African Union

AGRICULTURAL POLICY DIALOGUE
AFRICAN UNION-GERMANY

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Agricultural Policy Dialogue (APD)

YEAR II SYNTHESIS REPORT

NOVEMBER 2024 – OCTOBER 2025

Cover photo: **H.E Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, AUC Chairperson poses with some of the members of AU-DARBE after a courtesy visit.**

Executive Summary

From November 2024 to October 2025, the African Union – Germany Agricultural Policy Dialogue (APD) decisively transitioned from inception and consolidation to operational delivery as a continental mechanism for agricultural policy coordination under the leadership of AUC-DARBE and BMLEH. In its second year, the APD moved from "design to delivery," anchoring itself institutionally within the African Union system and establishing the foundations for structured engagement with five pilot Member States—Botswana, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, and Mauritania—as well as their respective Regional Economic Communities (RECs), namely SADC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, EAC and UMA.

The launch of the Kampala CAADP Declaration and the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan (2026–2035) during the AU Extraordinary Summit on CAADP in early 2025 provided the strategic compass for the "Kampala Decade of Action." Throughout the year, APD provided technical, coordination and communication support that helped shape this new framework and position it as Africa's principal vehicle for agrifood systems transformation. In parallel, the APD aligned its own Theory of Change and Results Framework with the Kampala CAADP Strategy's six strategic objectives, emphasizing productivity and soil health, climate resilience, inclusive financing, and youth and women's economic empowerment.

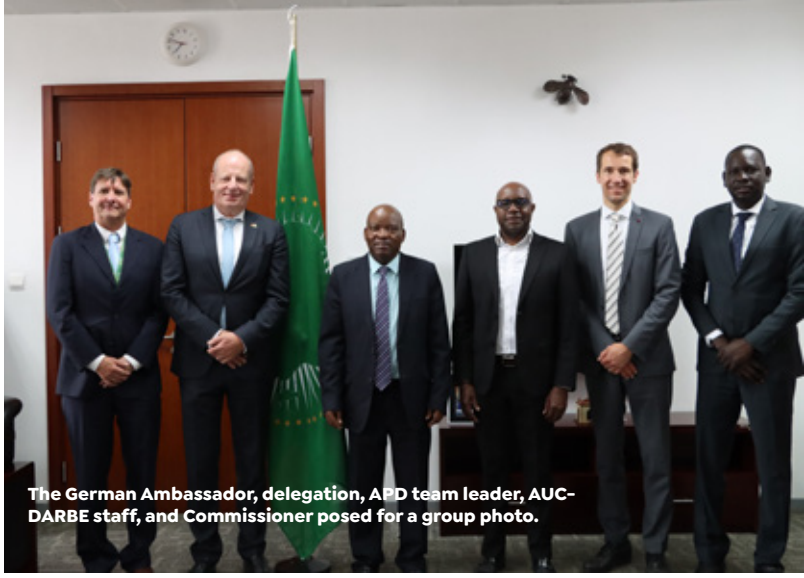
The defining operational milestone of Year II was the Regional Inception and Country Engagement Meeting held in Kigali in October 2025, combined with intensive one-on-one consultations with regional and country CAADP Focal Points during the 21st CAADP Partnership Platform (PP) and 16th Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security (ADFNS). These engagements formally launched APD's country-level work, enabled co-creation of engagement roadmaps with governments and RECs, and translated continental commitments into concrete national pathways.

Institutionally, APD consolidated its role as a strategic delivery instrument within AUC-DARBE. The Project Steering Committee (PSC) became operational, the APD Team was fully embedded in AUC planning and reporting processes—including the Africa Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Tool (AMERT)—and APD's workplan, communication strategy, and analytical agenda were aligned with the Commissioner's 100-Day Priorities.

