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IFPRI Strategy *for* Engagement with CAADP 2026-2035

Supporting Implementation at Continental,
Regional, and National Levels



Summary

This document outlines a comprehensive strategy for the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) to support implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) 2026–2035. With its renewed focus on transforming Africa’s agrifood systems, CAADP provides a framework to address critical challenges captured in six strategic objectives that cover sustainable food production, agro-industrialization, investment mobilization, food and nutrition security, inclusivity, resilience, and governance. Building on its long history of support to the CAADP process, IFPRI’s engagement with CAADP 2026–2035 will focus on providing evidence, strengthening policy processes, building capacity, and supporting investment mobilization to accelerate Africa’s agrifood system transformation. This strategy identifies specific entry points and pathways through which IFPRI can contribute to achieving CAADP’s six strategic objectives including: (1) research and knowledge generation; (2) technical assistance and policy support; (3) capacity development; (4) investment and financing support; (5) monitoring, evaluation, and learning; and (6) stakeholder engagement and convening. Working closely with other CGIAR centers and leveraging its country and regional offices, expertise, partnerships, and extensive experience in Africa, IFPRI aims to play a pivotal key role in enabling CAADP’s vision of agricultural transformation and inclusive growth, contributing to food security, economic development, and resilience across the continent. By working across regional, subregional, and national levels, IFPRI will engage with partners to help translate CAADP 2025’s ambitious goals into tangible outcomes for food security, resilience, and economic growth.

Background and Rationale

The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Strategy and Action Plan for 2026–2035 lays out a transformative roadmap for reshaping Africa’s agrifood systems. Rooted in principles of sustainability, inclusivity, and resilience, this framework builds on the Maputo and Malabo Declarations. It aims to position agrifood systems as a cornerstone of economic growth and sustainability, addressing challenges including food insecurity, climate change, and structural inequities while aligning with Agenda 2063’s vision of a prosperous, food-secure Africa.

CAADP’s journey began with the 2003 Maputo Declaration, in which African leaders committed to allocating at least 10 percent of their national budgets to agriculture to achieve 6 percent annual agricultural growth. Recognizing agriculture’s catalytic role in transforming economies, the Maputo Declaration emphasized sustainable land and water management, market access, and agricultural research. The 2014 Malabo Declaration further expanded CAADP’s scope, introducing ambitious goals including eradicating hunger, halving poverty, and



building resilience to climate shocks. It also emphasized inclusivity, focusing on women and youth, and accountability mechanisms in the form of Biennial Reviews. This evolution reflected a paradigm shift: from treating agriculture as a sector to viewing it as an interconnected system critical to economic development and sustainability.

The launch of CAADP 2026–2035 outlined six strategic objectives aimed at transforming Africa’s agrifood systems:

1. *Intensify Sustainable Food Production, Agro-Industrialization, and Trade*: Enhance agricultural productivity through sustainable practices, promote agro-industrial development, and facilitate intra-African trade to boost economic growth.
2. *Boost Investment and Financing for Accelerated Agrifood System Transformation*: Increase public and private sector investments and develop innovative financing mechanisms to support the transformation of agrifood systems.
3. *Ensure Food and Nutrition Security*: Implement policies and programs to eradicate hunger and malnutrition, ensuring all Africans have access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food.
4. *Advance Inclusivity and Equitable Livelihoods*: Promote inclusive growth by ensuring equitable access to resources and opportunities, particularly for women, youth, and marginalized groups.
5. *Build Resilient Agrifood Systems*: Strengthen the capacity of agrifood systems to withstand and recover from shocks such as climate change, economic disruptions, and health crises.
6. *Strengthen Agrifood System Governance*: Enhance institutional frameworks, policies, and accountability mechanisms to ensure effective implementation and oversight of agrifood system initiatives.

These strategic objectives are designed to guide Africa toward sustainable agricultural growth, food security, and economic prosperity over the next decade.

IFPRI’s Role and Strategic Approach

IFPRI has supported CAADP since its inception, collaborating with AUC, NEPAD, and regional and national governments to provide technical assistance, design implementation roadmaps, and ensure accountability. IFPRI has deepened its role by supporting national priority setting and implementation with analyses on agricultural growth and investment that have fed into CAADP’s roundtables, compacts, and National Agricultural Implementation Plans (NAIPs). To support CAADP’s data needs, IFPRI helped establish ReSAKSS, a regional knowledge network with nodes and country focal points, aiding policymakers in evidence-based planning. ReSAKSS also tracks CAADP’s key performance indicators, published in the Annual Trends and Outlook Report. In 2020, ReSAKSS transitioned to Akademiya2063, with many IFPRI staff moving to continue implementation. IFPRI remains strongly engaged with the CAADP process, providing technical support to several Working Groups and contributing to CAADP’s Biennial Review Reports.

