

Mutual Accountability and Agriculture Joint Sector Reviews (JSRs)

One of the guiding principles of CAADP is mutual accountability. At the country level, the agriculture Joint Sector Reviews (JSRs) are a key instrument for realizing this accountability and for implementing the CAADP Results Framework. In particular, JSRs provide a platform for assessing the performance of the agricultural sector and how well government and nongovernment stakeholders have implemented their commitments, as stipulated in CAADP compacts, national agricultural and food security investment plans, and related cooperation agreements.

[What is mutual accountability?](#)

Mutual Accountability is the process by which two or more parties hold one another accountable for the commitments they have voluntarily made to one another.

Accordingly, the commitment of diverse stakeholders to the process is maintained, largely, through positive incentives and the desire to protect reputation as opposed to sanctions. The following conditions should obtain in a mutual accountability process.

- *A shared agenda and objectives that brings together all the partners as a basis of cooperative action*
- *Existence of performance information based on mutually agreed performance criteria*
- *Genuine dialogue and debate process based on mutual consent, common values and trust*

ReSAKSS has been making efforts to strengthen African countries' capacity to undertake agriculture JSRs that are more comprehensive, inclusive, and robust. In 2014, ReSAKSS led efforts to assess agricultural review processes and to lay the groundwork for the planning, coordination, and execution of stronger JSRs in 7 pilot countries—namely, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique, Senegal, and Tanzania. In 2015, ReSAKSS conducted JSR assessments in 11 new countries, in collaboration with AUC, NPCA, Africa Lead, the CAADP Non-State Actors Coalition, and the AGRODEP Modeling Consortium. The 11 countries are Benin, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, Kenya, Mali, Niger, Swaziland, Togo, Uganda, and Zambia. Also in 2015, ReSAKSS and key partners provided technical support to ECOWAS to help establish its regional JSR. With funding from COMESA, Zimbabwe conducted its JSR assessment in 2016. Hence, to date, assessments have been completed in a total of 17 countries plus ECOWAS.

In addition to reviewing the status and quality of agriculture JSRs or related processes in which a “proper” JSR does not yet exist, the assessments collected and analyzed data on key outcome indicators and reviewed the institutional and policy landscapes in each country, including progress in meeting key commitments.

Outcomes of the JSR assessments have provided important input into country JSR processes, reporting under the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, and preparations for the first CAADP Biennial Review (BR). For example, countries with ongoing JSR processes, such as Ghana, Malawi, and Mozambique have incorporated JSR best practices and recommendations of the assessments in their subsequent JSR meetings. Meanwhile, countries with no previous JSR processes took steps to establish them. For example, the government of Burkina Faso revised a decree on establishing the country's JSR process to

reflect outcomes of the country's JSR assessment related to inclusivity, thematic coverage, reporting, and review.

In 2017, ReSAKSS has been supporting country and regional efforts toward the first CAADP BR to be completed in January 2018. ReSAKSS is providing technical support and quality assurance for BR reporting and in collaboration with Africa Lead, is also participating in efforts to build the capacity of individuals who will facilitate country BR processes including validation workshops.

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