on crop, forage, livestock, and fisheries conditions in real-time
- Address the impact of various shocks and stressors on specific groups such as youth, women, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and residents of vulnerable countries and design tailored response measures
- Promote durable peace through conflict resolution and peace-building initiatives
- Promote sustainable agricultural practices and develop the necessary infrastructure to support resilience within agri-food systems
- Strengthen national and regional institutional capacity for effective and timely response to migratory pest outbreaks and invasions

2. **Strengthen the absorptive capacity of agri-food systems** to minimize damage, protect livelihoods, and build back better in the event of a shock. Key actions include:

- Investigate the patterns and drivers of household and community-level vulnerability and use these insights to enhance preparedness and more effectively respond to shocks
- Strengthen coordinated, robust emergency response and recovery protocols to minimize disruptions and facilitate quick recovery
- Establish and improve collaboration among local, national, and international actors to ensure a unified, efficient approach to managing agri-food system crises
- Promote risk transfer and social protection measures such as insurance and credit that help farmers manage risks and recover from losses
- Establish and strengthen markets to improve commodity flows and reduce wastage

3. **Promote adaptation within agri-food systems and livelihoods** to reduce vulnerability to major shocks and stressors. Key actions include:

- Establish early warning systems and risk management tools to safeguard farmers from unpredictable events and mitigate potential losses
- Develop, scale, and promote the adoption of climate-resilient and low-emission agriculture
- Expand smart irrigation techniques such as rainwater harvesting, efficient irrigation systems (e.g., drip irrigation), solar energy, and improved water storage and harvesting to cope with irregular rainfall patterns
- Promote farm and cropping system diversification (e.g., producing crops, aquaculture, fisheries, and livestock)
- Equip farmers with tools, including digital technologies, to manage risks
- Enhance agricultural extension services to equip farmers with the necessary knowledge and resources, including local knowledge
- Expand renewable energy use in agriculture, including solar-powered irrigation systems and biogas and other renewable energy sources for post-harvest processing, storage, and cooking
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and deforestation and promote the use of wind and micro-hydro power for agricultural operations in suitable areas
- Reduce food loss and waste by improving storage facilities and transportation infrastructure
- Encourage the adoption of practices and technologies that extend the shelf life of agricultural products (e.g., improved drying, packaging, and refrigeration)
- Promote behavior change among consumers as part of creating a circular food economy
- Strengthen the joint capacities of agricultural extension and research at all levels, emphasizing the critical role of research and innovation in generating new knowledge and solutions and ensuring that these contributions are more visible and integrated into agricultural practices and policies

4. **Invest in long-term transformative capacities** to create fundamentally different, more resilient, and inclusive agri-food systems. Key actions include:

Sustainable Agricultural Practices and Land Management

- Invest in climate-smart agricultural practices, diversify crop production, and enhance water management systems to strengthen resilience against climate change and external shocks
- Promote sustainable agricultural intensification to boost yields, protect ecosystems, enhance food and nutrition, and increase incomes
- Promote sustainable land management, integrated soil fertility management, sustainable grazing practices, reforestation, and afforestation that reduce erosion, enhance soil health and agricultural productivity, contribute to carbon sequestration, and restore degraded lands
- Preserve and use indigenous genetic resources to enhance the development of diverse, nutritious, and resilient crop varieties

Infrastructure and Diversification for Resilience Building

- Invest in robust agri-food systems infrastructure, including transportation, storage, and irrigation systems, that reduces post-harvest losses and dependency on rain-fed systems, improves market access and trade, and boosts incomes
- Promote crop and livestock diversification to reduce the sensitivity of agri-food systems to climate change and other shocks and boost food and nutrition security
- Promote livelihood diversification to reduce dependency on single crop or livestock types, thereby increasing household income stability and reducing vulnerability to shocks
- Establish and maintain strategic national and regional food reserves to enhance food security during periods of disruption
- Create clear mechanisms to connect with organizations that address conflicts affecting farming, including livestock and agroforestry, while specifically incorporating rangelands and pastures to mitigate disputes between livestock farmers and wildlife.

Technology, Innovation, and Market Support

- Promote technology and innovation to drive agricultural productivity, efficiency, and resilience, especially among smallholder producers and young entrepreneurs
- Invest in improving the policy and enabling environments to permit technology and market developments and access
- Strengthen science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education at the primary, secondary, and tertiary levels to train the next generation of scientists, researchers, and tech-savvy farmers and value chain actors
- Ensure each country develops a critical mass of graduates in geospatial data, AI, and emerging technologies

- Embark on mentorship for harnessing global and emerging knowledge as a requirement for agri-food systems transformation

Key Outputs

The intervention aims to increase and scale up the adoption of climate-smart agriculture technology while strengthening enabling policies and institutions to facilitate the effective leveraging of climate finance. It will develop infrastructure for tracking and measuring greenhouse gas data, promote climate-smart agriculture practices, and establish adaptation and mitigation institutions. By significantly increasing the climate finance allocation to the agri-food system, the interventions will support policy promotion and climate impact assessments to enhance overall agricultural resilience and sustainability.

Intermediate Outcomes

The interventions aim to enhance the agricultural sector's resilience to climate shocks, leading to increased adaptive capacity and reduced vulnerability to climate impacts. Simultaneously, they will contribute to reduced greenhouse gas emissions from the agri-food system. These outcomes will be measured through capacity indices, loss averted, and reductions of greenhouse gas emissions.

Strategic Objective 6: Strengthening Agri-Food Systems Governance

Finally, the sixth strategic objective is to strengthen agri-food systems governance to achieve these ambitious goals and, ultimately, the CAADP vision. The strategy calls on stakeholders to do more to fully integrate the CAADP agenda into NAIPs and RAIPs, ensuring that efforts to transform agri-food systems align with broader development objectives. It also stresses the importance of policy coherence, decentralization, and enhanced local governance in creating an enabling environment for agri-food systems transformation. Moreover, the strategy advocates the establishment of robust systems for evidence-based decision-making and mutual accountability, which are critical for progress monitoring and accountability. The strategy also emphasizes the need for enhanced CAADP political leadership and advocacy at the continental, regional, and national levels.

The strategic interventions outlined in this CAADP Strategy and Action Plan are expected to lead to increased resilience to shocks and stressors, widespread adoption of sustainable practices, enhanced public and private investment in agri-food systems, equitable access to resources, and improved food and nutrition security.

Effective governance is the cornerstone of building resilient, inclusive, and sustainable agri-food systems in Africa. As the continent faces increasing demands due to population growth, climate change, and economic pressures, strong governance structures become even more critical. In this context, governance encompasses leadership and ownership, policy coherence, and evidence-based decision-making. It ensures that all stakeholders—from government bodies to smallholder farmers, civil society, and the private sector—are aligned in their efforts to transform agri-food systems.

Strong leadership and a sense of ownership are required to transform Africa's agri-food systems. Leaders at all levels—national, regional, and continental—must be visionary, committed, and capable of mobilizing resources and stakeholders to achieve the set objectives and goals in the new CAADP Strategy and Action Plan. Achieving strong leadership requires that countries and regions harmonize and domesticate CAADP in their National and Regional Agri-Food Investment Plans. This alignment ensures that policies are not only integrated into broader development agendas but are also legislated, budgeted for, and executed effectively.

