THE 21ST COMPREHENSIVE AFRICA AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME PARTNERSHIP PLATFORM (CAADP PP) AND 16TH AFRICA DAY FOR FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY (ADFNS)

From Malabo to Kampala: Accelerating Just, Resilient Agrifood Systems Transformation for Nutrition and Sustainable Growth

29–31 October 2025, Kigali, Rwanda

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AAFSH-AP	African Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan
AAFSH	African Alliance for Fertilizer and Soil Health
ADFNS	Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security
AFSH-AP	African Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan (2023–2033)
AFSPAN	African Parliamentary Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AGRA	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
AUC	African Union Commission
AUDA-NEPAD	African Union Development Agency – New Partnership for Africa's Development
ARC	African Risk Capacity
ARBE	Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (Department of the AUC)
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CAADP-PP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme Partnership Platform
CARDESA	Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa
CCC	Cluster Commodity Compact
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CSA	Climate-Smart Agriculture
DFI	Development Finance Institution
DRF	Disaster Risk Financing
EAC	East African Community
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
GAIN	Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition
HGSF	Home-Grown School Feeding
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IRRI	International Rice Research Institute
JSR	Joint Sector Review
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
NAIP	National Agriculture Investment Plan
NASIP	National Agrifood System Investment Plan
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
PESA	Participatory Extension Services Approach (or Model)
PFI	Private Financing Institution
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
RAIP	Regional Agriculture Investment Plan
REC	Regional Economic Community
RICA	Rwanda Institute for Conservation Agriculture
SMP+	SMP+ – School Meal Planner Plus
SO	Strategic Objective (under CAADP Kampala Framework)
UNFSS	United Nations Food Systems Summit
USD	United States Dollar
WFP	World Food Programme

Foreword

The 21st Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme Partnership Platform (CAADP-PP) and the 16th Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security (ADFNS), held in Kigali, Rwanda, from 29–31 October 2025, came at a defining moment for the continent's agricultural transformation agenda. Under the theme "From Malabo to Kampala: Accelerating Just, Resilient Agrifood Systems Transformation for Nutrition and Sustainable Growth," the forum marked the transition from commitment to execution—ushering in what has been called the Kampala Decade of Delivery (2026–2035).

This gathering brought together ministers, policymakers, researchers, private-sector leaders, farmers' organizations, youth innovators, and development partners to share lessons and chart a shared roadmap toward resilient, inclusive, and nutrition-secure food systems. The deliberations reaffirmed the principles of the CAADP framework: evidence-based planning, accountability for results, and multi-stakeholder collaboration and inclusivity. At its core, the meeting underscored the urgent need to move beyond policy formulation toward measurable action that improves livelihoods, restores soil health, builds resilience to climate shocks, empower women and youths, and strengthens Africa's position in global and regional food markets.

As Africa enters the Kampala Decade, success will depend on coordinated efforts to align national priorities, regional investments, and continental frameworks. This report captures the spirit, outcomes, and collective determination that emerged from Kigali—a renewed call for Africa to act with urgency, purpose, and unity in transforming its agrifood systems.

Acknowledgements

The African Union Commission (AUC) and the African Union Development Agency – NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD) extend their sincere appreciation to the Government of Rwanda for hosting the 21st CAADP Partnership Platform and the 16th Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security. The leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources and the warm hospitality of the people of Rwanda were instrumental in ensuring the success of this landmark event.

Special recognition is due to the technical and financial partners—FAO, IFAD, WFP, AfDB, AGRA, CARDESA, FARA, GAIN, IRRI, COMESA, IGAD, and others—whose collaboration and expertise enriched the deliberations and strengthened Africa's collective resolve to operationalize the CAADP Kampala Strategy and Action Plan. Appreciation is also extended to the regional economic communities, farmer organizations, youth and women networks, civil society, and private-sector actors whose participation exemplified the inclusivity that defines the CAADP approach.

Finally, acknowledgment is given to the session moderators, rapporteurs, and organizing teams who worked tirelessly to ensure high-quality discussions, clear documentation, and actionable outcomes. Their commitment and professionalism ensured that the Kigali forum not only reflected Africa's ambitions but also charted practical pathways to achieve them.

