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## Press Release

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### **AKADEMIYA2063 and the Center for Agriculture and Food Policy (CAFP) Sign MOU for Strategic Cooperation in Strengthening Agricultural Data and Policy Analysis in Zimbabwe**

**Kigali, Rwanda, July 12, 2021** –AKADEMIYA2063 and Zimbabwe’s Center for Agriculture and Food Policy (CAFP) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to collaborate in advancing Zimbabwe’s agricultural transformation agenda by strengthening capacities for data generation and policy analysis.

Under the agreement, AKADEMIYA2063 and CAFP will work together to establish and build the capacities of a local analytical network in Zimbabwe and to enable it to meet the data and knowledge demands of policymakers and other agricultural development practitioners in Zimbabwe. The two organizations are already working to strengthen institutional and technical capacities for data collection, analysis, review, and reporting, in support of the ongoing 2021 Biennial Review (BR) process of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), a mutual accountability process for tracking progress in implementing Malabo Declaration commitments.

“Successfully transforming Zimbabwe’s agricultural sector will need to be buttressed by strong data systems and strengthened capacities of local experts who can take a leading role in linking knowledge demand to knowledge supply. That’s what we hope to achieve with this important partnership with CAFP,” said Dr. Ousmane Badiane, Executive Chairperson for AKADEMIYA2063.

As part of the partnership, CAFP will work with AKADEMIYA2063 to develop innovative web-based Information and Technology platforms to support data management, visualization, and investment prioritization in Zimbabwe; leverage opportunities for joint research on strategic and emerging research topics; and co-organize country and regional learning events that advocate for agricultural transformation in Zimbabwe and Africa.

“Given the mammoth task of rapidly transforming the agricultural sector and achieving accelerated recovery, this partnership with a highly competent technical and continental institution like AKADEMIYA2063 could not have come at a better time for Zimbabwe. This will be quite a big boost for our technical teams and experts,” said Dr. Tobias Takavarasha, CAFP Board of Trustees Chairperson.

**About AKADEMIYA2063:** AKADEMIYA2063 is an Africa-based non-profit organization with headquarters in Kigali, Rwanda, and a regional office in Dakar, Senegal. AKADEMIYA2063’s mission is to provide data, policy analysis, and capacity-strengthening support to enable the AU Member States to achieve economic transformation and shared prosperity. More broadly, AKADEMIYA2063 leverages science, generates knowledge, and strengthens capacities to help advance the African Union’s Agenda 2063.

AKADEMIYA2063 is home to three longstanding Africawide programs—(1) the Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (ReSAKSS), (2) the African Growth and Development Policy (AGRODEP) Modeling Consortium, and (3) the Malabo Montpellier Panel (MaMo Panel)—that provide data and analysis in support of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). For more information, please visit: [www.akademiya2063.org](http://www.akademiya2063.org)

**About CAFPP:** Established in 2020 and transitioning from Policy Technical Assistance under the FAO managed Zimbabwe Livelihoods and Food Security Programme (LFSP), the Center for Agriculture and Food Policy (CAFP) is a locally registered Trust for agricultural policy research, outreach and capacity building. The center falls under a diversified Board of Trustees drawn from public sector, regional and international policy think tanks, private sector stakeholder and experts in public policy providing robust oversight.

CAFP’s principal mandate is to provide evidence-based policy solutions needed to sustainably transform Zimbabwe’s agricultural and food systems that will aid the country in dealing with food and nutrition insecurity and poverty, and stimulate the country’s agricultural competitiveness, promote trade, create jobs and invigorate rural and urban economies. CAFPP activities are anchored on three core operational pillars as follows: 1) Research and policy development; 2) Partnerships, outreach and communications; and 3) Capacity strengthening for policy implementation. For more information, please contact [info@cafp.org.zw](mailto:info@cafp.org.zw)