



CAADP

Strategic guidelines to establish the review mechanism for the Biennial Reporting on the Malabo Declaration

“Going for results and impact of the African Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation strategy”

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FOREWORD

Looking ahead to the next decade of CAADP, the challenge is how to accelerate the pace of implementation of CAADP to realize the 2025 vision and goals that the Heads of State and Government of the African Union made at the Twenty-third Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.

The first decade of CAADP from 2003 to 2013, which helped reaffirm Africa's agriculture-led development agenda, was one of self-discovery, innovation, and re-establishment. To ensure that progress is continuously being made at the same time as strengthening systems for self-learning and evidence-based mutual accountability, the Results Framework is at the centre of the strategic thrust for implementation of CAADP over the next decade.

The *CAADP* Results Framework enables Africa to have “on the table” tangible parameters to benchmark advancements in agricultural performance. At the same time, it reinforces a culture of results-oriented programming, and attends to concerns such as value for money in agriculture financing. The *CAADP* Results Framework provides Africa and its partners with a solid presentation of the agriculture development agenda in terms of how strategic actions are translated into tangible outcomes. It presents a political and technical pillar to foster alignment in collaboration with partners. It provides mechanisms to respond to emerging issues including climate change, globalized food and energy systems, Africa's population growth and urban migration trends, nutrition, and improvements in governance of natural resources.

The implementation of *CAADP* Results Framework is vital. In this regard, the Results Framework is a “living component” of the efforts to enhance capacity to effectively deliver desired results and sustainable growth. This is why it is crucial to finalize the development of the Results Framework through country and regional grounding, adaptation and inherently operationalizing the framework within existing CAADP implementation processes. For this purpose, the African Union Commission, and the NEPAD Agency, in liaison with the Regional Economic Communities, place this handbook in your hands in your capacity as country players and stakeholders and all those working on or supporting transformation of African agriculture—for improved performance. It is aimed at guiding stakeholders and first and foremost countries to roll out the CAADP Results Framework and integrate it in their agriculture monitoring and evaluation system. It also serves to articulate its implementation into the process of elaborating a biannual tracking of results in the agricultural sector towards the achievement of the Malabo target at national, regional and continental level.

We thank the numerous institutions and individuals who engaged in the process to develop this handbook as the companion to the CAADP Results Framework itself. Comprising of a set of carefully chosen and profiled indicators, the Handbook forms part of the biennial reporting mechanism we have put in place to track progress towards reaching the Malabo goals and targets.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AfDB	African Development Bank
AgPER	Agriculture Public Expenditure Review
APRM	Africa Peer Review Mechanism
AU	African Union
CAADP	Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme
CGIAR	International Centre for Agricultural Research
COMESA	Common Market for East and Southern Africa
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
EC	European Commission
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IMF	International Monetary Fund
JSR	Joint Sector Review
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MTEF	Medium Term Expenditure Framework
NARS	National Agricultural Research System
NEPAD	New Partnership for African Development
NEPAD Agency	NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NSB	National Statistical Bureau
ODA	Overseas Development Assistance
PPP	Public Private Partnerships
ReSAKSS	Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System
SACAU	Southern African Conference of Agricultural Union
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
S&T	Science and Technology
UNCCD	United Nations Convention To Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USD (US\$)	United States Dollar

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Use Arusha and Nairobi and Magaliesburg [?]list of participants

1 - Introduction

Looking forward into the next decade, African Union (AU) member states, through various Heads of State and Government platforms, have emphasized the need to accelerate the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) and ensure that its expected results and impact are fully realized. The results and impact entail improved agricultural performance as well as increased contribution of agriculture to overall wealth creation, job creation, poverty alleviation, food and nutrition security, hunger eradication, and resilience of the continent's population and communities. In the next decade of CAADP implementation, therefore, it is anticipated that national investments into policy practice (i.e. economic policy content and process of implementation) will deepen national ownership of the agriculture and food policy agenda, thus yielding greater political and budgetary commitment and interest by the public and private sectors, leading to accelerated and more effective and efficient implementation of CAADP. This was strongly reaffirmed by Heads of State and Government during the Twenty-third Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly held in June 2014 at Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.

The Malabo declaration actually reaffirms Africa's commitment to translate Africa's agricultural development vision and goals into tangible outcomes based on the CAADP Results Framework that was endorsed by both the Conference of Ministers and the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government to foster results-oriented and strategic actions for agricultural growth and transformation in Africa.

The CAADP Results Framework as presented in **Error! Reference source not found.**, highlights the logical relationship (based on the *Theory of Change* approach) between key interventions areas for agricultural development that aim at strengthening the required capabilities and policy and institutional environment (level 3) to trigger necessary changes to deliver on the expected results (level 2) in terms of: (a) *increased agriculture production and productivity*, (b) *increased intra-African regional trade and better functioning of national and regional markets*, (c) *expanded local agro-industry and value chain development inclusive of women and youth*, (d) *increased resilience of livelihoods and improved management of risks in the agricultural sector*, and (e) *improved management of natural resources for sustainable agriculture*; leading to the high level socio-economic outcomes to which agriculture contributes (level 1), namely (i) *wealth creation*, (ii) *food and nutrition security*, (iii) *economic opportunities, poverty alleviation and shared prosperity*, and (iv) *resilience and sustainability*.

The Result Framework is used as rational tools to guide African Member States during their process of developing and implementing agricultural investments plans to clearly highlight and justify the key investments areas for achieving agricultural sector objectives enshrined in the smart targets set in the July 2014 AU Heads of States' Malabo declaration on accelerated agricultural growth and transformation for shared prosperity and improved livelihoods in Africa, and for which Member States have committed to report progress every two years (biennially) to the AU Assembly. The Framework is the backbone of the Malabo declaration and will guide the *Biennial Reporting* process.