Executive Summary

Africa stands at a decisive juncture in its pursuit of agrifood transformation—one that demands a transition from policy formulation to delivery, from fragmented interventions to integrated systems, and from promises to measurable impact. The 21st Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme Partnership Platform (CAADP-PP) and the 16th Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security (ADFNS), held in Kigali from 29–31 October 2025, marked the formal launch of the "Kampala Decade of Execution" under the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan (2026–2035). Convening governments, regional economic communities, development partners, research institutions, farmers' organizations, private investors, and youth innovators, the event reaffirmed Africa's collective resolve to accelerate just, resilient, and nutrition-sensitive agrifood systems transformation.

The proceedings established a unified framework for action anchored on four strategic pillars: (1) revitalizing soil and ecosystem health as the foundation of productivity and nutrition security; (2) crowding-in private investment through predictable policy, blended finance, and risk-sharing instruments; (3) empowering youth and women as full partners and architects of the new food economy; and (4) embedding accountability, foresight, and data-driven coordination in every layer of policy and practice. These commitments reflect a recognition that Africa's agrifood future will be determined not by plans, but by the quality of its implementation culture.

A strong emphasis was placed on healthy soils as the entry point for systemic change, with delegates endorsing the integration of the African Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan into national and regional investment frameworks. Soil restoration, balanced nutrient management, and farmer-centric advisory systems were presented as public goods essential to climate resilience and human health. In parallel, seed system modernization—through Seed Sector Investment Plans, regulatory reform, and early-generation seed production—was acknowledged as critical to boosting productivity, nutrition, and biodiversity conservation.

Financing emerged as both the central challenge and the greatest opportunity. Stakeholders endorsed a continental agricultural financing architecture to operationalize the USD 100 billion CAADP Kampala target, designed to leverage blended finance, public-private partnerships, concessional facilities, and innovative risk-mitigation tools. Banks, micro-finance institutions, and fintechs were urged to view agriculture not as a high-risk sector but as an untapped growth frontier capable of delivering both impact and returns. The emphasis shifted toward bankable investment pipelines, policy predictability, and structured instruments such as Cluster Commodity Compacts (CCCs) and Agricultural Growth Corridors, which aggregate value-chain actors, leverage resources, align infrastructure, and link smallholders to regional markets.

Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) and disaster-risk financing were reaffirmed as essential buffers against shocks that threaten productivity and fiscal stability. Delegates called for the mainstreaming of CSA in NAIPs and NDCs, the use of early-warning systems and renewable-energy irrigation, and the adoption of sovereign risk insurance mechanisms to protect public and private investments. These measures were recognized as indispensable for building adaptive, low-carbon, and nutrition-sensitive food systems.

Nutrition and health were deliberately placed at the centre of the transformation agenda. The ADFNS component highlighted homegrown school feeding, culinary innovation, and communication for healthy diets as cost-effective levers linking agriculture to nutrition outcomes, gender equity, and local economies. The meeting underscored that "soil health and human health are inseparable", and a call to integrate nutrition targets and food-safety standards across agricultural, education, and health policies.

Across sessions, youth and women were positioned not as beneficiaries but as co-implementers of transformation. Mechanisms such as guarantee schemes, cash-flow-based lending, digital credit, and entrepreneurship incubators were proposed to unlock access to capital and markets. Youth-led agribusiness hubs, digital innovations, and blue-food enterprises were celebrated as engines of inclusive growth, employment, and resilience.

Finally, the meeting endorsed strategic foresight and data systems as the backbone of accountability. Institutionalizing foresight within ministries and regional bodies, supported by academic partnerships and monitoring frameworks, was seen as vital to anticipate risks, evaluate progress, and sustain reform momentum. A comprehensive monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) framework aligned with the Kampala indicators will track policy uptake, investment mobilization, and delivery milestones.

The Kigali forum concluded with a shared conviction that the

next decade must be defined by delivery discipline, measurable impact, and shared accountability.

Africa's agrifood transformation will depend on translating its ambitious frameworks into practical investments —

those that restore soils, finance farmers, feed children, empower youth, and strengthen markets.

