

Supporting Evidence-Based Policy Planning and Implementation in Africa

In 2002, the African Union Commission (AUC) adopted the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) as one of the main components of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). CAADP serves as a continentwide framework to guide efforts by African governments to accelerate growth and progress toward poverty reduction and food and nutrition security by revitalizing agriculture and rural development.



More specifically, the CAADP agenda asks African governments to adopt policies and programs and raise investments to achieve a growth rate of 6 percent and a budget share of 10 percent for the agricultural sector. For most African countries, achieving the above objectives will require significant increases in agricultural expenditures and a much greater efficiency in planning and executing investments in the agricultural sector. In addition, CAADP promotes a set of core principles such as inclusive dialogue, peer review,

benchmarking, and mutual learning in order to improve the quality of governance as well as policy and program design and implementation in the sector, which will thereby raise the chances of success. Ensuring that the principles listed above are followed and the growth and budget targets are met requires that policies and programs are well planned, growth and poverty reduction outcomes better evaluated and tracked, lessons drawn, and best practices documented and disseminated.

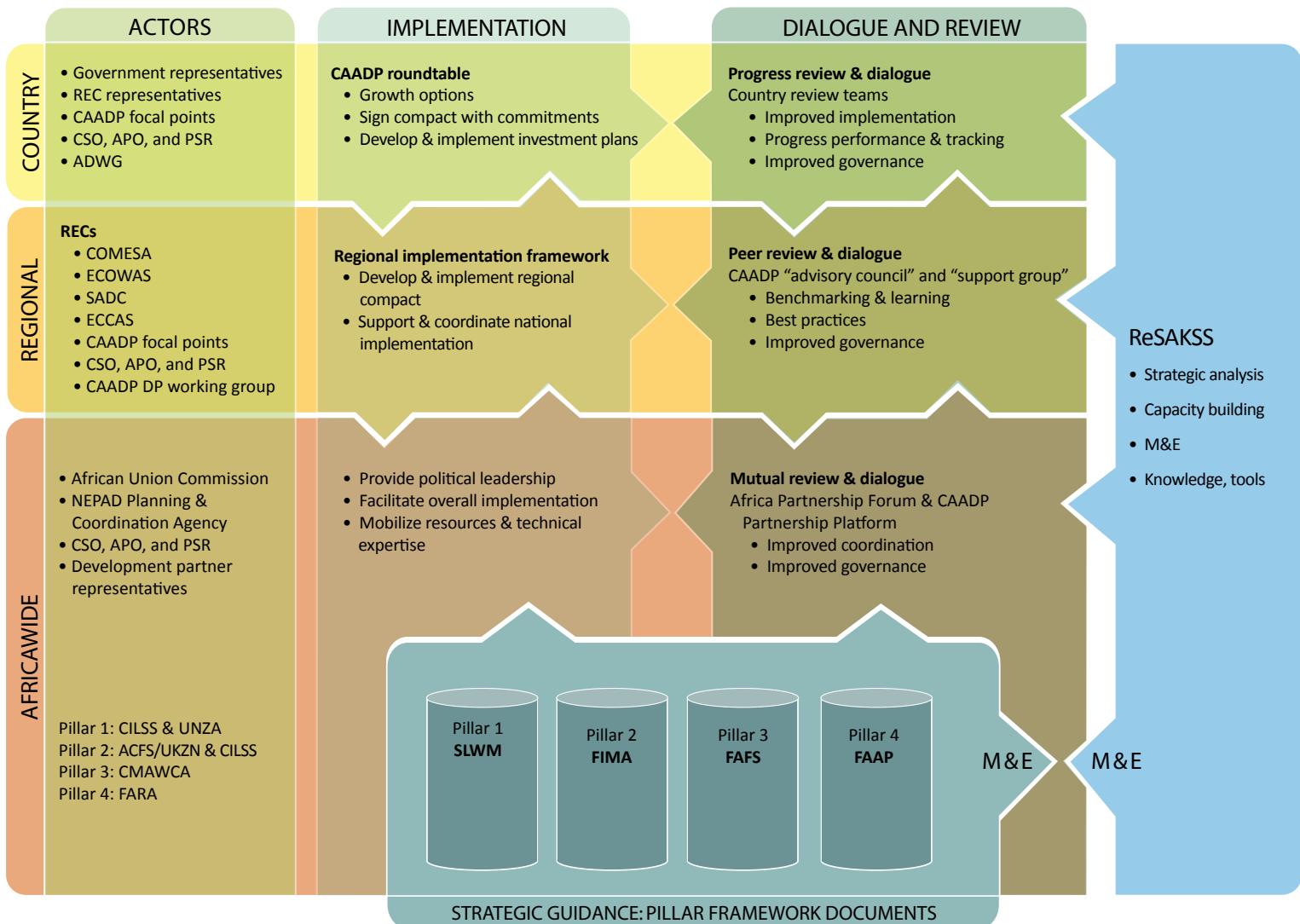
NEPAD-IFPRI COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH AND CAPACITY-BUILDING PROGRAM

The NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) began collaborating on the implementation of the CAADP agenda in late 2004, with an IFPRI senior fellow serving as senior policy advisor. The first output of the collaboration was a detailed roadmap to guide future implementation of CAADP at the national, regional, and continental levels, which was adopted by the African Partnership Forum in October. In 2006, a group of development agencies committed to supporting the implementation of CAADP agreed to expand the collaboration of NPCA with IFPRI into a broader capacity-building and technical-assistance project that would support NPCA and leading African regional

economic communities (RECs). The project received funding from the Department for International Development, the Swedish International Development Agency, the United States Agency for International Development, and the German Ministry of Cooperation.

