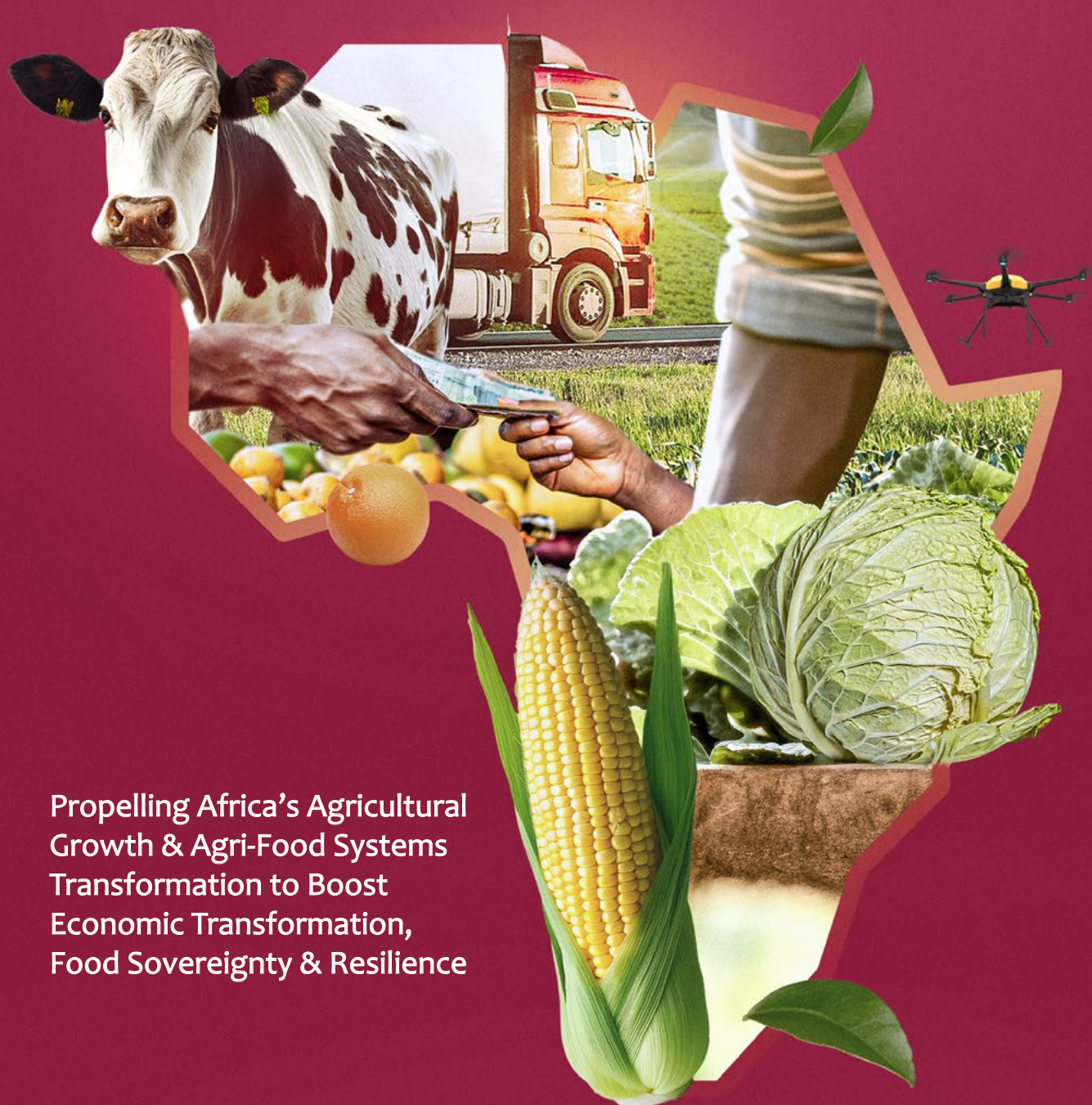


PLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE POST-MALABO AGENDA FOR ACTION ON CAADP



Propelling Africa's Agricultural
Growth & Agri-Food Systems
Transformation to Boost
Economic Transformation,
Food Sovereignty & Resilience



Propelling Africa's Agricultural Growth & Agri-Food Systems
Transformation to Boost Economic Transformation,
Food Sovereignty & Resilience

CONCEPT NOTE

Looking Back on 20 Years of CAADP Implementation



Adopted by the African Union in 2003, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) is Africa's policy framework for agricultural transformation, wealth creation, food security and nutrition, economic growth, and prosperity for all. The main agricultural development initiative of the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), CAADP's vision is to maximize the contribution of agriculture to achieving the ambition of a self-reliant and productive Africa and delivering economic growth and sustainable development for its people. The goal for the sector is an agricultural-led development that eliminates hunger, reduces poverty and food insecurity, thereby opening the way for an expansion for exports and putting the continent on a higher economic growth path within an overall strategy of sustainable development and preservation of natural resources.