At the same time, APD deepened and diversified its partnership ecosystem—working closely with AUDA-NEPAD, Academiya2063, FAO, GIZ, WHH, the Swiss Embassy, the EU, and others—to reinforce CAADP domestication, integrate Right to Food and agroecology principles, and position youth and women at the centre of agrifood transformation. A dedicated communication and digital knowledge strategy, including a new website, social media presence, and an emerging Community of Practice, expanded APD's visibility and introduced robust platforms for shared learning.

Year II thus established APD as a credible, politically recognized and technically trusted platform that connects continental policy frameworks with regional and national implementation realities. The initiative is increasingly seen as an essential instrument for advancing the Kampala CAADP agenda, the Commissioner's 100-day agenda, and for showcasing the added value of the AU–Germany partnership in driving sustainable, resilient and inclusive agrifood systems transformation across Africa.

Strategic Context and Institutional Consolidation



The German Ambassador, delegation, APD team leader, AUC-DARBE staff, and Commissioner posed for a group photo.

Year II unfolded against a backdrop of significant political and strategic developments in both the African Union Commission (AUC) and Germany's Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Regional Identity (BMLEH).

On the African side, the appointment of H.E. Commissioner Moses Vilakati at the helm of the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (DARBE) marked a pivotal political transition. Under his leadership, the APD was explicitly recognized and positioned as a central instrument to drive agrifood systems transformation and to operationalize the Commissioner's 100-Day Agenda. The 100-Day Agenda focuses on six priority areas, including soil health, fertilizer research and production, regional seed banks, blue economy, climate resilience and institutional development and financing. APD's mandate—policy coordination, evidence-based dialogue, and cross-sectoral coherence—maps directly onto these priorities.

Concurrently, the AU Extraordinary Summit on CAADP and subsequent Johannesburg launch of the Kampala CAADP Declaration and CAADP Strategy and Action Plan (2026–2035) set the strategic foundation for the next decade. The Kampala framework defines Africa's principal roadmap for building resilient and sustainable agrifood systems, with a strong emphasis on implementation, accountability and measurable results. APD contributed to these processes through technical inputs, facilitation of multi-stakeholder dialogues, communication support and by aligning its own results architecture with the Kampala Strategy.

On the German side, leadership transitions within BMLEH reaffirmed Germany's long-term commitment to the APD as a flagship bilateral initiative. The alignment with Germany's new Africa Strategy—focused on regional identity, sustainable food systems and climate-resilient agriculture—further solidified the political

High-level dignitaries posed for photos at the Youth and Women Pavilion, including the former Prime Minister of Ethiopia.

Participants posed for a group photo with high-level dignitaries after the official launch of the Kampala Declaration, Strategy, and Action.

and strategic backing for APD. The appointment of a new agricultural counsellor at the German Embassy in Addis Ababa strengthened political dialogue and day-to-day coordination, ensuring that the APD effectively reflects and advances shared AU–Germany priorities.

Institutionally, APD's integration into AUC-DARBE structures reached a new level of maturity. The APD Team is now fully accredited within AUC systems, with clear reporting lines and participation in departmental planning, retreats and hybrid staff meetings. APD deliverables are reflected in DARBE's annual workplan and are monitored through AMERT, ensuring that APD is embedded within the AUC's internal accountability architecture rather than operating in parallel.

The Project Steering Committee (PSC), co-chaired by AUC-DARBE and BMLEH, met for its inaugural session in April 2025. It endorsed the APD Theory of Change, provided guidance on the Results Framework, and validated the 2025 workplan and communication strategy. The PSC now functions as the principal governance mechanism for strategic oversight, ensuring joint ownership, political alignment and transparent accountability between the AU and Germany.

Through this dual process of political endorsement and organizational embedding, APD has consolidated its legitimacy as a continental coordination mechanism, firmly rooted in AUC structures and backed by Germany's long-term strategic cooperation.

High-level dignitaries—including South Africa's Minister of Agriculture, Uganda's State Minister of Agriculture, the STC Chair, H.E. Moses.

H.E. Jens Hanefeld, the German Ambassador to Ethiopia, paid a courtesy visit to H.E. Moses Vilakati, the DARBE Commissioner, at the African Union headquarters.

