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NEPAD  
Comprehensive Africa Agriculture  
Development Program  
(CAADP)

# THE GAMBIA

## Strategic Analyses and Knowledge Support Systems to Inform and Guide the CAADP Implementation Process

**T**he New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) has made political and economic governance a cornerstone of its strategy, as illustrated by its adoption of and commitment to the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). At the sectoral level, this philosophy translates into recognition of the need to improve policy and strategy planning and implementation. This in turn calls for tools to help generate the necessary knowledge to inform and guide sector policies and strategies in order to facilitate a successful implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

# CAADP AS A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

CAADP is a strategic framework to guide country development efforts and partnerships in the agricultural sector. Similar to the broader NEPAD agenda, it embodies the principles of peer review and dialogue, which, when adequately followed and applied, will stimulate and broaden the adoption of best practices, facilitate benchmarking and mutual learning and, ultimately, raise the quality and consistency of country policies and strategies in the agricultural sector. The following are some of the most important CAADP principles and targets:

- i) Designating agriculture-led growth as a main strategy to achieve the Millennium Development Goal of halving the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day (MDG1);
- ii) Pursuing a 6% average annual sector growth rate at the national level;
- iii) Allocating 10% of national budgets to the agricultural sector;
- iv) Exploiting regional complementarities and cooperation to boost growth;
- v) Adopting the principles of policy efficiency, dialogue, review, and accountability, shared by all NEPAD programs;
- vi) Strengthening and expanding partnerships and alliances to include farmers, agribusiness, and civil society communities;
- vii) Assigning programme implementation to individual countries, coordination to designated Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and facilitation to the NEPAD Secretariat.

The successful application of these principles and the broad realisation of the targets require knowledge tools to encourage and support: (a) the move toward evidence-based and outcome-oriented programme design and implementation; (b) the practice of inclusive policy review and dialogue within and across countries; and (c) effective coordination and advocacy at the regional and continental levels.

# REVIEW AND KNOWLEDGE PROCESSES FOR A SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF CAADP

Achieving the CAADP objective of broad-based agricultural sector growth across Africa cannot happen without greater efficiency and consistency in the planning and execution of sector policies and programmes, increased effectiveness in translating government expenditures into public goods and services, an adequate level of these expenditures to sustain an annual sector growth rate of 6%, and the expertise and mechanisms to regularly and transparently measure performance against targets and keep policies and programmes on track.

The review and dialogue processes under the CAADP agenda operate at three different levels:

- 1. Mutual Review at the Continental Level:** There are two main mechanisms for review and dialogue at the continental level. The first is the African Partnership Forum (APF), which targets African leaders and their G8 partners and is supported by a technical secretariat at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). It is a forum for dialogue and review, at the highest level, with respect to programme performance and progress across the broad NEPAD agenda. The second mechanism, the CAADP Partnership Platform, focuses more specifically on the CAADP agenda. It brings together representatives of the leading RECs and other regional organisations dealing with agriculture, major bilateral and multilateral development agencies, and private-sector and farmers' organisations.
- 2. Peer Review at the Regional Level:** The leading RECs facilitate dialogue on and review of the CAADP implementation agenda through two distinct processes. The first regroups country representatives at the level of permanent secretaries and directors of planning. It focuses primarily on a collective review of implementation performance in individual countries and mutual learning to spread and accelerate progress toward CAADP goals and targets. The second process allows the leadership of the RECs and representatives from the private sector, farmers' organisations, and development agencies to track program progress and performance at the regional level and align development assistance and country policies and strategies with the CAADP targets and principles.

**3. Progress Review at the National Level:** Country-level implementation requires an inclusive dialogue and review process to ensure that policies and programmes, including budgetary policies and development assistance, are aligned with CAADP principles and are on track to meet CAADP objectives. The choice of mechanisms to facilitate this process depends on individual countries' institutional and technical realities, but each country must carry out a transparent, broad, and inclusive dialogue that ensures the effective participation of the agribusiness sector and farmers' organisations. The identification of the appropriate mechanisms takes place during the country roundtable process.