Designed to be a practical instrument and framework by which Africa was going to drive efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, CAADP emphasizes the importance of evidence to inform policy design and implementation, inclusive participation of multiple stakeholder groups at all stages of the policy process, and mutual accountability for actions and results. All of these principles contribute to the formulation of high-quality policies and help to ensure that successful policies are scaled up while unsuccessful policies are adjusted.

CAADP has raised the profile of agriculture and encouraged greater policy and investment focus on the sector, with its strong linkages to overall economic growth.

After two decades of CAADP implementation, the continent has made enormous progress in terms of economic and agricultural growth, improvement in poverty and nutrition outcomes, expansion of agricultural trade, and public investments in agriculture. Key achievements in these areas are summarized below.



Strong agricultural and economic growth:

Africa realized sustained economic growth in the last two decades, more than doubling its GDP from US\$1.2 trillion in 2000 to US\$2.7 trillion in 2021. Economic growth was especially high during the early 2000s, with 5.5% growth in GDP in real terms between 2000 and 2008. GDP per capita also showed rapid growth in the 2000s, with more moderate growth in the 2010s until the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Africa has had the fastest growing agricultural sector of all world regions since 2000. Like overall GDP, agriculture value added more than doubled in the past two decades, increasing from US\$ 192 billion to US\$ 427 billion between 2000 and 2021. During the same period, labor productivity grew by over 40 percent and land productivity more than doubled. The agricultural sector continued to grow consistently throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.



Robust growth in intra-regional and global agricultural trade:

Between 2003 and 2021, the value of intra-African agricultural trade increased by 175 percent from US\$ 5.4 billion to US\$ 14.9 billion. Africa's global agricultural exports significantly increased from US\$ 25.3 billion in 2003 to US\$ 73.2 billion in 2021. Currently around 20 percent of Africa's agricultural exports are directed within the continent. A share that has stagnated and needs to be raised significantly.



Improvement in most poverty and nutrition outcomes:

Africa's headcount poverty index declined by around one third over the past two decades, from 46.0 percent in 2000 to 32.4 percent in 2019. The prevalences of wasting and underweight in children under five also declined by around one third during the same period, while child stunting declined by over 20 percent. The overall prevalence of undernourishment declined steadily until the mid-2010s, before increasing slightly in the second half of the decade and more sharply with the advent of the pandemic in 2020.

Increasing public investment in agriculture:

In absolute terms, public expenditure on agriculture (PAE) increased from US\$ 10.7 billion in 2000 to US\$ 17.0 billion in 2021. Growth in PAE was especially strong during the early-mid 2000s, increasing at an annual average of 4.1 percent from 2000 to 2008. In a context of rising public investments in areas including infrastructure and social protection, the shares of PAE in total public expenditure and in agriculture value added declined over the past two decades, indicating an opportunity to boost agricultural investment by returning more of the wealth resulting from strong agricultural growth back to the sector.



Nevertheless, current agricultural public investment has risen to double the levels seen in the 1990s.



After 20 years of CAADP implementation, Africa is in a remarkably better position than at the time of the Maputo declaration in 2003. GDP and average incomes, agricultural output and productivity, agricultural trade and agricultural investments are significantly higher while hunger and poverty have declined. Despite this progress, immense challenges remain. The COVID-19 pandemic interrupted economic growth and caused deterioration in hunger and nutrition outcomes which may require years to recover from. However, even before the pandemic, the rapid progress since the early 2000s had begun to slow on several fronts. In particular, decelerating economic growth and increasing undernourishment present significant challenges to maintaining the progress achieved under CAADP. There is need to deepen the CAADP process and redouble effort to sustain and accelerate progress.

There is need to deepen the CAADP process and redouble effort to sustain and accelerate progress.