From Design to Delivery: Key Results and Strategic Accomplishments (Nov. 2024–Oct. 2025)

Year II marked the transition from foundational design to coordinated delivery, defined by four major strategic shifts:

Raising Political Visibility and Shaping Continental Agendas: APD significantly elevated Africa's agrifood diplomacy through over 10 high-level continental and global policy engagements, positioning the programme as a central actor in shaping political narratives around the Kampala CAADP Strategy. The year opened with the Africa Youth Agribusiness Forum (125 youth participants from Africa and Germany), whose Youth Call to Action became a flagship political document presented at the AU Extraordinary CAADP Summit to H.E. Jakaya Kikwete, signalling Africa's commitment to youth-led transformation. APD subsequently ensured Africa's voice was prominent in global spaces such as the GFFA 2025 and the AU–EU Ministerial Conference in Rome, facilitating bilateral dialogues with senior leaders from FAO, the EU, Sweden, Egypt, and Germany. These engagements consolidated APD's diplomatic influence, strengthened Africa–Europe cooperation, and established APD as one of the AU's principal mechanisms for high-level agrifood policy dialogue.

Strengthening AUC-DARBE Leadership, Institutional Coherence and Internal Systems: APD undertook 15 major institutional strengthening actions, firmly embedding itself within AUC-DARBE's governance structures and reinforcing the Commissioner's reform agenda. Through intensive retreats in Zanzibar and Entoto, APD finalized its Theory of Change, Results Framework and Workplan, aligning them fully with the Commissioner's 100-Day Agenda and AU reform priorities. The inaugural Project Steering Committee, co-chaired by AUC-DARBE and BMLEH, approved strategic decisions including priority country selection and endorsed APD's continental coordination role.

An activity during an APD training in Mombasa

Meeting with Mauritania CAADP Focal Person Mr Teybe El Aghel.

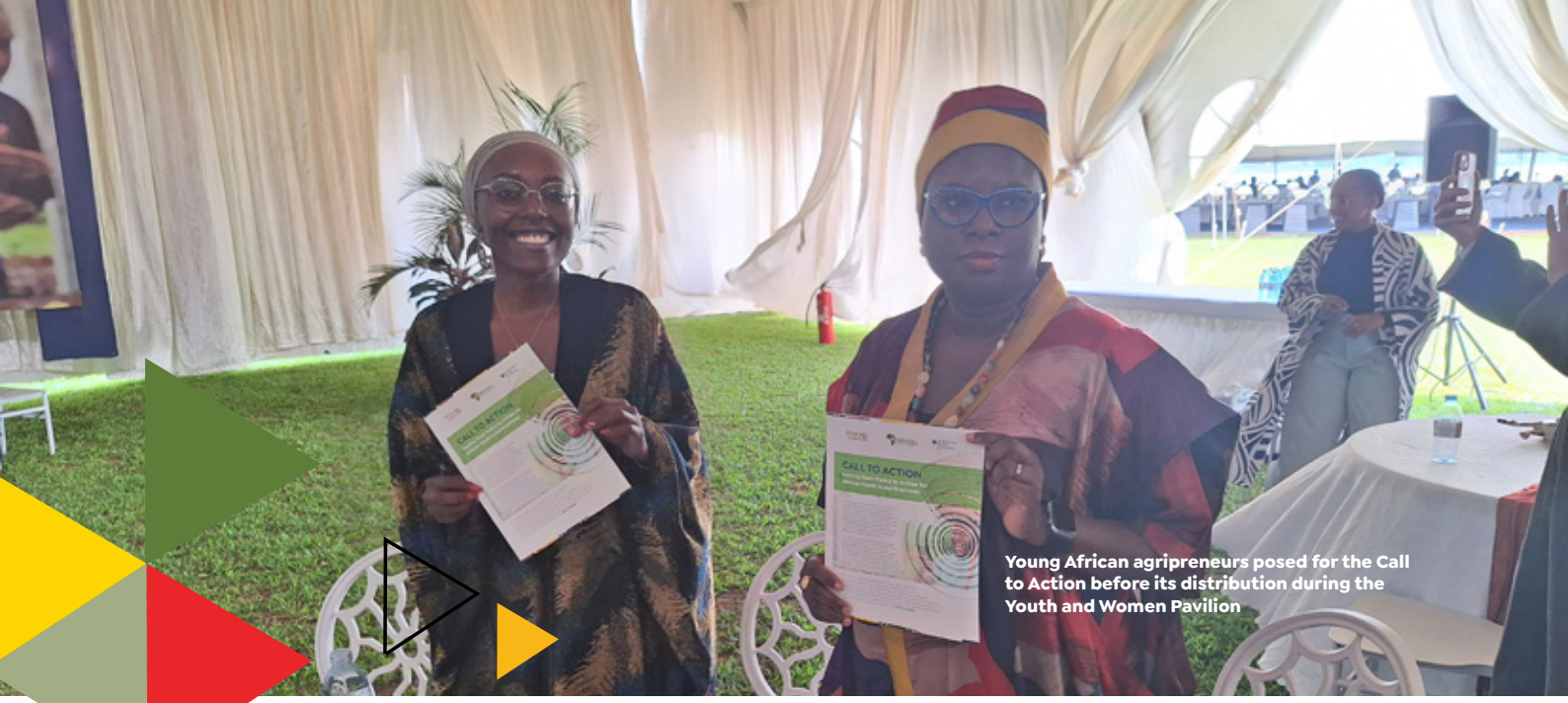
APD also ensured full compliance with DARBE reporting systems by delivering 100% of statutory, quarterly and AMERT-aligned reports on time. With additional support to the College-to-College process and the successful endorsement of the Farmer-Managed Seed Systems (FMSS) at the 6th STC, APD transitioned from a project to a fully institutionalized AU mechanism with predictable leadership and delivery capacity.