This *Strategic guidelines to establish the review mechanism for the Biennial Reporting on the Malabo Declaration* intends to clarify the thematic areas of the country report to the AU assembly, and to anticipate on the coordination and partners engagement strategy in establishing the continental mechanism to conduct the regular exercise of preparing the Biennial Report to the AU Assembly, with the *Inaugural Biennial Report* expected at the January 2018 Assembly that is intended to be prepared through a pioneer exercise during the year 2017 and will engaged all the 54 AU member states.

The ongoing consultation and partners' engagement process initiated by AUC and NPCA, will confirm and elaborate on the leadership and coordination elements that are presented in this document.

2 - The biennial reporting at the heart of CAADP agenda

CAADP is the established vehicle for delivering agricultural efforts and partnerships in Africa under which the priorities activities in the agricultural sector to be implemented by the AU member states and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) aim at: *increasing agricultural productivity; enabling access to nutritious food for African people; increasing the contribution of agro-processing to economic growth and poverty reduction, while enhancing resilience of livelihoods and production systems to climate variability; and boosting intra-African trade in agricultural commodities.*

These priorities activities form the African Agricultural Sector Agenda that the African Union Commission (AUC) and the NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA) are coordinating under the framework of CAADP, where the main focus of the **coordination actions** of both institutions are:

- i). to mobilize AU member states to develop/update National Agriculture and food security Investment Plans (NAIPs) and the RECs to develop/update their Regional Agriculture and food security Investment Plans (RAIPs);
- ii). to mobilize jointly with the RECs, whenever possible, the technical and financial supports to the member states for policy review, capacity development, and knowledge exchange, for implementing the NAIPs and the RAIPs in a way to deliver on targets set for each of the thematic areas of the Malabo Declaration;
- iii). to provide platform for mutual accountability, peer review and peer pressure that will motivate increased performances of each member state to deliver on targets set for the Malabo declaration, through a well designed, transparent and performance-based Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and Biennial Sector Reporting to the AU Assembly, that should in turn, trigger evidence based planning and implementation at all appropriate levels (national, sub regional and continental) for the expected agricultural growth and transformation in Africa.

The compelling need to develop high quality data and information to improve the quality of policy and strategy planning and implementation, in order to accelerate growth and progress toward poverty reduction and food and nutrition security, places the 3rd coordination action, which is the Mutual accountability and Biennial Reporting, at the heart of CAADP Agenda.

The Commitment to Mutual Accountability to Actions and Results is actually strongly part of the Malabo Declaration, whereas Heads of States have committed to: *a)- conduct a biennial Agricultural Review Process that involves tracking, monitoring and reporting on progress; b)- foster alignment, harmonization and coordination among multi-sectorial efforts and multi-institutional platforms for peer review, mutual learning and mutual accountability; and c)- to strengthen national and regional institutional capacities for knowledge and data generation and management that support evidence based planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.*

This calls for establishing a well functioning continent wide reporting and peer review mechanism that will help to develop necessary analytical tools and information management systems, and for strengthening technical and logistical capacities at all appropriate levels, to be able to generate credible, timely and high quality information to inform the reporting and review process, and to guide evidence based planning of adequate interventions and programmes at all appropriate levels for the envisioned Agricultural transformation in Africa.

The outcome of the biennial reporting process will serve and nourish all the platforms established under CAADP or for agricultural and rural development in Africa, such as the CAADP Partnership Platform (CAADP-PP), the CAADP Permanent Secretaries Retreat (PS Retreat), the AU Joint Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, Rural development, Fisheries and Aquaculture, amongst others, to decide, organize and monitor necessary supports to member states in a more transparent way, accordingly with the observed performances and challenges in each thematic area of the biennial report. It will also guide the annual work packages of the coordination activities led by the CAADP team at the AUC, NPCA and the RECs.

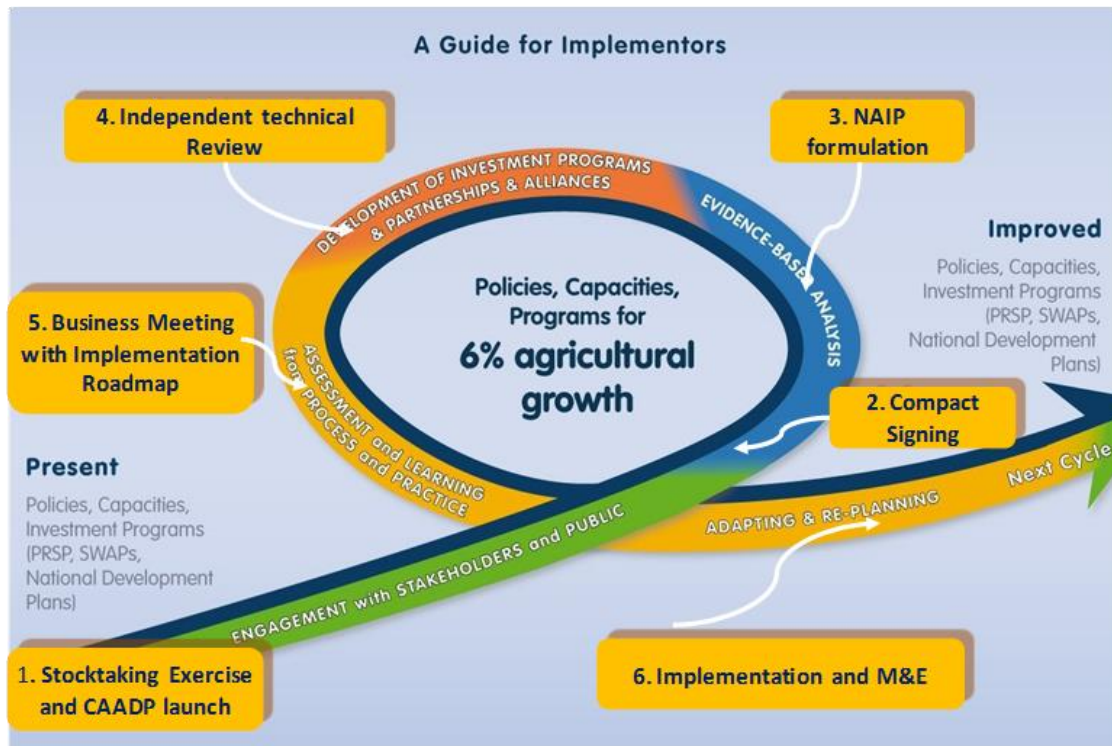
3 - The 7 thematic areas of the biennial report and specific objectives