The message from Kigali was unequivocal: Africa's time for implementation has begun.

Introduction and Background

Africa's pursuit of agricultural transformation has long been anchored in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), adopted in 2003 as the African Union's flagship framework for achieving food security, inclusive growth, and poverty reduction through agriculture-led development. Over the past two decades, CAADP has guided successive continental compacts—from Maputo (2003) to Malabo (2014)—that committed Member States to allocate at least 10 percent of public expenditure to agriculture and to achieve 6 percent annual agricultural growth. These milestones catalysed major policy reforms, stimulated regional integration, and mobilized billions of dollars in public and private investment. Yet progress has remained uneven, constrained by fragmented implementation, budgetary constraints, limited accountability, and an enduring gap between continental aspirations and country-level delivery.

Recognizing these implementation bottlenecks, the African Union and its development partners resolved to inaugurate a new era of delivery discipline under the Kampala CAADP Strategy and Action Plan (2026–2035)—a results-oriented framework that marks the transition from strategy formulation to execution. The 21st CAADP Partnership Platform (PP) and the

16th Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security (ADFNS), convened in Kigali, Rwanda, from 29 to 31 October 2025, served as the formal launchpad for this "Kampala Decade of Execution." The meeting echoed the AU's 2025 theme, "Year of Reparations: Justice for Africans and People of African Descent through Reparations," by framing agriculture as a pathway to dignity, prosperity, and Africa's future—where reparations mean correcting past injustices and advancing food sovereignty and resilience for a sovereign and prosperous continent. The joint forum united ministers of agriculture and finance, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), farmer organizations, private-sector leaders, youth and women entrepreneurs, researchers, and development partners around a single purpose—to realign Africa's agrifood transformation agenda with measurable results, strengthened governance, sustainable financing and soil management.

The Kigali meeting took place at a pivotal convergence of continental and global agendas. It built on the Malabo Declaration's unfinished commitments, responded to the African Union's Agenda 2063 – The Africa We Want, and aligned directly with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the African Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan (2023–2033), and the outcomes of the UN Food Systems Summit. The gathering also provided an operational bridge between agricultural development, climate adaptation, nutrition, and trade under frameworks such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the Paris Agreement. Collectively, these linkages underscored the reality that Africa's agrifood transformation is both an economic and a governance imperative—demanding coherent policy, accountable institutions, and inclusive participation.

The forum's timing was equally strategic. Escalating climate shocks, soil degradation, food import dependence, and youth unemployment have intensified calls for a new model of agrifood growth—one that is regenerative, nutrition-sensitive, and anchored in African resources and knowledge systems. The COVID-19 pandemic and global supply-chain disruptions further revealed the fragility of external dependencies, reinforcing the urgency of building resilient domestic food systems that secure nutrition, generate jobs, and strengthen sovereignty.

The Kigali CAADP-PP and ADFNS sought to answer a single question: how can Africa transform high-level commitments into tangible impact on farms, markets, and households? Over 450 delegates from governments, RECs, farmer groups, academia, civil society, and the private sector engaged in three days of plenaries, technical sessions, and side events structured around the theme "From Malabo to Kampala: Accelerating Just, Resilient Agrifood Systems Transformation for Nutrition and Sustainable Growth." Discussions highlighted that achieving the Kampala targets—covering six strategic objectives, 22 targets, and 40 indicators—will require not only more investment but also greater coherence, partnership, and accountability across institutions and sectors.

Participants reaffirmed CAADP's role as the continental coordination and investment platform for agriculture and nutrition, with the new Strategy and Action Plan providing a unified framework for scaling climate-smart agriculture, strengthening seed and soil systems, expanding inclusive finance, and integrating youth and women into value-chain leadership. The event also showcased the next generation of delivery tools—Cluster Commodity Compacts, Agricultural Growth Corridors, Seed Sector Investment Plans, and Disaster Risk

Financing mechanisms—designed to translate policy frameworks into actionable, bankable programmes.