The review and dialogue processes described above add real value to current and future development outcomes to the extent that they are well informed and are supported through accurate and intelligent data derived from rigorous analysis of: (i) the strategic and operational challenges of implementing the CAADP agenda at the regional and country levels; (ii) the adequacy of the conception and execution of the programmes and policy measures adopted to address these challenges; and (iii) the outcome of such programmes as well as their impact in terms of realising the growth, poverty, and food-security objectives of CAADP. This requires human capacities, technical infrastructure, analytical tools, and communications instruments to gather the relevant data and information and analyse it to generate credible, high-quality knowledge products, which can be stored and accessed as needed to inform and guide the debate associated with the review and dialogue processes.

The above capacities, tools, and instruments are needed both at the regional and country level and can be acquired by building upon and strengthening existing institutions and expert networks. In addition, these institutions and networks can be linked within and across countries at the regional level to create the necessary critical masses and exploit technical complementarities. To this end, three Regional Strategy Analysis and Knowledge Support Systems (ReSAKSS) have been established. The following sections describe the operation and key tasks of the ReSAKSS and provide an outline of the country-level knowledge system to be established to support the implementation of the CAADP agenda in the Gambia as defined through the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper II (PRSP) and the Agriculture and Natural Resource Policy (ANRP).

## The Regional Strategy Analysis and Knowledge Support Systems (ReSAKSS)

As part of the CAADP implementation process, three of the leading RECs—the Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the Southern African Development Community (SADC)—have established the ReSAKSS in collaboration with the four Africa-based centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR): the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in Ibadan, Nigeria; the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), in Nairobi, Kenya; the International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe; and the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), in Pretoria, South Africa.

The objective of the three ReSAKSS nodes, which have been established in Ibadan, Nairobi, and Pretoria and are being coordinated by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), is to facilitate access by the RECs and their member states to policy-relevant analyses of the highest quality in order to generate the necessary knowledge to improve policymaking, track progress, document success, and derive lessons that can feed into the review and learning processes associated with the implementation of the CAADP agenda. They operate under coordination and governance structures chaired by the RECs. Although facilitated by the CGIAR centers, the ReSAKSS are not research entities or projects within these centers. The main tasks of the ReSAKSS can be summarized as follows:

**Knowledge Management:** to mobilise existing networks and centres of expertise at the international, regional, and national levels to assemble the needed capacities and knowledge and provide first-rate analytical and advisory services to countries and RECs in the design, implementation, and evaluation of CAADP programs.

**Building Country-Level Knowledge Management Capacity:** to provide assistance to countries in the establishment of national knowledge system nodes, and to promote cooperation with respect to generating, disseminating, and accessing knowledge products to support CAADP implementation, particularly shared standards and protocols for the collection, storage, and exchange of data as well as cutting-edge methodologies for policy and strategy analysis.

**Support to Review and Dialogue Processes:** to work with the national nodes to provide relevant and timely information to guide mutual review at the continental level, peer review at the regional level, and progress review at the country level. The corresponding sup-

port forums are the African Partnership Forum and the CAADP Partnership Platform at the continental level, the REC-specific coordination and governance structures at the regional level, and the review and dialogue mechanisms to be established at the country level as part of the CAADP implementation process.

ReSAKSS also provides assistance to country nodes and helps foster collaboration and exchange among the various nodes in the region. In West Africa, the regional node (ReSAKSS WA) is hosted by IITA-Ibadan and operates under a coordination and governance structure chaired by ECOWAS which is implementing CAADP in its region in tandem with the Common Agricultural Policy of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAP).

## THE COUNTRY STRATEGY ANALYSIS AND KNOWLEDGE SUPPORT SYSTEM IN THE GAMBIA (THE GAMBIA-SAKSS)

The aim of the knowledge-management component of the CAADP agenda is to add value to the efforts of individual countries, where necessary, to ensure that they have an information and knowledge system that aids dialogue and evidence-based decision making. As a complement to and an extension of the ReSAKSS described above, The Gambia will establish a Country Strategy Analysis and Knowledge Support System (The Gambia-SAKSS) as a technical component of an inclusive review and dialogue mechanism to facilitate better policy design and implementation and thus ensure successful implementation of the ANRP.