In line with the clarity and the structure of the July 2014 AU Heads of States' Malabo declaration on accelerated agricultural growth and transformation for shared prosperity and improved livelihoods in Africa -Decision Assembly AU/2(XXIII)-, **7 thematic or performance areas** are drawn for countries, RECs, NPCA and AUC performances in achieving the commitments and targets set in the declaration, under which **22 performance categories** are considered to underline the key specific performance objectives.

3.1. Performance Area 1: Commitment to CAADP process

As required by the Malabo Declaration in commitments 1(a), 1(b), 1(c), 1(d), 1(e), and further in commitments 2(b), 3(a), 6(c), Member States are expected to conduct necessary activities under the guidance of AUC and NPCA, to first commit to the framework of CAADP using the *CAADP Implementation Formulation Process* presented in the *Figure 1*; and once in the process, to regularly update and review policy and institutional setting to reflect CAADP recommendations on necessary policy elements to be considered by the country to deliver on identified gaps for achieving the Malabo commitments, while collaborating with other countries to promote cooperation, partnership and alliance in the sector to deliver on targets. This performance area also include the request to member states to promote proactive initiatives for building partnerships and alliances between farmers, agri-business and civil society; and for promoting cooperation with neighbouring countries.

Figure 1: CAADP formulation and implementation process as entry points for the Results Framework in the country



This performance areas comprises **3 performance categories**, which specific objectives, targets according to the Malabo declaration, and indicators are presented in the table in **Error! Reference source not found.**

3.2. Performance Area 2: Investment Finance in Agriculture

As per the Malabo Declaration in commitments 2(a), 2(b), 2(c), and further in 9(b), member states are expected: (i)- to allocate enough funds for agriculture in national budgets; (ii)- to put in place or strengthen financing schemes to attract investment of domestic smallholder enterprises in agriculture, Agribusiness and Agro-Industries; (iii)- to establish and operationalize the African Investment Bank (AfIB) to support investment initiatives that will boost Agriculture, Agribusiness and Agro-Industries in Africa; and (iv)- to limit the current level of direct involvement of foreign private sector to discourage heavy dependence on external sources of funding, by creating platforms for partnership arrangements between domestic and external private sectors to jointly invest in the sector with support of AfIB.

This performance areas comprises **4 performance categories**, which specific objectives, targets according to the Malabo declaration, and indicators are presented in the table in **Error! Reference source not found.**

3.3. Performance Area 3: Ending Hunger

Ending hunger is at the heart of the Malabo Declaration as expressed in commitments 3(a), 3(b), 3(c), and 3(d). In this performance area, member states are expected: (i)- to promote utilization of cost-effective & quality agricultural inputs, irrigation, mechanization, and agrochemicals for crops, fisheries and aquaculture to boost agricultural productivity; (ii)- to provide logistics support to all stages of the food production chain (field/harvest, storage, processing, transportation, final retail market) to limit

degradation both in quantity and in quality of the produced food; (iii)- to promote and invest in social protection initiatives/programmes focusing on vulnerable social groups to increase agricultural productivity; and (iv)- to promote initiatives to improve nutritional status, and in particular, the elimination of child under nutrition in Africa, by bringing down child stunting and child underweight..

This performance areas comprises **4 performance categories**, which specific objectives, targets according to the Malabo declaration, and indicators are presented in the table in **Error! Reference source not found.**

3.4. Performance Area 4: Eradicating Poverty through Agriculture

As per the Malabo Declaration in commitments 4(a), 4(b), 4(c), and 4(d), member states are expected: (i)- to sustain annual agriculture sector growth by ensuring higher contribution to GDP and to poverty reduction; (ii)- to promote approaches via PPP arrangements to empower smallholder agriculture to lead transformation and value chains of agricultural commodity; (iii)- to engage youth in agricultural sector development to contribute to reduce level of unemployment and poverty; and (iv)- to promote initiatives that facilitate preferential entry and participation for women and youth in gainful and attractive agri-business opportunities.

This performance areas comprises **4 performance categories**, which specific objectives, targets according to the Malabo declaration, and indicators are presented in the table in **Error! Reference source not found.**

3.5. Performance Area 5: Intra-African Trade in Agriculture Commodities

Regional and subregional institutions such the RECs, AUC and NPCA are the one accountable for this performance areas. They are requested in commitments 5(a), 5(b), and further in 9(c), to collaborate with member states: (i)- to promote intra-African trade in agriculture commodities and services while reducing importation of those commodities from outside Africa; and (ii)- to create and enhance regional and continental policies and institutional conditions and support systems to simplify and formalize the current trade practices to permit the achievement of intra-African trade target, including the promotion of the African Common position on agriculture-related international trade negotiations and partnership agreements.

