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CAADP Strategy and Action Plan: 2026-2035

(Building Resilient and Sustainable Agrifood Systems in Africa)

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Acronym List

AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AfDB	African Development Bank
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
AUDA-NEPAD	African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development
BR	Biennial Review
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
eBR	Electronic Biennial Review System
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ISDB	Islamic Development Bank
JSR	Joint Sector Review
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NAIP	National Agriculture Investment Plan
NWFP	Non-Wood Forest Product
RAIP	Regional Agricultural Investment Plan
REC	Regional Economic Community
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards
TWG	Technical Working Group

UNCTAD	United Nations Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
WB	World Bank
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WOAH	World Organization for Animal Health

Executive Summary

The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) has been a pivotal framework for transforming agriculture across Africa since its inception in 2003 with the Maputo Declaration. In the Maputo declaration, African Heads of State and Government committed to allocate at least 10% of public expenditure to agriculture to achieve a 6% annual growth rate in agricultural gross domestic product (GDP). The 2014 Malabo CAADP Declaration reinforced these commitments and added more ambitious goals and targets to be achieved by 2025, including eradicating hunger, halving poverty, tripling intra-African agricultural trade and building resilience. However, progress has been insufficient, as revealed by the 4th CAADP biennial review report that was presented to the AU Assembly in February 2024. The Heads of State and Government acknowledged that the continent is not on track to meet the Malabo goals and targets by 2025, underscoring the urgency to develop a post-Malabo CAADP agenda focused on building resilient, inclusive and sustainable agrifood systems over the next CAADP decade (2025-2035).

To shape Africa's post-Malabo CAADP agenda, it is crucial to understand the key drivers and trends that will influence agrifood systems over the next decade. Rapid urbanization, shifting food consumption patterns towards ready-to-eat meals, and rising demand for diverse, high-quality products due to economic growth, and a growing middle class are driving agrifood value chains. These drivers highlight the need for policies that support processing industries as critical links between farmers and expanding markets. Equally vital is addressing gender dynamics by empowering women, who form a significant portion of the agricultural labor force, to enhance productivity, food and nutrition security, and economic resilience.

Africa’s youthful population offers immense potential for innovation in agriculture. Engaging the youth through improved training, access to productive inputs, infrastructure, and digital technologies can integrate them into value chains and enhance productivity. Policies must also focus on enabling smallholder farmers' access to markets, trade facilitation, and compliance with sustainability standards.

The CAADP Strategy and Action Plan (2026-2035) envisions sustainable and resilient agrifood systems for a healthy and prosperous Africa. In line with Agenda 2063, the African Common Position on Food Systems and the COP28 commitments on food systems, it advocates for transformative, holistic approaches that span the entire agrifood value chain, from production to consumption. The strategy integrates economic, social and environmental dimensions to enhance food security, improve nutrition and promote agricultural sustainability, while focusing on strengthening institutional capacity, harnessing technology and diversifying economies through value-added activities and agro-industrialization that create jobs and improve livelihoods. Guided by the principles of national ownership, inclusiveness, environmental sustainability and multi-stakeholder coordination, the plan emphasizes evidence-based decision-making, mutual accountability and regional cooperation to harness synergies across the continent.

Through this integrated framework, CAADP aims to accelerate the transformation of agrifood systems while ensuring equitable benefits for all stakeholders, especially women, youth and vulnerable groups.

A significant change is the shift from an agriculture-led to an agrifood system-led economic transformation. This strategy considers the complex interplay of agricultural production, processing, trade, consumption, and food waste management, aiming to address trade-offs across sustainability dimensions. The strategy also prioritizes economic inclusion, environmental sustainability, and malnutrition reduction, leveraging initiatives like the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to enhance intra-African trade, boost food and nutrition security, and promote resilient, diverse, and affordable diets for the 70% of Africans reliant on agriculture.

The CAADP Strategy and Action Plan has six strategic objectives aimed at transforming Africa's agrifood systems:

- **Intensifying Sustainable Food Production, Agro-Industrialization, and Trade**. Efforts will focus on strengthening agricultural input systems, promoting eco-friendly practices, adopting emerging technologies, fostering agro-enterprise development, and enhancing regional value chains. These strategies aim to boost productivity and position African agricultural products competitively in continental and global markets.

- **Boosting Investment and Financing for Transformation**. This involves improving public and private agricultural investments, increasing sector-specific public spending, developing flagship projects, and leveraging innovative financing models. These measures are vital for overcoming barriers and accelerating growth within agrifood systems.

- **Ensuring Food and Nutrition Security**. The agenda prioritizes using agriculture to improve nutrition, strengthening related policies and programs, and advancing food safety systems. By addressing malnutrition holistically, it aims to foster healthier diets for all Africans.

- **Advancing Inclusivity and Equitable Livelihoods.** This aims to address inequities within agrifood systems. Interventions will include improving rural infrastructure, expanding access to resources for vulnerable groups, implementing social protection measures, and empowering women and youth economically.

- **Building Resilient Agrifood Systems**. Strategies will center on enhancing human and institutional capacities and boosting systems' ability to adapt to shocks. Promoting climate-smart agriculture and diversification will be critical for long-term resilience.

- **Strengthening Agrifood Systems Governance**. Effective governance is key, emphasizing leadership, policy coherence, evidence-based decision-making, and

mutual accountability among stakeholders to ensure transparency and trust in agricultural initiatives

To ensure the successful implementation of the post-Malabo CAADP agenda, strengthening institutional and human capacities is essential. This includes targeted support to continental institutions like the African Union Commission (AUC) and AUDA-NEPAD through a proposed special fund. At the national level, donor engagement will play a pivotal role in capacity building efforts, facilitating better alignment and coordination among stakeholders to drive agrifood systems transformation effectively.

Improving knowledge management and accountability mechanisms is equally critical. Strengthening mutual accountability frameworks and enhancing reporting systems, such as the CAADP Biennial Review process, will enable better tracking of progress and alignment with the agenda's objectives. These systems will ensure that data-driven insights inform policies and interventions, fostering transparency and building trust among diverse stakeholders.

Effective communication and advocacy will also be prioritized to galvanize support and engagement across all levels. A comprehensive strategy will focus on empowering local communities, leveraging influential champions, and utilizing networks to promote the agenda's priorities. This approach ensures that the agenda resonates with grassroots actors while maintaining momentum at regional and continental levels.

Ultimately, the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan signifies a transformative shift toward a systems-based approach to agricultural transformation. By addressing the complex and interconnected challenges of Africa'a agrifood systems, it underscores the importance of sustainability, resilience, and inclusivity. Its vision, "Sustainable and Resilient Agrifood Systems for a Healthy and Prosperous Africa," aims to achieve a food-secure and economically stable continent, reflecting the continent's collective aspirations for progress and prosperity

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CAADP Strategy and Action Plan: 2026-2035

1. Introduction

Africa has witnessed significant economic and agricultural growth over the past two decades 2000-2021, with its gross domestic product (GDP) doubling from 2000 to 2021 and its agricultural sector becoming the fastest-growing globally. Despite these advancements, challenges persist, particularly in meeting the ambitious goals and targets in the Malabo Declaration on the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP). The fourth CAADP Biennial Review (BR) report revealed that while notable progress has been made, as of 2023 no African Union (AU) Member State was on track to meet the Malabo Declaration targets by 2025. However, it is worth noting that twelve Member States have consistently improved their performance over four BR cycles. Lessons learned about this uneven progress—and CAADP implementation in general—are informing the development of the post-Malabo CAADP agenda.

The limited progress towards meeting the CAADP goals and targets in the Malabo Declaration by 2025 that was revealed by the fourth CAADP BR report is consistent with findings of the 2024 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report (SOFI, 2024). With 20.4 percent of Africa's population experiencing hunger and 58 percent facing food insecurity, the continent is struggling to meet basic food and nutrition security needs. Rising costs have made a healthy diet unaffordable for 924.8 million people, exacerbating food insecurity and malnutrition on the continent. Despite some progress in reducing stunting rates, malnutrition remains a severe issue, leading to higher rates of morbidity, mortality, and reduced human capital development. Concurrently, obesity and related health issues are becoming more prevalent, adding to the continent's economic and health burden. These statistics make clear that without intensified efforts, Africa is not on track to meet its objective of ending hunger and malnutrition by 2025 or 2030.

Despite significant growth in agricultural production, Africa's agricultural sector continues to face fundamental challenges. While land and labor productivity have grown steadily and rapidly over the last two decades, land expansion is still a major driver of agricultural growth. The sector, which largely relies on smallholder farming, faces issues such as insecure land tenure, limited investment in soil health, and high levels of land degradation. While large-scale commercial farming is gaining interest, smallholder farming remains crucial for optimizing labor and land use, promoting broad-based economic growth, and creating sustainable wealth.

CAADP has been instrumental in helping African nations define national agricultural development priorities. Despite these efforts, public commitment to invest in agriculture has been below expectation and inadequate. Only a few countries are on track to meet the goal of annually allocating 10 percent of public expenditure to agriculture. Economic challenges persist, including the need to alleviate poverty through inclusive growth and job creation, particularly through key agricultural value

chains. Addressing human challenges, such as food and nutrition insecurity requires securing land access for women, youth, and vulnerable groups, while also diversifying income sources. Environmentally, the focus is on promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and on adapting to and mitigating climate change. Politically, the emphasis is on pursuing food sovereignty and enhancing Africa's global standing by leveraging its vast agricultural potential.

The first decade of CAADP (2003-2013) presented both opportunities and challenges. On the positive side, 45 AU Member States signed CAADP Compacts, 31 countries developed National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs), four regional plans were finalized, and 28 countries completed the CAADP process and mobilized resources through the GAFSP to implement their NAIPs. However, progress in implementation was hindered by policy burdens, resource constraints, and a lack of cross-sectoral cooperation.

Building on the momentum from the Maputo Declaration, the 2014 Malabo Declaration renewed the commitment to CAADP and set ambitious goals for 2025, including increasing finance and investment in agriculture, eradicating hunger, halving poverty rates, reducing malnutrition, tripling intra-African trade, and building resilience of livelihoods and production systems. The Malabo Declaration also emphasized accountability through agricultural BRs and recognized the critical role of infrastructure and rural development in driving growth.

While the Malabo CAADP agenda primarily focuses on agriculture, livestock, forestry, and fisheries, it also acknowledges the importance of related sectors like infrastructure and trade. However, recent shocks and stressors such as the COVID-19 pandemic, wars and conflicts on the continent, the Russia-Ukraine conflict, and negative climate change impacts and corruption have significantly disrupted Africa's agricultural sector. These challenges underscore the necessity of a new CAADP agenda beyond 2025 for Africa’s agrifood systems transformation.

In 2024, the African Union Assembly voiced concerns about the continent's slow progress, noting that Africa was not on track to meet the Malabo CAADP goals and targets by 2025. This concern along with emerging threats to Africa agrifood systems has led to the development of a post-Malabo CAADP agenda that will be discussed at an Extraordinary Summit in 2025 in Kampala, Uganda. This agenda will focus on addressing existing and emerging challenges to build resilient and sustainable agrifood systems.

The Genesis and Continued Relevance of CAADP

In July 2003, during the Second Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly in Maputo, Mozambique, African Heads of State and Government adopted the Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa (Assembly/AU/Decl. 7(II)). This Declaration marked the official launch of CAADP. The CAADP initiative was developed in response to low productivity, food insecurity, and insufficient investment in Africa’s agriculture. African policymakers have long recognized that, beyond ensuring food security, agricultural transformation is essential for economic growth and poverty

reduction. This recognition stems from agriculture's pivotal role in job creation, wealth generation, food and nutrition security, and economic resilience. Agriculture's substantial contribution to African economies and its strong connections with other sectors underscore its significance. CAADP reflects the collective recognition by African leaders of the critical importance of agricultural development for the continent's economic and social progress. The Maputo Declaration urged AU Member States to allocate at least 10 percent of their national budgets to agriculture and rural development and to achieve agricultural productivity growth rates of at least six percent per year. The Declaration focused on four key pillars: 1) sustainable land and water management, 2) market access, 3) food and hunger, and 4) agricultural research. It emphasized the principles of country-led and country-owned development processes and regional integration and cooperation.

The Maputo Declaration placed emphasis on enhancing agricultural productivity through increased public expenditure in the agricultural sector. The Malabo Declaration, adopted in 2014, broadened the CAADP framework by reaffirming existing principles and targets while introducing ambitious new goals, including the eradication of hunger and malnutrition, tripling of intra-African trade, enhanced resilience, and strengthening accountability for actions and results. Both declarations emphasized the importance of including the perspectives of women, youth, and vulnerable groups in agricultural development initiatives and highlighted the necessity of integrating climate-smart practices.

Over the past two decades, the CAADP agenda has emerged as the primary political framework for transforming African agriculture systems. The CAADP framework has provided a comprehensive and coordinated approach, offering guidance and support for agricultural transformation across the continent.

CAADP Implementation and Lessons Learnt: 2003-2024

Since its inception, CAADP has been implemented through various processes, including the development of NAIPs, the establishment of regional CAADP compacts, and the mobilization of resources for agricultural development. The framework has significantly raised agriculture's political profile, resulting in increased investment, greater African ownership and leadership, and recognition of agriculture as a vehicle for economic growth and poverty eradication. CAADP has also been critical in promoting evidence-based policy planning and implementation and strengthening inclusive performance assessment. Increased stakeholder participation, dialogue, and mutual accountability at the national and regional levels have promoted alignment and coordination of development programs and partnerships in agriculture.

In addition, the Malabo Declaration reinforced regional integration and trade, promoting the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to enhance market access and economic opportunities for farmers. It encouraged private-sector investment and public-private partnerships for infrastructure, job creation, and innovation. The Malabo Declaration also introduced the Biennial review (BR) process as an instrument for mutual accountability for actions and results. The CAADP BR report is now the main

reference document for anyone interested in tracking Africa's agricultural development progress. This monitoring and reporting mechanism will be taken forward in the post-Malabo CAADP agenda.

The Malabo phase of CAADP required a broader approach, encompassing related sectors necessary for agricultural growth, such as infrastructure, trade, energy, rural development, and information and communication technology (ICT). The NAIP has remained the main implementation vehicle for the Malabo commitments. The intent was to shift emphasis from setting up the process architecture to focusing on implementation, results, and impact.

To sustain the progress made under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP), African countries must prioritize several key areas. First and foremost, ensuring the availability of sufficient financial resources is imperative, along with developing necessary technical and institutional capacities. Enhancing inter-ministerial collaboration is crucial, with central government agencies—particularly ministries of finance and planning—playing a pivotal role. Equally important is the engagement of the private sector and the empowerment of women, vulnerable groups, and youth in agriculture. Additionally, reaffirming the commitment to allocate at least 10 percent of national expenditure to agriculture, while improving coordination across all levels, is essential for effective implementation and the achievement of CAADP goals and targets.

Despite the continent's uneven performance, CAADP trends data and empirical evidence highlight the importance of CAADP implementation. For instance, an examination of key CAADP trends shows that countries that have adopted CAADP and/or are advanced in implementing CAADP tend to perform better than countries that have not adopted the framework or have not advanced in its implementation. For example, during the period of CAADP implementation (2003-2022), countries that have reached higher levels of CAADP implementation registered higher levels of annual growth in government agriculture expenditures and agricultural gross domestic product (GDP) than those that have not adopted CAADP.

Further empirical evidence shows that implementing CAADP and reaching higher stages of implementation has had a significant and positive impact on government agricultural expenditure, official development assistance (ODA) for agriculture, and land and labor productivity. Nonetheless, the research also shows that the effect of CAADP implementation on agricultural spending and ODA declines over time, indicating a substitution effect between government funding and external funding for agriculture. This is to be expected, as countries tend to bring in more external funding, the further along they are in implementing CAADP.

Furthermore, implementing CAADP mutual accountability processes such as the agriculture joint sector review (JSR) has been shown to have a positive and significant impact on government agricultural expenditures. Agricultural expenditures may increase with participation in JSRs because the CAADP process helps to strengthen political will to invest and it fosters accountability and peer pressure within the sector and among countries, which encourage investment. Countries implementing CAADP's

mutual accountability processes such as JSRs experience a faster track toward agricultural transformation and structural change. The above trends and empirical evidence demonstrate that CAADP implementation and its mutual accountability mechanisms can lead to improvements in desired outcomes and drive agricultural transformation.