The Kigali meeting positioned agriculture at the heart of Africa's socioeconomic transformation. By aligning agrifood investments with health, environment, and trade objectives, the meeting reaffirmed that food systems are the engine of inclusive development—a source of employment for the continent's youth, a driver of industrialization through agro-processing, and a foundation for environmental stewardship. Delegates emphasized that healthy soils, nutrition security, sustainable finance, climate resilience, and youth empowerment form the four interdependent pillars of Africa's agricultural renewal. Together, they define the operational priorities of the Kampala Agenda: restoring ecosystems, unlocking capital, empowering people, and institutionalizing accountability.

Ultimately, the Kigali forum signalled a continental consensus: Africa's next frontier is execution. The transition from policy to performance will depend on national ownership, regional cooperation, coordination, and a shared commitment to measurable results. As the curtain rises on the Kampala Decade of Execution, the success of Africa's agrifood transformation will be measured not by declarations but by delivery—by the soils restored, the farmers financed, the youth employed, and the citizens nourished.

Meeting Agenda

The 21st CAADP Partnership Platform (CAADP-PP) and the 16th Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security (ADFNS) unfolded over three days, from 29–31 October 2025, at the Kigali Convention Centre, Rwanda, under the theme "From Malabo to Kampala: Accelerating Just, Resilient Agrifood Systems Transformation for Nutrition and Sustainable Growth." The agenda was deliberately structured to build momentum from policy reflection to practical implementation, featuring high-level plenaries, technical discussions, and multi-stakeholder side events that collectively set the operational direction for the Kampala Decade of Execution (2026–2035).

Opening Session: **Setting the Continental Vision**

The opening session was officiated by senior government representatives of Rwanda, the African Union Commission (AUC), and AUDA-NEPAD, alongside development partners and Regional Economic Communities (RECs). In his welcome remarks, Dr. Telesphore Ndabamenye, Rwanda's Minister of State for Agriculture and Animal Resources, underscored the importance of agriculture as a driver of inclusive growth, resilience, and national self-reliance. He reaffirmed Rwanda's commitment to the CAADP process and to aligning national priorities with the Kampala CAADP Strategy and Action Plan, highlighting soil health, innovation, and youth empowerment as critical entry points for sustainable transformation.

Representing the AUC, H.E. Moses Vilakati, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (ARBE), delivered the keynote address, declaring that the Kampala Decade of Execution marks a turning point from promises to performance.

He outlined **five priority areas for action** over the next ten years: (1) **restoring Africa's soils and ecosystems;** (2) **strengthening national and regional food reserves;** (3) **expanding local seed and fertilizer production;** (4) **promoting climate-resilient livelihoods through technology and finance;** and (5) **institutionalizing accountability within CAADP frameworks.**

He called on governments to translate continental strategies into concrete investments at community and farm levels and to scale up implementation mechanisms through the National Agriculture Investment Plans (NAIPs) and Regional Agriculture Investment Plans (RAIPs).

Following the Commissioner, Mme. Estherine Lisinge-Fotabong, Director for Agriculture, Food Security and Environmental Sustainability at AUDA-NEPAD, emphasized the need to cultivate a "culture of execution" across Africa's agricultural institutions. She reaffirmed AUDA-NEPAD's role in providing technical backstopping, knowledge management, and

investment facilitation to ensure the effective domestication of the Kampala Declaration. Her remarks set a collaborative tone for the meeting—urging all stakeholders to align policies, mobilize finance, and coordinate delivery to achieve measurable transformation by 2035.

Plenary and Technical Sessions

The plenary sessions delved into the strategic priorities of the Kampala CAADP Framework, addressing issues of soil health, seed systems, finance, youth inclusion, nutrition, and climate resilience. The World Bank presented on agricultural policy reform and the importance of improving budget efficiency and knowledge management to enhance impact. Subsequent panels featured interventions from FAO, WFP, AGRA, AUDA-NEPAD, and farmer organizations, which collectively emphasized the need for policy predictability, de-risked private investment, and stronger national coordination mechanisms.

Parallel sessions focused on cross-cutting priorities such as Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA), gender and youth inclusion, nutrition-sensitive policy design, and regional trade and market access. Each session produced targeted recommendations, linking national delivery plans to regional integration through mechanisms like Commodity Compacts, Seed Sector Investment Plans, and Agricultural Growth Corridors.

