AKADEMIYA2063
STATE OF THE ORGANIZATION

December 2021

A New Identity

The mission of AKADEMIYA2063 is to create state-of-the-art technical capacities to support country efforts to achieve key goals of the African Union's Agenda 2063—*The Africa We Want*. Our vision is *an Africa with the expertise we need for the Africa we want*. Achieving the Agenda 2063 aspirations of transforming national economies to boost growth and prosperity requires capacities at the country, regional and continental levels to design, implement, and evaluate policies, as well as data and evidence to inform policy processes. AKADEMIYA2063 houses three longstanding Africa-wide programs supporting evidence-based development policy:

- The Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (ReSAKSS)
- The African Growth and Development Policy (AGRODEP) Modeling Consortium, and
- The Malabo Montpellier (MaMo) Panel

These, as well as other programs and projects at country and regional levels, all contribute to supporting Africa's needs for data, analytics, and mutual learning to enable successful evidence-based policymaking and accelerate progress toward development goals.

As of October 2021, AKADEMIYA2063 had a total of **35 staff** representing **14 countries** and **every sub-region of Africa.** An additional 7 staff members are being recruited in the last quarter of 2021, reaching a total of 42 staff by the end of the year—24 based in Senegal, 11 in Rwanda, 4 in the United States, and 3 telecommuting from other locations.

Strong dedication by our team has allowed us to sustain and expand our existing programs and make substantial contributions in emerging areas during the first 18 months since we moved to our new home in Kigali.

Continuity

Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (ReSAKSS)

AKADEMIYA2063 successfully maintained progress under all of our three core programs: ReSAKSS, AGRODEP, and the MaMo Panel. ReSAKSS, founded in 2005, provides broad support for the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), including the provision of data, analysis, and technical support to strengthen mutual accountability platforms.

A key area of support for CAADP implementation is the development and operation of an interactive online platform for review and benchmarking to track and compare indicators across countries and regions. These include the ReSAKSS website, which allows users to track CAADP indicators at the country, regional and continental levels, and the ReSAKSS Country eAtlases, which provide a platform to track and map indicators at the subnational level.

ReSAKSS provides facilitation and infrastructure for the CAADP-Malabo Biennial Review (BR), including development of indicators and templates and provision of training and technical support. ReSAKSS developed and deploys the eBR online platform which supports data entry by countries, carries out initial quality and consistency checks, calculates scores, and facilitates reporting.

The ReSAKSS Annual Conference unveils a new edition of the Annual Trends and Outlook Report (ATOR), which presents analysis on a feature topic of strategic importance to the CAADP agenda. We recently concluded the 2021 ReSAKSS Annual Conference, where we unveiled the 2021 ATOR on *Building Resilient African Food Systems After COVID-19,* on the heels of our 2020 ATOR which focused on *Sustaining Africa's Agrifood System Transformation: The Role of Public Policies.*

African Growth and Development Policy (AGRODEP) Modeling Consortium

AGRODEP, launched in 2010, seeks to create a critical mass of world-class modelers in Africa by providing training, grant and networking opportunities, and access to data, models, and other resources. AGRODEP currently has over 200 members selected through a highly competitive process from 32 countries. AGRODEP members have become increasingly involved in meeting evidence and analysis needs on the continent, including supporting the formulation of national agricultural investment plans in several countries and BR reporting by AU member states.

AGRODEP members are also heavily involved in the production of the Africa Agriculture Trade Monitor (AATM) published annually.

Malabo Montpellier (MaMo) Panel

The third core program, the MaMo Panel, was established in 2017 to promote dialogue and exchange for policy innovation. The Panel produces two reports per year on key topics for agricultural development and food systems. The reports identify actions by successful countries at three levels—institutional innovations, policy reforms, and programmatic interventions—and derive recommendations for other countries to replicate successful experiences. Report findings are discussed at high-level MaMo Forums which bring together policymakers, development partners, and technical experts to share experiences.