Political will and leadership are critical for fostering ownership. Member States, RECs, and the AUC take the lead in mobilizing public and private investments, including leveraging diaspora remittances, to support the sustainable transformation of agri-food systems. Furthermore, the involvement of rural producers, farmer organizations (interprofessional organizations structured in along national and regional agricultural value chains), and professional bodies is crucial in ensuring that these groups are actively participating in and benefiting from the CAADP initiatives.

To achieve this objective, the following key intervention areas will be implemented:

1. **Strengthen leadership and ownership.** The key actions include:
 - Fully embed and reflect the new CAADP Strategy and Action Plan in National Agri-Food System Investment Plans
 - Establish a transparent accountability system for development strategies, policies, and programs across agri-food system actors and a monitoring system to track progress
 - Establish a private sector-led agri-food systems advisory council that provides strategic guidance and support to governments and other stakeholders
 - Strengthen parliamentary oversight for accountability and ensuring alignment of budgets with evidence-based policies and strategies
 - Set quotas and targets for the inclusion of women, youth, and other marginalized groups in all agri-food governance structures in line with international standards
 - Strengthen inclusive approaches with consultation and participation of research institutions, think tanks, and observers
 - Strengthen the link between agricultural information systems and food and nutritional security information systems
2. **Enhance policy coherence and strengthen governance.** The key actions include:
 - Ensure decision-making processes are inclusive and actively incorporate the voices and perspectives of farmers, particularly smallholders, to inform policy and program development
 - Harmonize and align sector policies (agriculture, energy, water, infrastructure, trade, nutrition, etc.) both within and across national, regional, and continental

- levels, guided by the objectives and priorities in the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan
- Scale up and strengthen the implementation of these policies by undertaking national, regional, and transboundary policy reforms to ensure coherence
 - Strengthen rural governance and local action that supports and enables active participation of local communities, farmers' organizations, and cooperatives in policy formulation and implementation
3. **Promote evidence-based decision-making and mutual accountability.** The key actions include:
- Establish an agri-food systems knowledge support system for enhancing data quality and streamlining data management across national, regional, and continental levels
 - Promote mutual accountability mechanisms, including enhanced oversight and reporting processes such as the BR, to ensure that all stakeholders—from top government officials to smallholder farmers—are held accountable for their roles and commitments in the agri-food system
 - Improve data collection and analytical methods to better inform policy decisions and enhance the overall governance and effectiveness of agri-food systems
 - Strengthen the capacity of national and regional research and statistical systems to generate and use evidence to facilitate better decision-making
 - Institutionalize agri-food JSRs at the local, sub-national, national, and regional levels and involve all stakeholders, including marginalized groups
 - Develop and strengthen monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems for CAADP to support adaptive and responsive governance structures
 - Set up a continental and regional "Policy Radar" to facilitate the exchange of good practices and lessons learned and the sharing of regular updates on the cost of hunger in Africa

Key Outputs

Key outputs include an established and operational agri-food systems advisory council, an agri-food system budget approved through parliamentary processes, an improved framework harmonizing and aligning policies, and mechanisms and structures for better evidence-based planning, implementation, and learning.

Intermediate Outcomes

The expected intermediate outcomes of these efforts include greater stakeholder ownership, increased stakeholder interest and participation in agenda setting and implementation, enhanced evidence-based planning and mutual accountability, and strengthened institutional capacity for delivering long-term results. Other outcomes include enhanced policy coherence, better alignment of national and regional policies with CAADP goals and strategic objectives and enhanced institutional capacity. Ultimately, these efforts will lead to the establishment of sustainable and resilient governance

structures capable of driving long-term growth and development in Africa's agri-food sector.

5. Strengthening CAADP Implementation and Coordination

The CAADP Strategy and Action Plan seeks to enhance CAADP implementation by confronting the critical challenges facing the continent's agricultural and food systems. Despite growing recognition of agricultural development as a priority, progress towards the achievement of the Malabo Declaration targets has been slow due to weak governance, limited capacity, and inadequate stakeholder engagement. Chronic underfunding of the sector, ineffective knowledge management, and poor coordination further impede the alignment of National Agri-Food System Investment Plans with broader development objectives and overall target achievement. Weak accountabilities at both the country and regional levels also need to be addressed and incentive mechanisms put in place. To overcome these obstacles, the strategy emphasizes strengthening institutional and human capacity, fostering public-private partnerships, enhancing data and information systems, and promoting regional cooperation. By increasing country ownership, optimizing existing administrative systems, and strengthening legislative frameworks, the strategy aims to create robust and sustainable implementation structures. The key interventions are presented below.

Strengthening Institutional and Human Capacity at All Levels (National, Regional, and Continental)

Effective implementation of the CAADP agenda hinges on robust institutions and skilled personnel. Strengthening human and institutional capacity is essential for aligning National Agri-Food Investment Plans with broader development goals and enhancing overall program delivery. Key actions include:

- Strengthen lead implementing institutions by providing them with adequate financial resources and technical expertise
- Establish public-private partnership-based models for human capital development, technology innovation, commercial infrastructure, market development, and access to finance
- Mobilize and support local centers of expertise to enhance data and analytical capacities for timely and relevant evidence to guide policy and program design and implementation
- Enhance mutual accountability platforms' capacities to carry out evidence-based, comprehensive, and inclusive review processes

Fostering Coordination and Collaboration

Effective implementation of the agri-food system at the national level will require strong collaboration among different government ministries, departments, and agencies, each of which must also play its designated role in achieving common goals. This requires strong central leadership at the highest level. The Office of the President or the Office of the Prime Minister needs to take on this responsibility. Strengthening coordination mechanisms and fostering partnerships at all levels will create synergies, optimize resource use, and accelerate progress towards the achievement of CAADP goals and targets. Key actions will include:

- Strengthen partnerships and collaboration among key stakeholders, development partners, and the private sector
- Strengthen multi-stakeholder dialogue, coordination, learning, and accountability platforms at the country level
- Strengthen regional coordination mechanisms and partnerships with regional agencies
- Strengthen the coordination and technical capacities of AU institutions (AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, and RECs)

Resource Mobilization and Financial Sustainability

Adequate and sustainable financing is essential for the successful implementation of CAADP. Diversifying funding sources, optimizing resource allocation, and leveraging public-private partnerships are key ways to sustainable finance agricultural initiatives. Key actions will include:

- Develop strategic partnerships and build the capacity of key national organizations, the financial sector, and the private sector to mobilize resources
- Ensure balanced allocation of funding to all strategic objectives in National Agri-Food System Investment Plans

6. Resourcing the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan

AU Member States are responsible for mobilizing internal and external resources to implement the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan through their National Agri-Food System Investment Plans. Each Member State will allocate resources to its plans in accordance with its annual budgeting cycle procedures.

