AKADEMIYA

ReSAKSS
Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System
by AKADEMIYA2063

African Union

2026 ReSAKSS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Role of Governance in Advancing Africa's Agrifood Systems Transformation: Evidence, Pathways, and Emerging Best Practices

December 8-10, 2026

Virtual Event



Daily Schedule

12:00–15:20 GMT | 15:00–18:20 EAT | 14:00–17:20 CET | 7:00–10:20 ET

www.resakss.org

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CONCEPT NOTE

1. Background

Africa has set its agrifood systems agenda for the next decade; the challenge now is delivering on it. The Kampala CAADP Declaration on Building Resilient and Sustainable Agrifood Systems in Africa, adopted by African Union Heads of State and Government in January 2025, guides the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) from 2026 to 2035. It identifies strengthening Agrifood systems governance as one of six central commitments for transforming Africa's Agrifood sector and outlines out what this requires: evidence-based decisions and mutual accountability; coherent policies and coordinated institutions at national, regional, and continental levels; plans and budgets aligned with CAADP objectives; and inclusive participation and oversight.

Operationalizing the Kampala CAADP Declaration requires more than political commitment. It also requires practical evidence on how governance systems are designed, financed, implemented, monitored, and adapted across different African contexts, and with the first phase of implementation underway, that evidence is needed now.

The Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (ReSAKSS) provides evidence to support policy planning and implementation for Africa's agrifood systems, a role it has fulfilled since 2006. As a leading platform for monitoring CAADP implementation, ReSAKSS tracks progress against key CAADP indicators to support benchmarking, review, and mutual learning. It disseminates this evidence through an interactive website and its flagship Annual Trends and Outlook Report (ATOR), published since 2008.

The 18th edition of the ATOR, ***"The Role of Governance in Advancing Africa's Agrifood Systems Transformation,"*** examines governance concepts, institutional arrangements, policy instruments, thematic governance systems, and country experiences that can inform implementation of the Kampala CAADP agenda.

The ReSAKSS Annual Conference serves as the official platform for presenting and discussing ATOR findings and recommendations with policymakers and other stakeholders. The 2026 conference, convened by AKADEMIYA2063 in partnership with the African Union Commission's Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment (AUC-DARBE), will provide an opportunity to explore the 2026 ATOR's findings and translate its recommendations into concrete actions to advance implementation at national, regional, and continental levels.



2. Conference Goals and Objectives

The 2026 ReSAKSS Conference will convene agrifood systems stakeholders to examine and apply evidence from the 2026 ATOR to strengthen governance for Africa's agrifood systems transformation.

The conference will seek to:

- Share the findings of the 2026 ATOR and examine the conceptual and practical links between governance and agrifood systems transformation.
- Discuss different governance models and institutional arrangements that support inclusive, resilient, and sustainable agrifood systems, drawing on evidence and best practices from African countries and beyond.
- Strengthen dialogue and coordination among continental, regional, national, and non-state actors around Kampala CAADP implementation.
- Assess the status of CAADP implementation and progress toward achieving key goals and targets.

3. Who Should Attend

The conference will bring together stakeholders from across the agrifood systems governance landscape, including:

- **Continental and regional institutions:** The African Union Commission (AUC), African Union Development Agency – New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD), and Regional Economic Communities (RECs).
- **National government and policy institutions:** Ministries responsible for agriculture, trade, finance, environment, and planning; parliamentary committees; and joint sector review platforms.
- **Research and knowledge institutions:** Research institutions, think tanks, and universities.
- **Development and financing partners:** Development partners, international organizations, and financing institutions.
- **Private sector and non-state actors:** Private sector representatives, farmer and producer organizations, and civil society organizations, including women's and youth organizations.

4. Key Discussion Areas

The conference discussions will be organized around the three substantive sections of the 2026 ATOR, followed by a review of progress on CAADP implementation.

4.1 Theories, concepts, and instruments of agrifood governance

The first part examines the foundations of agrifood governance and the institutional and policy instruments needed to support transformation: why governance matters, how to analyze the actors, institutions, incentives, and power relations involved, and how state-led, market-based, hybrid, multi-stakeholder, and decentralized models compare across the local, regional, and international levels.

4.2 Thematic governance systems

The second part examines how governance operates across specific areas of the agrifood system: food security, nutrition, and food sovereignty; climate, environment, and natural resources; land governance and tenure; technology, digitalization, and data; trade, value chains, and competitiveness; and gender equality, youth participation, and social inclusion.

