

2014 ReSAKSS Annual Conference

Addis Ababa · Ethiopia · 8-10 October

PROMOTING AGRICULTURAL TRADE TO ENHANCE RESILIENCE



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) agenda. In particular, ReSAKSS provides data and related analytical and knowledge products to facilitate benchmarking, review, and mutual learning processes. 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 30 core CAADP indicators through an interactive website, (<http://www.resakss.org>) and its flagship Africawide Annual Trends and Outlook Report (ATOR). The 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 recently completed capacity needs assessments in 15 countries (i.e. Benin, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, 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 help direct work of the country SAKSS platforms. The first three SAKSS platforms have been established in Ghana, Mozambique, and Rwanda. Additional platforms are expected shortly in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, and Togo as agreements to set them up are ready for signature. Four more platforms in Benin, Ethiopia, Senegal, and Uganda are expected to be established by the end of 2014.

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 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-



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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. Assessments of JSR efforts were recently conducted by ReSAKSS in seven initial countries, namely Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique, Senegal, and Tanzania. The JSR work in these countries provided important input for the 2014 New Alliance mutual accountability progress reports. ReSAKSS, in collaboration with AUC, NPCA, and RECs, is now preparing to expand the JSR work to more countries in the coming months, in addition to one regional JSR for the Economic Community of West African States.

OBJECTIVES

Against this background, IFPRI, in partnership with AUC and NPCA, is convening the 2014 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 inside and outside Africa. The conference will take place at the African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 8–10 October, 2014. The theme of the conference is “promoting agricultural trade to enhance resilience.”

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. Provide greater understanding on the roll out of the new CAADP Results Framework and roles to be played therein by ReSAKSS and other CAADP stakeholders;
3. 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;
4. Discuss findings and recommendations of the 2013 ATOR—the official CAADP M&E report. The 2013 ATOR takes a comprehensive look at global and regional trade patterns and examines how regional trade can enhance resilience of the poor and vulnerable to economic and environmental shocks.



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EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Expected outcomes of the conference are:

1. Shared understanding and consensus around:
 - a. Actions needed to 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 new CAADP Results Framework.
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;
 - 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 first day of the conference, October 8, will consist of side events and the official opening of the conference. The side events will provide space for partners of ReSAKSS 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 of “promoting agricultural trade to enhance resilience.” Side events will take place in parallel sessions during the first half of October 8. The conference will be officially opened during the late afternoon of October 8.

The second and third days of the conference, October 9-10, will focus on the core activities of ReSAKSS in supporting evidence and outcome based policy planning and implementation under CAADP, and include discussions on the 2013 ATOR and progress in and required actions for establishing and operationalizing agriculture JSRs and country SAKSS platforms.