Side Events and Special Dialogues

Complementing the plenary sessions were over a dozen side events led by technical partners, including the African Risk Capacity (ARC), Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), AGRA, AU-SAFGRAD, and Partnership for Child Development (PCD). These focused on practical solutions such as disaster-risk financing, strategic foresight, homegrown school feeding, agro-processing competitiveness, and inclusive partnerships for local food systems. The diversity of these events reflected the multidimensional nature of agrifood transformation and offered platforms for countries to share lessons, pilot models, and forge implementation partnerships.

Closing Segment

The meeting concluded with reflections from government representatives, RECs, and partners, who reaffirmed their collective commitment to operationalizing the Kampala Declaration. The closing session, presided over by AUDA-NEPAD and the Government of Rwanda, reiterated the central message of the week: Africa's agrifood transformation will be achieved through coordinated delivery, accountable institutions, and inclusive investment.

Structure and Methodology

The 21st CAADP Partnership Platform (CAADP-PP) and the 16th Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security (ADFNS) were designed to serve as a continental mechanism for policy dialogue, evidence exchange, and joint accountability in advancing the CAADP and food systems transformation agenda. The event was structured to combine political leadership, technical deliberation, and practical learning within a single platform—bridging high-level decision-making with country-driven implementation experiences. This multi-layered structure enabled a dynamic interaction between policymakers, development partners, technical experts, private investors, farmers' organizations, and youth-led enterprises, thereby reinforcing CAADP's role as the central coordinating instrument for agricultural transformation in Africa.

Meeting Structure

The three-day meeting adopted a hybrid format, with in-person participation in Kigali complemented by virtual engagements from regional hubs and partner institutions across Africa. The program was organized into three progressive segments—each serving a distinct purpose in moving from reflection to action:

Day One
Leadership and Policy Commitment

The first day set the strategic and political tone for the Kampala Decade of Execution. It featured high-level opening statements from the African Union Commission, AUDA-NEPAD, the Government of Rwanda, development partners, and Regional Economic Communities. The day's focus was on reaffirming Africa's agricultural priorities, unveiling the Kampala CAADP Strategy and Action Plan (2026–2035), and underscoring the imperative for predictable financing, coherent policy, and accountability in delivery. Keynote presentations highlighted lessons from the Malabo Implementation Decade, evidence from Biennial Review Reports, and country readiness for domestication of the new framework.

Day Two

Technical Dialogues and Thematic Deep Dives

The second day centered on thematic and technical exchanges to explore core CAADP Kampala priorities—soil health, financing, climate resilience, youth inclusion, nutrition, and market integration. Sessions were designed as interactive knowledge platforms, allowing experts to present emerging tools and models such as Cluster Commodity Compacts, Agricultural Growth Corridors, Seed Sector Investment Plans, and Disaster Risk Financing Mechanisms. These sessions fostered experience-sharing between countries and partners, emphasizing adaptive implementation, policy innovation, and investment partnerships.

Day Three

Partnership and Delivery Mechanisms

The final day focused on partnership frameworks, investment pipelines, and accountability mechanisms. Panel discussions and side events explored the operationalization of the USD 100 billion CAADP Kampala financing target, with emphasis on blended finance, private-sector engagement, and regional coordination. A session on Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) illustrated how integration of adaptation tools and green finance can protect agricultural investments from climate shocks. The concluding sessions synthesized key resolutions, reaffirming the commitment to translate CAADP commitments into measurable outcomes through inclusive partnerships, evidence-based planning, and strengthened monitoring systems.

Methodological Approach

The methodology of the Kigali meeting was grounded in participatory dialogue and evidence-driven policy analysis. Sessions combined plenary presentations, moderated panel discussions, expert roundtables, dialogues, and multi-stakeholder side events to ensure comprehensive coverage of the agricultural transformation agenda. The approach was multi-scalar, linking continental strategy with national implementation pathways, and multi-sectoral, engaging actors across agriculture, environment, finance, health, and trade. The facilitation design encouraged two-way communication—enabling countries to share experiences and constraints while also receiving technical insights from regional and international institutions and experts.