This performance areas comprises **2 performance categories**, which specific objectives, targets according to the Malabo declaration, and indicators are presented in the table in **Error! Reference source not found.**

3.6. Performance Area 6: Resilience to Climate Variability

As per the Malabo Declaration in commitments 6(a) and 6(b), member states are expected: (i)- to promote initiatives of building resilience of production systems to reduce vulnerabilities of the livelihoods of African population to climate variability and other related risks; and (ii)- to enhance investments for resilience building initiatives to protect rural workers and social groups, as well as vulnerable ecosystems.

This performance areas comprises **2 performance categories**, which specific objectives, targets according to the Malabo declaration, and indicators are presented in the table in **Error! Reference source not found.**

3.7. Performance Area 7: Mutual Accountability for Actions and Results

This performance area is the one related to the Biennial reporting, where commitments 7(a), 7(b), 7(c), 9(d), 9(e), 9(f), 9(g) request AUC and NPCA to collaborate with member states to (i)- to put in place mechanisms and systems to recognize and appreciate performance of member states with respect to progress on key commitments agreed upon; (ii)- to promote experience sharing amongst African countries on agricultural development issues and lessons learnt for performing on Malabo Declaration; and (iii)- to institutionalize mechanism for supporting country planning process to better improve their performances in delivering on Malabo declaration, based their observed scores.

This performance areas comprises **3 performance categories**, which specific objectives, targets according to the Malabo declaration, and indicators are presented in the table in **Error! Reference source not found.**

4 - Institutional roles and responsibilities, and coordination mechanism

4.1. Roles of Member States

AU member states have primary responsibility to prepare and submit on time their individual country report to the AUC for compilation to the AU Assembly. The country responsibility includes: (i) holding necessary in country consultations for making available all the required data accordingly the 7 thematic areas of the reporting format; (ii) drafting the country report in consultation with national stakeholders; (iii) validating the country report at national level; (iv) present the report at sub regional level for data harmonization and alignment; (v) amending the country report as per recommendations of the sub regional validation meeting; and (vi) submitting the final report to the African Union Commission for compilation to the AU Assembly.

To better facilitate the country reporting process, countries are advised: (a) to designate a **National Biennial Focal Point** person who will be in charge of leading the national consultation process, be the liaison person of the AU on the biennial related issues, and represent the country at any subregional and regional discussion platform on the biennial related issue; (b) to organise the national stakeholders involved in the reporting process, under a national *Joint Sector Review (JSR)* platform where roles and responsibility could be given to the platform's members for their productive interventions to make the process successful.

The national JSR could serve as platform for national review, dialogue, peer learning, mutual accountability, and advice to the national agriculture sector planning, once the feedbacks (country specific recommendations and decisions) on the biennial report to the AU Assembly are sent to the country. Every member state has responsibility to animate its national JSR at own wish, and can request collaboration with from AUC, NPCA, RECs or technical institutions whenever necessary.

It is advisable that the *National Biennial Focal Point* be an Agricultural data management Specialist and should not necessary be the CAADP focal person, nor the Permanent Secretary in charge of agriculture in the country. AUC will officially write to all member states to designate the Focal Point for consideration.

Some countries are experiencing the *Strategic Analysis Knowledge Support System (SAKSS)* node which aims at strengthening national agriculture data management and promoting the use of quality data at

country-level. It provide an opportunity for strengthening the country-level coordination mechanisms among the range of data-collection actors.

The country SAKSS node wherever it is established, should be used as the national JSR platform to support the process of the country biennial report preparation and its national validation. AUC, NPCA and RECs, can assist in mobilizing technical partners to support any member state which is willing to establish a SAKSS node. But it is important to note that the establishment of a national JSR platform to support the biennial process at national level, and the production of quality data to report progress of implementing Malabo declaration to the AU, still remains entire responsibility of each member state.

The roadmap for carrying out the national reporting activities including the validation mechanism will be discussed and concluded by the end of the year 2016, during a coordination meetings with RECs after engagement and training on the biennial reporting for the *Biennial National Focal Points* of all the 54 AU member states.

4.2. The Role of RECs

As part of their regular role of coordinating subregional level activities that are consistent with the realization of the goals and targets of Malabo, RECs have the responsibility of good coordination of the biennial process at respective subregional level, in order to ensure that data from countries in the sub region are well aligned and harmonized. It is also a subregional responsibility to ensure that member states reports are consolidated in the manner that helps the sub region to better assess its overall progress towards meeting the goals and targets set for Malabo.

Specifically, the RECs will be in charge of: (i) supervising the country reports preparation in line with agreed roadmaps *-ensuring that each country of the subregion prepare and submit quality report on time-*; (ii) ensuring technical alignment and political endorsement of country reports in the subregion *-subregional validation workshops should be initiated by respective RECs in respective subregion where recommendations will be made to each country to improve their report whenever necessary before official submission to the AUC-*; and (iii) preparing the subregion specific recommendations to the AUC for consideration in the compiled report for the AU Assembly.

To allow better coordination of member states, 5 Subregions will be considered in this process. They are: (a)- *the North Africa Subregion*; (b)- *the Southern Africa Subregion*; (c)- *the West Africa Subregion*; (d)- *the East Africa Subregion*; and (e)- *the Central Africa Subregion*. Due to the fact that RECs coverage of member states are not necessary aligned with the Subregional repartition of member states, agreement will be reached during the member states consultation process to conclude on countries repartition per subregion and possible coverage of RECs. The tentative countries repartition per subregion, as presented in **Error! Reference source not found.**, which is already used for the water sector reporting, could serve as example.

The RECs coverage of subregions are the issues to be discussed during the RECs Coordination meetings. In case several RECs are in charge of the same subregion, a joint working team will be formed to ensure good coordination of activities of the subregion.

To ensure full engagement of all AU member states and RECs during the process, AUC and NPCA will increase its efforts towards all member states and RECs and give particular attention to the *Northern African subregion* where a lot still need to be done on their engagement.