### The need for a Gambian SAKSS Node under the PRSP/ANRP agenda

At the national level, it is foreseen that ReSAKSS WA supports the establishment of a national node aimed at adding value to the process of design and implementation of agricultural strategies and programs. The national node will ensure the mobilization and coordination of knowledge generating and dissemination networks for the promotion of strategic analysis and global mechanism for review and dialogue in the context of CAADP implementation. This node will also play the role of a national focal team of ReSAKSS WA and promote information and experience exchange with the regional bodies and other countries in the region.

### The Role of the The Gambia SAKSS

The ultimate goal of a national SAKSS node is to improve the quality of policy and strategy design and implementation through the facilitation of well-informed planning, review, and dialogue processes. When it is established and fully functional, its main functions will be to:

1. Generate, compile, and share analyses and data relevant to agricultural and rural development in line with the national objectives;
2. Perform strategic investment analyses for the agricultural sector, especially for the different subsectors, providing practical policy and investment options;
3. Undertake monitoring and evaluation of the Agriculture Sector Plan programmes to facilitate evidence-based planning and implementation;
4. Produce knowledge products for dissemination and outreach through a combination of real (stakeholder forums) and virtual (interactive multimedia services) mechanisms;
5. Contribute to fostering constructive, cross-sectoral policy debates on future agricultural and rural development alternatives;
6. Encourage dialogue and the exchange of data and knowledge among the different stakeholders at national, regional, and international levels;
7. Facilitate access to a growing analytical and visualisation toolkit using information and communication technologies (ICTs); and
8. Strengthen local capacity to conduct objective, timely, and relevant policy research and analysis through a variety of short- and long-term training processes.

The national SAKSS will build strongly upon existing resources and capacities at national, regional and international level in order to avoid duplication and ensure synergy. It will at least comprise:

- An analytical node bringing together national agricultural research institutes, universities, statistics offices, the technical arms of professional organisations, and other relevant research entities;
- A framework for review, dialogue and advocacy coordinated at high level (Permanent Secretary of Director) including all stakeholders: government institutions, professional associations, civil society, technical and financial partners, etc.

## **Operation and Governance of The Gambia SAKSS Node**

### **Large technical committee:**

- Ministry of Agriculture
- Central Project Coordination Unit of (MOA) – Secretariat
- Ministry of Trade Industry and Employment (MOTIE)
- Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MOFEA)
- Ministry of Local Government and Land (MOLGL)
- Ministry of Fisheries and Water Resources (MOFWR)
- Women’s Bureau
- The Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (TANGO)
- Department of Agriculture (DOA)
- National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI)
- Gambia Investment Promotion Free Zone Agency (GIPFZA)
- Farmers Platform
- Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI)

### **Steering committee**

- Department of Agriculture (DOA)
- National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI)
- Central Project Coordination Unit (CPCU)
- National Environment Agency (NEA)
- Department of Forestry
- Department of Water Resources
- Department of Parks and Wildlife
- Department of Fisheries
- Farmers Platform
- Action Aid The Gambia (AATG)
- Gambia Horticultural Enterprise (GHE)
- Gambia Groundnut Cooperation (GGC)

