

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

BACKGROUND

Established in 2006 under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), the Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (ReSAKSS) supports efforts to promote evidence- and outcome-based policy planning and implementation. In particular, ReSAKSS provides data and related analytical and knowledge products to facilitate CAADP benchmarking, review, and mutual learning processes. The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) facilitates the work of ReSAKSS in partnership with the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), leading regional economic communities (RECs), and Africa-based CGIAR centers: the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) in Kenya, the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) in South Africa, and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in Nigeria.

As the main platform for monitoring CAADP implementation, ReSAKSS tracks progress of core CAADP indicators through an interactive website and a flagship Annual Trends and Outlook Report (ATOR), the official CAADP monitoring and evaluation (M&E) report. ReSAKSS has also developed a country eAtlas platform, a web-based GIS tool for mapping disaggregated data on agriculture, socio-economic, and biophysical indicators. More than 22 country eAtlases have been developed to date and national workshops have been held in more than a dozen countries to review the underlying data and train country experts on managing the tool and related data. Four countries (Burkina Faso, Kenya, Ghana, and Rwanda) are using the eAtlas platform to draft policy relevant notes to support civil society organizations (CSOs) in their advocacy activities.

To strengthen mutual accountability processes at the country and regional levels, ReSAKSS, in collaboration with country stakeholders, AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, and other development partners, has been facilitating the adoption of improved agriculture joint sector reviews (JSRs) that are regular, inclusive, and comprehensive. Since 2014, ReSAKSS has conducted assessments of JSRs in 23 countries and two RECs (the Economic Community of West African States–ECOWAS and East African Community–EAC) to evaluate both the institutional and policy landscape and the quality of current agricultural review processes and to develop action plans for improving or establishing best-practice JSRs. ReSAKSS also supports mutual accountability by providing technical assistance to the CAADP Biennial Review (BR) process, which reviews progress toward meeting the 2014 Malabo Declaration commitments, as mandated by African heads of state and government. In addition, ReSAKSS has supported the development and implementation of next-generation national agriculture investment plans (NAIPs) that are Malabo compliant through the (1) development of a NAIP Toolbox that outlines metrics, analytical tools, methodologies, and core programmatic components to guide NAIP design; (2) establishment of a NAIP Experts Group to provide technical support to countries as they elaborate their NAIPs; and (3) creation of a NAIP Task Force to provide training, backstopping, and quality control to the local experts. To date, NAIP analytical support

has been provided to all 15 ECOWAS member states as well as Angola, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Lesotho, Namibia, Seychelles, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Finally, to complement and anchor its activities on the ground, ReSAKSS facilitates the establishment of country level Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support Systems (SAKSS) in order to create the required capacities to meet data and knowledge needs of CAADP at the national level. To date, 14 country SAKSS platforms have been established in Benin, Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. Where they are fully operational, the SAKSS platforms play a leading role in helping to meet data and analytical needs of country JSR, BR, and NAIP activities. SAKSS platforms work through a local analytical network (LAN) that links leading local centers of knowledge and they help the LAN to establish a formal working relationship with the ministry of agriculture. They also manage the country eAtlas data platform by collecting, updating, validating, and publishing the data on the ReSAKSS website.

OBJECTIVES

IFPRI, in partnership with AUC, is convening the 2019 ReSAKSS Annual Conference to promote review and dialogue on CAADP's agricultural transformation agenda among policymakers, development partners, researchers, and representatives of farmers' organizations, the private sector, CSO, and other key stakeholders from within and outside Africa. The conference will take place in Lomé, Togo on 11-13 November 2019 under the theme of "*Gender Equality in Rural Africa: From Commitments to Outcomes.*"

More specifically, the conference seeks to:

1. Discuss progress, research evidence, and recommendations on gender equality presented in the 2019 ATOR.
2. Review progress in promoting mutual accountability through agriculture JSRs and preparing the 2019 CAADP Biennial Review report to be presented at the African Union Assembly of heads of state and government in January 2020.
3. Assess progress in formulating evidence-based, Malabo compliant second-generation NAIPs.
4. Evaluate progress in operationalizing effective local analytical networks for SAKSS platforms to support CAADP data and analytical needs at the country level.
5. Review the status of CAADP implementation and progress toward achieving key goals and targets.

Each year, ReSAKSS produces an Africawide ATOR that presents analysis on a feature topic of strategic importance to the CAADP agenda. The 2019 ATOR discusses progress and research evidence on gender equality, a cross-cutting theme in the Malabo Declaration and a key commitment of the 2004 Solemn Declaration on gender equality in Africa. Applying a gender lens to various issues among rural populations will facilitate women's social, political, and economic participation in agricultural development and provide additional evidence needed to advance gender equality. Gender-sensitive policies and programming are central to effectively advancing Malabo's agricultural transformation agenda. But what is the progress in achieving gender equality? What are the major challenges, and what are the effective means of overcoming those challenges? What are best practices and successful experiences in Africa and elsewhere? What can we learn from the research evidence?

The 2019 ATOR takes an in-depth look at gender in Africa by examining the intersections between gender and i) context and institutions, ii) assets, iii) shocks and resilience, iv) livelihood strategies, v) income and control of income, and vi) well-being. It draws on the conceptual framework of the [Gender, Agriculture, and Assets Project \(GAAP\)](#) that expands the sustainable livelihoods framework to examine more closely the links between assets, livelihoods, and well-being and how gender relations influence the constraints and opportunities along each pathway. As in previous ATORs, the 2019 Report also assesses progress toward achieving CAADP goals and the Malabo Declaration commitments using the 2015-2025 CAADP Results Framework.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Expected outcomes of the conference are:

1. Shared understanding of:
 - a. Africa's progress in achieving gender equality, remaining gaps, and the way forward for ensuring that the gender targets are met in the context of achieving Malabo Declaration goals for agricultural transformation.
 - b. Actions needed to further advance the implementation of the wider CAADP and Malabo agenda and ensure the achievement of its goals and objectives.
2. Shared lessons and experiences on:
 - a. Preparation and required next steps in completing the 2019 CAADP BR Process as well as critical success factors in promoting more comprehensive, inclusive, and robust JSR and BR modalities.
 - b. The formulation and implementation of second-generation Malabo compliant NAIPs.
 - c. The operation of country SAKSS platforms in mobilizing local centers of expertise to support technical analyses, review, and dialogue processes in support of CAADP implementation.

STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE

Day 1, November 11: The morning will consist of side events taking place in parallel sessions. The side events will provide space for ReSAKSS partners to share their work as it relates to supporting evidence-based policy planning and implementation under the CAADP agenda. Topics for side events will also relate to the conference theme of gender equality. The conference will be officially opened in the afternoon of Day 1 and will feature a high-level keynote address and panel discussion on the conference theme.

Day 2, November 12: The day will focus on presentations and discussions of the different chapters of the 2019 ATOR.

Day 3, November 13: The day will continue with presentations and discussions of the 2019 ATOR and then turn to ReSAKSS core activities of supporting evidence and outcome-based policy planning and implementation under CAADP. It will include presentations and discussions of progress on and required actions for successfully completing the 2019 BR process and for advancing the formulation of NAIPs and operation of country SAKSS analytical networks.