Shaping the Post-Malabo CAADP Agenda

The post-Malabo CAADP agenda is designed to build upon the achievements of the Maputo and Malabo CAADP phases, and it embraces an agrifood systems approach that will enable stakeholders to address the challenges across the entire food value chain while aligning policies with broader development goals. This approach emphasizes environmental sustainability to safeguard future food production and tackles malnutrition in all its forms (undernutrition, and micronutrient deficiencies) by promoting diverse, nutritious and affordable diets. It also supports economic inclusion, benefiting about 70 percent of the continent's population that relies on agriculture. Strengthening market access and regional trade, notably through the AfCFTA, has the potential to boost significantly intra-African agricultural trade by 2035, enhancing food and nutrition security, promoting local food varieties, and strengthening resilience.

Emerging technologies play a vital role in transforming Africa's agrifood systems to boost productivity and resilience. Promoting the use of existing technologies, including mechanization, innovative water management, digital agriculture, artificial intelligence, and climate-smart agriculture, is essential for driving transformation in line with the post-Malabo CAADP agenda.

Inclusive agro-industrialization is vital in driving economic growth, structural transformation, job creation, and shared prosperity. By integrating agricultural production into supply chains and value-addition, agro-industrialization unlocks the significant potential to transform Africa's agrifood systems, address food insecurity and nutrition, and reduce poverty. Strong political commitment and coordinated actions are essential to enhance the agro-industrial sector's performance, reduce poverty, and achieve Africa's development goals.

Building resilience is essential for adapting to and recovering from shocks, including climate change, pandemics (includes human, zoonoses and animal epizootics), conflicts, and economic disruptions. Despite some progress, Africa is struggling to build resilience, with only two countries on track to meet resilience-building goals in 2023. The slow progress in building resilience undermines other goals, such as ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition and reducing poverty.

2. Vision, Rationale, and Principles for the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan: 2026-2035

CAADP's vision is "***Sustainable and Resilient Agrifood Systems for a Healthy and Prosperous Africa***" This CAADP vision is consistent with Agenda 2063 towards 'the Africa We *Want*' , the Africa Common Position on Food Systems, and it was reiterated in the first Africa Climate Summit Declaration of 2023 that informed Africa contributions

to COP28 commitments on food systems. Diverse food system actors are collectively responsible for the actions that will help achieve this common vision. In the context of the post-Malabo CAADP agenda, agrifood systems encompass the entire network of activities, processes, and actors involved in the production, processing, distribution, consumption, and disposal of food and agricultural products.

A significant shift in the new CAADP Strategy and Action Plan (2026-2035), is the move from a narrow focus on agriculture-led growth to a broader agrifood systems approach. This strategic shift is informed by an understanding of the complex interplay between agriculture, nutrition, economic development, and other sectors. Policies must be better integrated to address trade-offs and interlinkages across aspects of sustainable practices from farm to fork, value chain complexity, diets and nutrition, among other food factors. The CAADP Strategy and Action Plan also seeks to strengthen institutional capacity, fostering greater transparency, accountability, and inclusive stakeholder participation in the implementation and governance of agrifood systems.

This CAADP Strategy and Action Plan (2026-2035) describes agrifood system transformation pathways and proposes strategic actions that will contribute to a more prosperous Africa. The Strategy and Action Plan calls for coordinated efforts, increased investments, and the adoption of innovative practices to achieve sustainable, resilient, and inclusive agrifood systems transformation. It seeks to diversify economies, create millions of local jobs, improve access to healthy diets, raise incomes, build social cohesion, and improve socio-economic stability, contributing to peacebuilding and conflict mitigation in the long-term. These outputs, ultimately, contribute to better livelihoods and improved diets and nutrition for all Africans.

The successful implementation of the post-Malabo CAADP agenda requires coordinated efforts from a range of key players, each with distinct roles. **National governments** are responsible for developing and enforcing policies that create an enabling environment for agrifood systems transformation, including investments in infrastructure, research, and extension services. They should integrate and reflect the commitments of the Kampala CAADP Declaration in national policies, strategies, and budget frameworks for effective implementation through National Agrifood Systems Investment Plans (NAIPs), ensuring that appropriate programs and tools are in place; develop comprehensive policies that promote private sector investment in agrifood systems transformation while ensuring effective public sector support; increase investments in infrastructure, agricultural research, and extension services to accelerate agrifood systems transformation; establish effective coordination systems with inclusive participation in agrifood systems governance, particularly for women, youth, and vulnerable groups; and ensure adequate capacity by designating an apex monitoring and evaluation team, supported by Africa-wide knowledge systems, technical experts, and robust digital platforms for effective performance measurement and data management. **Regional bodies**, such as the African Union entities (AUC and AUDA-NEPAD) and Regional Economic Communities (RECs), play a crucial role in facilitating cross-border collaboration, harmonizing policies, and monitoring progress toward the agenda's goals. AUC and AUDA-NEPAD should support AU Member States and RECs in incorporating the commitments of the Kampala CAADP

Declaration into National and Regional Agrifood Systems Investment Plans (NAIPs and RAIPs); facilitate regional collaboration, economic integration, and policy harmonization across Member States to boost intra-African trade; establish a private sector-led advisory council to enhance private sector engagement; conduct a biennial Agricultural Review Process starting in 2027 and report progress to the AU Assembly during its January/February Ordinary Session beginning in 2028; and enhance the utilization of the CAADP biennial review report results to inform planning and decision-making at national, regional, and continental levels. **Farmers, rural producers and agribusinesses** are central to adopting innovative practices and technologies to enhance agricultural productivity, sustainability and resilience while also investing in production innovations and cost competitiveness to capture a larger share of domestic and regional markets. **Development partners** and **international organizations** provide technical assistance, funding, and capacity-building support to accelerate the agenda's implementation, aligning their technical and financial support with continental priorities, assisting the AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, and regional economic communities in providing necessary support to Member States for integrating the Kampala CAADP declaration into NAIPs/RAIPs, and enhancing data systems and mutual accountability efforts at continental, regional, and national levels . **Civil society organizations** and **community groups** advocate for inclusive development, ensuring that the voices of vulnerable populations, including women and youth, are represented in decision-making processes. Additionally, they should advocate for the creation of a dedicated framework to oversee the National and Regional Agrifood Systems Investment Plans (NAIPs/RAIPs) to ensure transparency and accountability in their implementation, advocate for resource allocation to enhance funding opportunities for agrifood systems development, and promote sustainable and equitable agricultural practices in the transformation of agrifood systems. **Parliamentarians** appropriate public sector investments and monitor to ensure efficient utilization of public expenditures in agrifood systems at national and regional levels. Finally, **private sector actors** contribute through investments in technology, innovation, market development, and value chain integration to drive agrifood systems transformation, while also increasing investments in sustainable value chains to boost food production, agro-industrialization, and trade. agrifood. Together, these players form a collaborative network essential for achieving the transformative goals of the post-Malabo CAADP agenda.

CAADP's Guiding Principles

This Strategy and Action Plan reiterates and maintains CAADP's traditional values and principles. The Kampala Declaration provides a firm basis for implementation and adherence to those principles.

Ownership and leadership: This principle emphasizes the importance of national, regional, and local leadership, which are key to achieving legitimacy and accountability. This means that the CAADP framework should be domesticated in national agriculture development plans and legislated to facilitate appropriation in national and sub-national budgets. National governments should take the lead in mobilizing public, private, development, and foreign direct investments, including remittances.

Holistic and integrated perspective to agrifood systems transformation: A key principle of the agrifood systems approach is its holistic perspective on development, ensuring interlinkages across agricultural development efforts to enhance synergies for transformation. Unlike the traditional focus on increasing agricultural productivity for few commodities, this approach integrates and aligns different thematic and policy areas of entire agrifood systems, from production, processing, distribution, and storage, to consumption, and also encompassing both sustainability and waste management Countries generally have different agricultural development programs/initiatives dealing with different subsectors or sub-national ecological zones. In a food systems approach, CAADP at the country level must bring these together to promote coherence and collective positive transformation.

Sustainability: as a guiding principle, sustainability emphasizes the need for practices that are socially, economically, culturally, and environmentally sustainable. To make this principle binding, sustainability criteria should be incorporated into policies and regulations. For instance, policies could mandate environmental impact assessments, social equity considerations, and economic viability analyses for all agrifood projects and initiatives.

Inclusivity: Economic and social inclusion - including women, youth, and vulnerable communities such as fisherfolk and pastoralists - is a vital component of the agrifood systems approach. Inclusivity in planning and implementation processes brings diverse perspectives and forges collaboration among different sectors and stakeholder groups.

Multi-stakeholder coordination and collaboration: Weak systems for collaboration and coordination have hindered the implementation of the Malabo CAADP agenda. As a principle, CAADP will continue to establish systems and processes to enhance greater cooperation, collaboration, and coordination among diverse players. Multi-Stakeholder Platforms (MSPs) would be used in this respect.

Evidence-based decision-making: The CAADP framework advocates and promotes the use of reliable data and evidence in formulating and implementing prioritized agricultural policies and strategies. Greater support to build stronger country data systems and institutionalize the CAADP BR process will strengthen evidence use in policymaking.

Mutual accountability and transparency: CAADP has stressed the importance of mutual accountability among all stakeholders. This commitment to transparency and accountability goes beyond the African Peer Review Mechanism, with the Africa Agriculture Transformation Scorecard and the Malabo CAADP BR Dashboard both serving as key instruments for facilitating the peer review mechanism enshrined in AU principles and values. CAADP BR reports reflect the need to build and strengthen mechanisms and platforms for mutual accountability and peer review at the country level. This element of review and accountability will be a key dimension of the implementation of the Kampala Declaration.

Subsidiarity and harnessing regional complementarities: CAADP emphasizes the need to harness regional support, noting that country-level interventions alone will be

insufficient. CAADP acknowledges that there are issues that transcend national boundaries and require interventions beyond one country. The roles of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) remain the most critical in this regard. Therefore, the post-Malabo CAADP agenda recognizes the importance of multi-country cooperation, regional value chain development, transboundary infrastructure, and sustainable payment and settlement mechanisms to harness regional complementarities and harmony. At the continental level, the AUC and AUDA-NEPAD will play a critical coordination role, capacity building, and sharing of best practices among countries and regions, leveraging regional strengths and complementarities

Embracing technological advancement: this principle focuses on transforming Africa's agrifood systems through innovations like precision agriculture, digital tools, AI, and biotechnology. These technologies improve productivity, efficiency, and climate resilience, while promoting inclusive growth by benefiting smallholder farmers, women, and youth. By enhancing resource management and market access, technology is vital for building sustainable agrifood systems and addressing Africa's food security needs.

To successfully implement the guiding principles of the post-Malabo Agenda (2026-2035), it is essential to establish mechanisms that make these principles binding at national, regional, and local levels. Binding principles ensure that all stakeholders remain committed to the transformative agenda set forth by the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), promoting accountability, sustainability, and inclusivity in developing Africa's agrifood systems.

Holistic and Integrated Perspective: Transformation of agrifood systems can be made binding by creating cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms, such as inter-ministerial committees. Legislation mandating integrated planning, including technology considerations, would promote a cohesive strategy across sectors.

3. Trends and Drivers That Will Shape Africa's Agrifood Systems in the Next Ten Years

Africa's agrifood systems are undergoing transformative changes influenced by numerous economic, demographic, environmental, climate, and technological factors. Over the next decade, understanding these dynamics is instrumental for stakeholders aiming to shape Africa's agrifood landscape to ensure food and nutrition security, drive economic growth, and enhance livelihoods across the continent. The primary trends and drivers are presented in this section.

Urbanization and Changing Consumption Patterns

The continent is rapidly urbanizing, and food consumption habits are changing as a result. Urban lifestyles that prioritize time efficiency have resulted in an uptick in the consumption of ready-to-eat meals and foods prepared away from home (Reardon et al., 2021). The emerging processing sector has become the main bridge between smallholder farmers and the growing domestic and regional markets. As a result,

lengthening of agrifood value chains has raised their complexity which calls for more granular policies going forward (Badiane et al, 2022).

Economic Growth and Rising Incomes

Sustained economic growth in many African countries has helped create a burgeoning middle class with more disposable income. This economic uplift is driving demand for diverse and high-quality food products, including meat, fish and fish products, dairy, and processed foods. Such shifts, which are expected to continue increasing over the next decade, influence both production and consumption patterns in the agrifood sector.

Population Surge

Projections indicate that Africa's population will double by 2050, reaching approximately 2.5 billion people. This explosive growth will increase the demand for food, presenting both challenges and opportunities. Meeting this demand will require significant advancements in agricultural productivity, efficiency, and changing food processing to match the consumption patterns.

Technological Innovations

Technological advancements are set to revolutionize Africa’s agrifood systems. Innovations such as digital agriculture, biotechnology, innovative early warning system and digital platforms for production and health issues, and precision farming can enhance productivity, sustainability, and inclusivity. The widespread adoption of mobile phones, mobile money and digital tools is accelerating access to information, financial services, and markets for farmers, thus driving agricultural growth and transformation.

Climate Change, Environmental Sustainability, and Social Stability

Climate change poses a formidable threat to agricultural productivity. Variations in precipitation, rising temperatures, and extreme weather events adversely affect crop yields and food security. Implementing sustainable land management and climate-smart agriculture practices is vital to mitigate these challenges (Mechiche-Alami and Abdi, 2020). In addition, ensuring social and environmental stability by addressing factors like migration due to conflicts is crucial (FAO, 2018; World Bank, 2020). Africa is currently the hardest hit by climate, yet it is also the region that has the widest agricultural productivity gaps to close. This offers an opportunity to address both issues simultaneously with emerging climate-smart innovations and technologies. Consideration should be given to precautionary use of nuclear science in bolstering agricultural resilience through techniques like plant mutation breeding, isotope hydrology, and pest control.

While the above factors are pivotal, other emerging trends and drivers, as described below, also warrant attention.

***Gender dynamics in agriculture*:** There is a growing recognition and call for more support for women's engagement in agriculture. Empowering women in agriculture can help transform Africa's agrifood systems. Women constitute a significant portion of the agricultural labor force in many African countries, yet they often face barriers to accessing resources such as land, credit, and agricultural inputs. Addressing these gender disparities can lead to substantial gains in productivity and food security. Moreover, enhancing women's participation in agricultural value chains not only improves household nutrition but also strengthens community resilience and economic development. Empowering women in agrifood systems also ensures that they can improve their economic independence and autonomy leading to better lives for themselves, their families and communities. Gender-sensitive policies and interventions that support women farmers are, therefore, essential for the overall transformation of Africa's agrifood sector.

***Youth engagement*:** Africa has a large youth population which continues to grow. This rich youth capital presents a significant opportunity for agricultural and food systems growth, innovation and sustainability. Engaging youth in agriculture is vital for the sector's future, in part because young people can drive the adoption of new technologies, modern farming techniques, and innovative business models. With training, mentorship, and access to resources such as land and finance, the youth can become key change agents in transforming traditional agricultural practices. Youth engagement in agriculture also helps to address issues of unemployment and rural-urban migration by creating meaningful employment opportunities within the sector. Furthermore, young people can inject fresh ideas and energy into agricultural value chains, promoting sustainability and long-term growth. Encouraging youth participation in agriculture is, therefore, a critical driver of agrifood system transformation in Africa.

***Trade policies and regional integration*:** Trade policies and regional integration, especially through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), are crucial for transforming Africa's agrifood systems. The AfCFTA promotes intra-African trade by lowering tariffs, removing trade barriers, and harmonizing standards, thus improving market access for agricultural products across the continent. By fostering stronger economic ties among African nations, AfCFTA helps create more resilient food systems that are less susceptible to external shocks and price volatility. Harmonizing trade policies and standards under AfCFTA facilitates smoother cross-border movement of goods, reducing costs and enhancing the availability of diverse food products. Moreover, AfCFTA-driven integration attracts investments in agricultural infrastructure and value-added processing, which are vital for boosting the competitiveness of African agriculture. Supporting these policies is essential for advancing the transformation of Africa's agrifood systems, promoting sustainable growth, and ensuring food and nutrition security across the continent.