4.3. The Role of AUC and NPCA

As per the mandates given in the Malabo declaration in the commitments 9(a) to 9(d), AUC and NPCA have the responsibility to ensure adequate political leadership, coordination, and guidance for effective implementation of the Malabo declaration; and to mobilise partners in establishing quality M&E systems for the biennial progress reporting to the AU Assembly, while institutionalizing a system for peer review that encourages good performance on achievement targets set in the declaration.

In specific terms under the biennial process, AUC and RECs have responsibility: (i)- to coordinate RECs activities and work with RECs in mobilizing member states to prepare and submit individual country report; (ii)- to compile the continental report on time while ensuring that all recommendations submitted by the RECs are well included; (iii)- to validate the final report at all agreed platforms before submitting to the AU organs for consideration at the AU Assembly; (iv)- to ensure that recommendations of the reports are translated in AU Assembly decisions whenever this is compelling; (v)- to create and animate platforms to operationalize recommendations/decisions and to design and agree on necessary supports to member states; (vi)- to create and animate platforms to mobilize partners to commit to the agreed supports to member states, and follow up implementation of those commitments; (vii) to provide guidance to member states in implementing country specific recommendations/decisions to improve performance, while ensuring that awareness and high level advocacy are conducted at high level platforms such as G8, etc... to concretise works of deploying supports to member states; (viii) to collaborate with RECs to initiate necessary subregional or regional programmes that could promote cooperation amongst member states to achieve the agricultural sector goals enshrined in Malabo declaration; and (ix) to establish peer-to-peer experiential learning and networks development platform with the *Biennial National Focal Points* to discuss country performances, and share experiences on data management and data collection methodologies and challenges, in a way to foster harmonisation and alignment of methodologies in providing quality data under the biennial process -*this will be through a **biennial peer review meeting** organized every two years for the Biennial National Focal Points-*.

These interventions to be carried out by the AUC and NPCA, will be further synchronized to better guide the design of the sequence and contents of the series of events organised under CAADP, to make best use of them for higher benefit to AU member states. *Chapter 6 - on page 17* provides tentative synchronization of CAADP events or platforms for the period between 2 biennial reports.

Due to the limited capacity of the AUC and NPCA to get involved in the required theoretical activities for quality assurance of the biennial process, sufficient consideration will be given to the commitments 9(e) to 9(g) of Malabo declaration, that call for engaging with *African Agricultural Research and Knowledge Institutions and Development Partners* to drain necessary technical and knowledge management supports to the biennial process. Therefore good *Partners Engagement Strategy* is required for AUC and NPCA, to build fruitful partnership that carries out **problems-based action-researches** to guaranty better alignment for a grounded and sustainable biennial reporting process.

4.4. Roles of partners: *Partners Engagement Strategy*

The issue of quality assurance will be at the heart of the data management and data collection methodologies and approach under the biennial process. Therefore, the existing *Agricultural Research and Knowledge Institutions* will have key role to play in providing their technical support to the process.

While engaging in developing the necessary tools and technical guidelines to support member states in preparing quality report on progress made for Malabo, AUC and NPCA will rely on the existing potential

knowledge management networks on the continent that are already committed to support the CAADP framework.

For example, the *Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System* (ReSAKSS) which is an Africa-wide network of regional nodes facilitated by the *International Food Policy Research Institute* (IFPRI), is already supporting CAADP. ReSAKSS actually offers high-quality analyses and knowledge products to improve policymaking, track progress, document success, and derive lessons for the implementation of the CAADP agenda and other agricultural and rural development policies and programs in Africa. ReSAKSS is also already working in partnership with the AUC, NPCA, and particularly with the RECs in hosting arrangement with the Africa-based CGIAR centers that include: the *International Institute of Tropical Agriculture* (IITA) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for ReSAKSS–WA; the *International Livestock Research Institute* (ILRI) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) for ReSAKSS–ECA; and the *International Water Management Institute* (IWMI) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) for ReSAKSS–SA. ReSAKSS has a competitive advantage built over the past few years, with its many publications on African agriculture development such as the Annual Trend and Outlook Report (ATOR), where several agricultural data parameters needed for the biennial reporting have already been experienced.

The works of many other African institutions such as the *Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa* (FARA), the *Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa* (AGRA) amongst others, and some of the specialised UN-Agencies such as the *Food and Agriculture Organisation* (FAO), as the *World Food Programme* (WFP), are also to be valued for quality data management along the biennial reporting process as well as the national JSR exercises.

As part of the ***Partners Engagement Strategy***, AUC and NPCA will establish the ***Biennial Reporting Task Force***, which will be a continental platform of all identified partner institutions that are committed to provide technical support to the CAADP biennial reporting process.

Partner institutions members of the Task Force will be organized in Technical Working Groups (TWG) based on their respective technical expertises. The Working Groups will be formed in line the thematic areas of the Malabo Declaration, and therefore include:

- TWG 1. Commitment to CAADP Process Working Group***
- TWG 2. Investment Finance in Agriculture Working Group***
- TWG 3. Ending Hunger Working Group***
- TWG 4. Eradicating Poverty through Agriculture Working Group***
- TWG 5. Intra-African Trade for Agriculture commodities Working Group***
- TWG 6. Resilience to Climate Variability Working Group***
- TWG 7. Mutual Accountability for Action and Results Working Group***
- TWG 8. Coordination Working Group***

The Terms of References of interventions and the working arrangements of the TWGs will be developed during an engagement meeting with partners institutions that is planned for the *3rd quarter* of 2016.

Expected actions that will be placed under the responsibility of the TWGs of the Task Force, are action-research activities in support to country in improving data collection and management methodologies, as well as the assessment, design, and implementation of *Logistics and Human Capacity Strengthening Programmes-Activities* in support to the identified member states.