Emerging Trends and Future Outlook in African Agrifood Systems

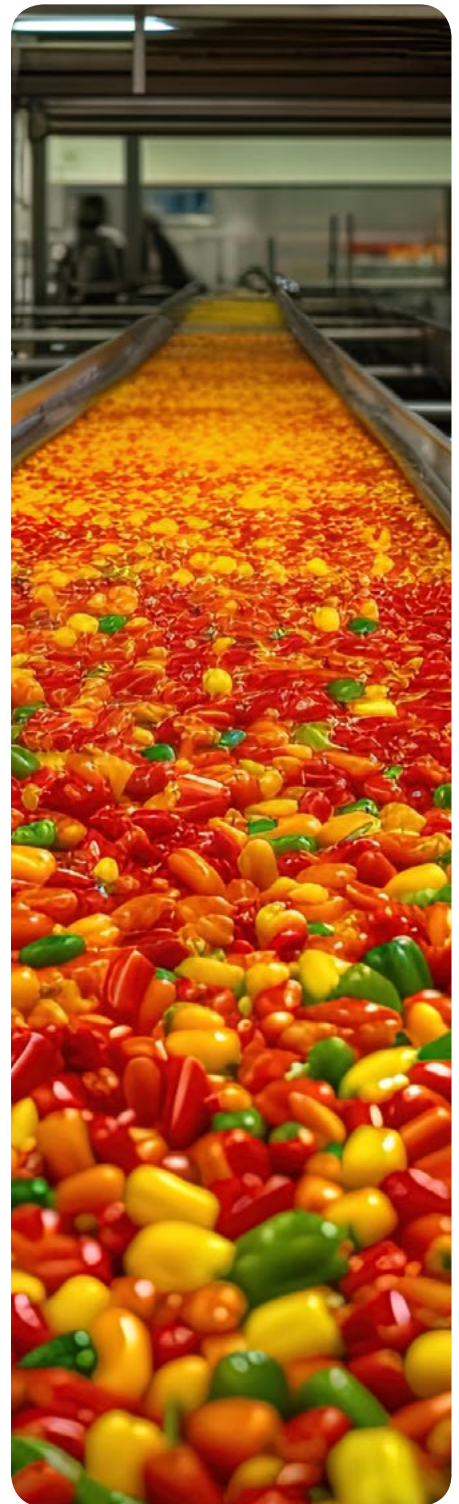
The trends described above, including significant growth in GDP, agricultural production and productivity, and trade, are part of a broader story of rapid change in Africa's agrifood systems. The increased incomes resulting from sustained economic growth have boosted the emergence of a growing middle class with assets and disposable income. Rising incomes and growing urban populations have fueled sharply increasing demand for food overall as well as changes in the composition of food demand. Diets in Africa are diversifying and shifting toward higher value foods, including perishable foods as well as more convenient processed foods which are increasingly consumed by urban households.



This growth in demand for perishable, high-value, and processed foods is leading to transformation of traditional food value chains, which are increasing in length and complexity and adding stages to transform agricultural output into the types of foods demanded by affluent urban consumers. In particular, the domestic agrifood processing sector is growing rapidly to meet changing demand patterns. While comprehensive data on the size and growth of the processing sector are lacking, several studies have documented increasing employment in processing. In addition, processed food plays a large and growing role in intra-African trade: the share of unprocessed products in intra-African agricultural trade fell from 37.1 percent during the 2003–2005 period to 29.0 percent in 2019–2021. Semi-processed products represented 24.7 percent of intra-African trade in 2019–2021 while highly processed products accounted for 46.3 percent.

The processing sector has become a major driver of change and has the potential to contribute even more to food systems transformation on the continent

It has a key role to play in connecting smallholder farmers to growing urban markets, thereby increasing rural incomes, and incentivizing agricultural investments and continued productivity growth. The processing sector also creates remunerative off-farm employment opportunities, often for women who have traditionally played important roles in food processing. Future agricultural and food systems transformation efforts must take into account the central role of processing in bridging food production with consumption.

