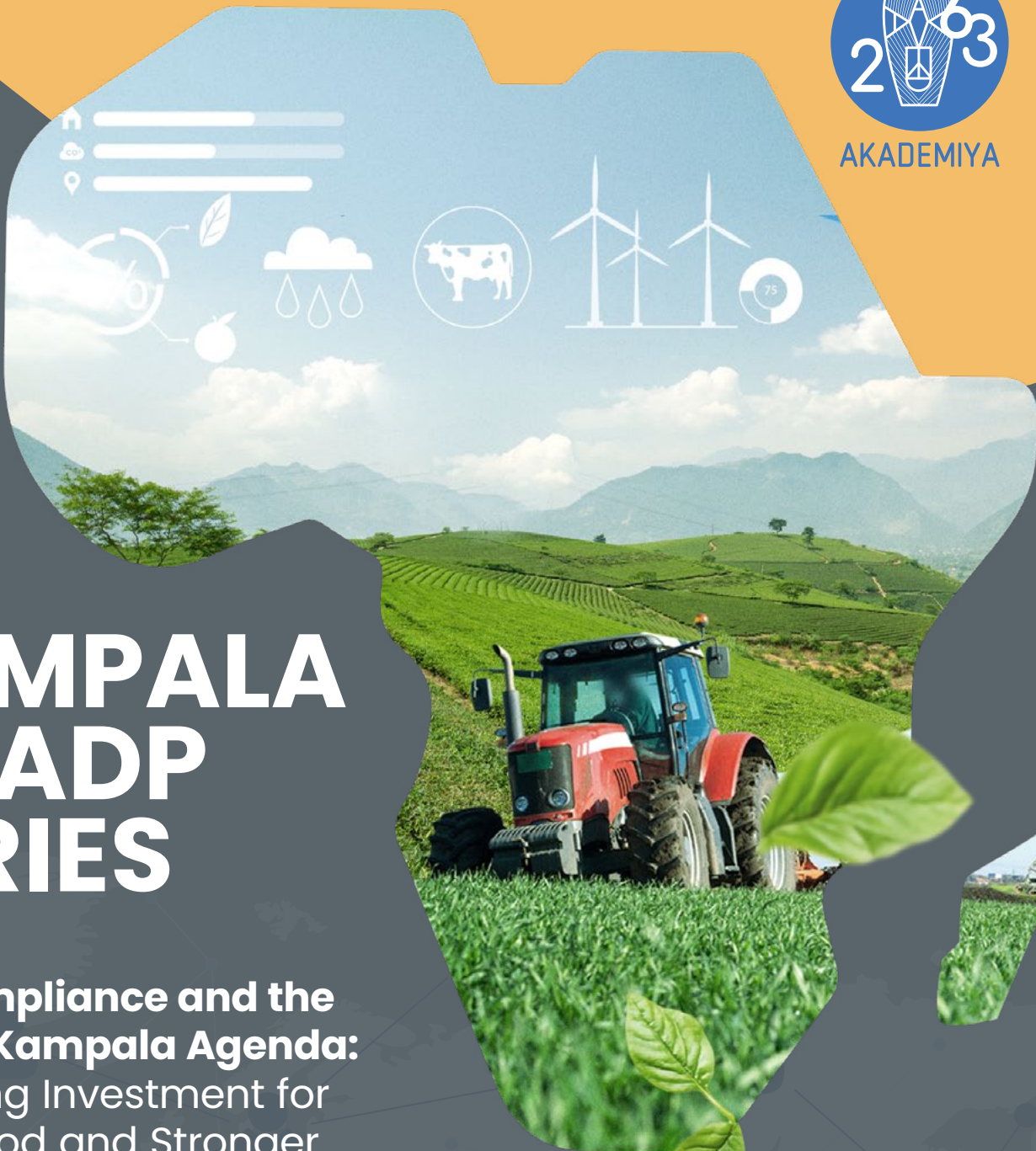




AKADEMIYA



KAMPALA CAADP SERIES

**SPS Compliance and the
CAADP Kampala Agenda:**
Mobilizing Investment for
Safer Food and Stronger
Trade in Africa

Webinar Session V

 **Thursday, May 21, 2026**

 **13:00–14:30 GMT**

 **Online**

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

Foodborne illnesses and hazards remain a major public health threat in Africa. Each year, they cause an [estimated](#) 137,000 deaths and 91 million cases of acute illness across the continent, disproportionately affecting children under five. Compliance with Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures continues to pose a significant challenge for many African countries. Anecdotal evidence suggests that both compliance and the required SPS-related investments entail substantial costs that can weaken SPS systems, constrain trade—both within Africa and globally—and limit the domestic consumption of safe food.

In the context of limited resources, the high cost of SPS investments has contributed to underinvestment and non-compliance, particularly among food business operators. This, in turn, has led to increased incidences of food safety and health hazards, as well as frequent rejection of African export products in international markets.