Under the project, IFPRI established close collaboration in the areas of research and capacity building with AUC, NPCA, and two leading RECs—the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA)—to help move the CAADP agenda from a simple framework document to an on-the-ground operation guided by high-quality, locally based research.

Figure 1: CAADP implementation process and actors



Notes: ACFS/UKZN, African Center for Food Security at the University of KwaZulu Natal; ADWG, agriculture development partner working group; APO, agricultural producer organizations; CAADP, Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme; CILSS, Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel; CMAWCA, Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of West and Central Africa; COMESA, Common Market for East and Southern Africa; CSO, civil society organizations; DP, development partner; ECCAS, Economic Community of Central African States; ECOWAS, Economic Community of West African States; FAAP, Framework for African Agricultural Productivity; FAFS, Framework for African Food Security; FARA, Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa; FIMA, Framework for the Improvement of Rural Infrastructure and Trade-Related Capacities for Market Access; M&E, Monitoring and Evaluation; NEPAD, New Partnership for Africa's Development; PSR, private sector representatives; RECs, Regional Economic Communities; ReSAKSS, Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System; SADC, Southern African Development Community; SLWM, Sustainable Land and Water Management; and UNZA, University of Zambia.



Figure 2: The process of national CAADP roundtables

MAIN AREAS OF IFPRI INTERVENTIONS AND RELATED OUTPUTS

The support provided by IFPRI for the implementation of the CAADP agenda focused on three areas:

1. IFPRI assisted the NEPAD Secretariat in refining and communicating the agenda, which included producing key strategic and outreach documents used to engage key actors, such as international development agencies; RECs and their member states; and professional organizations at the regional and country levels.
2. IFPRI conducted collaborative research at the country level, including (a) a systematic evaluation of current agricultural development policies and programs that showed the extent to which countries are on track to meet targets and (b) an analysis of long-term growth and poverty reduction options to guide future program planning and implementation.
3. IFPRI established and operated Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (ReSAKSS) nodes in East, West, and Southern Africa, in collaboration with the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), and the International Water Management Institute (IWMI). The ReSAKSS nodes operate technology-based knowledge systems that track dozens of indicators in order to facilitate peer review, benchmarking, and mutual learning.

Policy research and communications to support advocacy and partnership building

During the first year of the three-year project, IFPRI supported NPCA in engaging intensely with leading bilateral and multilateral development agencies and the leadership of major regional economic communities and their member states across Africa. The outcome has been the consolidation of a strong constituency around the CAADP agenda (see Figure 1), a shared understanding of respective roles, and the definition of implementation modalities, including the roundtable process that was adopted as a strategy for country-level implementation (see Figure 2). The effectiveness and impact

of CAADP's engagement strategy were reflected in every G8 Summit statement since 2005 and in recent G20 Summit statements as well. The adoption of guidelines to support CAADP at the country level by the Bonn-based Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (GDPDR), the creation of the Multidonor CAADP Trust Fund to support CAADP planning processes, the launch of the Agriculture and Food Security Initiative (AFSI), and the establishment of the related Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP) are further illustrations of the impact of CAADP at the international level. It is rewarding to see an entire global agenda influenced and inspired by the leadership of African actors. Until the emergence of CAADP, African countries had primarily been on the receiving end of major international development initiatives.

By empowering COMESA and ECOWAS to own and lead the agenda, the project was equally effective at the regional and country levels. This is illustrated by their launch of the implementation process in 20 of their member states during the first year of the project. They coordinated the analytical work and policy dialogue that began at the country level. Country teams were put in place, expertise mobilized, and a broad dialogue instituted which led to the organization of national roundtables and signing of CAADP compacts by 18 countries by the end of April 2010.

Policy research and capacity building to guide program planning and implementation

IFPRI and its collaborators at the regional and country levels have produced more than 100 country background papers, along with accompanying brochures and briefs, that examine agricultural growth and investment options for poverty reduction and define the actions required to turn these options into reality. These documents have fed into country CAADP Roundtable meetings, where CAADP Compacts (or, contracts) have been signed by governments and local and international development partners. These CAADP Compacts outline commitments in terms of agricultural sector policy, budgetary allocations, investment priorities, development assistance, and review-and-dialogue processes that a country agrees to in order to meet the CAADP growth and poverty reduction objectives.

