



DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

The 20th Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme Partnership Platform (CAADP-PP) and Commemoration of the 15th Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security (ADFNS)

Proposed Theme:

Two Decades of CAADP Agenda: Cultivating the Nexus of Nutrition, Agrifood Systems and Education for Africa's Growth

29th October – 01st November 2024

Harare, Zimbabwe, (Hybrid Format)

1 Context

The African Union Commission (AUC) through its Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment (DARBE), in collaboration with the Department of Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development (HHDS) and the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), with support of technical institutions and development partners will commemorate the 15th Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security (ADFNS) along with the 20th edition of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Partnership Platform (PP) and the associated Malabo Policy Learning Event (MAPLE) in Harare, Zimbabwe, from 29th October to the 1st November 2024.

In the context of the African Union (AU) Theme of the Year 2024 – **“Educate an African Fit for the 21st Century: Building Resilient Education Systems for Increased Access to Inclusive, Lifelong, Quality, and Relevant Learning in Africa”**, the 20th CAADP PP, MAPLE, and 15th ADFNS will discuss the nexus between nutrition, food systems, and Education, as well as capacity building for resilient and inclusive agrifood systems as the continent rallies to define the next CAADP Strategy and Action Plan: 2026-2035.

These events – 20th CAADP PP, MAPLE, and the 15th ADFNS- serve as a platform for policy dialogue and will provide an opportunity for stakeholders and other CAADP constituencies to reflect on the achievements of the CAADP Agenda over the past two decades while rallying the highest political, technical, and financial commitments to further Africa’s growth and prosperity. The events will discuss contemporary challenges and opportunities for scaling public financing and private sector investments in agrifood and nutrition interventions and promoting intra-Africa trade. As an icebreaker to kick off the 4-day event, the MAPLE and ADFNS thematic presentations will allow stakeholders to learn and exchange successful case studies, lessons, and best practices in agrifood and nutrition programming and policymaking.

The overall theme for the combined CAADP PP, MAPLE, and ADFNS 2024 is, therefore, **“CAADP Agenda Two Decades-on: Cultivating the Nexus of Nutrition, Agrifood Systems and Education for Africa’s Growth.”** This theme underscores the need to build human, institutional, and other technical capacities to effectively implement National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs). It also highlights the importance of embracing innovative agricultural practices to accelerate the implementation and scaling of successful models to achieve resilient agrifood systems across Africa.

2 The 20th CAADP and MAPLE

This 20th CAADP PP and MAPLE will serve as a policy dialogue and accountability platform, celebrating the achievements of the CAADP Agenda over the past two decades since the Maputo 2003 and the Malabo 2014 agreements. These events will also chart the future course of agrifood systems transformation in the post-Malabo CAADP era, emphasizing a holistic approach to sustainable agricultural development in Africa

Under the set theme, the 20th CAADP PP and MAPLE events underscore the urgency of building human, institutional, and technical capacities to implement the NAIPs and uphold accountability effectively. As climate change intensifies and technological advancements reshape the global economy, Africa must focus on building resilient agri-food systems that can not only withstand these challenges but also promote economic growth, food and nutrition security, and social equity.

The endorsement of the 4th CAADP Biennial Review Report by Heads of State and Government in February 2024 underscores the mixed progress towards meeting the Malabo Declaration targets. Despite notable advancements, the continent cannot achieve these goals by 2025. Therefore, the Partnership Platform Meeting aims to translate the resolve into concrete actions, focusing on innovative partnerships, digitalization, and capacity building to achieve significant results and impact. The Platform Meeting will explore how to efficiently mobilize resources and scale up efforts toward sustainable agriculture, leveraging the aspirations of Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

3 The Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security

The ADFNS is an annual statutory event the African Heads of State and Government acceded to during the 15th Ordinary Session of the AU Summit in Kampala, Uganda, through Decision “**Assembly/AU/Dec.327 (XV)**”. This decision was made in the wake of unacceptably persistent food insecurity epitomized by chronic malnutrition on the continent. A side event convened in the margins of this Summit under the banner “**Africa must feed itself. No child should go to bed hungry**”, came out with a bold recommendation for setting aside a day that sets light on the centrality of food and nutrition security in Africa’s development agenda.

Henceforth, the ADFNS has served as a platform for rallying political, technical, and financial commitments at all levels to address contemporary challenges related to implementing food and nutrition security interventions in Africa. The commemoration of this day promotes the sharing of experience, knowledge and best practices while providing a forum to access the progress made toward assuring access for quality food for improved nutrition and health across the continent. This year’s ADFNS is taking place in a significant year of Educating an African Fit for the 21st Century and also marks the second decade of implementing CAADP and the end of the 2014 CAADP Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods which aspired, among others, to end Hunger in Africa by 2025.