Nutrition Transition and Diet: As incomes in Africa rise and urbanization advances, the demand for processed foods, including meat and dairy products, is increasing. Although there is a correlation between the consumption of fatty meat and the development of cardiovascular disease, current research indicates that the risks are more closely associated with the types of fats consumed rather than the meat and

dairy products themselves, which are essential for improving child nutrition. Food processing is a vital component of ensuring food safety, extending shelf life, reducing food loss and waste, and preserving nutrients that are essential for maintaining livelihoods. It is crucial to differentiate between various forms of processing. While ultra-processed foods may be nutritionally inadequate due to the loss of essential nutrients and the inclusion of potentially harmful additives, not all processed foods are inherently detrimental to health. The nutrition transition in Africa reflects a shift from minimally processed traditional diets to those that are high in ultra-processed foods that are rich in saturated fat, sodium, sugar, and refined carbohydrates. This shift, in conjunction with the rise in sedentary lifestyles, contributes to the triple burden of malnutrition, which encompasses undernutrition, overweight, and obesity, as well as related non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

***Sustainable water management*:** Sustainable water management is a critical driver of agricultural transformation in Africa, especially in regions facing water scarcity. Efficient water management practices, such as the adoption of drip irrigation, rainwater harvesting, and water recycling, are essential for maintaining agricultural productivity in the face of climate change and population growth. Access to reliable and sufficient water resources is a key determinant of crop yields and food and nutrition security. Furthermore, sustainable water management can help to prevent land degradation and ensure the long-term viability of agricultural lands. Policymakers and stakeholders must prioritize investments in water infrastructure, research, and capacity-building to promote the adoption of sustainable practices. By ensuring sustainable water resource use, Africa can enhance agricultural resilience and support the growth, reliability and sustainability of its agrifood systems.

4. Strategic Objectives, Priority Interventions, Outputs and Outcomes

To realize the continent's ambitious vision and goals, this strategy and action plan follows the CAADP pathways to change (**Figure 1**), which describe the logic that connects the main strategic objectives, associated key strategic interventions, and expected outcomes and impact.

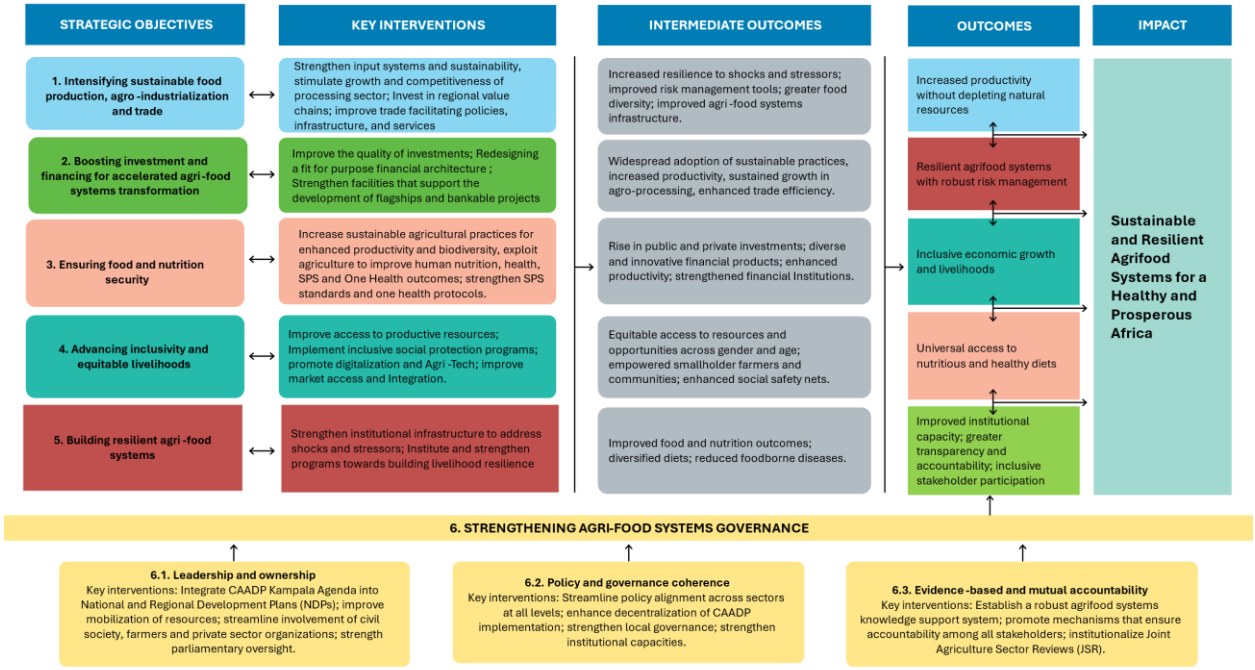

Figure 1: CAADP Pathways to Agrifood Systems Transformation

Strategic Objective 1: Intensifying sustainable food production, agro-industrialization, and trade.

This strategic objective aims to contribute to the transformation of agrifood systems through the sustainable production of agricultural products for consumption, value addition, and trade (within countries, on the continent, and beyond). It also aims to contribute to food and nutrition security, foster economic growth, create wealth and jobs, ensure environmental sustainability, and mitigate the impact of other shocks.

The target for this strategic objective is to increase agrifood output by 45% by the end of 2035 through the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices to meet the growing Africa food requirements and global trade opportunities, reduce post-harvest losses by 50%, triple intra-African trade in agrifood products and inputs by 2035 in line with the AfCFTA, and increase the share of locally processed food to 35% of agrifood GDP by 2035.

The objective will not only boost productivity but also ensure that this growth is environmentally sustainable. The strategy emphasizes the need to strengthen agricultural input systems, including improved access to quality seeds, feed, fodder, pollination services, fertilizers, water and technology. It also calls for stimulating agro-industrialization growth by enhancing the sector's competitiveness and sustainability. Investments in regional value chains and improvements in trade policies, infrastructure, and services are essential to connect African farmers with broader markets, thereby enhancing economic opportunities and food and nutrition security.

The interventions needed to achieve this objective tackle the major challenges associated with low food production and productivity by improving access to high-quality inputs and technologies. Challenges associated with the agrifood sector's competitiveness and sustainability will be tackled by integrating smallholder farmers, women, and youth into value chains and regional markets as well as by building their entrepreneurial skills as SMEs to stimulate agro-industrialization. Enhancing intra-African trade will involve investments in regional value chains and improvements in trade policies, infrastructure, and services. To achieve this objective, the following strategic interventions will be undertaken:

Sustainable Food Production

1. **Strengthen and ensure functional input systems (seed systems, fertilizer, water, extension services).** Key action areas include:
   - Increase investments in agricultural research and technology development
   - Develop functional partnerships between technology developers and users
   - Establish farmer-led agritech research and extension services with effective feedback mechanisms to drive innovation and meet market demands
   - Support the formulation and adoption of national legislation for emerging technologies and their use
   - Make digital decision-making tools available to all agrifood system stakeholders, from farmers to consumers
   - Increase the availability, affordability and quality of agricultural inputs
   - Improve producer incentives for the adoption of technologies
   - Modernize and revitalize agricultural extension services at scale using digital technologies, remote sensing and AI
   - Enhance regional cooperation and policy harmonization and alignment
   - Enhance engagement in input systems by women and youth as key actors in input supply chains
   - Address rural development issues by promoting farmer-managed seed systems, and climate-resilient indigenous seeds, and emphasizing the circular economy within the CAADP process.

2. **Strengthen the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices.** Key action areas include:
   - Implement conservation agriculture
   - Implement integrated pest management that enhances productivity and environmental stewardship
   - Promote tools and practices that integrate natural ecosystems with agriculture to support biodiversity and ecosystem resilience
   - Increase access to and use of digital tools and approaches that enhance efficiency across agrifood systems
   - Increase the adoption of smart agricultural water management solutions that ensure efficient and equitable use of the continent's water resources
   - Address barriers to technology access by women and youth

- Address the critical issue of post-harvest losses in crops and animal products, while developing cottage processing and storage facilities to better support smallholder farmers
- Outline guiding principles for sustainable agricultural practices, incorporating climate-smart agriculture, and explicitly address the circular economy to promote sustainable resource use and waste management

3. **Create an enabling policy and regulatory environment for emerging technologies, biotechnology, artificial intelligence, digitalization, development of precision agriculture**. Key action areas include:
   - Invest in boosting expertise and technical infrastructure
   - Facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practices
   - Build frameworks that facilitate the adoption, knowledge exchange and sharing of best practices along the value chain by all including women and youth
   - Provide policy and financial support to these emerging technologies
   - Support the formulation and adoption of national and regional legislation for emerging technologies and their use

Agro-Industrialization

4. **Stimulate the growth, competitiveness, and sustainability of agro-industrial enterprises, with a focus on small and medium enterprises** (SMEs). Key action areas include:
   - Create an enabling environment that ensures reliable access to raw materials
   - Improve energy and infrastructure services that enable agro-processing SMEs to thrive
   - Build institutional infrastructure for skills development and technology innovations
   - Advance innovative financing and risk management instruments for SMEs
   - Tackle the proliferation of private food safety certification and analyze trade megatrends and trade-offs, while recognizing the challenges of agro-industrial parks for smallholder farmers.
   - Advocate for trade fairs in Africa, enhance communication for local sales
   - Develop the entrepreneurial capacity of women- and youth-led SMEs
   - Support partnerships and collective action among stakeholders in the agrifood system
   - Build frameworks that develop technologies and facilitate the adoption, knowledge exchange and sharing of best practices across the value chain

5. **Integrate smallholder farmers, women, and youth into value chains and regional markets**. Key action areas include:
   - Invest in Technical and Vocational Education (TVET) to empower rural youth and women farmers with practical skills and start-up resources for entering the agricultural workforce.

- Implement programs that support integration, including those focused on improving technical and vocational skills and establishing incubation centers and accelerators
- Leverage digital technologies that aid better connection of smallholder farmers with SMEs in the emerging processing sectors
- Upgrade women and youths' skills and capacity for engaging in agribusiness
- Address barriers to the equal participation of women and youth in agribusiness

6. **Develop and integrate value chains to stimulate value addition along entire value chains**. Key action areas include:
   - Promote a value chain approach at the national level
   - Build agro-industrial synergies between countries and across industries to foster mutual interdependence between African economies
   - Facilitate twinning of SMEs with bigger companies for intermediate input supplies and technology and skills transfer
   - Adopt affirmative procurement and trade policies that integrate women and youth into local, national, regional and international markets
   - Stimulate markets and adopt market development practices that boost uptake of locally produced products

7. **Enhance compliance with sustainability requirements**. Key action areas include:
   - Implement programs that support enterprises and entrepreneurs' growth, with a focus on SMEs
   - Implement programs that support women- and youth-led enterprises to comply with mandatory and voluntary sustainability requirements

Trade Enhancement

8. **Strengthen market access and trade facilitation**. Key action areas include:
   - Reform policies and regulatory measures that constrain access to domestic, regional, and international markets
   - Reduce tariffs and non-tariff trade barriers that impede regional and intra-African trade
   - Develop programs that lead to AfCFTA's full ratification and implementation in the agricultural and food sectors
   - Develop and implement policies that promote intra-African trade and agrifood products and services with inclusion of women and youth trade protocols
   - Develop models that foster collaboration between smallholder farmers and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to ensure inclusive benefits from trade and improved market access.

- Integrate Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures and data into regional trade policies, particularly within the AfCFTA framework, to enhance alignment and facilitate smoother trade practices

9. **Invest in regional value chains, food baskets, and trade corridors**. Key action areas include:
   - Invest in and implement trade-facilitating policies, infrastructure, and services (energy, road, rail, ports, communication, quality assurance, agro-parks) for connecting food surplus to deficit areas
   - Implement the activities outlined in the AU Common Africa Agro-Parks program
   - Improve youth and women's access to intra-regional markets in the context of AfCFTA
   - Strengthen women and youth cooperatives along value chains
   - Establish comprehensive training and certification programs in trade facilitation and related professions that target women and youth

Key Outputs

Implementation of the outlined strategies will yield several key outputs, including frameworks, policies, plans, programs, and regulations at all levels (local, national, regional, and continental) that are developed or improved and implemented in areas related to technology generation and adoption, food production, agro-industrialization, and trade. Other outputs include the investments made, infrastructure and services developed or improved, technologies and tools generated or made available, partnerships created, access to resources improved, trade barriers removed, and the skills and capacities developed. The outputs will be differentiated across agrifood system sectors and subsectors, along value chains, and across different stakeholders including smallholder farmers, women and youth, and SMEs.

Intermediate Outcomes

The outputs will contribute to several intermediate outcomes, including improvements in agricultural input availability and quality, coupled with enhanced agronomic practices supported by effective extension services to increase farmer productivity and reduce environmental impact. Enhanced regional cooperation and policy alignment will cultivate a more favorable environment for agrifood systems transformation. Furthermore, enhanced access to digital tools, emerging technologies, and precision agriculture—facilitated by more robust public-private partnerships—will propel agrifood system productivity and competitiveness. The capacity of SMEs, particularly those led by women and youth, will be supported through augmented access to finance and superior product quality. Ultimately, expanded and diversified export markets, stabilized food prices, and robust market information systems, coupled with strategic infrastructure investments, will bolster these outcomes.

Strategic Objective 2: Boosting Investment and Financing for Accelerated Agrifood Systems Transformation

Scaling up investment and financing is a critical strategic objective for achieving a sustainable transformation of Agrifood system in the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan. The target of allocating 10 percent of total public expenditure to agriculture (2003 Maputo and 2014 Malabo Declarations), which only a few countries have achieved, seems to have distracted the discourse on the investments and financing mechanisms needed to de-risk the sector and to catalyze private sector investments and financing. With the Kampala CAADP Declaration's focus on Agrifood systems, all sources of investments and financing—public sector (domestic and overseas development assistance) and private sector (domestic and foreign)—should be considered.

The target for this strategic objective is to mobilize a total of $100 billion in public and private investment in African Agrifood systems by 2035, while ensuring that at least 10% of annual public expenditure is allocated to agrifood systems and that at least 15% of Agrifood GDP is reinvested annually in the sector.

The strategy underscores the importance of enhancing investment quality to ensure funds are efficiently used and allocated to sustainable and impactful projects and programs. This requires redesigning the financial architecture to better meet the needs of agrifood systems and strengthening the facilities that support the development of flagship initiatives and bankable projects. Additionally, it must include special financing opportunities to support entrepreneurship within agrifood systems, particularly for youth and women. Such efforts are expected to boost productivity and attract private-sector investment, contributing to long-term economic growth. To achieve this objective, the following strategic interventions will be undertaken:

1. **Improve the quality of public and private sector investments**. Key action areas include:
   - Establish effective public-private-partnerships for sector investments
   - Repurpose producer support to areas with higher cost-effective outcomes
   - Promote alternatives to traditional investment and finance, such as providing land access to youth and women, while creating an Africa-wide food systems investment fund to support sustainable agricultural initiatives
   - Develop strategies to enhance the policy environment for agriculture, including scaling up debt-for-climate swaps
   - Delineate the government's responsibilities in creating an enabling environment for private sector investment, ensuring that strategies balance public and private interests appropriately
   - Specify critical investment areas such as access to credit, youth and women's empowerment in agriculture, technology adoption, post-harvest loss reduction, and infrastructure development.

2. **Increase public sector investment in agrifood systems**. Key action areas include:

- Increase investments in agriculture research and development, innovations, technologies, energy, water and irrigation, and other infrastructure (packaging, refrigeration, storage, marketing, etc.)
- Promote participatory and gender-responsive planning, implementation, and monitoring of investments
- Develop and promote de-risking instruments by central banks that promote increased lending to the agrifood sector by commercial banks
- Enhance public and private-sector investments in critical infrastructure such as roads, energy, and storage facilities, including along with food baskets and corridors
- Catalyze private sector investment through de-risking and risk-sharing blended finance models
- Develop fiscal and non-fiscal measures, including tax incentives/breaks and regulatory reforms, that increase diaspora remittances and investment in agrifood systems
- Issue diaspora bonds to tap into the country's diaspora assets

3. **Strengthen capacities for developing flagships and bankable projects:**
   - Develop and implement flagship projects for scale and impact
   - Boost the quality of project design and implementation that reduces rent-seeking and corruption and raises efficiency and effectiveness
   - Build capacity for developing implementable flagship and bankable projects
   - Strengthen capacity for navigating various financing platforms and understanding the funding opportunities and requirements to access financing
   - Revise existing NAIPs and RAIPs or design new ones that have identifiable flagship projects and business models that make them attractive for public and private financing

4. **Improve access to investment financing for agrifood systems transformation:**
   - Develop and strengthen mechanisms and platforms at all levels (local, national, regional, continental) for harmonizing and coordinating investment mobilization
   - Create a gender-responsive and inclusive African agrifood systems investment financing mechanism for mobilizing green and development funds for concessionary sovereign loans and grants
   - Establish reliable greenhouse gas data and inventory systems to facilitate trade in carbon markets

Outputs

The implementation of the strategic interventions will yield several outputs, including the development of innovative financing frameworks and models, the fostering of public-private partnerships, and the popularization of de-risking and risk-sharing blended finance mechanisms. Enhancing financial literacy programs and expanding

their reach will be crucial. In addition, creating investment incentives for SMEs and farmers, increasing the volume and number of agricultural finance deals, and developing innovative financing models will be essential for the sector's growth.