4.3 Country and subnational case studies

The third part presents selected country- or subnational-level experiences that demonstrate effective governance practices, outlining the challenge addressed, the institutional and policy response, how it was financed and implemented, the results and lessons learned, and the conditions for replication or scale-up.

4.4 Tracking CAADP implementation

The final part reviews trends in key CAADP indicators and progress in implementing the Kampala CAADP Declaration, including national and regional accountability systems, data availability and quality, the role of joint sector reviews, and priorities for strengthening monitoring and reporting.



5. Structure of the Conference Program

The three-day virtual event is designed to foster policy dialogue. Day 1 sets the stage with framing remarks, an overview of the 2026 ATOR, a high-level panel on why governance matters, and a first roundtable on the report's conceptual foundations. Day 2 focuses on the governance of natural resources, markets, and innovation. Day 3 shifts from evidence to action, covering country experiences and CAADP implementation, followed by a high-level closing panel.

6. Expected Outcomes

The conference will formally launch the 2026 ATOR. Key findings and recommendations, along with policy messages, will be presented based on the findings of the ATOR chapters.

Beyond the event itself, it is expected to strengthen the uptake of evidence, including ReSAKSS knowledge products, in policy and investment decisions and in CAADP monitoring and mutual accountability; improve the alignment of national and regional plans with the Kampala CAADP Declaration; deepen collaboration among policymakers, researchers, private-sector actors, and non-state stakeholders; and identify inclusive, accountable governance practices from across Africa that can be scaled.