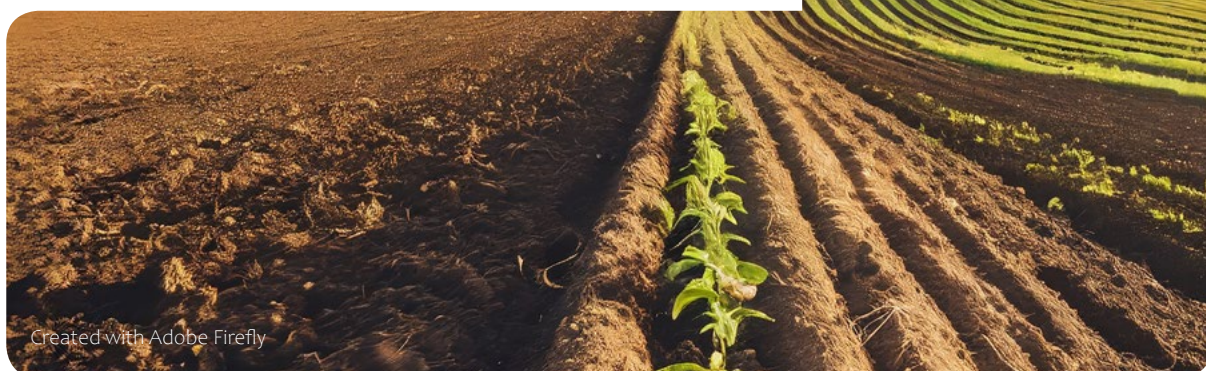


The Case for a Robust Post-Malabo Agenda for Action on CAADP

In line with the 7th Commitment of the CAADP-Malabo Declaration, the AU Commission and AUDA-NEPAD undertook an extensive preparatory process, mobilizing national capacities, which culminated in the launch of the first, second, and third CAADP-Malabo Biennial Reviews in 2017, 2019, and 2021, respectively. These reviews have shed light on the limited progress in advancing the CAADP-Malabo Agenda.

Importantly, the 2022 Biennial Review Report underscored that only one country was making substantial headway toward achieving the composite indicator of agricultural transformation by 2025.

It is therefore clear that, despite significant progress over the last two decades, the continent's ambitions and aspirations under the Maputo and Malabo agendas have not been met. This challenge has been compounded by global issues, including climate change, conflicts, epidemic outbreaks, and economic downturns.



Created with Adobe Firefly



Building on the Strengths and Bridging the Gaps of the Malabo Agenda

One of the strengths of Africa's implementation of the CAADP agenda over the past 20 years has been consistency in the principles, values, and key commitments guiding implementation. With the 2014 Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, African Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their commitment to the CAADP principles and values as well as its core agricultural growth and public expenditure commitments, while also expanding the commitment areas to make the agenda more comprehensive and balanced. Similarly, after 20 years of CAADP implementation, it is important to retain the strengths of the CAADP agenda while adjusting and deepening it to respond to emerging issues. The post-Malabo agenda must meet the needs of sustainable food systems transformation in a context of accelerating climate change and risks of shocks from multiple sources. This can only be accomplished by building on previous successes while tackling ongoing and new challenges.

Table 1 below provides recommendations on how the Malabo commitments can be expanded to align more fully with the requirements of successful agrifood system transformation in the current context. Many of the Malabo declaration commitments express important values or key targets which should be retained in the post-Malabo agenda. For example, the CAADP principles and values of agriculture-led growth, regional cooperation and coordination, partnership among stakeholder groups, evidence-based planning, dialogue and review, and mutual accountability, described in the first and seventh Malabo commitments, will continue to be key to the success of future

efforts and should be retained in the post-Malabo agenda. Similarly, the original CAADP targets of achieving a 10 percent agricultural expenditure share and a 6 percent agricultural growth rate remain important goals to work toward in the post-Malabo agenda. In other areas, new targets and focus areas should be added to those expressed in the Malabo Declaration to better reflect the continent's current situation and the state of knowledge on the drivers of food systems transformation. Specific recommendations to expand the focus of Malabo Declaration commitments 3, 4, 5 and 6 are discussed below.

Table 1. Malabo Declaration commitments and areas for expansion

Malabo Declaration Commitment	Suggested Areas for Expansion
1. Recommitment to the Principles and Values of the CAADP Process	To be retained in the post-Malabo agenda
2. Commitment to Enhancing Investment Finance in Agriculture	To be retained in the post-Malabo agenda with a new target tracking the level of agricultural expenditure as a share of agricultural GDP. This takes the focus away from competing with other sectors for budget resources and justifies the level of agricultural expenditure based on the wealth that is created by the sector. The question becomes how much of that wealth is being invested back in the sector
3. Commitment to Ending Hunger in Africa by 2025	To be expanded to include focus on harnessing of emerging technologies, biotechnology, artificial intelligence and IT to boost productivity growth combined with robust health, food safety and nutrition outcomes
4. Commitment to Halving Poverty by the year 2025, through Inclusive Agricultural Growth and Transformation	To be expanded to include the pursuit of robust performance and increased competitiveness of domestic processing sector to claim a larger share of the growing domestic market
5. Commitment to Boosting Intra-African Trade in Agricultural commodities and services	To be expanded to include focus on enhancing regional trade competitiveness through elimination of non-tariff barriers and other constraints to trade across border and between regional blocks
6. Commitment to Enhancing Resilience of Livelihoods and Production Systems to Climate Variability and other related risks	To be expanded to include investments in understanding of the nature and drivers of community vulnerability and boosting preparedness and capacities to for timely and effective response to restore normalcy after shocks
7. Commitment to Mutual Accountability to Actions and Results	To be reaffirmed and enhanced in the post-Malabo agenda