We recently concluded the 9th Malabo Montpellier Forum, where we unveiled *Recipes for Success: Policy Innovations to Transform Africa's Food Systems and Build Resilience,* a report summarizing seven of the Panel's reports and over 50 country analyses published between 2017 and 2020. The Panel published three other reports during the 2020/2021 period, namely: *Meat, Milk and More: Policy Innovations to Shepherd Inclusive and Sustainable Livestock Systems in Africa, Trading Up: Policy Innovations to Expand Food and Agriculture Trade in Africa,* and *Connecting the Dots: Policy Innovations for Food Systems Transformation in Africa.*

Response Capacity

In 2020 and 2021, AKADEMIYA2063 deployed its resources to provide analytical and coordination support in response to a number of emerging issues.

COVID-19 Analysis

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, AKADEMIYA2063 devoted substantial effort to examining the potential and actual impacts of the crisis in order to inform countries' response and recovery strategies. AKADEMIYA2063 carried out research, published bulletins and briefs, and held webinars under four major workstreams, which assessed community vulnerability to the pandemic, measured impacts on local staple food prices, estimated socioeconomic impacts of global commodity price changes and trade disruptions, and predicted crop production changes at the subnational level. Going forward, we will continue to carry out efforts to monitor food prices, trade, nutrition, and resilience on an ongoing basis to help countries track COVID-19 recovery and prepare for future crises.

The various data and analytical products that have been generated will be updated and placed on multiple platforms and dashboards for broad dissemination and use.

Food Systems Transformation

The United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS), held in September 2021, served as a platform to catalyze global action toward food systems transformation in support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). AKADEMIYA2063 provided a range of support for Africa's contribution to the UNFSS, including by participating in the Scientific Group, Action Tracks and Integrating Team of the summit, organizing independent and regional food systems dialogues, and assisting the African Union Commission (AUC) in developing the Africa Common Position prior to the summit. The 8th MaMo Panel report and MaMo Forum were dedicated to presenting African perspectives and priorities on food systems transformation. The Malabo Montpellier Panel equally hosted a UNFSS post-event high-level policy conversation to address what the outcomes of the UNFSS mean for African food systems transformation.

Innovation and Expansion

Agricultural planning in Africa has long been affected by persistent data gaps, including significant time lags in data availability, lack of geographic disaggregation, and data quality issues. Even in normal times, obtaining timely and accurate information on agricultural land use, crop choice, production and productivity is extremely challenging; in crisis situations, information often becomes completely unavailable just when it is most needed in order to inform response and recovery strategies. Recent developments in remote sensing have greatly increased the availability of biophysical data at high spatial and temporal resolution, and advances in AI and machine learning have facilitated the analysis of large datasets.

AKADEMIYA2063 has worked extensively since our launch to fill gaps in agricultural data through these new technologies and approaches.

- **The Africa Agriculture Watch (AAgWa):** Launched in 2021, the AAgWa platform, provides production and yield forecasts at geographically disaggregated levels and allows near real-time tracking of cropping seasons. The platform serves as an aid to planning and helps to monitor, anticipate, and prepare responses to potential production disruptions.

- Through our support to the BR, the UNFSS, COVID-19 responses, and innovation in big data and AI for agriculture, AKADEMIYA2063 has contributed our expertise to advancing African data capabilities.

Our efforts to not only sustain the high level of activities of our core programs but also to contribute extensively to new areas have allowed AKADEMIYA2063 to consolidate our position as a leader in data and analytics for policy.

First Generation Projects

In addition to the activities described above, AKADEMIYA2063 has a number of new projects on the horizon.

- **Strengthening Sanitary and Phytosanitary Systems for Trade (SPS4T):** In the area of trade analytics, AKADEMIYA2063 is launching the SPS4T project to support the AUC in contributing to the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

- **Nutrient Smart Processing and Trade (NSPT):** We will continue to provide evidence in the post-UNFSS agenda area of nutrition through the NSPT project, which will identify strategies to fill micronutrient gaps.

- We are initiating two new projects in the area of climate change and adaptation:

  - **The Comprehensive Africa Climate Change Initiative (CACCI)** to support African countries' implementation of the Paris Agreement, and

  - **The Country Adaptation Support Program (CASP)** to provide technical assistance to inform and facilitate the effective implementation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) in African countries.

- **ECOWAS-World Bank Food Security Resilience Project (FSRP):** As an implementing agency, AKADEMIYA2063 will support the FSRP project through the provision of data and analysis to inform resilience-building interventions in ECOWAS member states.