Intermediate Outcomes

Implementing the proposed strategies aims to increase and improve the quality of both public and private investment in agrifood systems. This includes optimizing the financing and timing of funds allocated to national and regional investment plans, bolstering financial infrastructure, and enhancing understanding of investment needs across agrifood subsectors. As a result, the overall finance available to the agriculture sector will grow, reducing lending risks for financial institutions and expanding access to financial services, particularly for smallholder farmers. By leveraging digital technologies, the goal is to further decrease costs and loan default risks for smallholder farmers.

Strategic Objective 3: Ensuring Food and Nutrition Security

. Despite commendable progress in improving food and nutrition security across the continent, the evolving complexity and interconnectedness of agriculture, food security, nutrition, health, and food safety pose significant challenges for policymakers and stakeholders. These challenges are manifested in the lack of diversified nutrient-dense crops, the high cost of healthy diets, limited consumer food choices, and SPS-related barriers. Food-borne illnesses, for example, affect a significant portion of the African population, resulting in high medical costs in addition to lost productivity (from work or school days missed). Yet, a healthy and productive workforce is essential for the continent’s socio-economic transformation.

This strategic objective aims to achieve to achieve zero hunger in all African Union Member States by 2035 and to reduce stunting by 25%, wasting by 25% and overweight by 25%, ensure that 60% of the population can afford a healthy diet

The CAADP Strategy and Action Plan highlights the role of agrifood systems in eliminating hunger and all forms of malnutrition. It advocates adopting practices to improve the availability, affordability, and consumption of healthy and safe diets for improved human health outcomes. It also emphasizes consumer education and the development of diet quality and nutrition-sensitive policies, strategies, and programs at the national, sub-regional, and regional levels. Strengthening sanitary and phytosanitary standards (SPS) and one-health protocols is essential to safeguarding public health and ensuring that the food produced in Africa is safe and nutritious.

The interventions are designed to address significant challenges within the agrifood system, with particular focus on enhancing the capabilities of smallholder farmers and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). These actors are indispensable for food production, yet they frequently encounter difficulties in meeting the essential sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards. The objective of the proposed interventions is to enhance the capacity of these actors to comply with the relevant standards, thereby improving food safety and quality while promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

The private sector is of critical importance throughout the agrifood value chain, from input supply to production, processing, and distribution. Maximizing its potential hinges on collaboration with the public sector, which is instrumental for creating an enabling environment. Ensuring the affordability and accessibility of nutrient-dense foods is a principal objective, particularly for vulnerable populations that are disproportionately affected by food insecurity. The success of these interventions will depend on the active involvement of stakeholders, including government agencies, private companies, civil society organizations, and local communities, all of whom must work together to enhance food and nutrition security. In essence, these endeavors aspire to construct a more sustainable and equitable food environment by addressing obstacles at each phase of the agrifood system, thereby cultivating resilience and inclusivity. To achieve this objective, the following strategic interventions will be undertaken:

1. **Leverage agrifood systems that enhance human nutrition and health outcomes.** Key actions include:

- Encourage diversification of agricultural production, including increased production and consumption of nutritious traditional and indigenous African crops
- Encourage the cultivation of diverse, nutrient-dense crops, including the adoption of biofortified crop varieties, and strengthen value chains for nutrient-dense foods
- Improve access to nutritious foods by supporting homestead gardening and small-scale livestock, fisheries, and aquaculture production, with a focus on vulnerable populations and communities.
- Establish and expand home-grown school feeding initiatives that prioritize locally sourced foods, enhancing nutritional quality while supporting local farmers and communities
- Strengthen nutrition policies and programs, focusing on nutrition education and raising consumer awareness for healthier dietary choices
- Enhance agricultural extension services and mainstream nutrition education
- Integrate nutrition-sensitive interventions in the agriculture sector
- Support programs that celebrate traditional foods and cultural cuisines, emphasizing Africa's rich food heritage, while strengthening value chains for nutrient-dense foods and integrating a nutrition-focused approach across all supported value chains.
- Incorporate the annual Continental Commemoration of ADFNS to deepen engagement at the Member State level and leverage this platform for advocacy, promoting the importance and benefits of Africa’s rich food heritage.
- Supporting programs that close the gender gap in food and nutrition security
- Increase access to fruits, vegetables, and animal source foods through local markets to improve nutrition outcomes

2. **Strengthen nutrition policies and programs, nutrition education, and consumer awareness.** Key actions include:

- Strengthen the capacity for developing nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive policies, strategies, and programs linked to agrifood systems at all levels and ensure linkages with existing national multisectoral bodies to fight malnutrition
- Roll out food-based dietary guidelines that influence policies and programs to integrate healthy diets into sustainable agrifood systems development agenda
- Develop and implement policies that promote healthy food environments, indigenous livestock and non-forest wood products to reduce the availability and disincentivize the consumption of unhealthy foods, while incentivizing the production and consumption of healthy foods
- Conduct professional training in nutrition education, including strengthening individual and institutional capacities to design, implement, adapt, and evaluate effective nutrition education actions, policies, and programs
- Integrate nutrition education into school curricula
- Create an agricultural research cluster that addresses research and extension knowledge and practices across all value chains, including school farming for school feeding programs.

3. **Strengthen SPS standards and One Health protocol.** Key actions include:

- Formulate and enforce comprehensive food safety laws and regulations at the national, sub-regional, and regional levels aligned with international standards
- Fast-track the establishment of the Africa Food Safety Agency
- Establish national food safety authorities that create dedicated bodies to oversee food safety standards and practices
- Upgrade laboratories, testing facilities, and related infrastructure
- Train inspectors and regulators on SPS standards
- Implement traceability systems and emergency response plans
- Develop and adopt One Health guidelines and protocols
- Ensure One Health Coordination mechanisms
- Promote awareness campaigns on the importance of SPS standards
- Foster national coordination and harmonization of food safety and trade standards to streamline processes, improve quality assurance, and facilitate smoother trade across borders.
- Establish transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases early warning, surveillance and control systems.
- Design and implement eradication programme of priority diseases such as peste des petits ruminats (PPR) and control of transboundary diseases.

4. **Address socio-economic dynamics and strengthen innovative social safety nets that tackle nutrition**. Key actions include:

- Strengthen social protection and economic empowerment programs, targeting vulnerable households and those affected by shocks and crises
- Ensure both cash-based and food-based social protection and social safety nets interventions prioritizing healthy foods

- Develop and implement strategies that strengthen social safety nets, create sustainable economic opportunities, and ensure that nutritious food is accessible and affordable for all communities.
- Provide tailored support for vulnerable populations
- Promote mechanisms such as debt relief, strategic food reserves, and food price subsidies, while ensuring that each country develops a clear food security policy that guarantees uninterrupted food supply, establishes buffer reserves, and implements disaster preparedness and response plans for both natural and manmade disruptions.
- Implement gender-transformative policies and programs
- Promote youth and women's participation in agrifood systems

Key Outputs

Key outputs include improved food and nutrition security policies, regulations, and programs; increased production and consumption of traditional and indigenous nutritious foods; strengthened value chains that promote nutrition-dense foods; food safety and SPS standards and protocols; and food safety infrastructure and capacities developed. Agriculture sector policies and programs that meaningfully integrate nutrition-sensitive interventions, and gender-transformative agriculture policies and programs.

Intermediate Outcomes

Key intermediate outcomes include improved food regulations and safer food systems, increased access to and consumption of more nutritious foods, reduced cases of illness resulting from a lack of food and reduced foodborne illnesses and outbreaks. Others include improved dietary diversity and nutrient intake, improved food safety and quality, enhanced public trust in food system, improved nutrition and health outcomes, reduced malnutrition and diet-related diseases (reduced prevalence of stunting, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight obesity and related NCDs).

Strategic Objective 4: Advancing Inclusivity and Equitable Livelihoods

This strategic objective acknowledges that the transformative change in Africa's agrifood systems needs to be inclusive. The strategy underscores the need to improve access to productive resources for vulnerable groups, including women, youth, smallholder farmers, fisherfolk, and pastoralists. It addresses the inequality and power imbalances that constrain women, youth (both young women and men), and other vulnerable groups. These inequities are exacerbated as they are disproportionately affected by climate extremes, disasters, conflict, economic slowdowns and downturns, and the unaffordability of healthy diets. Further, these constraints are shaped and reinforced by social norms and structural inequalities (FAO et al., 2020, Lynnette et al, 2021).

The target for this strategic objective is to reduce the number of people living in extreme poverty by 50%, to reduce the yield gap between men and women farmers

by 50%, and to empower at least 30% of women, 30% youth and 30% vulnerable groups in agrifood value chains by 2035.

By implementing inclusive social protection programs, ensuring financial inclusion, and promoting the use of digital technology in agriculture, this strategic objective aims to empower these groups and enable them to participate fully in the agrifood systems economy. Enhancing market access and integration is also crucial for making sure that all farmers, regardless of their scale, can benefit from Africa's growing agrifood markets.

Smallholder farmers, women, and youth make significant contributions in agrifood systems. However, evidence shows that they often have lower access to productive resources and services than largescale farmers, men, and adults, which affects the returns to their labor and other investments in agrifood systems. This in turn leads to lower or undesirable socio-economic outcomes. The interventions here tackle the challenges through inclusive policies, institutions, programs, and investments that improve infrastructure and access to social services in rural areas and among vulnerable communities, promote gender equality, and develop the entrepreneurial and leadership skills of smallholder farmers, women, and youth in agrifood systems, among others. To achieve this objective, the following strategic interventions will be undertaken:

1. **Improve infrastructure and access to social services** in rural areas and among vulnerable communities as per the Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Food. Key actions include:
    - Invest in energy, road, ICT, and irrigation infrastructure
    - Improve access to social services in rural areas, education, health, water, and sanitation
2. **Facilitate access to secure productive resources for women, youth, and vulnerable groups** via targeted programs on land, friendly financial services, markets, information and networks, and inputs such as seeds and fertilizers. Key actions include:
    - Implement gender-sensitive land policies that provide secure land tenure and rights for women and youth
    - Ensure equitable access to affordable finance, markets, and ICT for women, youth, and vulnerable groups
    - Invest in technologies, including labor-saving and climate-smart technologies, that meet the needs of women, youth, and vulnerable groups
    - Improve access to agricultural land for women and youth
    - Facilitate climate resilient and green jobs for youth, women and vulnerable groups through initiatives that support enterprises focused on climate smart agriculture, renewable energy in agribusiness, carbon markets and climate adaptation
3. **Implement inclusive social protection programs**. Key actions include:
    - Extend social protection coverage to agrifood system workers, including farmers

- Provide access to comprehensive, adequate, and sustainable social protection, including social insurance and social assistance to all vulnerable groups
- Implement social protection programs that recognize, reduce and redistribute rural women's unpaid care work

4. **Enhance economic empowerment and strengthen capacities.** Key actions include:
    - Enhance the skills and capacities of women, youth, and vulnerable groups through training and education
    - Promote leadership opportunities for women and youth in agrifood systems and decision-making bodies
    - Create decent job opportunities in agricultural value chains for women, youth, and vulnerable groups
    - Develop green finance mechanisms and products adapted to women's needs and accessible to women cooperatives and women-led agribusinesses
    - Actively include vulnerable groups such as women, youth, and smallholder farmers in agrifood systems by enhancing their access to financial services, markets, and technology.
5. **Implement inclusive policies and institutions**. Key actions include:
    - Ensure policies and institutions are responsive to the needs of women, youth, and vulnerable groups
    - Develop and implement inclusive policies that support the participation of women, youth, and vulnerable groups
    - Strengthen institutions to support gender equality and youth empowerment in agrifood systems
    - Strengthen gender and age-disaggregated data collection and analysis
    - Integrate gender-sensitive policies and programs to promote equitable livelihoods throughout the agricultural value chain
    - Develop initiatives that empower vulnerable groups to engage fully and effectively in the agricultural value chain
6. **Ensure decent pay, and equal pay for work of equal value and workplace safety for women and youth** in the agrifood systems sector. Key actions include:
    - Develop and implement policies on equal pay for work of equal value for women and youth agrifood systems workers
    - Reduce yield gap between male and female farmers
    - Develop and promote standards for workplaces in the agrifood systems that are free from sexual harassment in line with ILO Convention C190
    - Develop and implement policies that address women's unpaid care work
    - Increase public and private investment in childcare services

Key Outputs

Key outputs include rural infrastructure and social service improvements that make living and doing business in rural areas attractive. Other outputs include social protection programs implemented and increased coverage in terms of beneficiaries

reached, skills development training and trainees by target vulnerable groups, and inclusive policies implemented and share of the population targeted.

Intermediate Outcomes

The intermediate outcomes include increased equality for and participation of women, youth, and vulnerable groups in agrifood systems, increased access for vulnerable groups, improved skills and knowledge of vulnerable groups, and strengthened inclusive policies.

Strategic Objective 5: Building Resilient Agrifood Systems

This strategic objective aims to build resilient Agrifood systems that can withstand and adapt to various shocks and stressors, including climate change, market fluctuations, and social upheavals. The strategy emphasizes the need to strengthen the institutional infrastructure required to address these challenges effectively. This requires an investment in a deeper understanding of the nature and drivers of vulnerability. Such insight is crucial to developing strategies that enhance preparedness and response capacity during shocks. By instituting and fortifying programs that enhance livelihood resilience in normal times, the strategy aims to help communities maintain food security and sustain agricultural productivity even in the face of adversity.

The target for this strategic objective is to ensure that Africa's Agrifood systems are resilient to climate, socio-economic, and environmental shocks. By 2035, at least 30% of agricultural land should be under sustainable management and 40% of households protected from shocks by 2035.

Africa's agrifood systems are under severe strain from a complex interplay of climatic, environmental, socio-economic, political, technological, and health-related challenges. Reliance on rain-fed agriculture, food imports, inadequate infrastructure, and conflict, among other factors, exacerbate vulnerabilities. Climate change for example poses a significant challenge, with extreme weather events affecting production, productivity, and water resources. Limited financial resources and economic instability hinder adaptation efforts. Thus, a comprehensive and multifaceted approach to building resilient agrifood systems, aligned with the five critical resilience capacities (preventive, anticipative, absorptive, adaptive, and transformative), is essential. Key priorities include infrastructure strengthening, capacity building, knowledge systems, early warning systems, policy coherence, and coordinated responses, in addition to promoting climate-smart agriculture, including irrigation, diversification, and building farmer resilience. To achieve this objective, the following key intervention areas will be implemented:

1. **Invest in human and bio-physical capabilities**, as well as social, institutional, and knowledge systems, to better understand, prevent, anticipate and respond to major shocks that affect agrifood systems. Key actions include:

- Invest in human capabilities and knowledge systems to better understand and manage agrifood system shocks, stressors, and threats and strengthen scenario and foresight planning and predictive modeling
- Support the integration of TVETs and TVET education in preparing last-mile delivery actors essential for a robust and functional agrifood system
- Invest in early warning systems that inform better, more timely decision-making and proactive measures to mitigate disruptions
- Develop, strengthen, and fund institutions and programs that create, support, disseminate, and encourage the use of data and knowledge
- Promote precision agricultural technologies, including the use of geospatial data and artificial intelligence to assess, monitor, and report on crop, forage, and livestock and fisheries conditions in real-time
- Address the impact of various shocks and stressors on specific groups such as youth, women, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and residents of vulnerable countries and design tailored response measures
- Promote durable peace through conflict resolution and peace-building initiatives
- Promote sustainable agricultural practices and develop the necessary infrastructure to support resilience within agrifood systems.
- Strengthen national and regional institutional capacity for effective and timely response to migratory pest upsurges and invasions to promote food security.