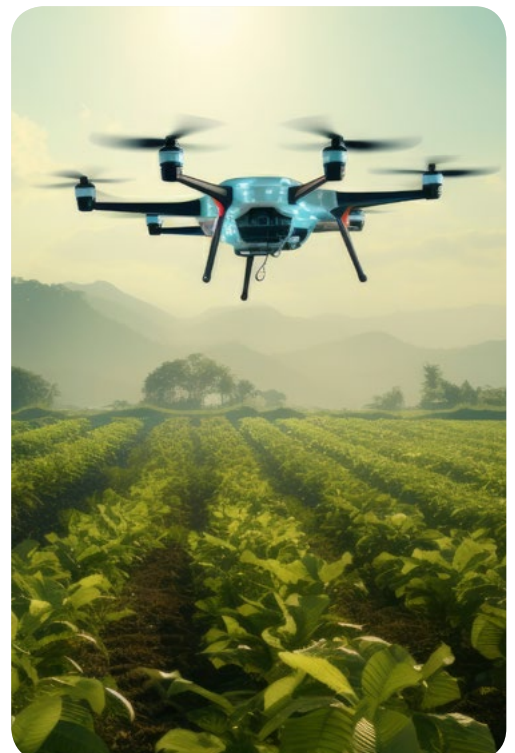
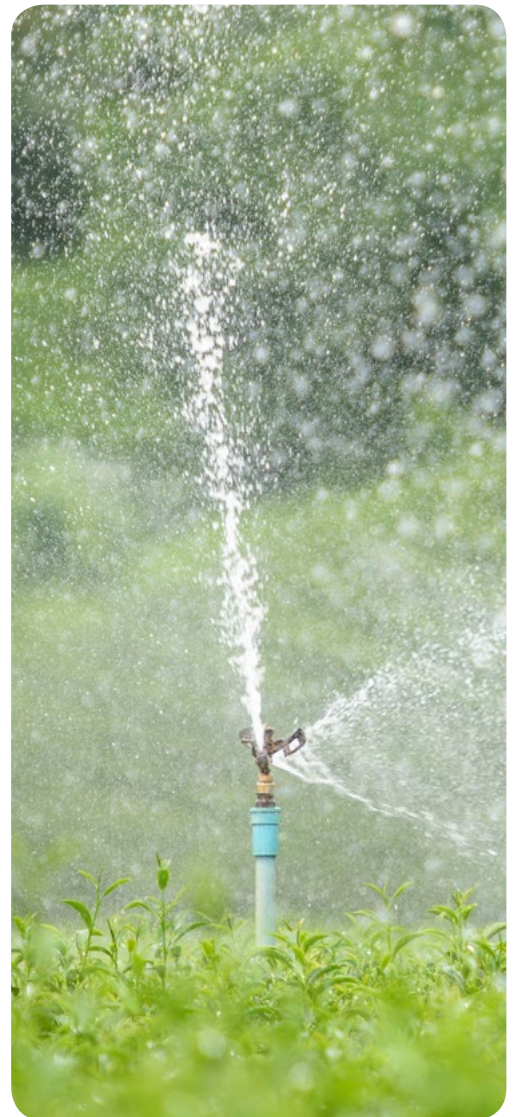
Malabo Declaration Commitment 3: Ending hunger in Africa by 2025

The Malabo commitment to end hunger in Africa includes sub-commitments to double agricultural productivity levels while improving access to inputs, knowledge and skills, water management, mechanization, and energy; halve post-harvest losses; and reduce child stunting and underweight to 10 percent and 5 percent, respectively. These will remain important areas of focus in the post-Malabo agenda. The goal of increasing agricultural productivity remains essential and the focus should be broadened to consider the contribution of emerging technologies to productivity growth. Harnessing digital technologies, artificial intelligence, biotechnology and other new technologies is essential to fuel productivity growth while protecting the productive base in the context of a changing climate.

The focus on nutrition should also be expanded to encompass better health, food safety and nutrition outcomes from the food system more comprehensively. Specifically, this means taking into account the health and food safety dimensions of the food systems agenda as well as multiple forms of malnutrition beyond stunting and underweight, including reducing the prevalence of micronutrient deficiencies and addressing the rising risk of overnutrition and associated non-communicable diseases.