- **AI for Climate Action Innovation Research Network:** Finally, we will expand the deployment of AI techniques to aid agricultural sector planning through current and new initiatives. These include enhancing the AAgWa platform and working with partners under the AI for Climate Action Innovation Research Network.

Flagships and other Publication Outputs

Since our launch of operations, AKADEMIYA2063 has published prolifically. Outputs include **two editions of each of our two flagship publications, the Africa Agriculture Trade Monitor (AATM) and the ReSAKSS Annual Trends and Outlook Report (ATOR),** as well as **four MaMo Panel reports.** Launch events of these publications provided opportunities for agricultural sector stakeholders to discuss the implications of report findings for efforts to accelerate progress toward the Malabo targets and broader development goals. AKADEMIYA2063 staff have produced **27 peer reviewed publications, 20 conference and discussion papers,** and **over 75 COVID-19 bulletins and briefs** including English and French editions.

Consolidating and Expanding Strategic Partnerships

AKADEMIYA2063 has continued to strengthen existing partnerships and forge new relationships in order to heighten our impact. We have built on our team's longstanding work at the continental level to consolidate our position as a key data and analytics partner to the AUC.

- We have maintained strong collaboration with IFPRI, partnering on flagship publications and capacity building projects.

- We have continued support to and collaboration with longstanding partners including governments, non-state actors, regional economic communities, technical centers of expertise, and development partners, and have initiated collaborations with a number of new partners.

- 15 new Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) have been signed or are in progress with research institutions, think tanks, government agencies, and other actors. We plan to work with these partners on research, capacity strengthening, event organization, and other activities.

- AKADEMIYA2063 partners with international initiatives and efforts, including the 50x2030 initiative led by the World Bank, IFAD and FAO to fill agricultural data gaps.

Multi-Channel Communications and Media Delivery

We reach our partners and stakeholders through a variety of communications channels. These include the AKADEMIYA2063, ReSAKSS, and MaMo websites, **12 social media platforms,** and **3 video and live-streaming platforms.** As of October 2021, we had produced **86 publications** and **83 newsletters** and carried out **50 events**; we had welcomed **over 60,000 new website visitors** from **4 continents;** and **our publications and PPT presentations had been downloaded and viewed over 14,000 times and 12,000 times,** respectively. AKADEMIYA2063 was **mentioned 70 times in media** from within and outside Africa.

Financial Consolidation through Resource Mobilization, Funding Diversification and Cost Savings

We have nearly tripled our initial funding within 12 months and are on track to exceed that record in our second year. We began operations with four funders—the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), and the African Development Bank (AfDB). By October 2021, our efforts to seek out new funding opportunities had resulted in a tripling of the number of donors to 12. Additional donors include the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), the World Bank, the Global Center on Adaptation, and FAO.

We carried out restructuring in 2021 which will result in significant cost savings for the organization. When ReSAKSS was launched in 2005 under the facilitation of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the decision was made for ReSAKSS to be hosted by three Africa-based CGIAR centers, the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), which guaranteed both local presence and access to strong IT infrastructure. With the launch of AKADEMIYA2063, there is no longer need to host the ReSAKSS nodes at CGIAR centers. In 2021, contracts with IITA and ILRI ended and one senior staff member from each organization migrated to AKADEMIYA2063. A reduced team of one senior staff member was maintained at IWMI. Four new ReSAKSS staff to be based in Kigali and Dakar will be hired to strengthen the regional teams. This reorganization will result in cost savings for the ReSAKSS program amounting to US$0.5 million annually.

Looking Ahead

AKADEMIYA2063 launched its Strategy 2021–2025 in October 2021 and will finalize the organizational Business Plan to support implementation of the strategy in early 2022. The strategy lays out our Theory of Change, which highlights effective linking of knowledge supply and knowledge demand as a key step in improving policy design and implementation and leading to better development outcomes. AKADEMIYA2063's programs, partnerships, and communications are geared towards strengthening that link through technical and institutional capacities in order to facilitate the provision and use of evidence to inform policies and strategies. As we implement our strategy, we will continue to produce and communicate high-quality evidence and knowledge and promote policy innovation in support of our mission to create capacities to achieve the Agenda 2063 goals.

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