Continental institutions (AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, and RECs) also need resources to support the Member States. Areas of support include (i) technical support for the domestication of the Kampala CAADP Declaration into NAIPs; (ii) convening of the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water, and Environment to provide policy guidance during implementation; (iii) monitoring and reporting through the CAADP BR mechanism; (iv) communication and advocacy; and (v) capacity building of Member States through specialized training programs. The key interventions are:

Strengthening Public Funding for Implementation

The implementation of the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan will require significant support from Member States through their national budgets. However, experience from the Malabo era shows that public funding for agriculture often falls short of the 10 percent target. To increase investments in agri-food system transformations, the AU will work closely with national governments to link agri-food system development to the achievement of their broader national development agendas. In addition, public expenditure reviews should be undertaken in all Member States to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of budget allocations. The reviews will also help to identify the areas with the highest return on investments given the resource constraints at the country level.

Creating a Special Fund for Continental Institutions

To effectively support the implementation of the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan, the establishment of a special fund is essential. This fund would pool resources from various sources, including Member States, development partners, and the private sector, specifically for the AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, and RECs. This fund should have a flexible structure that allows it to meet various needs, from capacity building to project support, and respond quickly to emerging challenges. An initial capitalization by Member States, combined with contributions from international donors, could ensure the fund's sustainability and effectiveness. The governance of this vehicle should be transparent, with clear accountability mechanisms to ensure funds are used efficiently and for the intended purposes.

Supporting Country-Level Implementation Processes

The transformation of Africa's agri-food systems will primarily be realized through initiatives and projects implemented at the national level. Countries are where policies are put into practice, infrastructure is built, agricultural practices are improved, and food systems are strengthened. This ensures that the interventions are context-specific and tailored to the unique needs and challenges of each country. Moreover, it strengthens national ownership of the initiatives, as countries are more likely to be committed to projects they have had a direct role in shaping and implementing.

Leveraging Donor Funding for Capacity Building and Technical Assistance

Donor funding has historically played a significant role in supporting Africa's agricultural sector. In the post-Malabo CAADP era, however, it is crucial to shift the focus of donor contributions from financing projects to strengthening the capacity of implementing entities. This shift will help ensure that the Member States, AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, and RECs have the skills, knowledge, and resources to transform agri-food systems. To achieve this, the AU will work with development partners to create tailored programs that build the institutional capacity of these entities through training programs, knowledge-sharing platforms, technical assistance to enhance operational efficiency, and the provision of technical tools and resources that enable more effective implementation of the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan.

Enhancing Private Sector Engagement for Implementation Support

The private sector will be a key player in implementing the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan. Private sector investments will be what drives the transformation of African agri-food systems. As such, mobilizing the private sector will be critical. As such, the public sector investments should prioritize creating an enabling environment for private sector investments. This can be done through public-private partnerships in areas such as infrastructure development, technology transfer, and capacity building. Private sector entities, mostly businesses but also philanthropic organizations, can provide funding, expertise, and logistical support for various activities. Encouraging the private sector to contribute to the special fund would also be a wise strategic choice.

Incorporating Green Financing Into Implementation Support

The transition towards sustainable and climate-smart agriculture is a central pillar of the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan. Therefore, incorporating green financing into the resourcing strategy is essential, both to cover direct investments and to support key entities' implementation efforts. Green financing can be used to fund initiatives that enhance the capacity of Member States, AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, and RECs to implement climate-smart agricultural practices across the continent. Accessing international green funds, such as the Green Climate Fund and other similar mechanisms, can provide much-needed financial support for these entities to implement climate-related projects. This will enable them to better integrate sustainability into their strategies and operations, thereby aligning with global trends towards environmental sustainability.

Mobilizing Revenues from Mineral Exploitation for Implementation Support

Africa's mineral wealth offers a unique opportunity to finance the implementation of the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan. By earmarking a portion of the revenues from mineral exploitation, Member States can provide consistent and substantial financial support to AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, and RECs. This approach would involve setting up specific mechanisms within national and regional frameworks to allocate a percentage of mineral revenues to a dedicated fund or directly to AU entities. This funding could be used for a range of purposes, including capacity building, infrastructure development, and the operational costs associated with implementing the strategy and action plan. Ensuring transparency and accountability in the use of these funds will be critical to maintaining the support and trust of both the public and private sectors.

7. CAADP Knowledge Management Support System

The key purpose of the CAADP Knowledge Management Support System is to provide, store, retrieve, disseminate, and encourage the use of high-quality, timely data, information, and knowledge for decision-making, policy planning, and adaptive activity implementation in support of agri-food system transformation. The knowledge management and support system will facilitate continuous learning, support evidence-based decision-making, and foster a culture of transparency and accountability among stakeholders. The intervention areas will include knowledge management processes, mutual accountability, monitoring and evaluation, reporting systems, dissemination and communication systems, and advocacy. Existing systems at the country, regional, and continental levels will be strengthened to ensure that policy and program implementation are based on continually updated evidence.

The key goal for the next ten years of CAADP knowledge management, mutual accountability, and reporting is to have institutionalized, scalable, and robust CAADP data management and mutual accountability systems. Governed by AU Member States, these systems will provide comprehensive, quality, reliable, and credible data that facilitate evidence-based decision-making and targeted investments.

Knowledge management strengthening will be undertaken in the following areas: i) identifying existing knowledge, ii) creating new knowledge, iii) storing and packaging the knowledge created, and iv) sharing knowledge and ensuring its use. Strengthening the BR process—including data collection, quality assurance mechanisms, validation, and

finalization of the report—is a key component of this intervention area. Notably, the CAADP BR (eBR) system—the hub for comprehensive and reliable data, information, and data storage and retrieval—will be strengthened and improved.

Mutual accountability will be strengthened through mechanisms such as JSRs, the Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System, the Kampala Policy Learning Event, and dialogues on the CAADP BR report. The success of these mechanisms, however, depends on broad stakeholder participation, which is currently impeded by funding limitations, among other issues.

Strengthening the M&E framework: The M&E system will produce the CAADP BR report based on aggregated national-level data that has been reviewed and reported using the agreed-upon progress monitoring indicators. The M&E systems will be built on the results-based management approach, which aims to support decision-making. The strategy will be reviewed after five years of implementation and evaluated at the end of the ten years to inform the formulation of the fourth CAADP phase (2036-2045).

Strengthening reporting systems: The key objective of reporting is to keep stakeholders informed about performance, including progress toward the agreed goals, targets, and accomplishments. Reporting also highlights challenges, risks, and resource utilization. The main sources of data and information for the CAADP BR report are the monitoring process and the eBR system. The M&E system will produce the periodic review reports as a continuation of the Malabo CAADP BR reports, tracking the impact of the implementation mechanisms such as NAIPs and subsequently using this information to make informed decisions and improve future planning and implementation.

Deploying a minimum level of capacity at each level: Each Member State is expected to have a minimum level of capacity and a government-designated apex M&E team to collect, synthesize, manage, and report performance measurement data for CAADP investments. The M&E efforts at the three levels of the AU will be supported by (i) the Africa-wide knowledge support systems, (ii) technical experts, (iii) existing BR experts, and (iv) robust digital platforms. The monitoring effort should include forging the right partnerships to enhance knowledge creation, storage, retrieval, sharing, and utilization.

8. Improving CAADP Communication and Advocacy

Effective communication and advocacy will be a key pillar of the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan. While the AU has a BR Communications Toolkit to help communicate BR findings, the use of this tool has been limited. This helpful tool will be strengthened and promoted in the next phase of CAADP. Other communication and advocacy strategies for the next ten years of CAADP include developing a comprehensive communications and advocacy strategy for the Kampala CAADP Declaration; establishing and institutionalizing communications and advocacy capacity at all levels (national, regional, and continental); adopting advanced communication and advocacy technologies; and strengthening the capacity of CAADP champions and the champions structure and capacity by devolving from continental to regional, country, and local levels.