Malabo Declaration Commitment 4: Halving Poverty by the year 2025, through Inclusive Agricultural Growth and Transformation

The commitment to halve poverty through inclusive agricultural growth and transformation includes a goal for agriculture to contribute at least 50 percent to the poverty reduction target, through maintaining a 6 percent agricultural GDP growth rate, establishing public-private partnerships in value chains with linkages to smallholder agriculture, creating job opportunities for youth and facilitating participation of women and youth in agribusiness. In the post-Malabo agenda, these goals should be linked with the growth of a competitive domestic processing sector which will allow farmers and other food systems actors to capture a larger share of the rapidly expanding domestic market.





Malabo Declaration Commitment 5: Boosting Intra-African Trade in Agricultural commodities and services

Commitment 5 of the Malabo Declaration includes the target of tripling intra-African agricultural trade by 2025 as well as resolutions to put in place an enabling policy and institutional environment for trade, including through simplification and formalization of trade processes, accelerating the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and a continental Common External Tariff, increasing investments in trade infrastructure, and strengthening coordination platforms. Significant progress has been made in this area, including the launching of the AfCFTA, but much remains to be done. The post-Malabo agenda should include a focus on enhancing competitiveness in regional markets by reducing the impacts of non-tariff barriers, which are currently the largest obstacle to increasing intra-African trade.

Malabo Declaration Commitment 6: Enhancing Resilience of Livelihoods and Production Systems to Climate Variability and other related risks

The commitment to enhancing resilience includes resolutions to ensure that 30 percent of agricultural households are resilient to climate and weather-related risks, raise investments in resilience-building interventions including social protection, and mainstream resilience and risk management into policies and investments. The need for investments in resilience and for enhancing preparedness capacities has become even more apparent since the Malabo Declaration, as the COVID-19 pandemic and the impacts of the Russia-Ukraine war have demonstrated the severe damage that can be inflicted by multifaceted shocks. The post-Malabo agenda should broaden the focus on resilience to include the objective of improving preparedness and response capacities to shocks by investing in improving understanding of the nature and drivers of vulnerability at community and household levels. Efforts should strive both to reduce vulnerability during normal times and to respond effectively to shocks when they strike to quickly restore livelihoods to normalcy.



Guiding Strategic Frameworks and Continental Programs

The implementation of the post-Malabo agenda is to be facilitated by AU's six strategies and action plans and three pivotal programme areas listed below:

Continental strategies and action plans

Operational Plan for Transformation of African Food Systems (OPTAFS): Designed to implement the Roll-out Plan of the Africa Common Position on Food Systems, its overarching goal is to enhance the resilience of livelihoods, agri-food systems, and ecosystems. This involves action on four game-changing priorities: (i) expanding agriculture and food productivity and production; (ii) boosting investment financing for Africa's food systems transformation; (iii) ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all; and (iv) strengthening and leveraging Africa's growing local food markets.

Green Recovery Action Plan (GRAP): The aim is to boost economic and climate resilience, particularly for populations, including women and young people, disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Common Africa Agro-Parks (CAAPs): It seeks to enhance regional trade by processing key agricultural products locally, promote and facilitate local and regional food production, increase self-sufficiency, and stimulate private sector investment in agriculture.

Livestock Development Strategy for Africa (LiDESA): Its key objectives include attracting public and private investment along the livestock value chains, enhancing animal health, increasing production and productivity, fostering innovation, and improving access to markets and value addition.

Africa Blue Economy Strategy: The overarching goal is to develop an inclusive and sustainable blue economy that contributes significantly to continental transformation and growth. This involves advancing marine and aquatic biotechnology, environmental sustainability, the growth of an Africa-wide shipping industry, managing fishing activities, and exploiting deep sea mineral and other resources.

Post-Harvest Loss Management Strategy (PHLM): The aim is to effectively guide and coordinate initiatives to reduce post-harvest losses in alignment with the Malabo Declaration and SDG targets.

Sustainable Agricultural Mechanisation for Africa (SAMA): The framework serves as a tool for the development of Agricultural Mechanisation tools for youth and women to remove the drudgery from agriculture and thereby improving labour productivity especially for women. The SAMA is also a framework used to support the campaign to relegate the hand-held hoe to the museum and replace it with tillers, a symbolic effort to drum home the importance of removing drudgery from agriculture.



Continental Agribusiness Strategy: The objective of the Strategy is to mobilize the AU, RECs, Member States, farmer organizations, private sector, development partners and other actors around a set of high priority strategies designed to support the growth of a modern, robust, and inclusive private sector-led African agribusiness.