2. **Strengthen the absorptive capacity of agrifood systems** that minimize damage, protect livelihoods, and build-back-better in the event of a shock. Key actions include:

- Invest in better understanding of the patterns and drivers of household and community level vulnerability for greater preparedness and more effective response to shocks
- Strengthen coordinated, robust emergency response and recovery protocols to minimize disruptions and facilitate quick recovery
- Establish and improve collaboration among local, national, and international actors, to ensure a unified, efficient approach to managing agrifood system crises
- Promote risk transfer and social protection measures such as insurance and credit that help farmers manage risks and recover from losses
- Establish and strengthen markets to improve commodity flows and reduce wastage

3. **Promote adaptation within agrifood systems and livelihoods** to reduce vulnerability to major shocks and stressors. Key actions include:

- Establish early warning systems and risk management tools to safeguard farmers from unpredictable events and mitigate potential losses.
- Invest in developing, scaling, and adopting climate-resilient and low-emission agriculture

- Expand smart irrigation using techniques such as rainwater harvesting, efficient irrigation systems (e.g., drip irrigation), solar energy, and improved water storage and harvesting to cope with irregular rainfall patterns
- Promote farm and cropping system diversification (e.g., producing crops, aquaculture, fisheries, and livestock)
- Equip farmers with tools, including digital technologies to manage risks
- Enhance agricultural extension services to equip farmers with the necessary knowledge and resources, including local knowledge.
- Expand renewable energy use in agriculture, including solar-powered irrigation systems and biogas and other renewable energy sources for post-harvest processing, storage, and cooking
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and deforestation and promote the use of wind and micro-hydro power for agricultural operations in suitable areas
- Reduce food loss and waste by improving storage facilities and transportation infrastructure to minimize post-harvest losses and food waste
- Encourage the adoption of practices and technologies that extend the shelf life of agricultural products (e.g., improved drying, packaging, and refrigeration)
- Promote behavior change among consumers in line with the need of a circular economy across the diversity of African foods
- Strengthen the joint capacities of agricultural extension and research at all levels, emphasizing the critical role of research and innovation in generating new knowledge and solutions, and ensuring that these contributions are more visible and integrated into agricultural practices and policies.

4. **Invest in long-term transformative capacities** to create fundamentally different, more resilient, and inclusive agrifood systems. Key actions include:

Sustainable Agricultural Practices and Land Management

- Invest in climate-smart agricultural practices, diversify crop production, and enhance water management systems to strengthen resilience against climate change and external shocks
- Promote sustainable agricultural intensification to boost yields, protect ecosystems, enhance food and nutrition, and increase incomes
- Promote sustainable land management, integrated soil fertility management, sustainable grazing practices, reforestation, and afforestation that reduce erosion, enhance soil health and agricultural productivity, contribute to carbon sequestration, and restore degraded lands
- Preserve and use indigenous genetic resources to enhance the development of diverse, nutritious, resilient, indigenous crop varieties.
- Enhance the availability and consumption of indigenous crops, as well as fish and livestock products
- Promote nutrition sensitive irrigation strategies

Infrastructure and Diversification for Resilience Building

- Invest in robust agrifood systems infrastructure, including transportation, storage, and irrigation systems, to reduce post-harvest losses and dependency on rain-fed systems, improve market access and trade, and boost incomes
- Promote crop and livestock diversification to reduce the sensitivity of agrifood systems to climate change and other shocks and boost food and nutrition security
- Promote livelihood diversification to reduce dependency on single crops or livestock types, thereby increasing household income stability and reducing vulnerability to shocks
- Establish and maintain strategic national and regional food reserves to enhance food security during periods of disruption
- Create clear mechanisms to connect with organizations that address conflicts affecting farming, including livestock and agroforestry, while specifically incorporating rangelands and pastures to mitigate disputes between livestock farmers and wildlife.

Technology, Innovation, and Market Support

- Promote technology and innovation to drive agricultural productivity, efficiency, and resilience, especially among smallholder producers and young entrepreneurs
- Invest in improving the policy and enabling environments to permit technology and market developments and access
- Strengthen science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education at the primary, secondary, and tertiary levels to train the next generation of scientists, researchers, and tech-savvy farmers and value chain actors
- Ensure each country develops a critical mass of graduates in geospatial data, artificial intelligence and emerging technologies
- Embark on mentorship for harnessing global and emerging knowledge as a requirement for agrifood systems transformation

Key Outputs

The intervention seeks to expand the adoption of climate-smart agriculture (CSA) technologies while enhancing policies and institutions to leverage climate finance effectively. It includes developing infrastructure to track and measure greenhouse gas emissions, promoting CSA practices, and establishing institutions for adaptation and mitigation. By increasing climate finance allocation to the agrifood system, the initiative aims to enhance agricultural resilience and sustainability through policy support and climate impact assessments. Key outputs include strengthening early warning systems (not limited to weather forecasts but encompassing economic trends, conflicts, and animal and crop diseases), adopting comprehensive national resilience strategies, and integrating resilience into national and sectoral plans. Additionally, the intervention focuses on mobilizing resources for capacity building, including nature-based solutions like CSA, sustainable land management, and agroecology-based

adaptation, along with resilient infrastructure to address socio-economic and environmental challenges.

Intermediate Outcomes

The interventions aim to enhance the agricultural sector's resilience to natural and human induced shocks and stresses and risk management leading to increased absorptive, adaptive, and transformative capacity. Simultaneously, they will contribute to environmental sustainability and climate change mitigation through reduced greenhouse gas emissions from the agrifood system. Consequently, agriculture will be the main driver for inclusive, resilient, sustainable and green growth. These outcomes will be measured through improvement in resilience capacity indices at household, community and system level; loss averted; and reductions of greenhouse gas emissions.

Strategic Objective 6: Strengthening Agrifood Systems Governance

The goal of this strategic objective is to strengthen the governance of agrifood systems to achieve these ambitious goals and ultimately, the CAADP vision. The strategy calls on stakeholders to do more to fully integrate the CAADP agenda into National and Regional Agricultural Development Plans (NAIPs and RAIPs), ensuring that inclusive agrifood systems transformation aligns with broader development objectives. It also stresses the importance of policy coherence to minimize trade-offs, decentralization, and enhanced local governance in creating an enabling environment for agrifood systems transformation. Moreover, the strategy advocates for the establishment of robust systems for evidence-based decision-making and mutual accountability, which are critical for progress monitoring and accountability. The strategy also emphasizes the need for enhanced CAADP political leadership and advocacy and continental, regional and national levels.

This strategic objective aims to ensure that by 2028, all African Union Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) integrate the Kampala CAADP Declaration into their national and regional Agrifood systems investment plans and adopt best practices in Agrifood systems governance based on CAADP principles. In addition, by 2030, all countries will integrate the CAADP biennial review process into their national joint sectoral review platforms for agriculture.

The strategic interventions outlined in this CAADP Strategy and Action Plan are expected to lead to increased resilience to shocks and stressors, widespread adoption of sustainable practices, enhanced public and private investment in agrifood systems, equitable access to resources, and improved food and nutrition security.

Effective governance is the cornerstone of building resilient, inclusive, and sustainable agrifood systems in Africa. As the continent faces increasing demands due to population growth, climate change, and economic pressures, the need for strong governance structures becomes even more critical. Governance in this context encompasses leadership and ownership, policy coherence, and evidence-based

decision-making. It ensures that all stakeholders—from government bodies to smallholder farmers, civil society, and the private sector—are aligned in their efforts to transform agrifood systems.

Strong leadership and a sense of ownership are fundamental for driving transformation within Africa's agrifood systems. At all levels (national, regional, and continental), leadership must be visionary, committed, and capable of mobilizing resources and stakeholders to achieve the set objectives and goals in the new CAADP strategy and action plan. This will depend largely on the harmonization and domestication of its strategies within National and Regional agrifood Investment Plans. This alignment ensures that policies are not only integrated into broader development agendas but are also legislated, budgeted for, and executed effectively.

Political will and leadership are critical for fostering the required sense of ownership. Member States, RECs, and the African Union Commission (AUC) must play a leadership role in mobilizing public and private investments, including leveraging diaspora remittances, to support the sustainable transformation of agrifood systems. Furthermore, the involvement of rural producers, farmer organizations (interprofessional organizations structured in a chain of national and regional agricultural values), and professional bodies is crucial in ensuring that these groups are actively participating in and benefiting from the CAADP initiatives.

To achieve this objective, the following key intervention areas will be implemented:

1. **Strengthen Leadership and Ownership**. The key actions include:

    - Fully embed and reflect the new CAADP strategy and action plan in national agrifood investment plans
    - Establish a transparent accountability system for development strategies, policies and programs across agrifood system actors and a monitoring system to track progress
    - Establish a private sector-led agrifood systems advisory council that provides strategic guidance and support to governments and other stakeholders
    - Strengthen parliamentary oversight for accountability and ensuring alignment of budgets with evidence-based policies and strategies
    - Set quotas and targets for inclusion of women, youth and other vulnerable groups in all agrifood governance structures in line with international standards
    - Strengthen inclusive approaches with consultation and participation of research institutions, think tanks, and observers
    - Strengthen the link and analysis between agricultural information systems and food and nutritional security information systems.

2. **Enhance Policy Coherence and Strengthen Governance**. The key actions include:

- Establish transparent and accountable governance structures within agrifood systems to strengthen institutional frameworks for effective policy implementation and enhance coordination among stakeholders.
- Ensure decision-making processes are inclusive, actively incorporating the voices and perspectives of farmers, particularly smallholders, to inform policy and program development
- Harmonize and align sector policies (agriculture, energy, water, infrastructure, trade, nutrition, etc.) both within and across national, regional, and continental levels, guided by the objectives and priorities in the present strategy and action plan
- Scale up and strengthen the implementation of these policies by undertaking national, regional, and transboundary policy reforms to ensure coherence
- Decentralize and institutionalize CAADP through ratification by national and regional parliaments that empower parliamentary committees to provide oversight to ensure the effective adoption and execution of policies at all levels
- Strengthen rural governance and local action that supports the entire process and enables active participation of local communities, farmers' organizations, and cooperatives in policy formulation and implementation

3. **Promote Evidence-Based Decision-Making and Mutual Accountability.** The key actions include:

- Establish an agrifood systems knowledge support system for enhancing data quality and streamlining data management across national, regional, and continental levels
- Promote mutual accountability mechanisms, including enhanced oversight and reporting processes such as the BR to ensure that all stakeholders—from top government officials to smallholder farmers—are held accountable for their roles and commitments in the agrifood system
- Improve data collection and analytical methods to better inform policy decisions and enhance the overall governance and effectiveness of agrifood systems.
- Strengthen the capacity of national and regional research and statistical systems to generate and use evidence to facilitate better decision-making
- Institutionalize agrifood Joint Systems Reviews (JSRs) at local, sub-national, national, and regional levels and involve all stakeholders, including vulnerable groups
- Develop and strengthen monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems for CAADP to support adaptive and responsive governance structures
- Develop a robust communications strategy at all levels through which messages on mindset change will be created and disseminated

- Build institutional, technical, and human resource capacity for effective communications and advocacy
- Set up a continental and regional "Policy Radar" to facilitate the exchange of good practices and lessons learned, while ensuring regular updates on the cost of hunger in Africa

Key Outputs

Key outputs include an established and operational Agrifood systems advisory council, an Agrifood system budget approved through parliamentary processes, an improved framework harmonizing and aligning policies, and mechanisms and structures for better evidence-based planning, implementation, and learning.

Intermediate Outcomes

The expected intermediate outcomes of these efforts include greater stakeholder ownership, increased stakeholder interest and participation in agenda setting and implementation, enhanced evidence-based planning and mutual accountability, and strengthened institutional capacity for delivering long-term results. Other outcomes include enhanced policy coherence, better alignment of national and regional policies with CAADP goals and strategic objectives and enhanced institutional capacity. Ultimately, these efforts will lead to the establishment of sustainable and resilient governance structures capable of driving long-term growth and development in Africa's agrifood sector.

5. Strengthening CAADP Implementation and Coordination

The CAADP Strategy and Action Plan seeks to enhance the implementation of the CAADP agenda and confront the critical challenges facing agricultural and food systems transformation on the continent. Despite advancements in prioritizing agriculture, the slow pace of implementing the Malabo CAADP Declaration is attributed to weak governance, limited capacity, and inadequate stakeholder engagement. Underfunding and low budget allocations, ineffective knowledge management, and poor coordination further impede the alignment of national agrifood investment plans with broader development objectives and overall target achievement. Weak accountabilities at both country and regional levels also need to be addressed, along with incentive mechanisms. To overcome these obstacles, the strategy emphasizes strengthening institutional and human capacity, fostering public-private partnerships, enhancing data and information systems, and promoting regional cooperation. By increasing country ownership, optimizing existing administrative systems, and strengthening legislative frameworks, the strategy aims to create robust and sustainable implementation structures. The key interventions in this domain are discussion in this section.

Strengthening Institutional and Human Capacity at all Levels (National, Regional, and Continental)

Effective implementation of the CAADP agenda hinges on robust institutions and skilled personnel. Strengthening human and institutional capacity is essential for aligning national agrifood investment plans with broader development goals and enhancing overall program delivery. Weak institutional and human capacities at the national, regional, and continental levels hinder implementation. Key priority interventions include:

- Strengthening lead implementing institutions by providing them with adequate financial resources and technical expertise
- Investing in markedly raising the technical expertise, expanding access to equipment, laboratory and institutional infrastructure as well as creating the policy, regulatory instruments required for sufficient advances in science and technology, in emerging areas of geospatial data, biotechnology and artificial intelligence
- Establishing public-private partnership-based models for human capital development, technology innovation, commercial infrastructure, market development and access to finance
- Mobilizing and supporting local centers of expertise to enhance data and analytical capacities for timely and relevant evidence to guide policy and program design and implementation
    - Enhance the capacities for mutual accountability platforms to carry out review processes that are evidence-based, comprehensive and inclusive

Fostering Coordination and Collaboration

Effective implementation of the agrifood system at national level will require strong collaboration among different government ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs), each playing its role to achieve common goals. This requires strong central leadership at the highest level to ensure compliance by the MDAs. The Office of the President or the Office of the Prime Minister needs to take on this responsibility. Strengthening coordination mechanisms and fostering partnerships at all levels will create synergies, optimize resource use, and accelerate progress towards achieving the CAADP goals and targets. Inadequate stakeholder coordination and collaboration hinder CAADP implementation. Key interventions will include:

- Strengthen partnerships and collaboration among key stakeholders, development partners, and the private sector
- Strengthen multi-stakeholder dialogue, coordination, learning, and accountability platforms at the country level
- Strengthen regional coordination mechanisms and partnerships with regional agencies
- Strengthen the coordination and technical capacity of AU institutions (AUC, AUDA-NEPAD and regional economic communities).

Resource Mobilization and Financial Sustainability

Adequate and sustainable financing is essential for the successful implementation of CAADP. Diversifying funding sources, optimizing resource allocation, and leveraging public-private partnerships are key to ensuring the financial sustainability of

agricultural initiatives. Underfunding and unreliable budget allocation hinder implementation. Interventions will include:

- Developing strategic partnerships and building the capacity of key national organizations, the financial sector and the private sector to mobilize resources
- Ensure balanced allocation of funding to all strategic objectives in the national agrifood investment plan

6. Resourcing the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan

Resourcing the implementation of the CAADP strategy and action plan at national level is the responsibility of AU Member States. They will do so by mobilizing both internal and external financial resources to invest in the priorities withing their national agrifood systems investment plans (NASIPs). Allocations of resources to NAIPs will be done through the annual budgeting cycles following procedure in each Member State.