COMMUNICATION

The proposed interventions for communication include:

Development of a Communication Strategy

- Develop and implement a comprehensive CAADP Communication and Advocacy Strategy
- Establish a Communication Unit at the AUC and AUDA-NEPAD with the requisite staff (e.g., a multimedia officer, copywriter, content creator) to implement the strategy
- Recruit and retain an external 360 communications agency to support the internal team with content creation, public relations, and audiovisual, print, and social media campaigns

Capacity Building and Engagement

- Train key CAADP experts in communications through consultative forums, workshops, and media training
- Build the capacity of Ministers and parliamentary communication officers to enhance effective CAADP implementation and ensure policymakers are well-informed

Outreach and Networking

- Leverage AU statutory and key events such as the Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security and World Food Day to conduct outreach to key stakeholders
- Create and strengthen strategic networks, such as the CAADP Journalists Network and Key Influencers, to amplify CAADP's impact
- Develop a targeted media engagement strategy that identifies key journalists, editors, and media outlets and establishes objectives and tactics for effective media interaction

ADVOCACY

The interventions will include:

Advocacy and Engagement Strategies

- Develop a CAADP Communications and Advocacy Strategy that outlines key approaches and goals
- Strengthen the CAADP champion structure and capacity by replicating it at regional, country, and local levels
- Engage non-state actors in advocacy efforts and awareness-raising activities related to CAADP commitments, providing platforms for dialogue and partnerships

Collaborative Frameworks and Processes

- Redesign existing CAADP processes and products (e.g., the CAADP Partnership Platform, the Malabo Policy Learning Event, JSRs) as strategic communications, accountability, and learning platforms
- Make the dissemination of BR reports to parliaments a statutory obligation for Member States to ensure accountability

- Encourage governments to establish national CAADP coordination units led by senior officials to coordinate advocacy and implementation efforts

Private Sector and Civil Society Engagement

- Develop and implement a comprehensive CAADP Private Sector Engagement Strategy to leverage financial resources, expertise, and influence for strategic partnerships
- Facilitate fora and workshops empowering local nongovernmental organizations and advocacy groups to voice community needs and promote participatory decision-making in agricultural policies
- Support the establishment of a private sector-led agricultural advisory council to provide strategic guidance and support to governments and stakeholders

Risk Management and Mitigation

The post-Malabo CAADP strategy will span ten years, from 2026 to 2035. Given the long-time horizon, many risks and uncertainties could affect the strategic positioning of the agri-food systems transformation agenda to deliver on its goals. There are external socioeconomic, environmental, and other shocks that might come up, which will demand that the strategy be agile enough to respond to such unforeseen developments. The strategy will therefore call for institutional adaptation to changes in a complex and rapidly changing context. Major risks and uncertainties will need to be identified and outlined together with their respective mitigation actions.

Key interventions to ensure better risk management include:

- Identify potential risks (e.g., political instability, climate change) and put in place mechanisms for dealing with or mitigating such risks
- Identify health crises, including pandemics or epidemics, early and develop mechanisms for minimizing negative impacts
- Identify and address gender inequalities or biases and restrictive social norms that may limit the access of women and youth to education, resources, and decision-making processes thereby preventing them from fully participating in and benefiting from agricultural activities or initiatives
- **Invest in durable peace** because it is essential for building resilient agri-food systems (from the local to global levels) and affects agricultural production, food security, market access, investment, resilience, and social cohesion. Establishing and maintaining peace is critical for enabling long-lasting investment to unlock the full potential of Africa's agri-food systems. The Kampala CAADP Declaration will need to emphasize establishing conflict-resolution mechanisms at the community level while strengthening local markets and value chains.
- **Promote household insurance** and other coping mechanisms that can help mitigate the impact of health shocks on livelihoods. These mechanisms will be key to enhancing the resilience of communities.

- **Enhance public health surveillance systems** to detect and respond to health threats, including of zoonotic origin. It will also be important to strengthen food safety measures to prevent health shocks related to foodborne diseases.
- **Financial resources** will be required to achieve the Kampala CAADP declaration's resilience objectives. Specifically, households need access to credit, savings, and other financial instruments that help them weather economic shocks.
- **Food price monitoring:** It will be necessary to implement policies that stabilize food markets and prevent price volatility to ensure a steady supply of food and agricultural inputs.
- **Capacities development** of African governments to formulate resilience-focused policy measures is a critical step and a priority for the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan. Mainstreaming resilience-focused policies will trickle down to operational actions led by various stakeholders towards sustainable agri-food systems.

Annex 1: CAADP Action Plan: 2026-2035

The CAADP Action Plan: 2026-2035 presents proposed activities to achieve the strategic objectives described in the CAADP Strategy. Designed to be a living document, it is meant to guide all continental, regional, and national stakeholders as they develop plans to achieve the CAADP objectives set forth in this CAADP Strategy and Action Plan: 2026-2035. In particular, the CAADP Action Plan should guide Member States as they develop their Agri-Food System Investment Plans for the next ten years. The Action Plan should also inform the development of Member States's monitoring, evaluation, and learning agendas. To support this effort, the African Union and CAADP stakeholders will review the 59 indicators currently used in the BR process and adapt them, as needed, to support progress monitoring against the current six strategic objectives. Beyond Member States, other stakeholders are encouraged to adopt and tailor the relevant sections of this CAADP Action Plan to their institutional mandates and needs and contribute to the overall goals and objectives of the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan: 2026-2035 and the Kampala CAADP Declaration

Key Interventions	Main Activities	Responsible Entities	Support Entities	Timeline
Strategic Objective 1: Intensifying Sustainable Food Production, Agro-Industrialization, and Trade				
Sustainable Food Production: Strengthen and ensure functional input systems	1. Seed Systems - Engage stakeholders through regional consultations to identify specific needs and challenges in seed systems and gather input for tailored interventions. - Strengthen and enforce seed quality standards and certification processes to guarantee the availability of high-quality seeds in the market. - Implement and support programs focused on the multiplication and distribution of improved seed varieties.	AUC, RECs, Member States, and the private sector	Research institutions, development partners, non-state actors	Year 1

Key Interventions	Main Activities	Responsible Entities	Support Entities	Timeline
	Enhance the engagement of women and youth, who are key actors in input supply chains, in input systems.			
	2. Fertilizer Systems - Implement training programs on best practices for fertilizer application, including the use of precision agriculture technologies. - Strengthen supply chain and distribution networks to ensure timely and affordable access to fertilizers for all farmers. - Promote the use of organic and bio-fertilizers through education and incentives. - Implement or improve subsidy programs to make fertilizers more affordable for smallholder farmers. - Increase local fertilizer production capacity to make them more available and affordable to smallholder farmers.	AUC, RECs, Member States, and the private sector	Research institutions, development partners, civil society, professional organizations	2026-2035
	3. Feed and Fodder Systems - Invest in research and development for improved fodder crop varieties that are more resilient and have higher nutritional value. - Promote alternative and locally available feed sources to reduce reliance on traditional feed sources.	AUC, Member States, research institutions, and the private sector	Development partners, civil society, professional organizations	2026-2035