Digital Agricultural Strategy: The African Union (AU) Digital Agriculture Strategy (DAS) and Implementation Plan establish a framework for the digital transformation of African agriculture and cover the period from 2024 to 2027. The strategy builds on the goals and priority areas of Agenda 2063 and shares the goals for modern agriculture for increased productivity and production (goal 5) for a high standard of living, quality of life, and well-being for all citizens (goal 1). Technology is seen as a driver for the transformation of economies, including agriculture, and economies must be environmentally sustainable and resilient to climate change (goal 7). One of the AU's flagship projects, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), signed by 55 AU member states, targets the establishment of regional value chains, and the DAS can help to build the required digital environments. The DAS promotes digital agriculture to achieve "Accelerated Agrofood Growth and Transformation."



Pivotal Programme Areas

Agrifood Basket Development and Advancing the Africa Common Position on Food Systems: The objective is to attain food sovereignty and cultivate resilient agri-food systems, ecosystems, and livelihoods within selected regional agroecological areas.

Boosting Inter-African Trade: This entails harnessing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) institutional setups and activities to facilitate trade in agricultural commodities and services among African nations, positioning Africa for enhanced intra-continental trade.

Enhancing Infrastructure Development and Investment Finance: This involves increasing investments in business capital and infrastructure along the agrifood value chains, fostering economic growth and development in the agricultural sector.

Principles to Underlie the Agenda for Action on CAADP

The proposed principles underlying the Post-Malabo Programme are as follows:



Africa-Driven:

The Programme should be led by the African Union (AU), Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Member States, and inter-governmental institutions, guided by strategies, guidelines, and principles endorsed by AU Policy Organs.



Self-Reliance:

Efforts should be made to utilize Africa's own resources to safeguard its integrity, sovereignty, and be accountable to its citizens.



Progressive Tracking:

The Programme should incorporate mechanisms for systematically tracking progress against established targets and conducting regular mutual accountability sessions.



Dedicated Institutional Governance:

Distinct institutional setups dedicated to managing and delivering on the agriculture and agri-food systems transformation agenda should govern and implement the Programme. Experience has shown that countries with dedicated parastatal bodies tasked with achieving agriculture transformation goals tend to perform better in agriculture transformation indicators, as exemplified by Ethiopia and Seychelles, among others.

The Development and Endorsement of the Programme

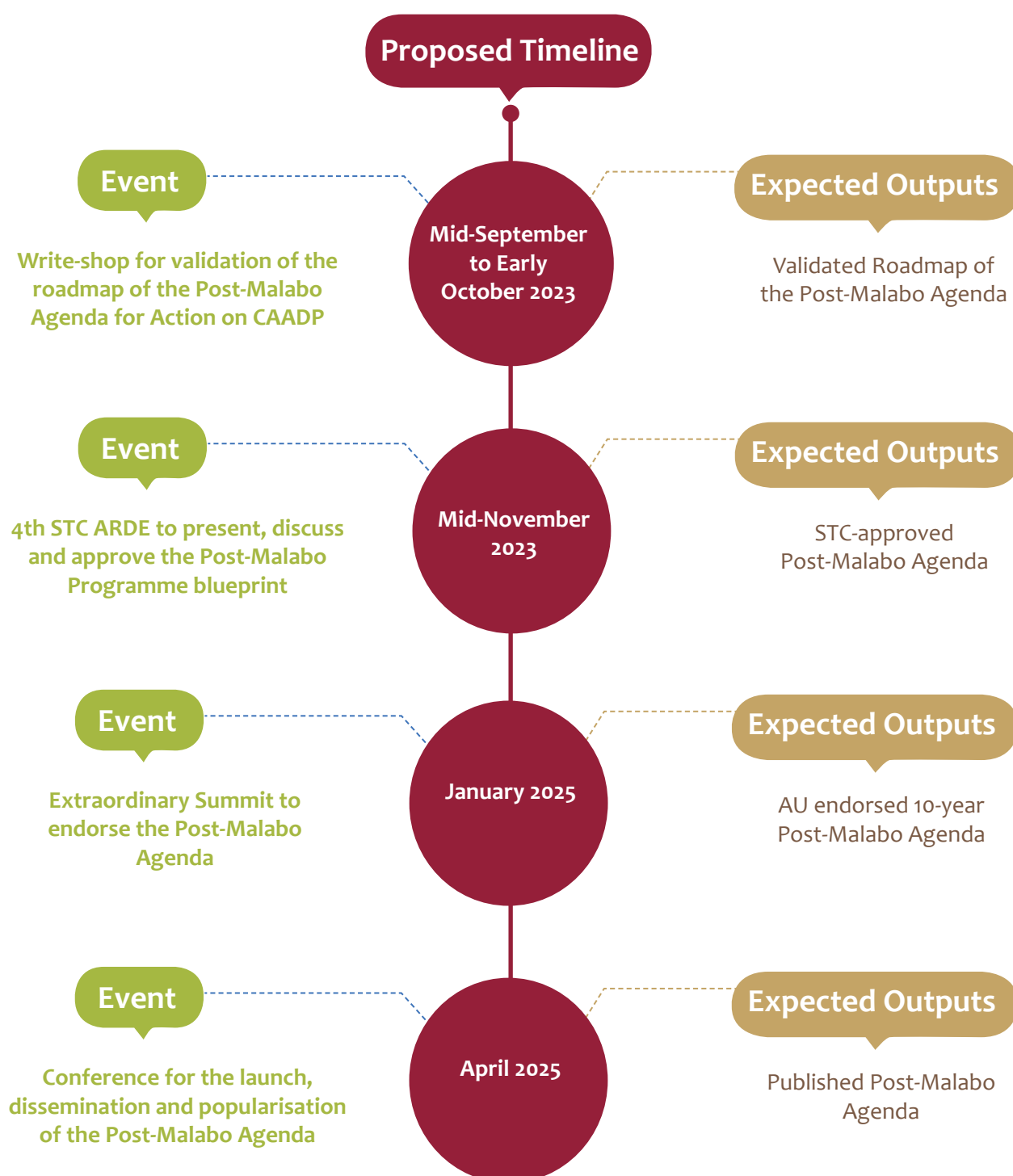
The proposed roadmap outlines the steps leading to the development and launch of the Post-Malabo Programme:

Step	Activity	Responsible Institution	Remarks
1	Commission key studies on investment financing; production and productivity for ending hunger; agricultural science and technology; trade and market Access and agrifood value chains competitiveness; and climate change mitigation and adaptation	African universities and knowledge institutions and selected Partners; coordinated by AKADEMIYA2063	It is critical to empower African universities and centers of knowledge to embrace the post Malabo agenda and lead the production of data and analytics to guide its implementation
2	AUC-DARBE and AUDA-NEPAD appoint a Steering Committee (SC) to oversee the development of the Post-Malabo Programme and mobilise required resources.	AUC-DARBE, AUDA-NEPAD and Specialised Technical Offices (STOs)	The SC will have co-leaders representing the two sister organizations Identify a facilitator at this point to guide the next steps
3	Convene an internal scoping and planning meeting of the Principal Partners, to review and finalise this concept note, discuss and approve this roadmap	AUC-DARBE, AUDA-NEPAD and STOs	This meeting should take place by mid-October 2023, with a facilitator to guide discussions and generate synthesis

Step	Activity	Responsible Institution	Remarks
4	Convene a consultative workshop with RECs to discuss key elements of the Post-Malabo Programme, its development, agree on the next steps and respective roles	AUC-DARBE, AUDA-NEPAD, STOs and RECs	This meeting should take place within two weeks or from the one described in Step 2 and may be a hybrid session
5	Present the outline of the draft programme at the 19th CAADP PP for discussion and recommendations	CAADP Focal Persons and Partners	The CAADP PP is scheduled for end of October 2023
6	Present the draft programme at the mid-November 2023 4th STC ARDWE to gain approval of the programme	STC	Inputs to include a presentation of highlights of an issues paper based on the concept note
7	Convene a multistakeholder meeting to review the final draft of the Post-Malabo Programme and agree on the products to be presented to an Extraordinary AU Summit to endorse it	All key CAADP and related flagship stakeholders	Meeting in December 2023, on the margins of the February 2024 Summit or later; draft, review and discuss a declaration to be endorsed by the Extraordinary Summit
8	Convene an Extraordinary AU Summit to endorse a declaration with a new set of commitments for delivering on the Post-Malabo Programme	Heads of State and Government	Plan and mobilize resources for the summit; reach to potential member states to host the Extraordinary Summit
9	Organise the launch and dissemination of the Programme	All stakeholders and Pan African institutions invited	Involvement of media communication specialist is critical at this stage

Key/Milestone Events

Based on the above tentative roadmap, three major events need to be carefully planned, resources (both technically and financially) and organized, namely:





An Integrated, Prosperous and Peaceful Africa,
driven by its own citizens and representing a
dynamic force in the global arena.