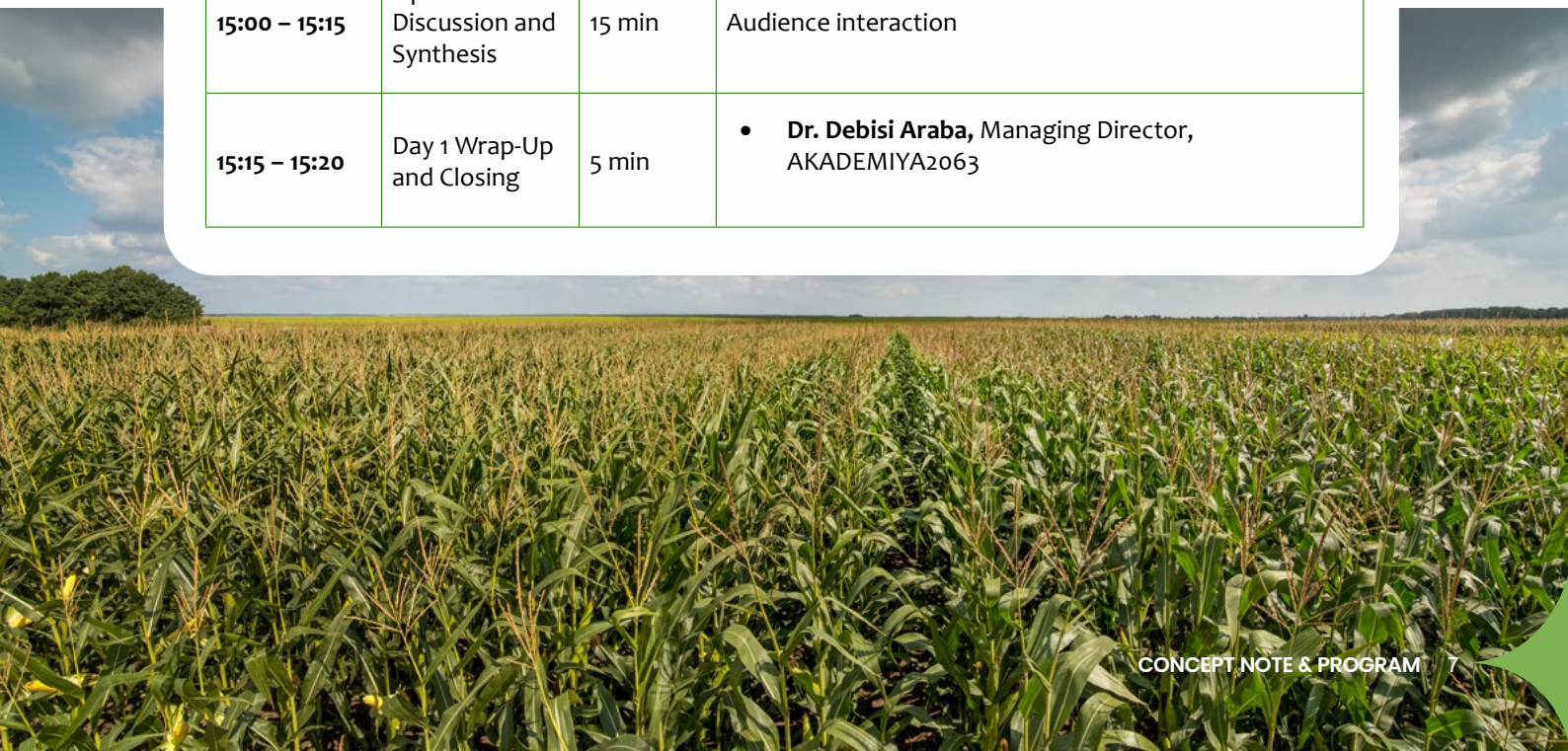


PROGRAM

Day 1 December 8 Setting the Stage
Governance and Agrifood Systems Transformation: 12:00 – 15:20 GMT

Time (GMT)	Session	Duration	Invited Speakers
12:00 – 12:05	Welcome and Housekeeping	5 min	**Host and MC: Dr. Layih Butake,** Director, Communications and Outreach, AKADEMIYA2063
12:10 – 12:35	Opening Remarks	30 min	• **Dr. Ousmane Badiane,** Executive Chairperson, AKADEMIYA2063 • **Ms. Constanze Neher,** Head of Division, Sustainable Supply Chains, Agricultural and Food Systems, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) • **Mr. Obai Khalifa,** Deputy Director, Agricultural Development, Africa, Gates Foundation • **H.E. Moses Vilakati,** Commissioner, African Union Commission, Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment (AUC-DARBE)
12:35 – 12:55	**Framing Remarks:** Governance and Africa's Agrifood Systems Transformation	20 min	• **Dr. Debisi Araba,** Managing Director, AKADEMIYA2063 • **Ms. Alice Ruhweza,** President, AGRA • **Dr. Abebe Haile-Gabriel,** Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa, FAO
12:55 – 13:10	Overview of the 2026 ATOR	15 min	**Prof. Christian Henning,** Chief Scientist, AKADEMIYA2063 (Co-Editor, ATOR 2026)
13:10 – 13:55	**High-Level Panel:** Why Governance Matters for Africa's Agrifood Systems Transformation	45 min	**Chair and Moderator: Ambassador Ertharin Cousin,** CEO and Managing Director, Food Systems for the Future (FSF) Institute; Vice Chair, AKADEMIYA2063 Board of Trustees • **Hon. Dr. Telesphore Ndabamenye,** Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources, Rwanda • **Hon. Dr. Cheikhou Oumar Ba,** Minister of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty, and Livestock, Senegal • **Dr. Ismahane Elouafi,** Executive Managing Director, CGIAR • **Hon. Neema Lugangira,** Founder and Vice Chair, African Food Systems Parliamentary Network (AFSPaN) • **Prof. Corina Hawkes,** Director, Division of Agrifood Systems and Food Safety, FAO • **Ms. Estherine Lisinge Fotabong,** Director of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Environmental Sustainability, AUDA-NEPAD
13:55 – 14:10	Audience Q&A	15 min	Audience interaction

Time (GMT)	Session	Duration	Invited Speakers
14:10 – 15:00	**Cluster 1:** Conceptual Framework, Governance Foundations, and the Political Economy of Transformation	50 min	• **Chair and Moderator: Ms. Tsitsi Makombe,** Director, Knowledge Systems, AKADEMIYA2063 ***8-minute Presentations on Chapters 2a, 2b, 9, and 10*** • Agrifood Systems Governance: A Conceptual Framework – **Prof. Christian Henning**, Chief Scientist, AKADEMIYA2063 • Governing Agrifood System Transformation in Africa: An Integrated Conceptual framework – **Dr. John Ulimwengu,** Senior Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) • Institutional Foundations of Evidence-based and Participatory Policy Processes in Africa: Empirical Application to the CAADP Process – **Dr. Johannes Ziesmer,** Researcher and Interim Professor, Kiel University (CAU) • Voter Behavior and Government Performance in African Countries – **Dr. Michael Grunenberg,** Researcher, Kiel University (CAU) ***Invited Reactions*** • **Discussant 1: Dr. Rosemary Emegu Isoto,** Senior Lecturer and Head, Department of Agribusiness and Natural Resource Economics, Makerere University • **Discussant 2. Dr. Sylvester Dickson Baguma,** Executive Director, Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA)
15:00 – 15:15	Open Discussion and Synthesis	15 min	Audience interaction
15:15 – 15:20	Day 1 Wrap-Up and Closing	5 min	• **Dr. Debisi Araba,** Managing Director, AKADEMIYA2063