Key Interventions	Main Activities	Responsible Entities	Support Entities	Timeline
	Train aquaculture and livestock farmers on proper feed and fodder management practices to optimize fish and animal health and productivity.			
	4. Pollination Services - Support beekeeping initiatives to enhance pollination services and provide additional income sources for farmers. - Raise awareness of the importance of pollinators for agricultural productivity and integrated pest management techniques that minimize the impact of pesticides on pollinators. - Protect and restore habitats that are critical for pollinators, such as wildflower meadows and hedgerows.	Member States, RECs, AUC, beekeeper organizations, and research institutions	Development partners, civil society, professional organizations	Year 1
	5. Agricultural Extension Services - Enhance the capacity of extension agents to use emerging agricultural technologies and best practices. - Leverage digital platforms to extend the reach of extension services, particularly in remote areas. - Establish farmer field schools where farmers can learn by doing, share knowledge, and apply new techniques in real-time. - Strengthen public-private partnerships to enhance the provision of extension services.	Member States, the private sector	AUC, RECs, research institutions, development partners	2026-2035

Key Interventions	Main Activities	Responsible Entities	Support Entities	Timeline
	6. Irrigation and Water Management - Promote efficient irrigation technologies. - Train farmers on water conservation practices, including harvesting rainwater and growing drought-resistant crops. - Invest in rehabilitating and expanding existing irrigation infrastructure to improve access and water use efficiency. - Develop and enforce policies and regulations that promote sustainable water use in agriculture. - Promote the use of non-conventional water resources.	Member States, the private sector	AUC, RECs, research institutions, development partners	2026-2035
Sustainable Food Production: Strengthen the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices.	1. Conservation Agriculture - Conduct workshops and field demonstrations on conservation agriculture practices. - Promote soil health initiatives. - Provide financial incentives or subsidies to encourage farmers to adopt conservation agriculture practices. - Partner with nongovernmental organizations and research institutions to promote and support the adoption of conservation agriculture and the promotion of agroecological practices.	Member States, the private sector, and RECs	AUC, RECs, AUDA-NEPAD, research institutions, development partners	2026-2035
	2. Digital Tools and Approaches Create and promote digital platforms that provide farmers with real-time data on	Member States, RECs, AUC AUDA-NEPAD	AUC, RECs, AUDA-NEPAD, research institutions,	Year 1 and continuous for

Key Interventions	Main Activities	Responsible Entities	Support Entities	Timeline
	weather, market prices, pest outbreaks, and best agricultural practices. - Develop mobile applications that offer tailored advice on crop management, pest control, and soil health. - Create online communities where farmers can exchange information, share best practices, and collaborate on common challenges. - Support programs to close the gender digital technology gap.		development partners	the first years of the strategy
	3. Promotion of Non-Wood Forest Products (NWFPs) - Map and inventory NWFPs in different regions to identify potential resources and opportunities. - Support the development of markets for NWFPs through inclusive value chain analysis, product development, and marketing initiatives. - Promote the integration of NWFPs with agroforestry systems to enhance biodiversity and provide additional income streams for farmers.	Member States, civil society, professional organizations	AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, research institutions, development partners	Year 2, continuous over the strategy period
Sustainable Food Production: Create an enabling policy environment for emerging technologies, biotechnology, AI,	1. Policy Formulation and Enhancement Update/strengthen/develop policies and frameworks that support the adoption and integration of emerging technologies, ensuring alignment with national and international standards.	Member States, the private sector, RECs	AUC, RECs, research institutions, development partners, the private sector	Year 1

Key Interventions	Main Activities	Responsible Entities	Support Entities	Timeline
digitalization, and the development of precision agriculture.	2. Stakeholder Engagement - Convene multi-stakeholder dialogues to gather input and build consensus on policy directions. - Launch public awareness campaigns about the benefits, risks, and ethical considerations related to emerging technologies.	Member States, the private sector	AUC, RECs, AUDA-NEPAD, research institutions, development partners, the private sector	Year 1
	3. Promotion of Public-Private Partnerships - Establish fora and networks that bring together public and private entities to foster collaboration on technology development and commercialization. - Create financial incentives, such as tax breaks, grants, or subsidies, to encourage private sector investment in research and development and the commercialization of emerging technologies.	Member States, the private sector	RECs, AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, development partners	Year 1
	4. Capacity Building and Training - Implement targeted training for policymakers, regulators, and industry professionals on the regulatory and practical aspects of emerging technologies. - Strengthen the capabilities of regulatory bodies to effectively manage and oversee the implementation of new technologies.	Member States, AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, research institutions	Development partners, the private sector, professional organizations, cooperatives, associations	Year 1

Key Interventions	Main Activities	Responsible Entities	Support Entities	Timeline
	5. Infrastructure Development - Support the development of digital infrastructure, such as high-speed internet and data centers, as well as physical research facilities equipped for advanced scientific and technological work. - Promote mechanization and precision agriculture to improve productivity and sustainability.	Member States, AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs	Research institutions, development partners	Year 1
Agro-Industrialization: Stimulate the growth, competitiveness, and sustainability of enterprises, with a focus on SMEs	- Create an enabling environment that encourages agro-industrialization by developing and implementing relevant policies, frameworks, regulations, and programs. - Foster land policy reform that encourages investments and respects communities' land rights and livelihoods. - Promote intra-African agricultural trade and regional and continental agricultural value chains. - Support partnerships among sector stakeholders. - Advance innovative financing and risk management instruments. - Improve energy and infrastructure services.	Member States, RECs, AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, AfCFTA Secretariat	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), development partners, private sector associations, research and academia	Years 1-3
Agro-Industrialization: Integrate smallholder farmers, women, and youth in value chains and regional markets	- Improve agricultural extension services. - Establish incubation centers and accelerators, and upgrade the skills and capacities of women and youth-led enterprises.	Member States, RECs, AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, farmers organizations,	UNECA, UN Women, development partners, private sector associations,	Continuous over the strategy period

Key Interventions	Main Activities	Responsible Entities	Support Entities	Timeline
	- Identify and address barriers to the equal participation of women and youth in agribusiness. - Expand women's access to finance and adapted financial products such as agriculture insurance. - Strengthen women's groups and cooperatives and promote aggregation into federations to improve access to intra-regional markets. - Expand social protection, including paying attention to women's care work.	women and youth organizations	research and academia	
Agro-Industrialization: Develop and integrate value chains to stimulate value addition along entire value chains	- Skew continental and regional financing institutions towards financing integration of regional value chains. - Invest in regional interconnecting infrastructure, including air, waterways, roads, and railways, as well as pan-African payment systems. - Formulate and implement rules of origin that foster regional cumulation.	Member States, AUC, AUDA-NEPAD	African Development Bank (AfDB), AFREXIMBANK, regional development banks such as the East African Development Bank, AfCFTA Secretariat	
Agro-Industrialization: Enhance compliance with sustainability requirements	- Develop and implement programs to sensitize SMEs and women/youth-led enterprises on mandatory and voluntary sustainability requirements and enhance their capacity to comply. - Provide technical support and finance to women and youth for certification processes on bio-agriculture in key value chains.	Member States, RECs, AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, AfCFTA	Development partners, research institutions, AKADEMIYA2063, the World Health Organization (WHO), World Organization for	Continuous over the strategy period

