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 II REPORT

APRIL – JUNE 2025

AUC – DARBE

SYNTHESIS

Cover photo: AUC DARBE Vommissioner Moses Vilakati hosts Botswana ambassador to Addis with officials from the German Embassy from Addis and the APD team on the APD country implementation

Background

The Agricultural Policy Dialogue (APD), launched in November 2023 by the African Union Commission (AUC) with support from Germany's BMLEH, is a strategic initiative aiming to catalyse inclusive, sustainable, and resilient agrifood systems across Africa. It operates under the frameworks of the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan (SAP) 2026–2035 and the Africa Common Position to the UN Food Systems Summit.

Structured around three key outcomes—capacity strengthening, policy development, and enhanced knowledge systems—APD aims to overcome fragmented policymaking through coherent, evidence-driven approaches.

Strategic and Operational Progress

The reporting period marked a transition from strategic design to active implementation, characterized by validated frameworks, formalized partnerships, and intensified country-level operations. Key highlights include:

1. **Steering Committee Endorsement and Institutional Alignment:** APD's first Project Steering Committee validated the initiative's strategic and operational frameworks, confirming its institutional relevance and enabling a coordinated delivery model that links AU reforms with targeted national engagement.
2. **Coordination Study for CAADP Kampala Strategy:** A continental study commissioned by APD proposed structural reforms to improve CAADP coordination—introducing national units, REC hubs, and pooled funding mechanisms—to strengthen delivery of the Kampala Strategy.
3. **Study on REC Support to Member States:** An in-depth analysis identified gaps in REC support to Member States, recommending clearer mandates, enhanced capacity, and stronger AfCFTA alignment to improve regional facilitation of agri-food systems transformation.
4. **Strengthening Regional Coordination:** Based on study findings, APD advanced a roadmap for harmonizing REC roles and aligning regional support with CAADP indicators, reinforcing the Kampala Agenda and promoting regional agri-food trade.
5. **Engagement in High-Level Policy Dialogues:** APD positioned itself as a key policy actor by engaging with senior policymakers at the Permanent Secretaries' Dialogue in Lusaka, advocating for youth inclusion, climate action, and cross-sectoral coordination.
6. **Support to CAADP SAP and Kampala Agenda Launch:** At the official launch in Johannesburg, APD facilitated strategic side events, aligned its priorities with AUC's 2025 Workplan, and strengthened coordination mechanisms with RECs and AU departments.
7. **Finalisation of Country Roadmaps and Formal Engagement:** Bilateral engagements with five Member States progressed to final roadmap development, laying the groundwork for tailored support in CAADP domestication and policy coherence.
8. **Strategic Influence through Global Advocacy:** At the Berlin Conference, APD led a session on women's empowerment in agri-food systems, showcasing African-led innovations and reinforcing its global policy credibility.
9. **Development of Digital Communications Infrastructure:** APD launched social media channels and began content roll-out, reaching over 7,000 users. The website and digital community platform, now under development, will enhance visibility and stakeholder engagement.
10. **Strengthened Coordination on Country Engagements:** Through strategic consultations with FAO, GIZ, BMZ, and the EU, APD promoted coherent support for CAADP implementation and reduced duplication of country-level efforts.
11. **GFA and Consortium Backstopping Mission:** A backstopping mission streamlined implementation workstreams and aligned APD delivery plans with AU strategic priorities, reinforcing focus and operational clarity.
12. **Knowledge-Sharing with European Partners:** APD facilitated a learning exchange with German and EU institutions, supporting mutual understanding and coherent European engagement in CAADP domestication.

Strategic Insights and Reflections

- Strategic Alignment with AUC and BMLEH agendas has strengthened APD's legitimacy and institutional traction.
- Visibility matters: High-level engagements enhanced APD's credibility.
- Youth and Gender Inclusion: Must shift from ad hoc focus to systematic integration in CAADP policy and practice.
- Communication: Digital tools are becoming powerful levers for storytelling, advocacy, and stakeholder engagement.
- Adaptability: Continued refinement of the Theory of Change and Results Framework illustrates APD's ability to stay responsive.

Outlook – July to September 2025

Key planned actions for Q3 include:

- Launch final reports on CAADP coordination and REC engagement.
- Convene country and REC kick-off meeting (Addis Ababa, 11 Sept).
- Conduct country profiles and analyses with national consultants.
- Organize events during: Africa Climate Summit (8–10 Sept) and CAADP Partnership Platform (28–31 Oct)
- Launch Policy Learning Labs and operationalize Knowledge Management System.
- Institutionalize the Africa Agribusiness Youth Council (AAYC) and plan for an AU Youth Agribusiness Conference.
- Coordinate TEAM Europe engagement in CAADP with GIZ, EU Delegation, and ARBE.

Conclusion

APD is now fully operational, building on validated strategies, institutional buy-in, and expanding influence. With robust frameworks, adaptive management, and a growing digital footprint, APD is positioned as a continental enabler of agri-food systems transformation in support of the CAADP SAP 2026–2035.

Annexes (To Be Finalized in Q3):

» Report on REC–Member State Coordination
» Report on CAADP-Kampala Implementation Mechanism
» APD Digital Communication Infrastructure

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