Resources will also be needed by continental institutions (AUC, AUDA-NEPAD and RECs) to enable them to provide support to the Member States. The support by continental organizations includes: (i) technical support for domestication of the Kamapala CAADP declaration into NAIPs; (ii) convening of the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (ARDWE) to received policy guidance during implementation; (iii) monitoring and reporting through the CAADP biennial review mechanism; (iv) communication and advocacy; and, (v) capacity building of Member States through specialized training programs. The key interventions are:

Strengthening Public Funding for Implementation

The implementation of the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan will require significant support from Member States through their national budgets. However, the experience from the Malabo era shows that public funding for agriculture often falls short of the 10 percent target. To address this issue, the AU will encourage Member States to increase investments in agrifood systems transformation. A crucial part of this process will involve working closely with national governments to emphasize the importance of agrifood systems in national development agendas. Public expenditure reviews (PERs) should be undertaken in all Member States to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of public expenditure in agrifood systems. The PERs will also help to identify the areas with the highest return on investments given the resource constraints at country level.

Creating a Special Funding for Continental Institutions

To effectively support the implementation of the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan, the establishment of a special fund is essential. This fund would be designed to pool resources from various sources, including Member States, development partners, and the private sector, specifically for the AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, and RECs. This fund should have a flexible structure that allows it to address various needs, from capacity

building to project support, and respond quickly to emerging challenges. An initial capitalization by Member States, combined with contributions from international donors, could ensure the fund's sustainability and effectiveness. The governance of this vehicle should be transparent, with clear accountability mechanisms to ensure funds are used efficiently and for the intended purposes.

Supporting Country-Level Implementation Processes

The transformation of Africa's agrifood systems will primarily be realized through initiatives and projects implemented at the national level. Countries are where policies are put into practice, infrastructure is built, agricultural practices are improved, and food systems are strengthened. This ensures that the interventions are context-specific and tailored to the unique needs and challenges of each country. Moreover, it strengthens national ownership of the initiatives, as countries are more likely to be committed to projects that they have had a direct role in shaping and implementing.

The successful implementation of the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan hinges on a robust and diversified resourcing strategy. By strengthening public funding, creating a special fund, leveraging donor contributions for capacity building, enhancing multi-stakeholder engagement, and incorporating green financing, the AU can ensure that entities like the AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, and RECs have the support they need to support Member States.

Leveraging Donor Funding for Capacity Building and Technical Assistance

Donor funding has historically played a significant role in supporting various initiatives within Africa's agricultural sector. However, in the post-Malabo CAADP era, it is crucial to shift the focus of donor contributions towards strengthening the capacity of implementing entities rather than project financing alone. This shift will help ensure that the Member States, AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, and RECs have the necessary skills, knowledge, and resources to drive the transformation of the agrifood systems. To achieve this, the AU will work with development partners to create tailored programs that build institutional capacity, provide technical assistance, and enhance the operational efficiency of these entities. This could include training programs, knowledge-sharing platforms, and the provision of technical tools and resources that enable more effective implementation of the strategy and action plan.

Enhancing Private Sector Engagement for Implementation Support

The private sector will be central for the implementation of the CAADP strategy and action plan. Private sector investments will be what will drive the transformation of agrifood systems in Africa. Mobilizing the private sector will be critical. Public sector investments should include those areas that will create the enabling environment for the private sector to invest in agrifood systems. This can be done through public-private partnerships focused on areas such as infrastructure development, technology transfer, and capacity building. Private sector entities, including corporations and philanthropic organizations can provide funding, expertise, and logistical support for various implementation activities. Encouraging the private sector to contribute to the

special fund would also be a strategic move to ensure diversified and sustainable funding sources.

Incorporating Green Financing into Implementation Support

The transition towards sustainable and climate-smart agriculture is a central pillar of the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan. Therefore, incorporating green financing into the resourcing strategy is essential, both to cover direct investments and to support key entities' implementation efforts. Green financing can be used to fund initiatives that enhance the capacity of Member States, AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, and RECs to implement climate-smart agricultural practices across the continent. Accessing international green funds, such as the Green Climate Fund and other similar mechanisms, can provide much-needed financial support for these entities to implement climate-related projects. This will enable them to better integrate sustainability into their strategies and operations, thereby aligning with global trends towards environmental sustainability.

7. CAADP Knowledge Management Support System

The key purpose of the knowledge management support system for the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan and the Kampala CAADP Declaration is to provide, store, retrieve, disseminate, and encourage the use of high-quality, timely data, information, and knowledge to aid in agrifood system transformation decision-making, policy planning, and implementation. The knowledge management and support system will facilitate continuous learning, support evidence-based decision-making, and foster a culture of transparency and accountability among stakeholders. The intervention areas will include strengthening knowledge management processes, mutual accountability, monitoring and evaluation, reporting systems, dissemination and communication systems, and advocacy. Existing systems at the country, regional, and continental levels will be strengthened to ensure that policy and program implementation are continually evidence-based.

The key goal for the next ten years of CAADP knowledge management, mutual accountability, and reporting is to have institutionalized, scalable, and robust CAADP data management and mutual accountability systems. Governed by AU Member States, these systems will provide comprehensive, quality, reliable, and credible data, addressing agrifood systems information needs for evidence-based decision-making and targeted investments.

Knowledge management strengthening will be undertaken in the following areas: a) finding existing knowledge, b) creating new knowledge, c) storing and packaging the knowledge created, and d) sharing knowledge and ensuring its use. Strengthening the data collection, quality assurance mechanisms, validation process, and the finalization of the CAADP BR report are the key components in this intervention area. The hub responsible for ensuring comprehensive and reliable data, information, and data

storage and retrieval is the existing electronic CAADP BR (eBR) system, which will be strengthened and improved.

Strengthening mutual accountability will be done through mechanisms such as JSRs, the Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System, the Kampala (formerly Malabo) Policy Learning Event, and dialogues on the CAADP BR report. However, challenges remain. Stakeholder engagement often faces funding limitations and uneven participation of stakeholders.

Strengthening the M&E framework: The M&E system will be used to produce the CAADP BR report. This will be based on national-level aggregate data, which will be reviewed and reported using the agreed-upon indicators to monitor progress. The M&E systems will be built on the results-based management approach, which aims to support decision-making towards the objectives mentioned in Section 5. The strategy will be reviewed after five years of implementation and will be evaluated at the end of the ten years to inform the formulation of the fourth CAADP phase (2036-2045).

Strengthening reporting systems: The key objective of reporting is to keep stakeholders informed about actual performance, including progress toward the agreed goals, targets, and accomplishments. Reporting also highlights challenges, risks, and resource utilization. The main sources of data and information for the CAADP BR report are the monitoring process and the eBR system. The M&E system will produce the periodic review reports as a continuation of the Malabo CAADP BR reports, tracking the impact of the implementation mechanisms such as NAIPs and subsequently using this information to make informed decisions and improve future planning and implementation.

Deploying a minimum level of capacity at each level: The M&E system should leverage efforts at continental, regional, and national levels for performance measurement and aiding results-based management for the whole CAADP. Each Member State is also expected to have the minimum capacity and a government-designated apex country-level M&E team to generate, store, transfer, and use (collect, synthesize, manage, and report) performance measurement data for CAADP investments under their direct oversight. The M&E efforts at the three levels of the African Union will be supported by (1) the Africa-wide knowledge support systems, (2) technical experts, (3) existing BR experts, and (4) robust digital platforms. This should include forging the right partnerships to enhance knowledge creation, storage and retrieval, sharing and utilization.

8. Improving CAADP Communication and Advocacy

Effective communication and advocacy will be a key pillar of the CAADP strategy and action plan. To facilitate communication of the findings from the CAADP biennial reviews, a CAADP BR Communication Toolkit was developed, but its use has been limited. It is a useful tool that will be strengthened in this phase. Other communication

and advocacy strategies for the next ten years of CAADP will include developing a comprehensive communications and advocacy strategy for the Kampala CAADP Declaration; establishing and institutionalizing capacity for communication and advocacy at all levels: national, regional, and continental; adopting advanced communication and advocacy technologies; strengthening the CAADP champions structure and capacity by devolving from continental to regional, country, and local levels; and strengthening regional and country-level capacity on communication and advocacy activities.

COMMUNICATION

The proposed interventions for communication include:

Communication Strategy Development

- Develop and implement a comprehensive CAADP Communication and Advocacy Strategy.
- Establish a Communication Unit at the AUC and AUDA-NEPAD with relevant staff (multimedia officer, copywriter, content creator, etc.) to implement the strategy.
- Recruit and retain an external 360 communication agency to support the internal team with content creation, public relations, audiovisual, print, and social media campaigns.

Capacity Building and Engagement

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- Train key CAADP experts in communications through consultative forums, workshops, and media training.
- Build capacity among Ministers and parliamentary communication officers to enhance effective CAADP implementation and ensure policymakers are well-informed.

Outreach and Networking

- Leverage AU statutory and key events (e.g., Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security, World Food Day) for outreach to key stakeholders.
- Create and strengthen strategic networks, such as the CAADP Journalists Network and Key Influencers, to amplify impact.
- Develop a targeted media engagement strategy that identifies key journalists, editors, and media outlets, outlining objectives and tactics for effective media interaction.

ADVOCACY

The interventions will include:

Advocacy and Engagement Strategies

- Develop an advocacy strategy for CAADP that outlines key approaches and goals.

- Strengthen the CAADP champion structure and capacity by devolving from continental to regional, country, and local levels.
- Engage non-state actors (NSAs) in advocacy efforts and awareness-raising activities related to CAADP commitments, providing platforms for dialogue and partnerships.

Collaborative Frameworks and Processes

- Redesign existing CAADP processes and products (e.g., CAADP PP, MAPLE, JSR) as strategic communications, accountability, and learning platforms.
- Make the dissemination of BR reports to Parliaments a statutory obligation for Member States to ensure accountability.
- Encourage governments to establish national CAADP coordination units led by senior officials to coordinate advocacy and implementation efforts.

Private Sector and Civil Society Engagement

- Develop a comprehensive Private Sector Engagement Strategy to leverage financial resources, expertise, and influence for strategic partnerships.
- Facilitate fora and workshops empowering local NGOs and advocacy groups to voice community needs and promote participatory decision-making in agricultural policies.
- Support the establishment of a private sector-led agricultural advisory council to provide strategic guidance and support to governments and stakeholders.

Risk Management and Mitigation

The post-Malabo CAADP strategy will span ten years, 2626-2035. Its success will be based on certain assumptions. Given the long-time horizon, many risks and uncertainties could affect the strategic positioning of the agrifood systems transformation agenda to deliver on its goals. There are external socioeconomic, environmental, and other shocks that might come up, which will demand that the strategy be agile enough to respond to such unforeseen developments. The strategy will therefore call for institutional adaptation to changes in a complex and rapidly changing context.

Major risks and uncertainties will need to be identified and outlined together with their respective mitigation actions.

Key interventions to ensure better risk management include:

- Identify potential risks (e.g., political instability, climate change) and put in place mechanisms for dealing with, or mitigating such risks
- Identify health crises, such as pandemics or epidemics early and develop mechanisms for minimizing negative impacts.
- Identify and address gender inequalities or biases and restrictive social norms may limit women's and youth's access to education, resources, and decision-making processes thereby preventing them from fully participating in and benefiting from or participating in agricultural activities or initiatives.

- Weak governance structures and limited institutional capacity can impede the effective implementation of agricultural policies and programs. Develop programs to strengthen governance mechanisms
- Inequitable land tenure systems and limited access to productive resources such as land, water, seeds can marginalize certain groups. Develop programs to ensure equitable land access for youth men, and women.
- Inadequate rural infrastructure, such as roads, storage facilities, and markets, can hinder the efficient movement of goods and access to markets. Government should fix infrastructure needed for agrifood systems.
- The non-availability of reliable data, inaccurate data and effective monitoring systems can hinder the assessment of progress towards inclusivity targets. Invest in data systems to minimize the impact of this risk.

- ***Nationally relevant and time-sensitive data sources*** that build from the experience gained from monitoring of the sixth commitment of the Malabo Declaration calls for enhancing the availability of a comprehensive set of information and indicators on the resilience capacities of households. There is a need to invest in tracking progress in the resilience of households and communities, determining which resilience-building actions work best and where that can help governments and partners identify and implement resilience interventions that resonate with the needs of the communities.

- ***Invest in durable peace*** because it is essential in building local and global resilient agrifood systems, influencing agricultural production, food security, market access, investment, resilience, and social cohesion. Establishing and maintaining peace is critical for enabling long-lasting investment to unlock the full potential of Africa's agrifood systems.
- The Kampala CAADP Declaration will need to emphasize establishing conflict-resolution mechanisms at the community level while strengthening local markets and value chains.

- ***Household insurance*** and measures that shield their coping mechanisms to shocks by enabling access to healthcare services to mitigate the impact of health shocks on their livelihoods will be key to enhancing the resilience of communities.
- Enhance public health surveillance systems to detect and respond to health threats – including those coming from zoonotic origins. It will also be important to strengthen food safety measures to prevent health shocks related to foodborne diseases.

- ***Financial resources*** will be pivotal for achieving the resilience goals of the post-Malabo CAADP agenda. It includes promoting new financial instruments and creative approaches for inclusion to ensure households have access to credit and savings facilities to buffer economic shocks.

- It will be necessary to develop and track the implementation of policies to stabilize food markets and prevent price volatility to facilitate trade to ensure a steady supply of food and agricultural inputs.

- ***Capacities development*** of African governments to formulate resilience-focused policy measures is a critical step a priority the CAADP strategy and action plan. Mainstreaming resilience-focused policies will trickle down to operational actions led by various stakeholders towards sustainable agrifood systems.

Annex 1: CAADP Action Plan: 2026-2035

The CAADP Action Plan 2026-2035 presents proposed activities to achieve the strategic objectives identified and described in the CAADP Strategic Plan. It is intended to be a living matrix meant to guide all the actors and stakeholders at the continental, regional and national levels to adopt and develop respective operational plans for the successful implementation of the CAADP Strategic Plan 2026-2035 and the Kampala CAADP Declaration. The CAADP Action Plan is intended to be used by all actors to review their agrifood systems investment plans for the next 10 years while also guiding their monitoring, evaluation and learning agenda. The continental CAADP Biennial Review will continue to take place and the indicators for measurement of the progress towards achievement of the Kampala CAADP Declaration, will be guided by information from this CAADP Action Plan. The current 59 indicators from the Malabo CAADP Declaration will be reviewed and aligned to the current six strategic objectives. Stakeholders are encouraged to adopt and tailor the relevant sections of this CAADP Action Plan to their institutional mandates and needs, and contribute to the overall goals and objectives the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan 2026-2035 and the Kampala CAADP Declaration.