A documentation and synthesis process was integrated throughout the conference to capture deliberations, policy recommendations, and investment opportunities. Rapporteurs from AUDA-NEPAD, the AUC, and partner organizations worked collaboratively to produce session summaries, thematic synthesis notes, and outcome statements that inform the consolidated report. These outputs feed directly into the Kampala Implementation Roadmap, ensuring continuity between the 2025 CAADP-PP outcomes and follow-up actions at national and regional levels.

Finally, the methodological design prioritized inclusivity and diversity of voices—with strong representation from youth, women entrepreneurs, chefs, and farmer organizations. This inclusive approach reinforced CAADP's people-centered philosophy and ensured that the transformation agenda reflects the lived realities of those driving Africa's food systems on the ground.

Key Highlights of Technical Themes

Healthy Soils and Ecosystem Restoration

Healthy soils were affirmed as the bedrock of Africa's agrifood transformation and the entry point for reversing land degradation, climate vulnerability, and nutrition loss. Delegates endorsed the African Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan (2023–2033) as a continental framework for restoring fertility through soil mapping, balanced nutrient management, and agro-ecological practices. The session emphasized that soil health must be treated as a public good—integrated into National Agriculture Investment Plans (NAIPs)—and supported by farmer-centred advisory systems, digital tools, and coordinated public-private investment.

Speakers highlighted that productivity and nutrition are inseparable from ecosystem stewardship. Restoring soils demands integrated solutions—organic matter recycling, crop rotation, and agroforestry—alongside research on soil-nutrition linkages summarized by the mantra "soil anaemia breeds human anaemia."

Participants urged governments to embed soil data and fertility targets into climate, environment, and health policies, anchoring soil restoration as both an environmental and human-capital investment.

Financing and Investment for Transformation

Financing was identified as the most decisive lever for achieving the USD 100 billion CAADP Kampala target. Participants called for predictable policy environments, de-risking instruments, and blended-finance models that crowd-in private capital rather than substitute it. Governments were encouraged to act as enablers, improving fiscal governance and aligning industrial, trade, and agricultural policies to attract long-term investment.

The meeting showcased scalable instruments such as Cluster Commodity Compacts and Agricultural Growth Corridors that aggregate value-chain actors, leverage finance and expertise, reduce transaction costs, and link farmers to regional markets.

Financial institutions were urged to adopt cash-flow-based lending, expand guarantee schemes, and embrace digital credit for youth and women agripreneurs. Participants further recommended country-level Public Expenditure Reviews and digital investment-tracking platforms to ensure transparency and efficiency in public spending and to sustain investor confidence. The continent was urged to develop strategies to access green finance opportunities.

Climate-Smart Agriculture and Resilience

Building climate-resilient food systems was framed as both a moral and economic imperative. Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) was presented as a cross-cutting solution that enhances productivity, adaptation, and low-carbon growth. Practical interventions—conservation agriculture, renewable-energy irrigation, early-warning systems, and regenerative soil practices—were recognized for improving yields while reducing emissions.

Linked to CSA, the Disaster Risk Financing (DRF) agenda emphasized embedding sovereign insurance, contingency funds, and climate-risk modelling into NAIPs. **Using data and satellite technology to inform parametric insurance and anticipatory governance was viewed as critical for protecting investments.** Delegates urged integration of CSA and DRF into Biennial Review and NDC frameworks, coupled with gender-responsive mechanisms that ensure vulnerable groups can access risk-management tools.

Nutrition, Health, and Local Food Systems

Nutrition and food safety were repositioned as strategic outcomes of agricultural policy. The ADFNS platform demonstrated that transforming Africa's diets requires strengthening local and homegrown food systems that connect farmers to consumers through sustainable value chains. Connection nutrition and soil health, indigenous food, and management of post-harvest losses was established. **Homegrown school feeding programs were highlighted as catalysts for local procurement, dietary diversity, and rural market development.**

Equally emphasized was the cultural and economic potential of African cuisine. **Culinary innovation, nutrition education, branding and communication for behaviour change were proposed to make healthy foods desirable and affordable.** Delegates reiterated that "healthy soils produce healthy foods and healthy people," urging governments to integrate nutrition and food-safety indicators into agricultural monitoring systems and to harmonize actions across agriculture, education, and health sectors.