Investing in SPS systems is central to the continent’s policy agenda, particularly under the African Union (AU) Food Safety Strategy for Africa (FSSA) and the AU SPS Policy Framework, which aim to strengthen political commitment and mobilize public and private investment in SPS systems. These investments are essential to improving compliance with SPS measures. However, progress in strengthening SPS governance and systems remains constrained by limited financial and technical resources.

As Africa advances the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)—especially under the 2025 Kampala Declaration and the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan—there is growing recognition that stronger SPS systems are critical. They are key to boosting intra-African trade under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), expanding global trade, attracting private sector investment in agri-food systems (Strategic Objective 1), and improving food safety and public health outcomes (Strategic Objective 3). Nevertheless, many countries continue to face persistent challenges, including weak regulatory frameworks, inadequate laboratory infrastructure, limited technical capacity, fragmented coordination, and insufficient financing.

To help address existing evidence and knowledge gaps, AKADEMIYA2063 recently conducted a study examining SPS challenges, compliance costs, and investment needs in four countries: Ethiopia, Rwanda, Morocco, and Nigeria. The study was conducted as part of a project led by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Foreign Agricultural Service (USDA-FAS), which supports the African Union Commission’s Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment (AUC-DARBE) in strengthening SPS regulatory systems and harmonizing SPS measures across AU Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

As part of the AKADEMIYA2063 Kampala CAADP Series and in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service (USDA-FAS), this webinar will convene policymakers, technical experts, development partners, and private sector actors to explore the links between SPS compliance, trade performance, and investment mobilization within the CAADP Kampala agenda. The series serves as a platform to advance dialogue on the domestication and implementation of the CAADP Kampala agenda.

Webinar Objectives

The webinar aims to spark broader discussion on the policy implications of investing in SPS systems and on how such investments can be effectively integrated into the CAADP Kampala agenda to support agrifood system transformation. It will also present findings and policy recommendations from AKADEMIYA2063's study, along with insights from African Union technical experts in animal and plant health, as well as food safety. Specific objectives are to:

- Explore recent developments in non-tariff measures (NTMs) in Africa and their implications for regional and global trade, investment, and food security.
- Examine key challenges and opportunities facing African countries in complying with SPS standards.
- Highlight priority investments underway and those needed to strengthen national and regional SPS systems.
- Assess strategies for integrating SPS considerations into the CAADP Kampala agenda and national agrifood investment plans.
- Foster collaboration among public and private stakeholders to advance practical solutions for strengthening SPS systems across Africa.



Preliminary Agenda

Time (GMT)	Agenda	Speakers
	Moderator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Tsitsi Makombe, Director, Knowledge Systems, AKADEMIYA2063
13:00 – 13:20	Welcome and Opening Framing Remarks [20 mins]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Debisi Araba, Managing Director, AKADEMIYA2063 • Ms. Sarah Gilleski, Agricultural Counselor, USDA-FAS, Ethiopia • Mr. John Oppong-Otoo, Coordinator, African Union InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)
13:20– 13:40	Presentation on recent developments in non-tariff measures (NTMs) in Africa and compliance with SPS standards [20 mins]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Getaw Tadesse, Director, Department of Policy Intelligence, AKADEMIYA2063
13:40–14:15	Panel discussion on integrating SPS considerations into the CAADP Kampala agenda [35 mins]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. John Oppong-Otoo, Coordinator, African Union InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) • Dr. Diana Akullo Ogwal, Principal Officer, SPS, Directorate of Trade in Goods and Competition, AfCFTA Secretariat • Dr. John Ulimwengu, Senior Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) • Mr. Peter Donelan, Deputy Head and Lead on Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning, Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), World Trade Organization
14:15 – 14:25	Q&A [10 mins]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All participants
14:25–14:30	Closing Remarks [5 mins]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Debisi Araba, Managing Director, AKADEMIYA2063

ABOUT AKADEMIYA2063

AKADEMIYA2063 is a pan-African non-profit research organization with headquarters in Kigali, Rwanda, and a regional office in Dakar, Senegal. Inspired by the ambitions of Agenda 2063 and grounded in the recognition of the central importance of strong knowledge and evidence systems, the vision of AKADEMIYA2063 is an Africa with the expertise we need for the Africa we want. This expertise must be responsive to the continent's needs for data and analysis to ensure high-quality policy design and execution. Inclusive, evidence-informed policymaking is key to meeting the continent's development aspirations, creating wealth, and changing livelihoods for the better. AKADEMIYA2063's overall mission is to create, across Africa and led from its headquarters in Rwanda, state-of-the-art technical capacities to support the efforts by the Member States of the African Union to achieve the key goals of the African Union's Agenda 2063 of transforming national economies to boost growth and prosperity. Following from its vision and mission, the main goal of AKADEMIYA2063 is to help meet Africa's needs at the continental, regional, and national levels in terms of data, analytics, and mutual learning for the effective implementation of Agenda 2063 and the realization of its outcomes by a critical mass of countries. AKADEMIYA2063 strives to meet its goals through programs organized into five strategic areas—policy intelligence, knowledge systems, data intelligence and governance—as well as partnerships and communication and outreach activities. For more information, visit www.akademiya2063.org.

GET IN TOUCH

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