In implementing those programmes-activities, partners institutions will have responsibility to mobilise and manage financial resources in collaboration with the Governments of the targeted countries, the RECs, NPCA and AUC.

Once established each TWG will refine internal working arrangements and roadmap to successfully carry out the identified supports to Member States.

Each TWG will designate one Institution as Team Leader which will have responsibility to report progress to the Coordination Group (the TWG 8) led by AUC. An institution can be part of one or many Technical Working Groups. For greater ownership of the process by AU member states, one *Permanent Secretary* (PS) of a Member State will be designated to chair official meeting of the working group on behalf of AUC and NEPAD.

While each TWG is free to organise own meetings to deliver on planned tasks, the whole Task Force will have its plenary meeting *every two year*, for joint progress review and planning for new technical supports to member states, once the Biennial Report is presented to the AU Assembly and comes up with new areas for support.

5 - The Biennial report preparation and validation process

5.1. Steering up the biennial reporting process

To steer up the Biennial reporting process, AUC and NPCA are working to develop **reporting tools** that will be concluded by end July 2016, which include: a **Technical Guidelines** -that will explain indicators and provide detailed calculation methods-; a **Technical Notes** -that will exhibit the benchmarking methods for evaluating country progress in terms of being "*on-track*" or "*not on track*" for a specific target-; and the **Country Reporting Format** -that is a template of all the data parameters needed to be collected by countries for their country report preparation-.

Experts from partners institutions will be engaged in designing those tools on the basis of the data requirements (*tentative data dictionary*) for reporting on Malabo as presented in **Error! Reference source not found..**

The process is ongoing and will gather enough momentum by end 2016, to have all the biennial reporting tools adopted by the Member States, and member states will have been trained on the tools (*Reporting Format and the associated Technical Guidelines and Technical Notes*). The trainings are dedicated for the *National Biennial Focal Points*, and are planned to be held per subregion. The trainings will also allow to come up with agreed continental **roadmap and structure for preparing and validating country reports**, before compilation and submission to the AU Assembly. The report preparation process will be launched to start beginning 2017 for country data collection, and report preparation and submission according to the agreed roadmap to avail the *Inaugural Report* to the January 2018 AU Assembly. Example of *continental roadmap and reports validation and submission structure*, as use for the water sector M&E and reporting to AU Assembly, is presented in **Error! Reference source not found..**

Once in order from 2018, the activities for availing every biennial report to the AU Assembly will regular and well synchronised.

5.2. Regular chronological activities for availing a biennial report to the AU Assembly

Once the a Biennial Report is presented in January of a **year Y_B** , the next Biennial Report is expected for January of the **year Y_{B+2}** , and 8 quarters (**Q_{01} to Q_{08}**) distant in time the two consecutive reporting events to the AU assembly. Between the two events, followings are the key activities:

- i). The basic reporting exercise which is the **Country Reports Preparation** will occur (once confirmed will national experts, the biennial focal points) during the quarters **Q_{05} to Q_{06}** that is the 6 first months of the **year Y_{B+1}** . The detailed *regular roadmap* of country data collection, report preparation, and national validation during the 6 months period, as well as the *approach for involving required stakeholders* at national level, will be finalised by *end 2016* during engagement with member states on the reporting process.
- ii). Before country engaged in the basic reporting exercise, AUC and NPCA will organize the **Biennial Peer Review Meeting** which is the biennial meeting of the peer-to-peer experiential learning and networks development platform of the *Biennial National Focal Points*. This will happen during the **Q_{04}** to all allow focal points to discuss previous country performances, and share experiences on data management and data collection methodologies and challenges, in a way to foster harmonisation and alignment of methodologies in providing quality data under the biennial process. The opportunity will also be used for any necessary refresh course or training to the Focal points to improve data management methodologies. Any update in the *Country Reporting Format* will also be discussed at this meeting to launch the country reports preparation process.
- iii). Once the countries reports are finalized, RECs will jointly organise early in the **1st month of Q_{07}** , the **Subregional Validation Meetings** accordingly with the agreed validation mechanism (which example is given in **Error! Reference source not found.** for the water sector reporting), to ensure technical alignment and political endorsement of country reports in the subregion and to prepare the subregion specific recommendations to the AUC for consideration in the compiled report for the AU Assembly. Country specific recommendations will also be provided to each country when necessary, to allow countries to individually review their reports before submitting officially to the AUC and NPCA in the deadline.
- iv). AUC and NPCA will proceed with the **Country Reports Compilation** during the last **2 months of Q_{07}** only for the country reports that will have been received on time. In the compiled *Continental Report*, benchmarking methods will be used to generate performance indices (PIs) in scorecards to evaluate progress made by each member state in reaching targets set for each of the 7 performance areas of the Malabo declaration. This will enable comparison among member states and a peer-to-peer metric comparison of performances in order to stimulate continuous improvement of interventions towards the common agreed targets.
- v). The final draft of the Continental Biennial Report should be ready by the end of the quarter for circulation to allow: *1st*)- an **online technical validation with Focal Points** to check if data submitted are correctly considered; and *2nd*)- a **validation and endorsement** of the final continental report with the Permanent Secretaries and the RECs (**the PS 2 Meeting**) before official submission to the AU organs. The PS 2 meeting will allow to review and agreed on the recommendations of the report and on the decisions to propose to the AU Assembly. This two additional steps should compulsory happen in the **first two weeks of Q_{08}** to avail the final report to the AUC by **15 October of the year Y_{B+1}** .

- vi). When these steps are successful, the **Final Biennial Report** will be accepted for consideration at the **AU organs meetings** for the preparation of the January AU Assembly, that **start early in November**.
- vii). Additional corrections may be made after considering possible issues raised during the AU organs meetings, but works for **editing and printing the final report** should **start by 1st December** to avail the printed copy of the report to the January AU Assembly of the **year Y_{B+2}** .