Generating Evidence, Strengthening Coordination Mechanisms and Advancing the Kampala CAADP Strategy: In Year II, APD produced two landmark analytical studies and three continental coordination instruments that might form the backbone of CAADP implementation for 2026–2035. The study on REC performance delivered the first comprehensive assessment of coordination gaps across all five African regions, while the flagship report on Enhancing CAADP Coordination proposes a new governance model anchored in the Agrifood System Transformation Advisory Group (ASTAG), Continental Steering Committee (CSC), strengthened national CAADP units, regional hubs, and a CAADP Coordination Fund. This evidence informed the development of the CAADP Implementation Guidelines and the Continental Coordination Roadmap, both endorsed by the 6th STC. APD also supported technical content for the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan launch in South Africa and contributed to the 5th CAADP Biennial Report, the development of Kampala CAADP Declaration Implementation Guidelines, and strengthening Africa's continental accountability architecture. With a total of five major analytical and policy instruments produced, APD established itself as the lead architect of CAADP institutional coherence under the Kampala Strategy.

Deepening Thematic Leadership: Climate Action, Agroecology and Nature-Positive Systems: APD advanced Africa's climate and agroecology agenda through three high-impact thematic engagements, integrating climate resilience and nature-positive principles into CAADP's implementation landscape. The Nature-Positive Agri-Food Systems Dialogue in Nairobi, co-organized with IFPRI and WWF, provided actionable inputs for the emerging global Nature-Positive Solutions Network. At Africa Climate Summit II, APD's side event on Scaling Climate-Smart Agriculture informed the Addis Ababa Declaration, affirming CSA as a priority pillar of the Kampala Strategy. Enhanced collaboration with AUC departments working on fisheries, aquaculture and the blue economy improved cross-sector alignment, ensuring that climate, biodiversity and food systems agendas are addressed cohesively. These efforts entrenched APD as an important voice on science-based, climate-resilient agrifood transformation.