Key Interventions	Main activities	Responsible Entities	Support Entities	Timeline
Strategic Objective 1: Intensifying Sustainable Food Production, Agro-Industrialization, and Trade				
Sustainable Food Production: Strengthen and ensure functional input systems	**1. Seed Systems** ● Engage stakeholders through regional consultations to identify specific needs and challenges in seed systems and gather input for tailored interventions. ● Strengthen and enforce seed quality standards and certification processes to guarantee the availability of high-quality seeds in the market. ● Implement and support programs focused on the multiplication and distribution of improved seed varieties.	AUC, RECs, Member States, and the private sector	Research institutions, development partners, non-state actors	Year 1

	• Enhance engagement in input systems by women and youth as key actors in input supply chains			
	2. Fertilizer Systems • Implement training programs on the best practices for fertilizer application, including the use of precision agriculture technologies. • Strengthen the supply chain and distribution networks to ensure timely and affordable access to fertilizers for all farmers. • Promote the use of organic and bio-fertilizers through education and incentives, contributing to sustainable agriculture. • Implement or improve subsidy programs to make fertilizers more affordable for smallholder farmers. • Increase local fertilizer production capacity to make them more available and affordable to smallholder farmers	AUC, RECs, Member States, and the private sector	Research institutions, development partners, civil society, professional organizations	2026-2035
	3. Feed and Fodder Systems • Invest in R&D for improved fodder crop varieties that are more resilient and have higher nutritional value. • Promote alternative feed sources and locally available feed resources to	AUC, Member States, research institutions, and the private sector	Development partners, civil society, professional organizations	2026-2035

	reduce reliance on traditional feed sources. ● Train aquaculture and livestock farmers on proper feed and fodder management practices to optimize fish and animal health and productivity.			
	4**. Pollination Services** ● Support beekeeping initiatives to enhance pollination services and provide additional income sources for farmers. ● Raise awareness of the importance of pollinators for agricultural productivity and integrated pest management techniques that minimize the impact of pesticides on pollinators. ● Protect and restore habitats that are critical for pollinators, such as wildflower meadows and hedgerows.	Member States, RECs, AUC, beekeeper organizations, and research institutions	Development partners, civil society, professional organizations	Year 1
	5**. Agricultural Extension Services** ● Enhance the capacity of extension agents to use emerging agricultural technologies and best practices. ● Leverage digital platforms to extend the reach of extension services, particularly in remote areas. ● Establish farmer field schools where farmers can learn by doing, share knowledge, and apply new techniques in real time.	Member States, the private sector	AUC, RECs, research institutions, development partners	2026-2035

	• Strengthen public-private partnerships to enhance the provision of extension services.			
	6. Irrigation and Water Management • Promote efficient irrigation technologies. • Train farmers in water conservation practices, including rainwater harvesting and growing drought-resistant crops. • Invest in the rehabilitation and expansion of existing irrigation infrastructure to improve access and water use efficiency. • Develop and enforce policies and regulations that promote sustainable water use in agriculture. • Promote the use of non-conventional water resources.	Member States, the private sector	AUC, RECs, research institutions, development partners	2026-2035
Strengthen the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices.	**1. Conservation Agriculture** • Conduct workshops and field demonstrations on conservation agriculture practices. • Promotion of soil health initiatives. • Provide financial incentives or subsidies to encourage farmers to adopt conservation agriculture practices. • Partnerships with nongovernmental organizations and research institutions to promote and support the adoption of	Member States, the private sector, and RECs	AUC, RECs, AUDA-NEPAD, research institutions, development partners	2026-2035

	conservation agriculture and the promotion of agroecological practices.			
	2. Digital Tools and Approaches ● Create and promote digital platforms that provide farmers with real-time data on weather, market prices, pest outbreaks, and best agricultural practices. ● Develop mobile applications that offer tailored advice on crop management, pest control, and soil health. ● Create online communities where farmers can exchange information, share best practices, and collaborate on common challenges. ● Support programs to close the gender digital technology gap	Member States, RECs, AUC AUDA-NEPAD	AUC, RECs, AUDA-NEPAD, research institutions, development partners	Year 1 and continuous for the first years of the strategy
	3. Promotion of Non-Wood Forest Products (NWFPs) ● Map and inventory NWFPs in different regions to identify potential resources and opportunities. ● Support the development of markets for NWFPs through inclusive value chain analysis, product development, and marketing initiatives. ● Promote the integration of NWFPs with agroforestry systems to enhance biodiversity and provide additional income streams for farmers	Member States, civil society, professional organizations	AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, research institutions, development partners	Year 2, continuous over the strategy period

Create an enabling policy environment for the efficient functioning of systems, including emerging technologies, biotechnology, artificial intelligence, digitalization, precision agriculture, and the development of new ones through research.	**1. Policy Formulation and Enhancement** ● Update/strengthen/ develop policies and frameworks that support the adoption and integration of emerging technologies, ensuring alignment with national and international standards.	Member States, the private sector, RECs	AUC, RECs, research institutions, development partners, the private sector	Year 1
	2. Stakeholder Engagement ● Convene multi-stakeholder dialogues to gather input and build consensus on policy directions. ● Launch public awareness campaigns about the benefits, risks, and ethical considerations related to emerging technologies	Member States, the private sector	AUC, RECs, AUDA-NEPAD, research institutions, development partners, the private sector	Year 1
	3. Promotion of Public-Private Partnerships ● Establish fora and networks that bring together public and private entities to foster collaboration on technology development and commercialization. ● Create financial incentives, such as tax breaks, grants, or subsidies, to encourage private sector investment in R&D and the commercialization of emerging technologies.	Member States, the private sector	RECs, AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, development partners	Year 1
	4. Capacity Building and Training ● Implement targeted training for policymakers, regulators, and industry professionals on the regulatory and	Member States, AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs,	Development partners, the private sector, professional	Year 1

	practical aspects of emerging technologies. ● Strengthen the capabilities of regulatory bodies to effectively manage and oversee the implementation of new technologies.	research institutions	organizations, cooperatives, associations	
	5. Infrastructure Development ● Support the development of digital infrastructure, such as high-speed internet and data centers, as well as physical research facilities equipped for advanced scientific and technological work. ● Promote mechanization and precision agriculture to improve productivity and sustainability.	Member States, AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs	Research institutions, development partners	Year 1
Stimulate the growth, competitiveness, and sustainability of enterprises, with a focus on SMEs	● Develop and implement policies, frameworks, regulations, and programs for creating an enabling environment ● Foster land policy reform that encourages investments and respects communities' land rights and livelihoods. ● Promote intra-African agricultural trade and regional and continental agricultural value chains. ● Support partnerships among sector stakeholders. ● Advance innovative financing and risk management instruments.	Member States, RECs, AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, AfCFTA Secretariat	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), development partners, private sector associations, research and academia	Years 1-3

	• Improve energy and infrastructure services.			
Integrate smallholder farmers, women, and youth in value chains and regional markets	• Improve agricultural extension services. • Establish incubation centers and accelerators; upgrade skills and capacity of women and youth-led enterprises. • Identify and address barriers to the equal participation of women and youth in agribusiness. • Expand women's access to finance and adapted financial products including agriculture insurance. • Strengthen women groups, cooperatives and promote aggregation into federations to improve access to intra-regional markets • Expand social protection including paying attention to women's care work.	Member States, RECs, AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, farmers organizations, women and youth organizations	UNECA, UN Women, development partners, private sector associations, research and academia	Continuous over the strategy period
Develop and integrate value chains to stimulate value addition along entire value chains	• Skew continental and regional financing institutions towards financing integration of regional value chains. • Invest in regional interconnecting infrastructure, including air, waterways, roads, and railways, as well as Pan-African Payment Systems. • Formulate and implement Rules of Origin that foster regional cumulation.	Member States, AUC, AUDA-NEPAD	African Development Bank (AfDB), AFREXIMBANK, regional development banks such as the East African Development Bank, AfCFTA Secretariat	

Enhance the capacity of enterprises and entrepreneurs (with a focus on SMEs, and women/youth-led enterprises) to comply with mandatory and voluntary sustainability requirements	• Develop and implement programs to sensitize SMEs and women/youth-led enterprises on mandatory and voluntary sustainability requirements and enhance their capacity to comply. • Provide technical support and finance to women and youth for certification processes on bio-agriculture in key value chains	Member States, RECs, AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, AfCFTA	Development Partners, Research institutions, AKADEMIYA2063, the World Health Organization (WHO), World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), private sector associations, farmers organizations, women and youth organizations	Continuous over the strategy period
Strengthen market access and trade facilitation	• Develop and implement policies and frameworks to facilitate access to domestic, regional, and international markets, ensuring fair trade practices and reducing tariff and non-tariff trade barriers through full implementation of AfCFTA. • Adopt affirmative procurement and trade policies that integrate women and yotu into local, national, regional and international markets	Member States, AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, AfCFTA, RECs	UNECA, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UN Women, the	Year 1 and Year 3

			European Union (EU), AfDB, World Bank (WB), Islamic Development Bank (ISDB), AGRA, the private sector	
Optimize supply chains	• Strengthen supply chain management to ensure efficient distribution of agricultural products from producers to consumers (from farm to fork)	Member States, AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, AfCFTA, RECs	UNECA, RECs, FAO, UNCTAD, UNDP, EU, AfDB, WB, ISDB, AGRA, the private sector	Year 2-Year 5
Connect food surplus to deficit areas	• Implement the Common Africa Agro-Parks, a flagship program of the African Union's Agenda 2063. • Invest in regional value chains, food baskets, trade corridors, trade facilitating policies, infrastructure, and services (road, rail, ports, communication, quality assurance, agro-parks)	Member States, AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, AfCFTA, RECs	UNECA, RECs, FAO, UNCTAD, UNDP, EU, AfDB, WB, ISDB, AGRA, the private sector	Year 5-Year 9
Strategic Objective 2: Boosting Investment and Financing for Accelerated Agrifood Systems Transformation				
Improve the quality of public and private sector investments	• Prioritize evidence-based planning and investment to improve the quality of public and private sector investments to have higher returns to the expenditure in terms of agricultural growth.	AUC, RECs, Member States	The private sector	2026-2035

	• Strengthen gender-responsive public planning, investment, and implementation of agrifood systems programs and interventions. • Improve the effectiveness of the public sector policies and investments in agrifood system finance that benefit youth and young women (including by conducting gender budgeting analysis in the agricultural sector)			
Increase public and private sector investment in agrifood systems	• Prioritize public investment in key areas of agrifood systems that supports the agro-parks and food baskets corridors development including agriculture research & development, innovations, technologies, energy, water management, roads, rail and irrigation infrastructure. • Member States should commit and spend at least one percent of agriculture GDP on agrifood systems research and development. • Improve coordination of agrifood financing and investments with a focus on access to finance for youth and young women within the public sector. • Develop blended finance instruments	AUC, RECs, Member States	The private sector	2026-2035
Use fiscal and non-fiscal measures to	• Develop and implement regulatory reforms like tax incentives or tax	AUC, RECs, Member States	The private sector	2026-2035

increase diaspora remittances	breaks for diaspora investment in agrifood systems. ● Develop and issue diaspora bonds that make it easier and guarantee diaspora remittances to tap into the country's diaspora assets and support agrifood systems investments.			
Develop Innovative Financing Instruments for agrifood systems	● Redesign the current financial architecture and capital markets and promote innovative financial instruments that de-risk investment in agrifood systems. ● Harmonize the classification of "agrifood investments," loan loss provisioning, and assessment of de-risking instruments by central banks to promote increased lending by commercial banks. ● Develop and enhance innovative and digital payment systems to reduce transaction costs for smallholders. ● Develop indemnity and crop insurance for smallholders.	AUC, RECs, Member States	The private sector	2026-2035
Strengthen facilities that support the development of flagships and bankable projects in agrifood systems transformation at the	● National agrifood Investment Plans should be designed with identifiable flagships and projects with appropriate business cases that make it easy for public and private financing. ● Develop and strengthen mechanisms/platforms at the national and regional levels to convene	AUC, RECs, Member States	The private sector	2026-2035

regional and Member State levels	dialogues and coordinate investment mobilization. ● Develop public-private partnerships to support flagship financing and implementation.			
Enhance the capacity of Member States to access climate financing for agrifood systems transformation	● Mobilize green and development funds for concessionary sovereign loans and grants. ● Develop financial mechanisms to earmark green finance to women cooperatives and women-led businesses in agriculture	AUC, RECs, Member States	The private sector	2026-2035
Creating an African agrifood system investment financing mechanism	● Develop an agrifood systems investment and financing facility similar to the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program.	AUC, RECs, Member States, AfDB	The private sector	2026-2035

Key Interventions	**Main activities**	**Responsible Entities**	**Support Entities**	**Timeline**
Strategic Objective 3: Ensure Food Security and Nutrition				
Exploit agriculture to improve human nutrition, health, SPS, and One Health outcomes	● Promote the cultivation of nutrient-rich crops including the adoption of biofortified crop varieties.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	● Support homestead gardening and small-scale aquaculture and livestock and fisheries production.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2028
	● Enhance agricultural extension services to include nutrition education.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	● Develop and roll out tools and programs to promote consumer awareness of healthy diets	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035

Key Interventions	Main activities	Responsible Entities	Support Entities	Timeline
	and private sector engagement in supplying such diets.			
	• Encourage diversification of agricultural production.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	• Develop value chains that prioritize nutrient-dense foods.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	• Support programs to promote the production and consumption of nutritious traditional and indigenous foods and cultural cuisine.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
Strengthen SPS standards and One Health approach	• Support programs to close the gender gap in food insecurity and nutrition	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	• Formulate comprehensive food safety laws and regulations.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	• Fast-track the establishment of the Africa Food Safety Agency	AUC, Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2026
	• Establish national food safety authorities.	Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2028
	• Upgrade laboratories and testing facilities.	Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2028
	• Train inspectors and regulators on SPS standards.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2028
	• Implement traceability systems and food safety emergency response plans.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2028
	• Develop and implement one health guidelines and protocols.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2028
	• Facilitate private sector engagement in SPS for trade and market access.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2028
	• Build the capacity of SMEs and small-scale farmers on SPS protocols and good agricultural practices.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2028

Key Interventions	Main activities	Responsible Entities	Support Entities	Timeline
Improve animal health and welfare to ensure food safety and security, and contribute to public health	• Invest in disease surveillance and reporting systems using the epysystem and One Health approaches	AUC, Member States, research institutions and the private sector	Technical and financial partners Civil society and professional organizations	2026-2028
	• Enhance the capacity of veterinary laboratories to detect threats	AUC, Member States, research institutions and the private sector	Technical and financial partners Civil society and professional organizations	2026-2028
	• Enhance vaccine production capacities	AUC, Member States, research institutions and the private sector	Technical and financial partners Civil society and professional organizations	2026-2028
	• Invest in the eradication of the priority diseases such as “Peste des Petits Ruminants” (PPR) by 2030, and the prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases (TADs) through enhancing regional coordination, governance of public private partnership in veterinary domain and access to quality vaccines	AUC, Member States, research institutions and the private sector	Technical and financial partners Civil society and professional organizations	2026-2028
	• Enhance livestock and aquatic animal health management and governance systems	AUC, Member States, research institutions and the private sector	Technical and financial partners Civil society and professional organizations	2026-2028
	• Strengthen the legal framework for veterinary medicines (drugs and vaccines) quality assurances to reduce the circulation and	AUC, Member States, research institutions and the private sector	Technical and financial partners	2026-2028

Key Interventions	Main activities	Responsible Entities	Support Entities	Timeline
	usage of counterfeit products in line with global action on antimicrobial resistance		Civil society and professional organizations	
Feed and Fodder Systems	● Invest in research and development for improved fodder crop varieties that are more resilient and have higher nutritional value	AUC, Member States, research institutions and the private sector	Technical and financial partners Civil society and professional organizations	2026-2028
	● Promote alternative and locally available feed sources to reduce reliance on traditional feed sources	AUC, Member States, research institutions and the private sector	Technical and financial partners Civil society and professional organizations	2026-2028
	● Invest in improved pasture management, reforestation and tree protection in pasture lands, restoration of degraded lands, and improved manure management	AUC, Member States, research institutions and the private sector	Technical and financial partners Civil society and professional organizations	2026-2028
	● Train aquaculture and livestock farmers on proper feed and fodder management practices to optimize fish and animal health and productivity	AUC, Member States, research institutions and the private sector	Technical and financial partners Civil society and professional organizations	2026-2028
Pollination Services	● Support beekeeping initiatives to enhance pollination services and provide additional income sources for farmers	AUC, Member States, research institutions and the private sector	Technical and financial partners Civil society and professional organizations	2026-2028
	● Raise awareness of the importance of pollinators for agricultural productivity and integrated pest management techniques that minimize the impact of pesticide on pollinators	AUC, Member States, research institutions and the private sector	Technical and financial partners	2026-2028

Key Interventions	Main activities	Responsible Entities	Support Entities	Timeline
			Civil society and professional organizations	
	• Protect and restore habitats that are critical for pollinators, such as wildflower meadows and hedgerows	AUC, Member States, research institutions and the private sector	Technical and financial partners Civil society and professional organizations	2026-2028
Pastoral Production Systems	• Promote integrated pastoral development approach that includes transformation, resilience, sustainability of pastoral production and market inclusion	AUC, Member States, research institutions and the private sector	Technical and financial partners Civil society and professional organizations	2026-2028
	• Enhance community-based, country-based, region-based consultation on local, national and transboundary drivers of vulnerability, mitigation of constraints and resilience	AUC, Member States, research institutions and the private sector	Technical and financial partners Civil society and professional organizations	2026-2028
	• Enhance transhumance strategies and co-management of cross-border transhumance and promoting coherence among regulations and governance of water and pastures resources, mobility, local conventions, etc.	AUC, Member States, research institutions and the private sector	Technical and financial partners Civil society and professional organizations	2026-2028
	• Strengthen climate-based index insurance and Good Emergency Management Practice and good practices for building resilience	AUC, Member States, research institutions and the private sector	Technical and financial partners Civil society and professional organizations	2026-2028
Improve Aquatic Production and Integrated Ecosystems	• Promote the integration of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture into local and global value chains, while strengthening the capacity of small-scale actors to access quality inputs,	AUC, Member States, research institutions and the private sector	Technical and financial partners	2026-2028

