

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

BACKGROUND

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

As the main platform for monitoring CAADP implementation, ReSAKSS tracks progress of over 30 core CAADP indicators through an interactive website, (<http://www.resakss.org>) and its flagship Annual Trends and Outlook Reports (ATORs). The Africawide ATOR serves as CAADP's official monitoring and evaluation (M&E) report. In addition, ReSAKSS provides technical support for 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. Having completed capacity needs assessments in 15 countries (i.e. Benin, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo, and Uganda), ReSAKSS is using outcomes of the assessments to develop country capacity strengthening strategies and guide work of the country SAKSS platforms. To date, nine platforms have been established in Benin, Ethiopia, DRC, Ghana, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, Togo, and Uganda. Two additional countries, Burkina Faso and Senegal, have agreements to establish platforms that are ready for signature. In a bid to improve analysis and visualization of policy data, ReSAKSS is currently developing an agriculture e-Atlas for each SAKSS platform. The e-Atlas is a GIS-based mapping tool that will help policymakers access and utilize high quality and geographically disaggregated data. Because it allows geographic disaggregation of data at the local level, the e-Atlas will be a useful tool in helping decisionmakers to better target agricultural investments.



As part of its support for review and mutual accountability processes, ReSAKSS, in collaboration with country stakeholders, AUC, NPCA, and development partners, have been facilitating the adoption of agriculture joint sector reviews (JSRs) that are more comprehensive in coverage, more inclusive in terms of participation, and more technically robust. JSRs provide adequate platforms to assess policy and institutional effectiveness, as well as related agriculture sector performance, growth, and poverty outcomes. They also help assess the extent to which governments, development partners, and other non-state actors are meeting pledges and commitments stipulated in the CAADP compacts, national agriculture and food security investment plans, and related cooperation agreements such as those under the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition (New Alliance). By allowing a broad spectrum of stakeholders to get insights into and influence overall policies and priorities of the sector, JSRs serve as a management and policy support tool for inclusive planning, implementation, and evaluation of agricultural sector development efforts. ReSAKSS has been providing technical support for JSR enhancement activities in seven pilot countries which went through JSR assessments in early 2014, namely Ethiopia, Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique, Burkina Faso, Ghana, and Senegal. The seven country JSR assessment reports have been published and are available on the [ReSAKSS website](#). ReSAKSS has also been helping to ensure that JSR best practices are taken into account when the seven countries conduct their annual agricultural JSRs.

This year, in collaboration with AUC, NPCA, Africa Lead II, the CAADP Non-State Actors Coalition, and country partners, ReSAKSS has been providing technical backstopping for JSR assessments in 11 new countries selected by AUC to undertake JSR assessments. The countries are Benin, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, Kenya, Mali, Niger, Swaziland, Togo, Uganda, and Zambia. In addition, ReSAKSS recently collected data on progress made by ten New Alliance countries in meeting policy commitments in their Cooperation Frameworks. The countries include the seven JSR pilot countries plus Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, and Nigeria. The data is now being compiled as an input into the preparation of the report for the New Alliance Leadership Council on behalf of AUC.

In light of the Malabo Declaration and the specific commitment to conduct a systematic biennial review of the agriculture sector using the CAADP Results Framework, ReSAKSS will continue to play a key role in strengthening national and regional capacities for data generation, evidence-based analysis, monitoring, reporting, and dialogue as part of promoting mutual accountability, actions and results.

OBJECTIVES

As part of the above efforts, IFPRI, in partnership with AUC, is convening the 2015 ReSAKSS Annual Conference to promote review and dialogue on the CAADP implementation agenda among policymakers, development partners, researchers, advocacy groups, farmers' organizations, private sector, and other key stakeholders from within and outside of Africa. The conference will take place at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 1-3 September, 2015.



The theme of the conference is “Beyond a Middle Income Africa: Ensuring Sustained Growth with Rising Employment and Incomes.”

More specifically, the conference seeks to:

1. Review progress in implementing the CAADP agenda and in particular, progress toward achieving key CAADP goals and targets as well as in creating capacities and adopting effective modalities for evidence-based policy planning and implementation;
2. Assess mutual accountability and review processes and associated capacities as well as their effectiveness for implementing the CAADP agenda. Progress and challenges in establishing effective country SAKSS platforms and agriculture JSRs will be reviewed;
3. Bring clarity on the technical support required by AUC and NPCA in supporting the roll out of the Malabo Declaration Implementation Strategy and Roadmap (IS&R), the CAADP Results Framework and the Guidance Note on Government Agriculture Expenditures;
4. Discuss findings and recommendations of the 2014 ATOR—the official CAADP M&E report. The 2014 ATOR examines trends and drivers of growth as well as opportunities and challenges for Africa to achieve sustained economic growth and transformation with rising incomes and employment.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Expected outcomes of the conference are:

1. Shared understanding and consensus around:
 - a. Actions needed to further advance the CAADP implementation agenda and ensure the achievement of its goals and objectives;
 - b. How ReSAKSS can best support the CAADP implementation agenda, and in particular the CAADP Results Framework and the Malabo Declaration IS&R.
2. Shared lessons and experiences regarding:
 - a. Planning and execution of agriculture JSRs, in particular critical success factors and required steps in transitioning to more comprehensive, inclusive, and robust JSR modalities and preparing for biennial reviews;
 - b. The establishment and operation of country SAKSS platforms, including their role in i) identifying and bridging capacity gaps in M&E, policy analysis, and knowledge management, ii) mobilizing local centers of expertise in supporting high-quality analyses and knowledge products to improve policymaking and track progress, and iii) facilitating policy dialogue, benchmarking, review, and mutual learning in support of CAADP implementation.



STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE

The morning of the first day of the conference, September 1, will consist of side events taking place in parallel sessions. The side events will provide space for ReSAKSS' partners to share their research and other 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. The opening session of the conference will take place during the late afternoon of September 1.

The second and third days of the conference, September 2-3, will focus on ReSAKSS' core activities of supporting evidence and outcome based policy planning and implementation under CAADP, and will include discussions on the 2014 ATOR, as well as progress in and required actions for establishing and operationalizing agriculture JSRs and country SAKSS platforms.