Day 2 December 9 Governing Resources, Markets, and Innovation: 12:00 – 15:15 GMT

Time (GMT)	Session	Duration	Invited Speakers
12:00 – 12:05	Day 1 Recap and Day 2 Overview	5 min	**Mr. Wondwosen Tefera,** Senior Associate Scientist, AKADEMIYA2063
12:05 – 12:50	**Cluster 2:** Governing Natural Resources, Climate, and Digital Environmental Data	45 min	• **Chair and Moderator: Dr. Aisha Musaazi S. Nakitto,** Head, Policy Innovation Unit and Malabo Montpellier Panel Program Lead, AKADEMIYA2063 *8-minute Presentations on Chapters 3, 4, and 5* • Governing Land, Water, and Ecosystems for Sustainable Transformation – **Dr. Thomas Falk,** Research Fellow, IFPRI • Climate Governance and Risk Management for Resilient Agrifood Systems – **Prof. Richard Mulwa,** Centre Director and Senior Research Fellow at the Environment for Development-Kenya (EfD-K) • Governance of Digital Environmental Data Systems for Africa's Agrifood Transformation – **Dr. Tobias Landmann,** Senior Research Scientist, International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe) *Invited Reactions* • **Discussant 1: Ms. Sithembile Ndema Mwamakamba,** Director, Policy Research and Analysis, Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) • **Discussant 2: Ms. Indekhwa Anangwe,** Co-Lead, Global Africa, NatureFinance • **Discussant 3: Dr. Racine Ly,** Director, Data Intelligence and Governance and National Representative for Senegal, AKADEMIYA2063
12:50 – 13:05	Audience Q&A	15 min	Audience interaction



Time (GMT)	Session	Duration	Invited Speakers
13:05 – 13:50	**Cluster 3** Governing Markets, Digital Inclusion, and Innovation Systems	45 min	• **Chair and Moderator: Dr. Katrin Glatzel,** Director, Global Strategy and Programs, AKADEMIYA2063 *8-minute Presentations on Chapters 6, 7, and 8* • Governing Inclusive Agricultural Markets and Value Chains – **Dr. Yifru Bekele**, Head of State Capability, AGRA • Digital Governance for Smallholder Inclusion and Productivity – **Dr. Getaw Tadesse,** Director, Policy Intelligence, AKADEMIYA2063 • Innovation Systems, Knowledge Governance, and Scaling of Agricultural Innovations – **Dr. Mercy Salami,** Senior Lecturer, University of Ilorin *Invited Reactions* • **Discussant 1: Ms. Martha Haile,** Food Systems and Agricultural Technology Leader; Co-Founder, ABZE and Hello Tractor • **Discussant 2: Ms. Peris Bosire,** Co-Founder and CEO, FarmDrive • **Discussant 3: Dr. Benjamin Kwasi-Addom,** Advisor, Digital Agriculture and Fisheries Trade and Investment Policy, The Commonwealth
13:50 – 14:05	Audience Q&A	15 min	Audience interaction
14:05 – 14:15	Break	10 min	Coffee Break/Virtual Networking
14:15 – 14:55	**Panel Discussion:** Governing the Transformation: Institutions, Markets, and Innovation for Africa's Agrifood Future	40 min	• **Chair and Moderator: Dr. Julius Ecuru,** Principal Scientist and Manager, Research Innovation Coordination Units, icipe **Panelists:** • **Dr. Diana Akullo Ogwal,** Principal Officer, SPS, Directorate of Trade in Goods and Competition, AfCFTA Secretariat • **Mr. Philip Boahen**, Lead Partnership and Coordination Manager, Agriculture and Agro-Industry Department, AfDB • **Dr. Khaleed Eltaweel**, Senior Coordinator, Office of the Director-General, FAO and Senior Programme Coordinator at the Food Systems Coordination Hub • **Dr. Claudia Ringler,** Director of the Agrifood Innovation and Resilience Unit, IFPRI
14:55 – 15:10	Audience Q&A	15 min	Audience interaction
15:10 – 15:15	Day 2 Wrap-Up and Closing	5 min	**Dr. Getaw Tadesse,** Director, Policy Intelligence, AKADEMIYA2063