Given the long history of support to the CAADP process, IFPRI is uniquely positioned within CGIAR to support the implementation of CAADP 2026–2035, leveraging its global leadership in food policy research, deep expertise in Africa’s agrifood systems, country and regional offices, and strong partnerships across Africa. IFPRI brings:

1. *Evidence-based policy expertise*: IFPRI’s research is globally recognized for shaping agricultural and food policies with data-driven insights that inform decision-making at all levels.



2. *Multi-level engagement capacity:* IFPRI works at regional, subregional, and national levels, supporting the African Union Commission (AUC), Regional Economic Communities (RECs), national governments, and local stakeholders, with its network of 10 country and regional offices providing a strong foundation for high-impact, demand-driven research and capacity sharing¹.
3. *Strong partnerships and networks:* Through deep engagement with CGIAR, AUDA-NEPAD, AfDB, AGRA, national research institutions, and policymakers, IFPRI helps bridge research, policy, and implementation.
4. *Technical and analytical capabilities:* IFPRI's modeling tools, data analytics, and impact assessments support the design, implementation, and monitoring of agricultural policies.
5. *Capacity development and training:* IFPRI provides policy training, technical assistance, and institutional capacity-building to enhance policy design and execution.
6. *Track record of support to CAADP:* IFPRI has a long history of supporting CAADP processes, including resource mobilization, agricultural investment planning, governance assessments, and monitoring frameworks such as the CAADP Biennial Review.

IFPRI's mission to provide research-based policy solutions to improve food security, nutrition, livelihoods, and empowerment for all and to promote sustainable, climate-resilient food systems aligns with CAADP's ambition to transform Africa's agrifood systems through evidence-based decision-making, policy support, capacity strengthening, and investment mobilization. The strategy will focus on the following key dimensions of IFPRI's work:

1. *Research and knowledge generation:* Providing data-driven insights on CAADP priorities, focusing on policy solutions that sustainably reduce poverty, hunger, and malnutrition.
2. *Technical assistance and policy support:* Engaging with the AUC, RECs, and national governments to translate evidence into action.

¹ IFPRI has offices in Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sudan (temporarily relocated in Kenya), Senegal, and Uganda.

3. *Capacity development*: Training policymakers, analysts, and practitioners on evidence-based agricultural policies and enhancing relevant organizational and institutional capabilities.
4. *Investment and financing support*: Engaging national governments and development partners to align funding with CAADP priorities.
5. *Monitoring, evaluation, and learning*: Supporting the tracking of CAADP commitments and progress and undertaking focused impact assessments to inform design and implementation.
6. *Stakeholder engagement and convening*: Bringing together policymakers, private sector, and development partners to align strategies and foster collaboration.

IFPRI's Engagement across CAADP 2026–2035 Strategic Objectives

IFPRI's global leadership in food policy research, evidence-based policy support, and capacity sharing are well aligned with all six CAADP strategic objectives at regional, subregional, and national levels through targeted research, technical assistance, and multistakeholder partnerships, leading to actionable and evidence-driven policy solutions. Details are provided in the Annex.

Intensifying Sustainable Food Production, Agro-Industrialization, and Trade

IFPRI conducts research on sustainable intensification models for smallholders, including on irrigation policies and institutions, agro-industrialization strategies, and policies to reduce postharvest losses and enhance supply chain efficiency. The Institute will support the AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, AfCFTA Secretariat, and RECs (for example, EAC, ECOWAS, COMESA, IGAD, and SADC) by providing technical assistance on agricultural trade facilitation and by convening regional dialogues and policy forums. IFPRI will also assist national governments in integrating agro-industrialization into their agricultural strategies.

Boosting Investment and Financing for Accelerated Agrifood System Transformation

IFPRI delivers actionable insights on innovative financing models, public and private investment effectiveness, and strategies to improve credit access for smallholders. The Institute will work with AUC, AfDB, AUDA-NEPAD, AGRA, and other financing partners to align investment frameworks with CAADP objectives. Additionally, IFPRI will promote digital tools for transparent resource allocation and convene regional investment roundtables to attract private and institutional investors.

Ensuring Food and Nutrition Security

IFPRI supports the design and implementation of nutrition-sensitive agricultural programs, integrating micronutrient-rich foods, biofortification, and dietary diversification into national policies. The Institute will work with regional bodies, national governments, and development partners to develop real-time monitoring frameworks, policy toolkits, and early warning systems for food and nutrition crises. IFPRI will ensure that evidence-based approaches are embedded into national and regional strategies to eradicate hunger and malnutrition.

