African Union

AGRICULTURAL POLICY DIALOGUE

With support from

Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture

by decision of the German Bundestag

Agricultural Policy Dialogue (APD)

QUARTER I REPORT 2025

SYNTHESIS

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

Background

The Agricultural Policy Dialogue (APD) was initiated in November 2023 by the African Union Commission (AUC) Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment (DARBE), with support from the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), to accelerate progress toward inclusive, sustainable, and resilient agrifood systems. The APD focuses on three interconnected outcomes: strengthening capacity for cross-sectoral agrifood systems transformation, replicating successful models for sustainable and resilient agrifood system transformation across AU Member States, and enhancing knowledge management systems for sharing lessons learned and best practices. Aligned with the UNFSS Africa Common Position on Food Systems and the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan (SAP) 2026–2035, the APD facilitates informed, multistakeholder dialogues to promote evidence-based, cross-sectoral approaches to agrifood systems transformation, fostering inclusiveness from the continental level to Regional Economic Communities and Member States.

Progress and Key Events

The first quarter of 2025 was marked by several events in which the APD participated, creating opportunities to foster strategic partnerships and setting the stage for coordinated support towards domestication and implementation of the CAADP SAP at both regional and national levels, as outlined below:

1. **AU Extraordinary Summit on CAADP Post-Malabo Agenda (Jan 9–11, Kampala):** APD hosted a side event on resilient agrifood systems and launched the Call to Action for African Youth in Agribusiness, presented to former President of Tanzania H.E. Jakaya Kikwete.
2. **Global Forum for Food & Agriculture (Jan 15–23, Berlin):** APD showcased its initiatives, built strategic partnerships, and refined its Theory of Change and 2025–2026 Workplan through engagements with the Consortium, GFA and BMEL.
3. **East Africa Agroecology Conference (Mar 25–28, Nairobi)**: Co-organized a side event with CGIAR and WWF on nature-positive agrifood systems, contributing to future policy dialogues.
4. **APD Team Retreat (Mar 10–11, Ethiopia):** Focused on revising the Theory of Change and strengthening the Results Management Framework to enhance strategic impact.
5. **Advancing Youth Empowerment**: APD repositioned to support AUC-DARBE (ARD) in leading the Africa Agribusiness Youth Conference (AAYC) by initiating the recruitment of a consultant to operationalize the conference. Additionally, APD participated in the Youth in Agribusiness Performance Index (YAPI) event to enhance tools for tracking youth agribusiness performance.
6. **Strengthening Communications**: Developed a Communication Strategy to increase digital engagement with stakeholders, set for next quarter's launch.
7. **Country selection and Engagement:** Identified five AU RECs and Member States (Kenya, Botswana, Mauritania, Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon) for focused collaboration.

Outlook

The APD initiative plans to undertake the following key activities during April – June (Quarter II):

- **Convene APD Steering Committee Meeting** (7 April, Hybrid): Discuss and validate the revised APD Theory of Change (ToC), Results Monitoring Framework (RMF), and Annual Workplans.
- **Align APD outputs with the AUC Consolidated 2025 CAADP Workplan**. The APD will liaise with the CAADP team to map deliverables onto the AUC 2025 CAADP workplan with the aim to avoid replication of efforts and maximize the potential for synergies with partners.
- **Participate in Permanent Secretaries of Agriculture Leadership Dialogue** (10–12 April, Lusaka, Zambia), with the aim to identify PS priorities and strengthen partnerships with key continental actors.
- **Co-create roadmap for APD engagement at REC and Member State level**, in close cooperation with AUC DARBE, AUDA-NEPAD, FANRPAN, and other key partners. Prioritization of RECs and Member States for initial engagement, stakeholder mapping, and support to the CAADP SAP domestication process.
- **Participate in Launch of CAADP SAP 2026–2035 & Kampala Agenda** (5–7 May, Johannesburg, South Africa). The APD Core Team intends to engage with partners and convene side-meetings with AUDA-NEPAD and FANRPAN to identify priorities and next steps for REC and Member State engagement.
- **Participate in Policies Against Hunger Conference** (23–25 June, Berlin, Germany). The APD will chair a working group on Empowering Women & Girls.
- **Launch APD's website and social media accounts** (Website, X, LinkedIn, and Facebook). APD accounts will be operationalized to enable increased awareness and global reach.
- **Continental stakeholder mapping**. The APD will produce an outline of key actors and their interlinked power relations relevant to influencing agrifood systems transformation at continental level, as well as recommendations for their strategic engagement at policy and implementation stages.
- **Support to institutionalize the AYAF within existing AUC structures**. Engage consultants to develop a feasible strategy with linkages to the AAYS.

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JANUARY 2025
YOUTH & W
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