Key Interventions	Main Activities	Responsible Entities	Support Entities	Timeline
			Animal Health (WOAH), private sector associations, farmers organizations, women and youth organizations	
Trade Enhancement: Strengthen market access and trade facilitation	- Develop and implement policies and frameworks to facilitate access to domestic, regional, and international markets, ensuring fair trade practices and reducing tariff and non-tariff trade barriers through full implementation of AfCFTA. - Adopt affirmative procurement and trade policies that integrate women and youth into local, national, regional, and international markets.	Member States, AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, AfCFTA, RECs	UNECA, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UN Women, the European Union (EU), AfDB, World Bank (WB), Islamic Development Bank (ISDB), AGRA, the private sector	Year 1 and Year 3
Trade Enhancement: Optimize supply chains	Strengthen supply chain management to ensure the efficient distribution of agricultural products from producers to consumers (from farm to fork).	Member States, AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, AfCFTA, RECs	UNECA, RECs, FAO, UNCTAD, UNDP, EU, AfDB, WB, ISDB, AGRA, the private sector	Year 2-Year 5

Key Interventions	Main Activities	Responsible Entities	Support Entities	Timeline
Trade Enhancement: Connect food surplus to deficit areas	- Implement the Common Africa Agro-Parks, a flagship program of the AU's Agenda 2063. - Invest in regional value chains, food baskets, trade corridors, trade facilitation policies, infrastructure, and services (road, rail, ports, communication, quality assurance, agro-parks).	Member States, AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, AfCFTA, RECs	UNECA, RECs, FAO, UNCTAD, UNDP, EU, AfDB, WB, ISDB, AGRA, the private sector	Year 5-Year 9
Strategic Objective 2: Boosting Investment and Financing for Accelerated Agri-Food Systems Transformation				
Improve the quality of public and private sector investments	- Prioritize evidence-based planning and investment to improve the quality of public and private sector investments to have higher returns to the expenditure in terms of agricultural growth. - Strengthen gender-responsive public planning, investment, and implementation of agri-food systems programs and interventions. - Improve the effectiveness of the public sector policies and investments in agri-food system finance that benefit youth and women (including by conducting gender budgeting analysis in the agricultural sector).	AUC, RECs, Member States	The private sector	2026-2035
Increase public sector investment in agri-food systems	Prioritize public investment in key areas of agri-food systems that support the agro-parks and food baskets corridors development, including agriculture research & development, innovations, technologies, and energy, water, road, rail, and irrigation infrastructure.	AUC, RECs, Member States	The private sector	2026-2035

Key Interventions	Main Activities	Responsible Entities	Support Entities	Timeline
	- Commit and spend at least 1 percent of agricultural GDP on research and development for agri-food systems. - Improve coordination of agri-food financing and investments with a focus on access to finance for youth and young women within the public sector. - Develop blended finance instruments. - Develop and implement regulatory reforms like tax incentives or tax breaks for diaspora investment in agri-food systems. - Develop and issue diaspora bonds that make it easier to tap into Member States' diaspora assets and support agri-food systems investments.			
Strengthen capacities for developing flagships and bankable projects	- Design National Agri-Food System Investment Plans with identifiable flagships and projects with appropriate business cases that make it easy for public and private financing. - Develop and strengthen mechanisms/platforms at the national and regional levels to convene dialogues and coordinate investment mobilization. - Develop public-private partnerships to support flagship financing and implementation.	AUC, RECs, Member States	The private sector	2026-2035
Develop Innovative Financing Instruments for agri-food systems	Redesign the current financial architecture and capital markets and promote innovative	AUC, RECs, Member States	The private sector	2026-2035

Key Interventions	Main Activities	Responsible Entities	Support Entities	Timeline
	financial instruments that de-risk investment in agri-food systems. - Harmonize the classification of “agri-food investments,” loan loss provisioning, and assessment of de-risking instruments by central banks to promote increased lending by commercial banks. - Develop and enhance innovative and digital payment systems to reduce transaction costs for smallholders. - Develop indemnity and crop insurance for smallholders.			
Enhance the capacity of Member States to access climate financing for agri-food systems transformation	- Mobilize green and development funds for concessionary sovereign loans and grants. - Provide competitive research and development grants to national think tanks. - Develop financial mechanisms to earmark green finance for women’s cooperatives and women-led agri-businesses.	AUC, RECs, Member States	The private sector	2026-2035
Create an African agri-food system investment financing mechanism	Develop an agri-food systems investment and financing facility similar to the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program.	AUC, RECs, Member States, AfDB	The private sector	2026-2035
Strategic Objective 3: Ensure Food Security and Nutrition				
Leverage agri-food systems that enhance human nutrition and health outcomes	Promote the cultivation of nutrient-rich crops including the adoption of biofortified crop varieties.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	Support homestead gardening and small-scale aquaculture and livestock and fisheries production.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2028

Key Interventions	Main Activities	Responsible Entities	Support Entities	Timeline
	Enhance agricultural extension services to include nutrition education.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	Develop and roll out tools and programs to promote consumer awareness of healthy diets and private sector engagement in supplying such diets.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	Encourage diversification of agricultural production.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	Develop value chains that prioritize nutrient-dense foods.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	Support programs to promote the production and consumption of nutritious traditional and indigenous foods and cultural cuisine.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
Creating an African agri-food system investment financing mechanism	Develop an agri-food systems investment and financing facility similar to the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program.	AUC, RECs, Member States, AfDB	The private sector	2026-2035
	Roll out food-based dietary guidelines to influence Member States' policies and programs; integrate healthy diets into sustainable agri-food systems development agendas.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	Strengthen individual and institutional capacities to design, implement, adapt, and evaluate effective nutrition education actions, policies, and programs. This includes integrating nutrition education into school curricula.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035

Key Interventions	Main Activities	Responsible Entities	Support Entities	Timeline
	Implement measures to reduce women's unpaid care work in nutrition interventions.			
	Strengthen Member States' capacities to use and implement food labeling as an effective policy tool to protect consumer health.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	Develop evidence-based, nutrition-sensitive, and specific policies, strategies, and programs linked to agri-food systems at national, sub-regional, and regional levels.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2027-2028
Strengthen nutrition policies and programs, nutrition education, and consumer awareness	Develop evidence-based, nutrition-sensitive, and specific policies, strategies, and programs linked to agri-food systems at national, sub-regional, and regional levels.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2027-2028
	Roll out food-based dietary guidelines to influence Member States' policies and programs; integrate healthy diets into sustainable agri-food systems development agendas.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	- Strengthen individual and institutional capacities to design, implement, adapt, and evaluate effective nutrition education actions, policies, and programs. This includes integrating nutrition education into school curricula. - Implement measures to reduce women's unpaid care work in nutrition interventions.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	Strengthen Member States' capacities to use and implement food labeling as an effective policy tool to protect consumer health.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035