Advancing Inclusivity and Equitable Livelihoods

IFPRI conducts research on smallholder inclusion, gender-sensitive policies, youth employment, and rural livelihood enhancement. The Institute will provide technical support to the AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, and national governments to design inclusive policies and programs. By facilitating policy dialogues and offering evidence-based guidance, IFPRI will help promote equity, competitiveness, and sustainable livelihoods for women, youth, and marginalized communities.

Building Resilient Agrifood Systems

IFPRI develops actionable strategies for building climate resilience, managing risks, and fostering ecological sustainability. The Institute will work with the AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, and donors to integrate resilience into food security policies, train policymakers on risk analysis tools, and support regional platforms for climate adaptation and agrifood system resilience. IFPRI will ensure that resilience-building efforts are grounded in rigorous evidence and practical tools.

Strengthening Agrifood System Governance

IFPRI strengthens governance frameworks by conducting diagnostics on institutional effectiveness, policy coherence, and accountability. The Institute will provide support to improve multistakeholder coordination, facilitate governance dialogues, and ensure the integration of governance best practices into national agricultural strategies. These efforts will help governments and RECs navigate complex governance challenges and deliver more effective outcomes.



Call for Action through National Agrifood System Strategies Implementation Plans

IFPRI will support national governments in translating CAADP's objectives into actionable and effective National Agrifood System Investment Plans (NAIPs). By providing evidence-based policy support, strengthening M&E systems, and building technical and institutional capacity, IFPRI will ensure that implementation is grounded in robust evidence and aligned with CAADP's vision. Additionally, IFPRI will facilitate cross-country learning, share best practices, and convene policy dialogues to foster collaboration and accountability, ensuring that the "call for action" translates into tangible outcomes at the national level.

System-Based Integrated Packages of Support

In addition to focused theme-based support to CAADP's strategic objectives, IFPRI is uniquely positioned to provide integrated packages of support that cut across all six CAADP objectives. These packages will bring together cutting-edge policy research, data-driven decision-making, and multi-level stakeholder engagement in a systems-based approach. IFPRI's strong in-country presence across Africa will ensure that these support packages are deeply anchored in national realities, reflecting the specific challenges, opportunities, and policy landscapes of each country.

Implementation Modalities

To effectively support CAADP 2025, IFPRI will adopt operational approaches based on multi-level engagement, partnerships and collaborations, policy outreach and communication, monitoring, evaluation, and learning, and resource mobilization.

Multi-Level Engagement

IFPRI will engage at regional, national, and local levels to ensure comprehensive support for CAADP 2025. This multitiered approach will facilitate coordinated policy dialogue, technical assistance, and action research across different stakeholders.

- Regional (AU, RECs): Policy dialogue, research dissemination, convening stakeholders.
- National (governments, ministries): Technical assistance, capacity building, policy advisories.
- Local (farmer organizations, private sector, civil society): Action research, pilots, impact assessment.

Partnerships and Collaborations

IFPRI will strengthen strategic partnerships with key institutions to enhance policy support, research, and financing for agricultural development. Collaborations will include regional and global organizations, development banks, and research institutions to drive impactful policy alignment.

- AUC-DARBE and NEPAD (AUDA): Policy support and M&E.
- Regional Economic Communities (EAC, COMESA, ECOWAS, IGAD, SADC, etc.): Regional policy harmonization.
- African Development Bank (AfDB), World Bank, AGRA: Financing alignment.

- FAO, CGIAR Centers, and other research institutions: Research and capacity strengthening.
- Regional think tanks (e.g., ANAPRI): Policy research collaboration.

Policy Outreach and Communication

To maximize the impact of research, IFPRI will prioritize effective communication and outreach. This includes facilitating policy dialogues, publishing accessible research, and advising policymakers on evidence-based agricultural transformation.

- Regional and national policy dialogues.
- Publication of research findings in accessible formats for decision-makers.
- Advisory services to African policymakers on evidence-based agricultural transformation.

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL)

IFPRI will support data-driven decision-making by enhancing CAADP's monitoring and evaluation processes. This will involve contributing to Biennial Reviews, developing impact assessment frameworks, and providing real-time policy monitoring tools.

- Support CAADP's Biennial Review process with data, evidence, and analytics.
- Develop impact assessment frameworks for agricultural policies.
- Provide real-time policy monitoring tools for African governments.