Significant progress has been made through CAADP in terms of food production and productivity gains over the past decades. However, the increases in agricultural investment have not realized the CAADP goal of food security or led to improved nutrition, except for a reduction in levels of child wasting. Food has become less affordable, constraining access to adequate, diverse, and healthy diets. Malnutrition in all its forms stands out as a critical challenge, highlighting the urgent need to transform multiple systems, including agri-food

and health systems. Therefore, this 15th edition of the ADFNS will be a pivotal platform to reflect on the achievements gained over the past decade of implementing the Malabo declaration while charting how to address the challenges that hindered attaining these goals. Furthermore, this 15th ADFNS falls in the auspicious African Union year of **“Educating an African Fit for the 21st Century: Building Resilient Education Systems for Increased Access to Inclusive, Lifelong, Quality, and Relevant Learning in Africa.”**

The set theme reflects the need to take stock of how far the continent has come to adequately address food and nutrition security through the CAADP Malabo Declaration, considering emerging issues that require attention to ensure that aspirations to ending hunger are achieved. Issues include ensuring agri-food systems approach for better outcomes, implementing programs and initiatives through the one health approach, and addressing contemporary issues of food production, food safety, obesity, and Africa’s food sovereignty, culture, and heritage. Noting that apart from the conventional Nutrition and Agriculture frameworks such as CAADP, other sector plans/strategies and frameworks also contribute towards inclusive agri-food systems development, these include but are not limited to the Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2032), Nutrition and Food Systems Implementation plan 2019-2025t, the Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy 2016 to 2025, Guidelines for Inclusive Agricultural Value Chains in Africa, and the 2016-2025 Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA).

Additionally, the African Union’s Agenda 2063, which outlines a long-term vision for Africa’s development, highlights the interdependence of food security, health, and education as key pillars. This underscores the importance of collaborating across sectors to achieve sustainable development goals. In particular, the ADFNS this year emphasizes the African Union’s theme of “Educating an African Fit for the 21st Century”, highlighting how educational frameworks can strengthen food security and nutrition initiatives across the continent, especially through inclusive, lifelong learning and capacity-building.

4 Focus on 4th Biennial Review Report

Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) Partnership Platform (PP), Malabo Policy Learning Event (MAPLE), and the Biennial Review (BR) are three critical pillars that define CAADP processes. These activities have been consistently carried out throughout the Malabo period to mobilize and coordinate stakeholders, facilitate collaboration and learning, and reinforce one another. As a practice, CAADP PP and MAPLE, preceding the release of the BR report, always focus on the BR results of that particular year. This year follows the same practice, ensuring that stakeholders are well-informed and aligned on the progress made and the challenges ahead in achieving the goals set forth in the CAADP framework.

The African Union released the 4th BR report after the HoSG endorsement in February 2024. This report indicates that no country is on track to meet Malabo commitments by 2025 – though the progress made is commendable considering the events that occurred during the reporting period. The endorsement of the 4th CAADP Biennial Review Report by Heads of State and Government in February 2024 underscores the mixed progress towards meeting

the Malabo Declaration targets. The report highlights country performance and recommendations on specific technical areas critical for food and nutrition security and economic growth and is therefore a useful tool to inform dialogue, agricultural interventions, and adaptations at continental, regional, and national levels.

Low utilization and action on the BR results is one challenge that has bedeviled the BR process and hindered actions on the BR outcomes and recommendations. Effective utilization of the BR Results starts with wider dissemination, conversation, and dialogue to create necessary awareness and understanding to enable the actors to interpret and internalize the results and sufficient buy-in to stimulate action. The engagement with BR results must be sustained through various events, forums, and activities using different approaches to ensure that stakeholders are continuously reminded and encouraged to act on the recommendations in their day-to-day activities. Effective utilization of BR Results would ensure that Member States follow through on the recommendation and address systemic gaps hindering the achievement of targets and agricultural transformation.

The year 2024 was a critical year for CAADP with an intense focus on Post-Malabo Agenda development process. CAADP PP provides an important platform to revisit the BR results, continue the dissemination, sustain conversation, and stimulate and follow up on actions and learnings on the BR recommendations. It also provides an opportunity to surface emerging lessons from national and partners' responses to the recommendations.