Youth and Women as Drivers of Transformation

Youth and women were recognized as the vanguard of Africa's agrifood transformation. Discussions shifted from viewing them as beneficiaries to treating them as investors and innovators. Delegates endorsed youth-friendly financial products—guarantee schemes, concessional loans, and digital-credit systems—and called for mentorship, incubation, and agribusiness hubs to unlock creativity and employment.

Women's empowerment was framed as an economic necessity. Gender-responsive value-chain design, leadership in cooperatives, and equitable access to land, finance, and technology were prioritized. The meeting urged adoption of a continental Youth-and-Gender Accountability Framework to institutionalize inclusion across CAADP coordination structures, ensuring that women and young people shape, implement, and benefit from the continent's food-system reforms.

Key Resolutions and Actions

The 21st CAADP Partnership Platform and 16th Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security concluded with a unified continental commitment to transition from policy to delivery through measurable, inclusive, and accountable actions. Stakeholders reaffirmed the Kampala CAADP Strategy and Action Plan (2026–2035) as the principal roadmap for transforming Africa's agrifood systems, with emphasis on implementation discipline, resource mobilization, and multi-stakeholder coordination.

Policy Alignment and Governance Reform

Member States resolved to domesticate the Kampala Declaration by embedding CAADP principles within national legislation, ensuring institutional continuity across political transitions. Parliamentarians under AFSPAN committed to establishing Parliamentary Forums on CAADP to enhance budgetary oversight, enforce the 10% agriculture budget allocation, and institutionalize accountability for nutrition and food security outcomes. Governments and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) were urged to strengthen inter-ministerial coordination—particularly between agriculture, finance, trade, and environment—to achieve coherent policy implementation and harmonized regional markets.

Investment Mobilization and Financial Innovation

Participants endorsed a continental agricultural financing architecture to operationalize the USD 100 billion CAADP Kampala investment target. This will be achieved through blended finance, public–private partnerships, concessional facilities, and national risk-sharing mechanisms. Financial institutions were encouraged to develop tailored instruments such as guarantee schemes, warehouse-receipt financing, and digital credit systems that improve liquidity for farmers and small agribusinesses. Governments were called upon to establish predictable policy environments that attract private investment, conduct Public Expenditure Reviews (PERs) for budget efficiency, and use digital investment-tracking platforms for transparency. Development partners committed to aligning their funding pipelines with CAADP priorities, promoting a shift from fragmented projects to coordinated investment programs that build value-chain competitiveness and regional trade.

Soil Health, Climate Resilience, and Environmental Stewardship

Delegates reaffirmed soil and ecosystem health as public goods central to productivity, nutrition, and climate adaptation. Governments were encouraged to integrate the African Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan (AFSH-AP 2023–2033) into NAIPs, institutionalize soil fertility mapping, and strengthen farmer-centred extension services. To address escalating climate risks, countries committed to mainstreaming Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) and Disaster Risk Financing (DRF) into agricultural investment frameworks. Concrete actions include adopting early-warning systems, renewable-energy irrigation, and sovereign risk insurance facilities under the African Risk Capacity (ARC). Emphasis was placed on data-driven approaches, digital platforms for forecasting, and gender-responsive climate solutions to protect vulnerable populations while enhancing adaptation and low-carbon development.

Nutrition, Health, and Food Systems Integration

The forum resolved that nutrition should become a central measure of agricultural success. Governments and partners committed to integrating nutrition-sensitive agriculture into NAIPs and to scaling homegrown school feeding programs as proven entry points for linking local food production, education, and health. Investments will focus on nutrition education, behaviour change communication, and food-safety standards to ensure dietary quality and consumer trust. Stakeholders endorsed the use of the School Meal Planner Plus tool and other digital innovations for cost-effective, culturally appropriate menu planning tied to smallholder procurement. Emphasis was also placed on promoting culinary innovation and communication campaigns that rebrand indigenous foods as modern, nutritious, and globally competitive.