Resource Mobilization

To ensure sustainable and equitable implementation of CAADP strategic objectives, IFPRI will collaborate with key stakeholders to co-develop funding proposals. This effort will focus on securing financial resources for evidence-based agricultural policies and programs.

- Co-develop funding proposals with AUC, RECs, and national governments to support CAADP priorities.
- Engage development partners and private sector actors to align investments with CAADP objectives.
- Facilitate multistakeholder resource mobilization efforts to strengthen agricultural transformation initiatives.
- Support national governments in designing financing strategies for sustainable agricultural investments.

Annex: Detailed description of IFPRI's engagement across CAADP 2026-2035 Strategic Objectives

CAADP 2026-35 Strategic Objective	IFPRI's Contribution Areas	IFPRI's Engagement Approach
Intensifying Sustainable Food Production, Agro-Industrialization, and Trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research on sustainable intensification models for smallholders • Studies on agro-industrialization focusing on smallholder integration, value chain development, and market linkages • Trade policy research, including implications of AfCFTA for agrifood system outcomes • Analysis of policies to reduce postharvest losses and enhance supply chain efficiency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical support to AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, AfCFTA Secretariat and related bodies, and RECs (EAC, ECOWAS, COMESA, IGAD, SADC, etc.) on agricultural trade facilitation • Convene regional dialogues and policy forums on sustainable food production and agro-industrialization • Support national governments in integrating agro-industrialization into agricultural strategies
Boosting Investment and Financing for Accelerated Agrifood System Transformation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research on agrifood systems finance models, innovative financing mechanisms, and private sector investment mobilization • Cost-effectiveness analysis of public and private spending in agrifood systems • Studies on credit access and financial inclusion for smallholder farmers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, AfDB, AGRA, and other financing partners to align agrifood investment frameworks with CAADP • Support national governments in designing agrifood financing strategies • Convene regional investment roundtables to attract private and institutional investors • Promote digital tools for transparent and efficient allocation of financial resources
Ensuring Food and Nutrition Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research on nutrition-sensitive agrifood systems, social protection including school feeding programs, agriculture-health linkages, biofortification, and food security resilience strategies • Policy work on food safety, diet quality, affordability of healthy diets, and nutritional outcomes of agrifood policies • Research on integrating micronutrient-rich foods, biofortification, and dietary diversification into national strategies. • Development of real-time monitoring frameworks to track progress in nutrition security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, national governments, and nutrition-focused organizations to integrate nutrition into agrifood strategies • Develop policy toolkits to support food security interventions. • Support regional bodies and national governments on early warning systems for food and nutrition crises
Advancing Inclusivity and Equitable Livelihoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research on inclusion (e.g., smallholder access to markets, gender-sensitive policies, youth employment in agrifood systems, empowering marginalized communities) • Policy work on land tenure security and rural employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical assistance to AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, and national governments in designing inclusive agrifood policies and programs • Provide evidence for national youth- and women-focused agrifood programs

CAADP 2026-35 Strategic Objective	IFPRI's Contribution Areas	IFPRI's Engagement Approach
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studies on social protection systems and cooperatives and enhancement of rural livelihoods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate policy dialogues on equity, access, and smallholder competitiveness
Building Resilient Agrifood Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research on climate resilience, risk management, and adaptation strategies • Analysis of shocks (conflict, climate, pandemics, etc.) and agrifood system vulnerabilities • Development of climate-smart agriculture models, including adaptation, diversification, and water management • Research on soil restoration and ecological resilience strategies • Analysis of early warning systems and disaster risk management tools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, and donors to integrate resilience into food security policies • Train national policymakers on use of risk analysis tools • Support regional platforms on climate adaptation and agrifood system resilience
Strengthening Agrifood System Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research on governance effectiveness, institutional coordination, and policy implementation challenges • Analysis of policy coherence, transparency, and accountability mechanisms • Review of best practices regarding multistakeholder platforms, participatory governance models, and governance monitoring systems. • Development of real-time monitoring frameworks to track progress in nutrition security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support national governments in governance reforms for agrifood systems development • Facilitate dialogue platforms on multistakeholder agrifood governance • Assist countries to track governance outcomes
Call for Action through National Agrifood System Strategies Implementation Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foresight and policy modeling research on investment priorities • Review and analysis of indicators, metrics, and data for tracking progress on CAADP implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, and RECs to assist Member States to align national agrifood system investment plans (NAIPs) with CAADP goals • Promote use of high-quality data and provide policy analysis to support CAADP implementation monitoring and evaluation and strengthening existing data systems • Conduct capacity development for government officials on data-driven and evidence-based policy formulation



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