Launching Country Engagements: From Continental Vision to National Delivery: Year II marked the operational launch of APD's country engagement phase with five AU Member States representing all RECs—Kenya, Botswana, Mauritania, Côte d'Ivoire and Cameroon. APD conducted a brief five country analysis, integrated REC perspectives, and initiated domestication planning aligned with the Kampala CAADP Strategy. The Regional Inception and Country Engagement Meeting in Kigali, which convened over 30 national and regional stakeholders, formally validated APD's engagement approach and facilitated the co-development of country roadmaps. One-on-one consultations during the CAADP PP and ADFNS strengthened political ownership and clarified implementation roles. With these milestones, APD completed its country engagement inception phase, securing the institutional, political and technical foundations for full country-level implementation in 2026.

Communication, Knowledge Platforms and Strategic Visibility: APD significantly expanded its visibility and knowledge ecosystem by rolling out six major communication and knowledge platforms, including the development of APD website and official social media channels, which reached over 500 users in their first months. The Communication Strategy and the Community of Practice Strategy established coherent continental messaging and will lay the foundation for structured peer learning among AU Member States, RECs and stakeholders. A comprehensive continental stakeholder and power-mapping analysis strengthened targeted engagement, while APD's presence at over 10 high-level events amplified its reputation as a trusted policy dialogue mechanism. These investments transformed APD into a continental knowledge hub, essential for supporting evidence-informed decision-making across Africa.



Young African agripreneurs posed for the Call to Action before its distribution during the Youth and Women Pavilion

Partnerships, Knowledge Ecosystems and Youth Inclusion: Drivers of Systemic Transformation

Strengthening Strategic Partnerships Across the AU System and Beyond: APD strengthened Africa's agrifood governance ecosystem by cultivating more than 12 strategic partnerships across continental institutions and development agencies. Deepened collaboration with AUDA-NEPAD aligned REC coordination and domestication support, while technical partnerships with FAO, GIZ, BMZ, and WHH reinforced thematic capacities in climate, nutrition, rights-based approaches and youth programming. Engagement with the EU and the German Embassy enhanced political credibility and expanded the space for joint programming and resource mobilization. This constellation of partnerships positioned APD as a continental convening platform capable of harmonizing diverse actors behind the Kampala CAADP Strategy and establishing a coherent Africa-led delivery framework.

Anchoring Youth Inclusion and Intergenerational Leadership: APD institutionalized youth leadership within Africa's agrifood transformation agenda through four major continental mechanisms, beginning with AYAF 2024 and its Youth Call to Action, now used across AUC and Member State processes. APD's contribution to the Youth in Agribusiness Performance Index (YAPI) shaped metrics for youth-sensitive programming, while work toward establishing the Africa Agribusiness Youth Conference (AAYC) anchored a long-term platform for youth leadership. Through consistent representation in climate, agroecology and CAADP PP dialogues, APD ensured youth concerns became structurally embedded in policy processes. As a result, APD is now widely recognized as an important driver of youth integration in Africa's agrifood policy architecture.

The APD team pose for a photo with the AU Chairperson after courtesy visit by the Chairperson.

Meeting with Kenya CAADP Focal Person Ms Josephine Love.

Knowledge and Learning Systems: APD strengthened Africa's agrifood knowledge ecosystem by deploying five continental knowledge instruments—digital platforms, policy briefs, learning pathways, coordination tools and the stakeholder landscape analysis—which collectively enhanced evidence-based decision-making across Member States and RECs. These systems supported key continental decisions on FMSS, the CAADP SAP and the Commissioner's 100-Day Agenda, affirming APD's role as a core intelligence provider within DARBE. By embedding knowledge management into continental processes, APD laid the foundation for a sustainable, institutionalized learning culture that will support CAADP implementation throughout the Kampala Decade of Action.

Group photo APD team in Kigali.