Key Interventions	Main activities	Responsible Entities	Support Entities	Timeline
	such as feeds and seeds for aquaculture, and to participate in local and regional markets		Civil society and professional organizations	
	● Advocate for the adoption of science-based management practices in fisheries to ensure the recovery of fish stock, including the establishment of monitoring systems to combat IUU, Piracy and support conflict resolutions	AUC, Member States, research institutions and the private sector	Technical and financial partners Civil society and professional organizations	2026-2028
	● Invest in sustainable science-based productive and efficient aquatic systems through improved zoning, management of transboundary resources and promotion and enforcement of biosecurity and environmental standards	AUC, Member States, research institutions and the private sector	Technical and financial partners Civil society and professional organizations	2026-2028
	● Improve governance for the sustainable management of small-scale fisheries (SSF) in the African context to enhance their contribution to food and nutrition security and wealth creation, while also increasing their resilience and adaptability to reduce vulnerability to internal and external shocks	AUC, Member States, research institutions and the private sector	Technical and financial partners Civil society and professional organizations	2026-2028
	● Strengthen capacities of aquatic biodiversity conservation towards Africa Blue Economy development	AUC, Member States, research institutions and the private sector	Technical and financial partners Civil society and professional organizations	2026-2028
	● Strengthen resilience and promote sustainable financial mechanisms and investment in fisheries and aquaculture	AUC, Member States, research institutions and the private sector	Technical and financial partners Civil society and professional organizations	2026-2028

Key Interventions	Main activities	Responsible Entities	Support Entities	Timeline
	● Promote a holistic approach to food production that links terrestrial agriculture with aquaculture systems, developing policies and programmes that encourage sustainable practices across both sectors to foster resilience against climate change and improve food security	AUC, Member States, research institutions and the private sector	Technical and financial partners Civil society and professional organizations	2026-2028
	● Implement training programs for small-scale aquaculture farmers to adopt environmentally sustainable practices that enhance productivity while minimizing ecological impacts, including education on integrated multi-trophic aquaculture systems	AUC, Member States, research institutions and the private sector	Technical and financial partners Civil society and professional organizations	2026-2028
Strengthen evidence-based nutrition policies and programs, nutrition education, and consumer awareness	● Develop evidence-based, nutrition-sensitive, and specific policies, strategies, and programs linked to agrifood systems at national, sub-regional, and regional levels.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2027-2028
	● Roll out food-based dietary guidelines to influence Member States' policies and programs; integrate healthy diets into sustainable agrifood systems development agendas.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	● Strengthen individual and institutional capacities to design, implement, adapt, and evaluate effective nutrition education actions, policies, and programs. This includes integrating nutrition education into school curricula ● Implement measures to reduce women's unpaid care work in nutrition interventions	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035

Key Interventions	Main activities	Responsible Entities	Support Entities	Timeline
	● Strength Member States' capacities to use and implement food labeling as an effective policy tool to protect consumer health	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035

Key Interventions	Main activities	Responsible Entities	Support Entities	Timeline
Strategic Objective 4: Advancing Inclusivity and Equitable Livelihoods				
Transform rural agrifood system	● Create and raise awareness about inequalities in the agricultural sector and advocate for responsive policies and investments ● Include indicators in the CAADP BR that track progress towards achieving inclusivity in the food systems. ● Create rural investment towards (i) quality services (education, health, safe water) as well as (ii) rural infrastructure (rural roads, energy, irrigation, mechanization, telecommunication, agro-processing hubs) to make rural areas attractive.	AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, and Member States	Development and implementing partners, Member States	2026-2035
Facilitate access to finance, secure productive resources, and promote economic empowerment	● Strengthen capacity and provide training programs specifically targeted at women, youth, vulnerable groups, farmers, and entrepreneurs. ● Facilitate increased access to and use of productive resources through the development of policies that enhance inclusive access to and control over productive resources such as land, water, seeds, and credit.	AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, and Member States	Development and implementing partners, Member States	2026-2035

	• Facilitate access to credit for women, youth, and vulnerable groups and ensure their active participation in agricultural value chains. • Facilitate access to markets for women, youth, and vulnerable groups and ensure their active participation in agricultural value chains.			
Implement inclusive social protection	• Institutionalize social protection systems that guarantee assistance for the poor and protect the vulnerable against livelihood risks to promote agricultural development and, more broadly, economic growth. • Develop and implement social protection programs and establish safety nets that address the specific vulnerabilities and challenges faced by women, youth, and vulnerable groups in the agricultural sector. • Develop and implement social protection programs that contribute to recognize, reduce and redistribute women's unpaid care work.	AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, and Member States	Development and implementing partners, Member States	2026-2035
Promote decent pay, and equal pay for work of equal value and workplace safety for women in the agrifood systems sector	• Ensure equal pay for work of equal value for women and youth agrifood systems workers. • Support countries to develop standards for workplaces in the agrifood systems that are free from sexual harassment in line with ILO Convention C190	AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, and Member States	UN Agencies (ILO, UN Women)	
Promote innovation, digitalization, and agri-tech	• Promote the adoption of agricultural technologies and innovations that are responsive to women, youth, and vulnerable groups.	AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, and Member States	Development and implementing partners, Member States	2026-2035

	● Promote and conduct research and development and data collection on agriculture to better understand the needs, constraints, and opportunities for women, youth, and vulnerable groups in the food system. ● Develop integrated and inclusive digital literacy and appropriate tools that empower the participation of women youth and vulnerable groups and contribute to sustainable agricultural development while promoting equitable livelihoods.			
Resilience, climate change adaptation, and mitigation	● Develop and support Member States and partners to integrate climate change resilience and mitigation strategies into all their plans that enhance the resilience of women, youth, and vulnerable farmers in the agrifood system while improving food and nutrition security and contributing to sustainable agricultural development in the face of climate change. ● Include women in decision making structures and processes around climate change mitigation and adaptation at local and national levels.	AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, and Member States		2026-2035
Policy and institutional support and capacity strengthening	● Facilitate the adoption of inclusive policy and legal frameworks. ○ Develop, review, and revise existing policies and legal frameworks related to agriculture and food systems to ensure they are inclusive. ○ Conduct a study for women, youth, and vulnerable groups to help identify	AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, and Member States	Development and implementing partners, Member States	2026-2035

	strategies for increasing inclusive participation in the food system and addressing youth, women, and vulnerable groups' inequality. ○ Support Member States to design policies and programs that support rural transformation, including through the provision of rural infrastructure. ○ Strengthen capacity and provide training programs specifically targeted at women youth and vulnerable group farmers and entrepreneurs. ○ Establish windows specifically for women and youth in national financial mechanisms for the agriculture sector. ○ Develop credit lines and guarantees for women led businesses and cooperatives in the agriculture sector in collaboration with private financial institutions. ○ Earmark 5 percent of the agriculture budget for measures targeting women and youth to increase their agricultural productivity.			
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Key Interventions	Main activities	Responsible Entities	Support Entities	Timeline
Strategic Objective 5: Building Resilient Agrifood Systems				

Key Interventions	Main activities	Responsible Entities	Support Entities	Timeline
Invest in human and bio-physical capabilities and social, institutional, and knowledge systems to better understand, prevent, and anticipate major stocks that affect agrifood systems	• Build capacity on knowledge systems to better understand agrifood system shocks, stressors, and threats, and strengthen predictive models.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	• Strengthen early warning systems that inform better, timely decision-making and proactive measures to mitigate disruptions.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2028
	• Promote precision agricultural technologies, including remote sensing and satellite imagery combined with GIS, to assess, monitor, and report crop, fisheries, forage, and livestock conditions in real-time.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	• Invest in biological and physical assets to protect lives, livelihoods, and agrifood systems.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	• Address the impact of various shocks and stressors on specific groups such as youth, women, people with disabilities, indigenous people, and vulnerable countries and design tailored response measures.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	• Promote durable peace through conflict resolution and peacebuilding initiatives.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
Strengthen the absorptive capacity of agrifood systems to minimize damage, protect livelihoods, and build-back-better in the event of a shock	• Promote risk transfer and social protection measures such as insurance instruments, access to credit, and food price subsidies, that help farmers manage risks and recover from losses.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	• Strengthen coordinated, robust emergency response and recovery protocols to minimize disruptions and facilitate quick recovery.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2028

Key Interventions	Main activities	Responsible Entities	Support Entities	Timeline
	• Establish, and improve collaboration among local, national, and international actors, to ensure a unified and efficient approach to managing agrifood system crises.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2028
Promote adaptation within agrifood systems and livelihoods to reduce vulnerability to major shocks and stressors	• Invest in the development, scaling, and adoption of climate-smart agriculture and regenerative agriculture.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2027-2028
	• Expand smart irrigation using techniques such as rainwater harvesting, efficient irrigation systems (e.g., drip irrigation), solar energy, and improved water storage to cope with irregular rainfall patterns.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	• Diversify farm and cropping systems such as producing crops, fish, and livestock to strengthen the resilience of agrifood systems in the face of climate change and other shocks by equipping farmers with tools to manage risks, adapt to changing conditions, and ensure the long-term sustainability of their livelihoods.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	• Expand the use of renewable energy in agriculture including solar-powered irrigation systems and the use of biogas and other renewable energy sources for post-harvest processing, storage, and cooking, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and deforestation.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	• Promote the use of wind and micro-hydro power for agricultural operations in suitable areas.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035

Key Interventions	Main activities	Responsible Entities	Support Entities	Timeline
Enhance inclusive agricultural research and extension services and reduce food loss and waste	• Build farmers' capacity to use climate-smart agricultural practices and early warning systems and integrate local knowledge.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	• Provide farmers with the necessary knowledge and resources to face climate change challenges.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	• Conduct research that incorporates local knowledge and effectively disseminate the findings	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	• Improve storage facilities and transportation infrastructure to minimize post-harvest losses and food waste.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	• Encourage the adoption of practices and technologies that extend the shelf life of agricultural products, such as improved drying, packaging, and refrigeration, and promote awareness and behavior change campaigns to reduce food waste at the consumer level.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
Invest in long-term transformative capacities to create fundamentally different, more resilient, and inclusive agrifood systems	• Promote sustainable agricultural intensification to boost yields, protect ecosystems, and enhance food and nutrition security and incomes.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	• Invest in robust agrifood systems infrastructure, including transportation, storage, and irrigation systems, to reduce post-harvest losses and dependency on rainfed systems, improve market access and trade, and boost incomes.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035

Key Interventions	Main activities	Responsible Entities	Support Entities	Timeline
	● Support local food supply chains and food markets.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	● Promote diversification of cropping, fish, and livestock systems, to reduce the sensitivity of agrifood systems to climate change and other shocks, and boost food and nutrition security.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	● Preserve and use traditional or Indigenous genetic resources to enhance the development of resilient, diverse, and nutritious indigenous crop varieties and fish and livestock breeds and enhance the availability and consumption of these crop and livestock products.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	● Promote technology and innovation to drive agricultural productivity, efficiency, and resilience, especially among smallholder producers and young entrepreneurs.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	● Establish a reliable greenhouse gas data and inventory system to facilitate trade in carbon markets.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	● Establish and maintain strategic national and regional food reserves to enhance food security during periods of disruption.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	● Promote diversification of livelihoods to reduce dependency on a single crop (or fish or livestock breed), thereby increasing household income stability and reducing vulnerability to shocks.	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035
	● Promote sustainable land management to reduce erosion and enhance soil health and	AUC, RECs, and Member States	Technical and financial partners	2026-2035

Key Interventions	Main activities	Responsible Entities	Support Entities	Timeline
	agricultural productivity, carbon sequestration, and restoration of degraded lands through integrated soil fertility management, sustainable grazing practices, reforestation, and afforestation.			

Strategic Objective 6: Strengthen Agrifood Systems Governance				
Ensure strong, visionary leadership and ownership among stakeholders in the agrifood systems	• Harmonize, align, and domesticate CAADP strategies within national and regional agrifood systems policies. • Mobilize public and private investments. • Establish mechanisms for mobilizing private sector investments. • Strengthen parliamentary oversight to enhance accountability and alignment	AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, and Member States	Parliamentary bodies, other stakeholders, development partners	By Year 2
Foster effective coordination and accountability mechanisms among stakeholders in the agrifood sector	• Undertake national, regional, and transboundary policy reforms (e.g., sanitary and phytosanitary standards, natural resource management, and value chain development). • Strengthen coordination and capacity of African Union institutions. • Strengthen governance and leadership of stakeholders and communities in policy formulation, implementation, and monitoring.	AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, and Member States	Parliamentary bodies, other stakeholders, development partners, and relevant transboundary organizations	By Year 3
Provide implementation	• Develop guidelines for national and regional agrifood systems policies implementation.	AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, and Member States	Other stakeholders, development	By Year 2

guidelines CAADP 2026-2035	• Develop guidelines to update the CAADP BR process, data, knowledge management systems, and mutual accountability. • Develop guidelines for mobilizing public and private sector resources, including government budgets, donor funds, and private sector investments. • Develop guidelines for system capacity strengthening at all levels. • Develop guidelines for implementation and coordination and establish clear structures and roles and responsibilities.		partners, technical institutions	
Establish mechanisms for mutual accountability and continuous improvement in agrifood systems governance	• Establish, strengthen, and institutionalize mutual accountability mechanisms (i.e., JSR, BR, national dialogues)	AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, and Member States	Parliamentary bodies, other stakeholders, and development partners	By Year 3
Establish national policies and frameworks to institutionalize resourcing and develop capacity for the implementation	• Reinforce and strengthen existing NAIP and RAIP processes. • Establish a CAADP implementation line within national, institutional, and regional budgets. • Design and establish multistakeholder funding instruments at national, regional, and continental levels for CAADP implementation.	AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, and Member States	Development partners plus other stakeholders	By Year 2
Strengthen collective and integrated capacity to improve delivery	• Strengthen political leadership. • Enhance enabling environments and organizational capacities. • Develop and harness human capital.	AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, and Member States	Development partners plus other stakeholders	By Year 3

Strengthen partnerships and collaboration	• Develop a CAADP partnership framework. • Strengthen continental processes, platforms, and networks to make them more effective. • Develop or strengthen CAADP instruments and tools like the CAP-F and establish multi-stakeholder dialogue, coordination, and learning platforms. • Develop strategic partnerships and build the capacity of strategic national organizations and the private sector to sustain CAADP implementation. • Develop and strengthen strategic partnerships with key regional and continental institutions.	AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, and Member States	Development partners plus other stakeholders	By Year 3
Enhance institutional and stakeholder capacities	• Establish and decentralize multi-stakeholder collaboration, coordination, and dialogue platforms. • Strengthen the capacities of national and regional CAADP teams and stakeholder platforms. • Strengthen existing agrifood systems digital platforms. • Redesign and host the CAADP eBR system at AUDA-NEPAD.	AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, and Member States	Other stakeholders	By Year 2
Strengthen evidence-based knowledge management capacity for monitoring, evaluation, learning, and reporting	• Establish and strengthen a CAADP Knowledge Support System at the national, regional, and continental levels. • Develop guidelines and tools for knowledge management support systems, including M&E, learning, and reporting. • Establish and strengthen agrifood M&E systems at the national, regional, and continental levels.	AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, and Member States	Other stakeholders and technical institutions	By Year 2

Resource the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan	• Mobilize domestic and external funds to finance CAADP priorities in NAIPs and RAIPs • Conduct public agriculture expenditure reviews to inform efficient resource utilization • Strengthen the capacity of the CAADP national leadership and coordination team to enhance planning, coordination, resource mobilization, and accountability.	AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, and Member States	Development partners and other stakeholders	By Year 2
CAADP Communication and Advocacy Strategy	• Develop guidelines for communication and advocacy and train key CAADP experts and partners on communication, advocacy, and knowledge management. • Establish capacity and institutionalize communication, advocacy, and knowledge management within CAADP implementation structures. • Strengthen the CAADP champion structure and capacity. • Redesign and strengthen strategic communication and media-related networks. • Invest in building the CAADP brand, positioning, and visibility. • Revise AU CAADP communication policy and protocol to make it agile, flexible, and adaptable to the current trends, drivers, and realities.	AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, and Member States	Technical Institutions, other stakeholders, and development partners	By Year 2