The chart on *CAADP Events Synchronisation* as presented in **Error! Reference source not found.** and discussed in **section 6.3**, comprises the above mentioned necessary events that will support the biennial reporting process.

5.3. Way forward for consolidating the biennial reporting mechanism

The medium term vision of the Biennial reporting on Malabo declaration, is to establish a well-functioning mechanism and database that tracks progress and allows **regular and systematic** report to the AU Assembly. This requires addressing, along the way, the country challenges of quality data management with harmonised, uniform and aligned methods for collection and management.

The problem of limited data quality actually characterizes the M&E systems in most of African countries. The challenges are that the national M&E systems, in most of the cases, are weak and tied to projects and donor specifications and do not address all country priorities, nor contribute to the sector planning, budgeting and management, and sound decision making. This is certainly the case with the quality of the information required to report on Malabo Declaration. The weak M&E system is exacerbated by the nascent capacity in countries to gather, analyze and report on all indicators defined for the Malabo declaration.

Some of the actions that are required on the way forward, are the comprehensive assessment of national systems and regional systems to propose an improved and harmonized architecture for country Data Management Systems (DMS) and regional DMS, to foster *country and region specific programmes* for strengthening agricultural information systems in each country and each sub-region. A **Programme for establishing the African Agricultural Sector Information Systems** is being discussed at the AUC and NPCA to face from these realities.

The Programme aims at enhancing at long run the agricultural sector planning, investment and decision making at national, sub-regional and continental levels, by establishing a *transparent, user-friendly, systematic and web-based agricultural information systems* that allow a well functioning reporting mechanism for regular and systematic report to the AU Assembly. As presented in the figure in **Error! Reference source not found.**, the programme will work out a *Data Management Architectures (DMAs)* that should be adopted for country M&E systems, for the sub regional M&E systems at RECs, and for the continental M&E system that will be used to develop a web-based Data Management Systems (DMS) at respective levels, with linkages to agricultural data management systems of partner institutions, for the systematic and aligned reporting.

Actions of the Programme will be initiated in 2017 to support the Inaugural Biennial Report preparation process, which lessons will serve thereafter to roll out necessary activities for establishing the African Agricultural Sector Information Systems by delivering on the expected outcomes of the programme. It is planned to be a *5-years programme* for the period of 2017-2021 (if resources are mobilized on time), which will be hosted at the AUC and implemented by both AUC and NPCA.

6 - Peer review and mutual accountability platforms

6.1. National accountability

Countries have platforms for review, dialogue, debate and mutual accountability structured in different forms, serving varied purposes and constituted of different stakeholder constituencies. Examples of such platforms include Agriculture Sector Working Groups, receiving input from periodic data collection mechanisms such as Joint Sector Reviews (JSRs), Agriculture Public Expenditure Reviews (AgPERs), Annual Sector Performance Reports and Annual Trends and Outlook Reports (ATORs).

These existing platforms could be strengthened to be aligned with the objectives of Malabo declaration, for use to serve the biennial reporting process. What is important is that Country should involve relevant stakeholders in national process, especially all the inline Ministries which interventions contribute to achieve targets of all the 7 thematic areas of Malabo declaration.

Upon requests from a member state, support will be deployed to strengthen platforms if emphasis is placed on ensuring multi-partner participation, agreeing a shared agenda informed by the Malabo Declaration, building consensus around a set of targets and criteria for assessment, and as well enlisting commitments from the different constituent groups.

The national-level platforms will also serve to validate progress reports, assess progress of implementation against agreed targets, and as well “technically” sign-off on the country-level Malabo Biennial reports. Institutional links with government-policy planning, budgeting and performance-review processes will be encouraged to boost the legitimacy and effectiveness of these platforms.

6.2. Sub regional accountability

RECs should also include issues on the Biennial Report in the discussion agenda of existing decision making platforms, and not necessary create a parallel platform for implementing Malabo declaration. The idea is to ensure that recommendations made for subregions in the Biennial Report, should also be discussed at political levels of the RECs to raise necessary awareness and high level advocacy for the required interventions to be also considered in the planning and budgeting process of the RECs.

Performances of member states of the subregion in achieving the Malabo declaration as presented in the AU Assembly, should also be discussed at the RECs decision making platforms in a manner that helps the sub region to better assess its overall progress towards meeting the goals and targets set for Malabo, and agree on necessary supports to the member states of the subregion to close the identified gaps.

6.3. Continental accountability

At the continental level, the ultimate and major accountability platform is the **AU Assembly**, where Heads of States and Government will: i)- examine they individual performances as presented in the Scorecards in the Biennial Report; ii)- learn more about their progress ("*on track*" or "*not on track*") for achieving each specific target set for Malabo declaration; iii)- compare their country performances with the ones of the peer countries; and iv)- note recommendations provided to their country to improve performance in closing identified gaps. This will in turn, trigger more commitments from the highest level of the country for more actions in the sector, and also guide interventions of development partners that are looking for areas for support to the country to make higher impacts.

But in fact the existing events organized by CAADP are the ones **to be redesigned** to serve as platforms for **mutual accountability** and for **marketing supports** to member states to close identified gaps in the biennial report. Therefore, during the 2 years time (of the 8 quarters Q_{01} to Q_{08} that distant in time the two consecutive reporting events), the CAADP main Events (Ev_i) will be synchronised with the biennial reporting process as proposed in the following sections, after a Biennial Report is presented at the AU Assembly in January of the **year Y_B** :

Ev,1. The 1st Permanent Secretary Retreat (PS 1):

This first accountability platform meeting will happen in Q_{01} , immediately after the January AU Assembly of the **year Y_B** , to reflect on countries performances in the report; to operationalize recommendations and decisions of the AU Summit; and to discuss and agree on necessary supports to countries, and on necessary interventions or necessary subregional or regional programmes activities to be carried out to close the identified gaps of the Biennial report. The outcomes of the meeting will serve other platforms that aim at marketing of deploying support to countries that could endorsed at ministerial level.