Risk Management, Sustainability and Priorities for Year III (2025-2026)

Risk Management	Mitigation strategies	Sustainability
Political transitions at AUC and BMLEH	Early engagement, maintained strategic communication, and alignment with AUC and BMLEH priorities.,	Embedding APD within AU systems, institutional anchoring within DARBE and AMERT
Institutional restructuring within AUC	Diversifying partnerships.	Country-owned roadmaps guiding national domestication
Capacity constraints at the continental and REC levels	Enhancing reporting reliability,	Partnership-driven approaches reduce dependency on a single donor
Financial uncertainties in a competitive global funding landscape	Co-creating delivery mechanisms with Member States and RECs.	Digital and youth platforms that will outlast project cycles

APD is positioned as a long-term AU instrument, not a standalone project.

Looking Ahead: Strategic Priorities for Year III (2025-2026)

1. Deepen and operationalize country engagement, including coordinated missions to the five pilot countries. Develop relationships with specialized BMLEH agencies in key thematic priorities.
2. Implement the CAADP Coordination Architecture (ASTAG, CSC, national units, hubs).
3. Advance climate-resilient agrifood systems transformation, linking CAADP with NDCs and continental climate strategies.
4. Institutionalize youth platforms, particularly the AAYC.
5. Launch the APD Community of Practice as Africa's principal hub for CAADP knowledge exchange.
6. Mobilize additional financing through EU, FAO, IFAD, BMZ and other partnerships.
7. Strengthen AUC-DARBE organizational reforms, as requested by the Commissioner.
8. APD is now poised to move into full delivery mode, supporting Member States and RECs to implement the Kampala CAADP Strategy with coherence, accountability and measurable results.

Conclusion

In its second year, the APD has established itself as the continental backbone for coherent agrifood system transformation. Through political leadership, evidence-based dialogue, institutional anchoring and strategic partnerships, APD has advanced Africa's shift from planning to action.

Year II lays a strong foundation for Year III—where APD will transition from coordination and alignment toward tangible, country-level impact through the operationalization of the Kampala CAADP Strategy across regions and Member States.

Annexes

1. Regional Inception Meeting Report (Kigali, October 2025) – Proceedings, outcomes, and country engagement roadmaps: Country Engagement Regional Launch Report.pdf
2. Kampala Declaration, CAADP Strategy and Action Plan (2026–2035) – Final adopted version endorsed by the AU Summit. Original CAADP Declaration[1].pdf
3. Kampala Implementation and Domestication Guideline: CAADP Kampala Guidelines Oct21_2025_Clean_Final[1].pdf, CAADP Kampala Implementation and Domestication Guidelines.pdf
4. Commissioner's 100-Day Agenda and Implementation Roadmap – Official document and STC-endorsed milestones aligned with APD's technical work: Commissioner Vilakatis 100 day Priorities REVISED_Final_Final.pdf
5. APD Quarterly Progress Reports (Q1–Q2, 2025) – Detailed activity updates and key performance indicators. APD Q1 REPORT 2025-2.PDF and APD Q2 Report 2025.pdf
6. Country Analysis Reports – Contextual studies for Kenya, Botswana, Mauritania, Côte d'Ivoire, and Cameroon. Country Selection Analytical Report Edited_241122 FINAL.pdf and Country Selection Synthesis 241212 CLEAN copy.pdf
7. CAADP Partnership Platform and ADFNS Proceedings Report (Kigali, 2025) – Summary and key resolutions supported by APD.CAADP ADFNS.pdf
8. Analytical Studies on CAADP Coordination and REC Engagement – Reports by Dr. Simbarashe Sibanda and Dr. Hamady Diop. Analysis of REC Support to CAADP.pdf
9. APD Communication Strategy and Implementation Plan (2025) – Framework for visibility, digital outreach, and knowledge management: APD Communication strategy.pdf
10. AYAF 2024 Proceedings and Youth Call to Action – Adopted resolutions and proposed roadmap for institutionalizing youth participation: AYAF C2A.pdf
11. Photos: Photos for Year II Report

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