Youth, Women, and Inclusion

Inclusion was reaffirmed as both a human right and an economic driver. Member States committed to mainstreaming youth and gender strategies within national and regional CAADP coordination frameworks. Concrete measures include developing youth-targeted financial products, mentorship schemes, and innovation hubs to foster entrepreneurship in production, processing, and value addition. Governments and development partners pledged to lower entry barriers—such as collateral requirements—and promote guarantee facilities, concessional credit, and cash-flow-based lending. Women's empowerment will be advanced through equal access to land, finance, and technology, alongside leadership roles in cooperatives and policy institutions. The meeting called for a Continental Youth and Gender Accountability Framework to track progress, ensure representation, and institutionalize equity across all levels of agrifood governance.

Knowledge, Foresight, and Accountability

The final area of consensus was the institutionalization of strategic foresight, data systems, and accountability mechanisms to sustain implementation momentum. The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) and partners were tasked to lead efforts to embed foresight in policy processes through national anticipatory units, academic collaborations, and capacity-building programs. A continental Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) framework, aligned with the Kampala indicators and CAADP Biennial Review, will be deployed to track investments, results, and delivery milestones. Delegates also agreed to strengthen mutual accountability platforms at country and REC levels to ensure that commitments translate into measurable progress on productivity, resilience, nutrition, and inclusion.

Conclusion

The 21st Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme Partnership Platform (CAADP-PP) and 16th Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security (ADFNS) held in Kigali, Rwanda, marked a turning point in Africa's agricultural and food-system agenda. The gathering moved beyond declarations to launch a new era—the Kampala Decade of Execution (2026–2035)—anchored on delivery discipline, measurable outcomes, coordination, and shared accountability. Convening more than 450 delegates representing governments, RECs, farmers, youth, women, research institutions, private investors, and development partners, the forum demonstrated a renewed political will to operationalize the CAADP vision through coherent action, strategic partnerships, and results-oriented implementation.

At its core, the Kigali meeting reaffirmed that Africa's food-system transformation depends on restoring the continent's ecological foundations, protecting African food sovereignty, mobilizing investment at scale, and embedding inclusion and accountability in every layer of governance. Delegates committed to mainstreaming the African Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan, strengthening Climate-Smart Agriculture and Disaster-Risk Financing, and advancing nutrition as a measurable outcome of agricultural success. The shared commitment to the USD 100 billion CAADP Kampala Investment Target signals a collective shift from dependency on fragmented donor programs toward blended, domestically led financing that places farmers, youth, and women at the centre of growth, with a focus and emphasis on mobilizing public and private sector funding at the national level.

The meeting underscored that transforming Africa's agrifood systems is not only a technical challenge but a governance and mindset shift—from planning to performance, from parallel initiatives to integration, and from pilot projects to continental scale.

Implementing partners were urged to align policies and budgets with NAIPs and RAIPs, strengthen foresight and MEL systems, and institutionalize mutual accountability through biennial review mechanisms. A culture of evidence-based decision-making, political coherence, and public-private collaboration was identified as the backbone of the next decade.

Ultimately, the Kigali deliberations consolidated a continental consensus: Africa's agrifood transformation must be farmer-centred, climate-resilient, nutrition-sensitive, and youth-driven. Achieving this vision will require unwavering political commitment, coordinated investments, and a shared belief that Africa's prosperity rests in the hands of its people, soils, and ecosystems. The message from Kigali was resolute and forward-looking—Africa's time for delivery has begun.

Annexes

Annex 1: Concept Note - https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=e0741d8792&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1848230861556245449&th=19a63c2d1df963c9&view=att&zw&disp=safe

Annex 2: Official Programme - https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=e0741d8792&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1848231028232064042&th=19a63c53eca08c2a&view=att&zw&disp=safe

Annex 3: List of Participants

Annex 4: Presentations and Technical Papers - https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=e0741d8792&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1848230985931168658&th=19a63c4a134c1b92&view=att&zw&disp=safe

- https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=e0741d8792&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1848230962827811311&th=19a63c44b23ad9ef&view=att&zw&disp=safe

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