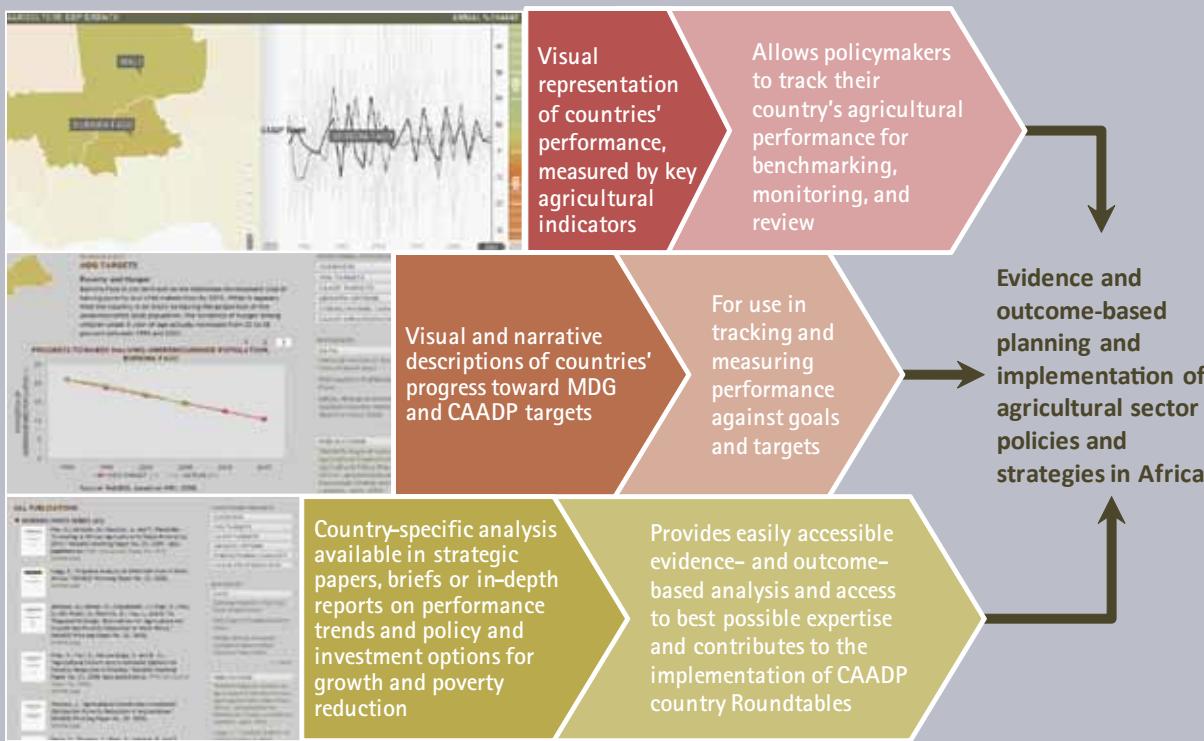


Figure 3: How ReSAKSS knowledge systems support peer review and benchmarking

The brochures produced deal with (1) the review of ongoing agricultural development efforts; (2) past performances and future outlooks for agricultural growth and poverty reduction; (3) strategic options and sources for growth and poverty reduction; (4) long-term funding needs for growth and poverty reduction; and (5) strategic analysis and knowledge support systems to guide CAADP implementation at the country level.

As of April 2010, the governments of Benin, Cape Verde, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, and Uganda have each adopted the CAADP country brochures prepared with technical assistance from IFPRI and local experts as official government policy documents.

Knowledge systems to facilitate peer review, benchmarking, and mutual learning

In addition, IFPRI has developed, in collaboration with three other Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research centers—IITA, ILRI, and IWMI—high-quality databases, advanced policy modeling tools, and detailed baselines that are now available to policymakers, researchers, and analysts within individual countries. An innovative website based on information technology was developed to track close to two dozen indicators related to growth performance, poverty reduction, and CAADP implementation progress. The website also facilitates the dissemination of best practices.

IFPRI'S SUPPORT FOR CAADP IMPLEMENTATION

According to an external review, IFPRI's greatest success has been in raising the profile of African agriculture by effectively engaging stakeholders at all levels. This conclusion is supported by the improved funding of agriculture at the country level throughout Africa and by the establishment of special agricultural funding through, for example, a Multidonor Trust Fund. The review stated that "the technical reports are of professional quality and well appreciated by country focal persons. The accompanying brochures break the technical document down to key messages for policymakers and the nontechnical persons." The review further states that IFPRI's technical support of framework development for CAADP Pillars 2 and 3 "has been highly appreciated by the lead pillar institutions concerned." According to the same review, IFPRI's analytical work was "greatly appreciated by country level actors and there is consensus among country focal point persons that the analytical work has added value to in-country planning." It also mentions that, with the help of IFPRI, the CAADP documentation processes were "elaborate, systematic, and flowed logically." IFPRI's involvement was described as "cooperative, timely, and interactive." IFPRI will continue to support the CAADP implementation process, focusing on those areas in which it has a comparative advantage: policy research and communications and capacity strengthening.