Key Interventions	Main Activities	Responsible Entities	Support Entities	Timeline
	Develop evidence-based, nutrition-sensitive, and specific policies, strategies, and programs linked to agri-food systems at national, sub-regional, and regional levels.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2027-2028
Strengthen SPS standards and One Health protocols	Support programs to close the gender gap in food insecurity and nutrition.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	Formulate comprehensive food safety laws and regulations.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	Fast-track the establishment of the Africa Food Safety Agency.	AUC, Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2026
	Establish national food safety authorities.	Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2028
	Upgrade laboratories and testing facilities.	Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2028
	Train inspectors and regulators on SPS standards.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2028
	Implement traceability systems and food safety emergency response plans.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2028
	Develop and implement One Health guidelines and protocols.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2028
	Facilitate private sector engagement in SPS for trade and market access.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2028
	Build the capacity of SMEs and small-scale farmers on SPS protocols and good agricultural practices.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2028
Strategic Objective 4: Advancing Inclusivity and Equitable Livelihoods				
Improve infrastructure and access to social services	Create and raise awareness about inequalities in the agricultural sector and	AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, and Member States	Development and implementing	2026-2035

Key Interventions	Main Activities	Responsible Entities	Support Entities	Timeline
	advocate responsive policies and investments. • Include indicators in the CAADP BR that track progress towards achieving inclusivity in the food systems. • Create rural investment towards (i) quality services (education, health, safe water) as well as (ii) rural infrastructure (rural roads, energy, irrigation, mechanization, telecommunication, agro-processing hubs) to make rural areas attractive.		partners, Member States	
Facilitate access to secure productive resources for women, youth, and marginalized groups	• Strengthen the capacity of women, youth, marginalized groups, farmers, and entrepreneurs through targeted training programs. • Facilitate increased access to and use of productive resources through the development of policies that enhance inclusive access to and control over productive resources such as land, water, seeds, and credit. • Facilitate access to credit for women, youth, and marginalized groups and ensure their active participation in agricultural value chains. • Facilitate access to markets for women, youth, and marginalized groups and ensure their active participation in agricultural value chains.	AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, and Member States	Development and implementing partners, Member States	2026-2035

Key Interventions	Main Activities	Responsible Entities	Support Entities	Timeline
Implement inclusive social protection programs	• Institutionalize social protection systems that guarantee assistance for the poor and protect the vulnerable against livelihood risks to promote agricultural development and, more broadly, economic growth. • Develop and implement social protection programs and establish safety nets that address the specific vulnerabilities and challenges faced by women, youth, and marginalized groups in the agricultural sector. • Develop and implement social protection programs that contribute to recognizing, reducing, and redistributing women's unpaid care work.	AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, and Member States	Development and implementing partners, Member States	2026-2035
Ensure decent pay, equal pay for equal work, and workplace safety for women in the agri-food systems sector	• Ensure equal pay for equal for women and youth agri-food systems workers. • Support countries to develop standards for workplaces in the agri-food systems that are free from sexual harassment in line with ILO Convention C190.	AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, and Member States	UN Agencies (ILO, UN Women)	
Promote innovation, digitalization, and agri-tech	• Promote the adoption of agricultural technologies and innovations that are responsive to women, youth, and marginalized groups. • Promote and conduct research and development and data collection on agriculture to better understand the needs, constraints, and opportunities for women,	AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, and Member States	Development and implementing partners, Member States	2026-2035

Key Interventions	Main Activities	Responsible Entities	Support Entities	Timeline
	youth, and marginalized groups in the food system. Develop integrated and inclusive digital literacy and appropriate tools that empower the participation of women youth and marginalized groups and contribute to sustainable agricultural development while promoting equitable livelihoods.			
Resilience, climate change adaptation, and mitigation	- Support Member States and partners to integrate climate change resilience and mitigation strategies into all their plans that enhance the resilience of women, youth, and marginalized farmers in the agri-food system while improving food and nutrition security and contributing to sustainable agricultural development in the face of climate change. - Include women in decision-making structures and processes around climate change mitigation and adaptation at local and national levels.	AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, and Member States		2026-2035
Implement inclusive policies and institutions.	- Facilitate the adoption of inclusive policy and legal frameworks. - Develop, review, and revise existing policies and legal frameworks related to agriculture and food systems to ensure they are inclusive. - Conduct a study for women, youth, and marginalized to help identify strategies for increasing inclusive	AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, and Member States	Development and implementing partners, Member States	2026-2035

Key Interventions	Main Activities	Responsible Entities	Support Entities	Timeline
	participation in the food system and addressing youth, women, and marginalized groups' inequality. ○ Support Member States to design policies and programs that support rural transformation, including through the provision of rural infrastructure. ○ Strengthen capacity and provide training programs specifically targeted at women youth and marginalized group farmers and entrepreneurs. ○ Establish windows specifically for women and youth in national financial mechanisms for the agricultural sector. ○ Develop credit lines and guarantees for women-led businesses and cooperatives in the agricultural sector in collaboration with private financial institutions. ● Earmark 5 percent of the agriculture budget for measures targeting women and youth to increase their agricultural productivity.			
Strategic Objective 5: Building Resilient Agri-Food Systems				
Invest in human and bio-physical capabilities	● Build capacity on knowledge systems to better understand agri-food system shocks, stressors, and threats, and strengthen predictive models.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035

Key Interventions	Main Activities	Responsible Entities	Support Entities	Timeline
	Strengthen early warning systems that inform better, timely decision-making and proactive measures to mitigate disruptions.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2028
	Promote precision agricultural technologies, including remote sensing and satellite imagery, combined with GIS, to assess, monitor, and report crop, fisheries, forage, and livestock conditions in real-time.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	Invest in biological and physical assets to protect lives, livelihoods, and agri-food systems.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	Address the impact of various shocks and stressors on specific groups such as youth, women, people with disabilities, indigenous people, and vulnerable countries and design tailored response measures.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	Promote durable peace through conflict resolution and peacebuilding initiatives.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
Strengthen the absorptive capacity of agri-food systems	Promote risk transfer and social protection measures such as insurance instruments, access to credit, and food price subsidies, that help farmers manage risks and recover from losses.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	Strengthen coordinated, robust emergency response, and recovery protocols to minimize disruptions and facilitate quick recovery.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2028
	Establish and improve collaboration among local, national, and international actors to	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2028

Key Interventions	Main Activities	Responsible Entities	Support Entities	Timeline
	ensure a unified and efficient approach to managing agri-food system crises.			
Promote adaptation within agri-food systems and livelihoods	Develop, scale, and promote the adoption of climate-smart agriculture and regenerative agriculture.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2027-2028
	Expand smart irrigation using techniques such as rainwater harvesting, efficient irrigation systems (e.g., drip irrigation), solar energy, and improved water storage to cope with irregular rainfall patterns.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	Diversify farm and cropping systems such as producing crops, fish, and livestock to strengthen the resilience of agri-food systems in the face of climate change and other shocks by equipping farmers with tools to manage risks, adapt to changing conditions, and ensure the long-term sustainability of their livelihoods.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	Expand the use of renewable energy in agriculture including solar-powered irrigation systems and the use of biogas and other renewable energy sources for post-harvest processing, storage, and cooking, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and deforestation.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	Promote the use of wind and micro-hydro power for agricultural operations in suitable areas.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035