Day 3 December 10 From Governance Evidence to Action: 12:00 – 15:00 GMT

Time (GMT)	Session	Duration	Invited Speakers
12:00 – 12:05	Day 2 Recap and Day 3 Overview	5 min	**Ms. Julia Collins,** Senior Associate Scientist, AKADEMIYA2063
12:05 – 12:50	**Cluster 4:** Governance Innovation, Country Experience, and Global-Continental Convergence	45 min	• **Chair and Moderator: Ms. Cathy Kamau,** Food Systems Policy Advisor *8-minute Presentations on Chapters 12, 13, and 15* • Agrifood Systems Governance Innovation in Africa: Trends, Practices, and Lessons from Selected Countries – **Dr. Dori Patay,** Senior Research Fellow, University of Sydney • Supranational Governance and the Implementation of Food-System Transformation: Comparing Kampala CAADP and the European Green Deal – **Dr. Hamady Diop,** CAADP- Post Malabo Process Coordinator; CEO and Founder, DnS Consulting • Opportunities for Convergence Between the UN Food Systems Summit Process and the Kampala CAADP Declaration – **Dr. Katrin Glatzel,** Director, Global Strategy and Programs, AKADEMIYA2063 *Invited Reactions* • **Discussant 1: Ms. Maren Lieberum,** Team Lead, Global Program on Food Systems Transformation, GIZ • **Discussant 2. Dr. Clement Adjorlolo,** Principal Program Officer, Agriculture and Rural Transformation, AUDA-NEPAD
12:50 – 13:05	Audience Q&A	15 min	Audience interaction
13:05 – 13:35	**Cluster 5:** Governance Performance and Insights on CAADP Implementation	30 min	• **Chair and Moderator: Dr. Paul Guthiga,** Head, ReSAKSS Unit, AKADEMIYA2063 *8-minute Presentations on Chapters 11 and 14* • Assessing the Impact of Governance in CAADP Implementation **– Dr. John Ulimwengu,** Senior Research Fellow, IFPRI • Tracking CAADP Indicators: A Continental Status Assessment and Profiling for Kampala CAADP Targets **– Ms. Julia Collins,** Senior Associate Scientist, AKADEMIYA2063 *Invited Reactions* • **Discussant 1: Mr. Boaz Keizire,** Director for Policy and State Capability, AGRA • **Discussant 2: Ms. Josephine Love,** CAADP Focal Point, Agriculture Transformation Office, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Kenya

Time (GMT)	Session	Duration	Invited Speakers
13:35 – 13:50	Audience Q&A	15 min	Audience interaction
13:50 – 14:00	Break	10 min	Coffee Break/Virtual Networking
14:00 – 14:40	**High-Level Closing Panel:** From Governance Evidence to Action	40 min	**Chair and Moderator: Dr. Debisi Araba,** Managing Director, AKADEMIYA2063 • **H.E. Nardos Bekele-Thomas,** CEO, AUDA-NEPAD • **Dr. Martin Fregene,** Director of Agriculture and Agro-Industries; Officer in Charge, Agriculture, Human, and Social Development Vice Presidency, AfDB • **Dr. Conrad Rein,** Secretary, Global Flagship Initiative for Food Security • **Mr. Odd Eirik Arnesen,** Minister Counselor, Regional Food Security Envoy, Norwegian Embassy in Dar es Salaam; Former Chair, CAADP Development Partners Coordination Group • **Dr. Eliane Ubalijoro,** CEO, Landscape Alliance and Director-General, World Agroforestry (ICRAF) • **Mr. Fahari Marwa,** Director, Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources (FANR), Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat
14:40 – 14:50	Audience Q&A	10 min	Audience interaction
14:50 – 15:00	Conference Closing Remarks	10 min	**Dr. Debisi Araba**, Managing Director, AKADEMIYA2063



GET IN TOUCH

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