Ev,2. The AU Joint Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, Rural development, Fisheries and Aquaculture :

This platform could happen in the same period with the PS 1 (in Q_{01}) to have similar discussion but at a higher political level, to endorse the outcomes of PS 1 and provide ministerial decisions whenever necessary for their implementation. This thinking remains a proposal that could be submitted to the ongoing process of restructuring AU ministerial conferences.

Ev,3. The CAADP Partnership Platform (CAADP-PP)

The CAADP-PP could be designed to better serve as **marketing and deals platform** for deploying supports to member states. The Biennial report could be presented at the event, as well as the AU Decisions and the set of interventions and supports that have been agreed at the *PS 1*.

The sessions of the event should be well prepared in advance to allow big players such as the private operators, the banks, and other potential players to have timely information to decide on their commitments for support before the event. This will well to have rapid and concrete agreements after the needed supports are tabled at the event.

In this regard, the CAADP-PP will be planned late in the Q_{02} , to give enough time after the *PS 1*, for the AUC and NPCA to communicate necessary information on the required collaborative actions to the big players and start the bargaining process that will be concluded and launched at the event.

Then the period after the Q_{02} until the next Biennial Report of the **year Y_{B+2}** , will be used to follow with implementation of the agreed supports, and there will not be a need to have another big CAADP-PP during the **year Y_{B+1}** . But thematic CAADP-PP events (CAADP-tPPs) could occurred during that period to refine collaboration and other partner engagement for the specific thematic areas.

Ev,4. Thematic CAADP Partnership Platform (CAADP tPP)

A CAADP-tPP event could be initiated at any time, under the auspice of the AUC and NPCA, by a partner institution which is leading a specific thematic area, to mobilize other partners and engage them in the necessary collaborative actions to implement the identified supports. As example for any agreed support identified to reach target on *Agro-industry*, a partner who commits to lead the support can mobilise

relevant partners and organize the CAADP-tPP on *Agro-industry* to further strategize and get further commitments to implement the required interventions.

The chart of the *CAADP Events Synchronisation* as presented in **Error! Reference source not found.**, could help to better visualize the above mentioned events and the ones reflected in *section 5.2*.

7 - Way forward to the Inaugural Biennial Report to the AU Assembly

As described in *section 5.1* this pioneer phase is very critical for engaging all the AU member states in steering up the Biennial reporting process. To gather the expected momentum by *end 2016*, the following activities are planned by AUC and NPCA for the year 2016, to allow the country report preparation starting from January 2017.

A1- Finalize the Reporting tools for tracking progress for implementing Malabo declaration in consultation with involved M&E Experts

A1.1 - Prepare the list of the key performance indicators and refined targets for reporting on Malabo Declaration: clarifying performance categories and objectives, aggregated performances indicators, and the implementation's responsibility levels of the Malabo M&E. Discuss internally within DREA and NPCA team and get consensus on the refined targets.

A1.2 - Organize coordination meeting with AUC/NEPAD and RECs M&E Experts to approaches for monitoring the Malabo Declaration, and the implication of the internal M&E at AUC, NEPAD and RECs for an aligned and harmonized reporting.

A1.3 - Conduct (in collaboration with involved M&E Experts), a preliminary inventory of all the parameters that are necessary to compute the identified indicators for achieving targets for Malabo declaration. Consult the involved M&E Experts, IFPRI/RESAKSS network of Experts whenever necessary.

A1.4 - Organize fact-findings consultative mission in 5 country (1 per subregion) to discuss parameters alignment with country database on agriculture, the existing methods for data collection, management and computing.

A1.5 - Develop tentative methods for computing the identified indicators using the disaggregated parameters. Compile methods in the Draft Handbook to serve the M&E Experts Group workshop for finalizing the Handbook.

A1.6 - Organize the M&E Experts Group workshop for finalizing the Handbook. The Final Draft of the Handbook is availed at the end of the workshop. Necessary consultancy work will be carried out whenever necessary to refine specific technical aspects of data computing methods, and will be presented during the workshop.

A1.7 - Develop the Technical Notes for computing and benchmarking country performances and progress in achieving targets. The Technical Notes is a mathematical schematization of the benchmarking methods used to compute the performance indexes that indicate whether a country is on "track" or "not on track" for achieving a specific target of Malabo declaration.

A1.8 - Develop the Country progress Reporting Format: Template for country data collection for reporting progress on Malabo commitments.

A1.9 - Test the use of the Reporting Format with 5 Countries (1 per subregion) and consolidate findings outcomes to review and finalize the Draft Reporting Format. The consolidation workshop will gather consultants and the focal points of the 3 countries.

A2- Train all the AU member states and RECs on the reporting tools and engage them in the process of preparing the 1st Progress Report on implementing Malabo Declaration

A2.1 - Organize training workshops to engage and prepare all AU members states on the use of the CAADP M&E tools. Trainings will be organized by subregional under the leadership of the RECs: 5 Training workshop in total.

A2.2 - Organize RECs Coordination Workshop, inviting experts

A3- Endorse the Reporting tools and the continental roadmap and structure for preparing the biennial report at all appropriate levels

A3.3.1 - Disseminate the Malabo M&E and reporting tools at all appropriate levels.

A3.3.2 - Organize a Ministerial Meeting to endorse the M&E Tools, the continental Roadmap and Agreed Structure, for reporting on Malabo Declaration.

A3.3.3 - Launch the county report preparation process starting in 2017.