### **Technical secretariat**

- Ministry of Agriculture

### **Chair of the Steering Committee**

- Ministry of Agriculture

### **Host the technical committee**

- Ministry of Agriculture

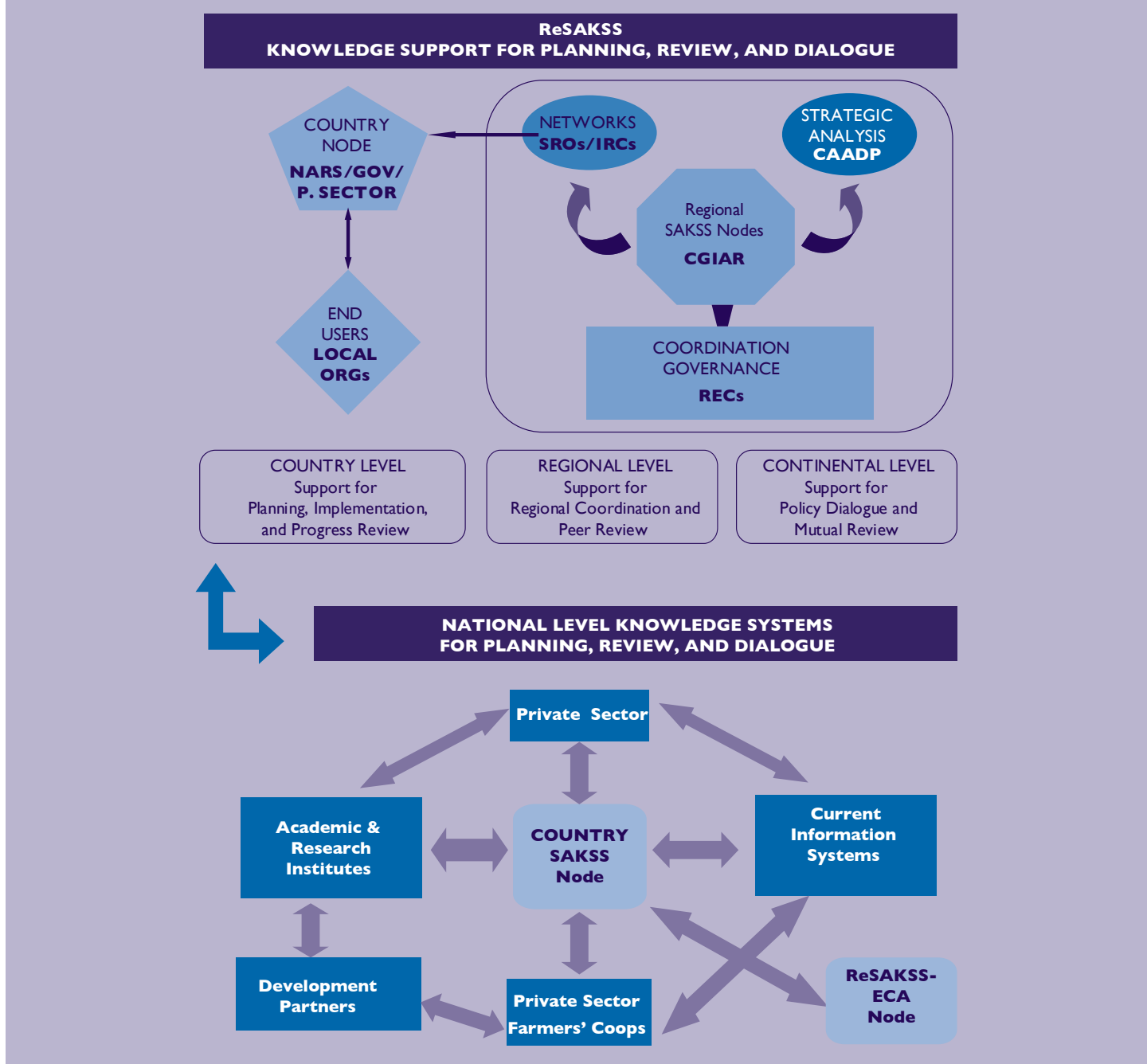
### **Chair the analytical node**

- Ministry of Agriculture

### **Chair the framework for review, dialogue and plaidoyer**

- Ministry of Agriculture.

Figure 1 – System for coordination, monitoring and evaluation of ECOWAP/CAADP at the national and regional level



Based on the modeling conducted by ReSAKSS-West Africa in collaboration with experts from the Gambia and financial and technical assistance from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Union Commission (AUC), the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA).

## REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs; Ministry of Trade, Industry and Employment; Ministry of Forestry and Environment; and Ministry of Fisheries and Waters Resources.

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