5 Subthemes of the Combined ADFNS, CAADP PP and MAPLE

In order to achieve the overall theme, the meeting will focus on five sub-themes for the combined ADFNS, CAADP PP and MAPLE components of the events:

5.1. Sub-theme 1: Engaging Research and Innovation Building Digital and Climate-Resilient Agrifood Systems – Conveners: FARA Co-conveners:, FAO

This sub-theme will explore how emerging technologies and innovations will be harnessed to promote digital agriculture, precision agriculture, and climate-smart agriculture to build resilient agrifood systems.

By fostering collaboration between researchers, policymakers, and public and private sector practitioners, innovative solutions can be applied to enhance policy effectiveness, improve nutritional outcomes, and measure the impact of interventions more accurately. This sub-theme will address issues that will ensure that policies are based on latest evidence, effectively address current nutritional challenges, are adaptive and context-specific to emerging trends, ensuring sustainable impact.

5.2. Sub-theme 2: Optimizing effective governance, private sector engagement, and sustainable financing for food and nutrition security

This sub-theme will examine innovative financing mechanisms, including blended finance and public-private partnerships, to support sustainable agricultural practices and agro-industrialization. Additionally, the sub-theme will address the need for robust institutional frameworks, transparent monitoring systems, and strong partnerships to ensure that agrifood systems deliver optimally.

This sub-theme will explore how to create collaborative efforts between government agencies, private companies, and agricultural producers to enhance food security and improve dietary outcomes. These linkages will drive innovation in farming practices, increase access to nutritious foods, and streamline supply chains. By leveraging resources and expertise from both sectors (public and private), these partnerships can address gaps in the food system, promote sustainable agriculture, and ensure that healthy, affordable food reaches diverse populations.

5.3. Sub-theme 3: Empowering Youth and Women in Education, Food Safety, Nutrition and Agrifood Systems:

This sub-theme will focus on empowering youth and women through targeted policies, education, nutrition interventions and vocational training, and entrepreneurship support, ensuring their full participation in nutrition and agri-food sector. By enhancing their skills and knowledge, we aim to foster a more inclusive and equitable agrifood system that recognizes and leverages the contributions of all community members.

The sub-theme will also explore the Social and economic cost of child under nutrition in education using findings from the African Union led Cost of Hunger in Africa (COHA) report implemented across its Member States. Furthermore, other African Union programs such as the Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa (PACA) have shown how consuming unsafe foods such as those contaminated with aflatoxins cause childhood stunting. The correlation between nutrition and impact on education is clear, for example, students who are stunted before the age of five are more likely to underperform in school. As a result, undernourished children are faced with the challenge of competing favorably in school due to their lower cognitive and physical capacities than children who were able to stay healthy in the early stages of life. The discussions will enable learning, advocacy, policy and strategy development for nutrition sensitive interventions for better educational performance.

5.4. Sub-theme 4: Positioning the Youth as the Most Valued Players (MVPs) of Food and Nutrition Security in Africa

This sub-theme is projected as an inspiring experience-sharing session exploring the pivotal role of youth in transforming food and nutrition systems across Africa. It will cover some examples of how youth across the continent have been empowered to contribute to food and nutrition security. The session will encompass gaps as well as recommendations on how to accelerate youth empowerment for food nutrition. The session will highlight successful initiatives and programs that showcase youth as the Most Valuable Players (MVPs) in creating sustainable agri-food systems through TED Talks and other interactive discussions.

5.5. Sub Theme 5: Implementation of the Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan.

This sub-theme will provide insight on the work plan for the implementation of the African Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan (AFSH-AP) and associated organizations for adoption and subsequent implementation. The framework for the integration of the Soil Initiative for Africa (SIA) and AFSH-AP into the CAADP M&E framework and the country Biennial reporting will be presented and discussed. In addition, the soil segment will feature the signing of different Memorandum of Understanding among organizations forming a coalition of implementers to support the actions.

6 Objectives (CAADP PP, MAPLE & ADFNS)

The combined events will collectively generate discussions, knowledge, and tangible recommendations and actions to drive the CAADP agenda, emphasizing the link between Nutrition, Agri-food systems, and Education. The events bring together experts, policymakers, and practitioners to exchange ideas and experiences, enhancing the understanding of practical approaches and best practices to integrate quality Education. This integration aims to strengthen programming, investment, and partnerships to achieve food and nutrition security, informed by evidence from the BR reports. The overall objective of the events is to spur stakeholders to share experiences, lessons learned, and best practices, ultimately inspiring commitments toward collective goals.