Key Interventions	Main Activities	Responsible Entities	Support Entities	Timeline
Enhance inclusive agricultural research and extension services and reduce food loss and waste	Build farmers' capacity to use climate-smart agricultural practices and early warning systems and integrate local knowledge.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	Provide farmers with the necessary knowledge and resources to face climate change challenges.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	Conduct research that incorporates local knowledge and effectively disseminate the findings.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	Improve storage facilities and transportation infrastructure to minimize post-harvest losses and food waste.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	Encourage the adoption of practices and technologies that extend the shelf life of agricultural products, such as improved drying, packaging, and refrigeration, and promote awareness and behavior change campaigns to reduce food waste at the consumer level.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
Invest in long-term transformative capacities:	Promote sustainable agricultural intensification to boost yields, protect ecosystems, and enhance food and nutrition security and incomes.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
Sustainable agricultural practices and land management	Invest in robust agri-food systems infrastructure, including transportation, storage, and irrigation systems, to reduce post-harvest losses and dependency on rainfed systems, improve market access and trade, and boost incomes.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035

Key Interventions	Main Activities	Responsible Entities	Support Entities	Timeline
Infrastructure diversification and for resilience building Technology, innovation, and market support	Support local food supply chains and food markets.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	Promote the diversification of cropping, fish, and livestock systems to reduce the sensitivity of agri-food systems to climate change and other shocks, and boost food and nutrition security.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	Preserve and use traditional or indigenous genetic resources to enhance the development of resilient, diverse, and nutritious indigenous crop varieties and fish and livestock breeds and enhance the availability and consumption of these crop and livestock products.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	Promote technology and innovation to drive agricultural productivity, efficiency, and resilience, especially among smallholder producers and young entrepreneurs.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	Establish a reliable greenhouse gas data and inventory system to facilitate trade in carbon markets.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	Establish and maintain strategic national and regional food reserves to enhance food security during periods of disruption.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	Promote diversification of livelihoods to reduce dependency on a single crop (or fish or livestock breed), thereby increasing household income stability and reducing vulnerability to shocks.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035

Key Interventions	Main Activities	Responsible Entities	Support Entities	Timeline
	Promote sustainable land management to reduce erosion and enhance soil health and agricultural productivity, carbon sequestration, and restoration of degraded lands through integrated soil fertility management, sustainable grazing practices, reforestation, and afforestation.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
Strategic Objective 6: Strengthen Agri-Food Systems Governance				
Strengthen leadership and ownership	- Harmonize, align, and domesticate CAADP strategies within national and regional agri-food systems policies. - Mobilize public and private investments. - Establish mechanisms for mobilizing private sector investments. - Strengthen parliamentary oversight to enhance accountability and alignment	AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, and Member States	Parliamentary bodies, other stakeholders, development partners	By Year 2
Foster effective coordination and accountability mechanisms among stakeholders in the agri-food sector	- Undertake national, regional, and transboundary policy reforms (e.g., SPS standards, natural resource management, and value chain development). - Strengthen coordination and capacity of AU institutions. - Strengthen governance and the leadership of stakeholders and communities in policy formulation, implementation, and monitoring.	AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, and Member States	Parliamentary bodies, other stakeholders, development partners, and relevant transboundary organizations	By Year 3
Provide implementation guidelines CAADP 2026-2035	- Develop guidelines for national and regional agri-food systems policies implementation. - Develop guidelines to update the CAADP BR process, data, knowledge management	AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, and Member States	Other stakeholders, development partners, technical institutions	By Year 2

Key Interventions	Main Activities	Responsible Entities	Support Entities	Timeline
	systems, and mutual accountability mechanisms. • Develop guidelines for mobilizing public and private sector resources, including government budgets, donor funds, and private sector investments. • Develop guidelines for system capacity strengthening at all levels. • Develop guidelines for implementation and coordination and establish clear structures, roles, and responsibilities.			
Establish mechanisms for mutual accountability and continuous improvement in agri-food systems governance	• Establish, strengthen, and institutionalize mutual accountability mechanisms (i.e., JSR, BR, national dialogues).	AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, and Member States	Parliamentary bodies, other stakeholders, and development partners	By Year 3
Establish national policies and frameworks to institutionalize resourcing and develop capacity for the implementation	• Reinforce and strengthen existing NAIP and RAIP processes. • Establish a CAADP implementation unit in line with national, institutional, and regional budgets. • Design and establish multi-stakeholder funding instruments at the national, regional, and continental levels for CAADP implementation.	AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, and Member States	Development partners plus other stakeholders	By Year 2
Strengthen collective and integrated capacity to improve delivery	• Strengthen political leadership. • Enhance enabling environments and organizational capacities.	AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, and Member States	Development partners plus other stakeholders	By Year 3

Key Interventions	Main Activities	Responsible Entities	Support Entities	Timeline
	Develop and harness human capital.			
Strengthen partnerships and collaboration	- Develop a CAADP partnership framework. - Strengthen continental processes, platforms, and networks to make them more effective. - Develop or strengthen CAADP instruments and tools like the CAP-F and establish multi-stakeholder dialogue, coordination, and learning platforms. - Develop strategic partnerships and build the capacity of strategic national organizations and the private sector to sustain CAADP implementation. - Develop and strengthen strategic partnerships with key regional and continental institutions.	AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, and Member States	Development partners plus other stakeholders	By Year 3
Enhance institutional and stakeholder capacities	- Establish and decentralize multi-stakeholder collaboration, coordination, and dialogue platforms. - Strengthen the capacities of national and regional CAADP teams and stakeholder platforms. - Strengthen existing agri-food systems digital platforms. - Redesign and host the CAADP eBR system at AUDA-NEPAD.	AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, and Member States	Other stakeholders	By Year 2
Resource the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan				
	Mobilize domestic and external funds to finance CAADP priorities in NAIPs and RAIPs.	AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, and Member States	Development partners and other stakeholders	By Year 2

Key Interventions	Main Activities	Responsible Entities	Support Entities	Timeline
	- Conduct public agriculture expenditure reviews to inform efficient resource utilization. - Strengthen the capacity of the CAADP national leadership and coordination team to enhance planning, coordination, resource mobilization, and accountability.			
CAADP Knowledge Management Support System				
Strengthen evidence-based knowledge management capacity for monitoring, evaluation, learning, and reporting	- Establish and strengthen a CAADP Knowledge Support System that functions at the national, regional, and continental levels. - Develop guidelines and tools for knowledge management support systems, including M&E, learning, and reporting. - Establish and strengthen agri-food M&E systems at the national, regional, and continental levels.	AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, and Member States	Other stakeholders and technical institutions	By Year 2
CAADP Communication and Advocacy Strategy				
	- Develop guidelines for communication and advocacy and train key CAADP experts and partners on communication, advocacy, and knowledge management. - Establish capacity and institutionalize communication, advocacy, and knowledge management within CAADP implementation structures. - Strengthen the CAADP champion structure and capacity.	AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, and Member States	Technical Institutions, other stakeholders, and development partners	By Year 2

Key Interventions	Main Activities	Responsible Entities	Support Entities	Timeline
	- Redesign and strengthen strategic communication and media-related networks. - Invest in building the CAADP brand, positioning, and visibility. - Revise AU CAADP communication policy and protocol to make it agile, flexible, and adaptable to the current trends, drivers, and realities.			