Specific objectives are to:

- i. Leverage digital technologies and climate-smart practices to build resilient agri-food systems.
- ii. Discuss governance and accountability frameworks to be strengthened to ensure the successful implementation of food and nutrition security policies and strategies
- iii. Take stock on progress made to adequately address food and nutrition security through the CAADP Malabo Declaration to ensure that aspirations to ending hunger are achieved.
- iv. Identify innovative financing models that can be developed to support sustainable agricultural transformation.
- v. Discuss strategies to empower youth and women in the agri-food sector.
- vi. Discuss main constraints and opportunities of animal resource sector contribution to CAADP and agrifood system in Africa

7 Expected Outcomes

- i. Strategic capacities to leverage digital technologies and climate-smart practices to build resilient agri-food systems explored;
- ii. Innovative financing models that can be developed to support sustainable agricultural transformation identified;
- iii. Capacity needs to enhance empowerment of youth and women in the agri-food sector identified;

- iv. Success stories in the implementation of functional governance and accountability frameworks shared and documented.
- v. Key partnerships and collaborations among stakeholders established to enhance synergies and resource mobilization for food and nutrition security initiatives.

8 Meeting Structure and Approach

The 20th CAADP PP and 15th ADFNS Commemoration will be convened from the 29th of October to the 1st of November 2024 in Harare, Zimbabwe, starting with the MAPLE and the ADFNS thematic presentations Day 1 and CAADP PP thematic discussions on Day 3. The outcome of the MAPLE event will inform the deliberations of the 2nd day and the CAADP PP discussions and outcomes. The official commemoration of the statutory ADFNS will be on Day 2, the 30th of October.

8.1 The Malabo Policy Learning Event

Scheduled for the 29th of October 2024 as a one-day programme, the MAPLE is an integral part of the CAADP PP that serves as a topical and curtain-raising event. In harmony with the theme of the CAADP PP, the focus of MAPLE 2024 will be on the policy issues for consideration by both the ADFNS and CAADP PP, contributing to a holistic understanding of the issues at hand and facilitating the development of informed strategies and recommendations. Important discussions, lessons, resolutions and actions will be presented and discussed during the CAADP PP to inform partnership strategies to increase the implementation of CAADP.

8.2 Preparations for the Event

A Joint Planning Committee will be established at the continental level, led and co-chaired by the AU Commission and AUDA-NEPAD. It will work in collaboration with the National Organising Committee in Zimbabwe, the SADC Secretariat (representing the region), and Technical Partners comprising international organizations, bilateral development partners, and International Non-Governmental Organizations.

8.3 Technical, Communication, and Advocacy

AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, and technical partners have established a communication sub-committee to design a communication strategy and plan for this event. The communication team will generate communication products, tools, and activities to enhance visibility, outreach, advocacy, and political action around this event. The publicity, mobilization, and advocacy input and dissemination of the event outcomes will be significant through the following categories:

1. Sensitization and mobilization of stakeholders to participate and engage in this continental event.

2. Preparation of communication materials, tools, and products to support the events, including tech production, translation, interpretation, PA system and videography
3. Conducting interviews and capturing and elevating key messages from eminent persons, leaders, and policymakers participating in the event
4. Documentation, synthesis, and dissemination of the summary of key messages, resolutions, and recommendations from discussions from the event

8.4 Languages

Sessions will be conducted in English and French with simultaneous interpretation.

8.5 Participation

The event will be open to all interest groups, organizations, and individuals interested in and contributing efforts to improve food and nutrition security in the continent. These include but are not limited to Government officials, policymakers, technical experts, and parliamentarians; regional economic communities, farmers and farmer organizations, private sector (agribusiness, finance, and trade associations), development partners, media, civil society organizations, academia, knowledge and research institutions, donor communities, AU department and agencies etc. Official invitations will be sent via web links to potential resource persons, experts and general participants, other AU Member States, government representatives, partner organizations and Non-state-actors (NSA). The host country will invite its local participants and send official invitations to member country representatives through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

9 INFORMATION DESK OR KIOSK AND EXHIBITIONS

Information desks and kiosks will be available throughout the days of the events. Organizations wishing to exhibit or distribute literature materials must liaise with the organizing team in advance.

10 ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MEETING

Meeting Organization	AUC Contacts	AUDA-NEPAD Contacts
Technical Content Team	Ms. Panduleni Ndinelago Elago (ElagoP@africa-union.org)	Ms. Kefilwe Moalosi (KefilweM@nepad.org)
Communication Team	Ms. Peace Lydia Mutuwa (MutuwaP@africa-union.org)	Ms. Millicent Kgeledi MillicentS@nepad.org
Logistics and Registration	Ms. Mahlet Sileshi (Sileshim@africa-union.org)	TBC

	<u>Ms Jacinta Ndegwa</u> (jacintan@nepad.org)	
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Other relevant and detailed logistics arrangements will be communicated in due course.