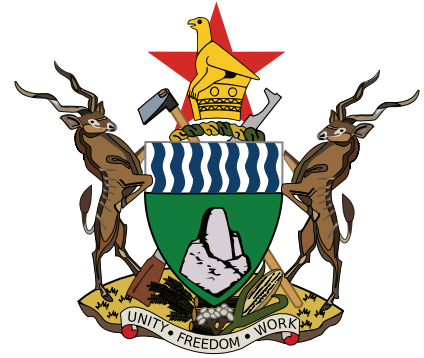


2019 CAADP
BIENNIAL REVIEW
BRIEF
ZIMBABWE



**Africa Agriculture
Transformation Scorecard:
Performance and Lessons**

Africa Agriculture Transformation Scorecard: Performance and Lessons

2019 CAADP Biennial Review Brief: Zimbabwe

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About ReSAKSS

Established in 2006 under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), the Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (ReSAKSS) supports efforts to promote evidence- and outcome-based policy planning and implementation. In particular, ReSAKSS provides data and related analytical and knowledge products to facilitate CAADP benchmarking, review, and mutual learning processes. AKADEMIYA2063 leads the work of ReSAKSS in partnership with the African Union Commission, the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD), and leading regional economic communities (RECs).

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1. Introduction

The 2014 Malabo Declaration outlines Africa's vision for accelerating, between 2015 and 2025, agricultural growth and transformation on the African continent through seven broad commitments. The commitments include: (1) upholding the principles and values of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), (2) enhancing investment finance in agriculture, (3) ending hunger in Africa by 2025, (4) reducing poverty by half by 2025 through inclusive agricultural growth and transformation, (5) boosting intra-African trade in agricultural commodities and services, (6) enhancing resilience of livelihoods and production systems to climate variability and other related risks, and (7) ensuring mutual accountability to actions and results by conducting a continent-wide Biennial Review (BR) to monitor progress in achieving the seven commitments. As part of fulfilling commitment 7 to mutual accountability, the second (2019) BR report and Africa Agriculture Transformation Scorecard (AATS) were launched at the 33rd African Union (AU) Summit in February 2020. This brief highlights Zimbabwe's performance in the second BR and assesses challenges faced and lessons learned by the country during the review process. The brief also reviews policy and programmatic changes in Zimbabwe that can be attributed to the first (2017) and second BRs. It concludes by highlighting required policy actions for Zimbabwe to meet the Malabo Commitments by 2025.

2. Progress in Achieving Malabo Commitments

The benchmark (minimum score for a country to be on track in implementing the Malabo Declaration commitments) for the second BR was 6.66 out of 10 (AUC, 2020). Even though Zimbabwe did not meet the benchmark, the overall score indicates an increase of 43 percent in the country's performance compared to the first BR. As shown in Table 1, Zimbabwe performed well below the benchmark and the poor performance is attributed to the country's poor performance in all the thematic areas. On the other hand, the country performed better than the Southern African Development Community (SADC) as well as the Southern Africa region (Table 1). To be specific, Zimbabwe performed better than SADC and the Southern Africa region in 4 thematic areas (themes 2,3, 4, and 6). For theme 5, however, Zimbabwe performed below SADC low-income countries, on average. The areas of very weak performance included the commitment to end hunger by 2025 (score of 2.78 compared to the minimum score of 5.04) and the commitment to halve poverty through agriculture (score of 1.36 compared to the minimum score of 3.94).

Table 1: Zimbabwe summary of BR scores by theme

Theme	Second BR Benchmark	SADC	Regional (Southern Africa)	SADC Low-income	SADC Middle-income	Zimbabwe
Recommitment to CAADP	10.00	7.42	7.50	6.76	7.03	7.39
Enhance Agriculture Finance	10.00	4.22	4.15	3.25	4.20	6.77
Ending Hunger by 2025	5.04	2.51	2.47	2.07	2.42	2.78
Halving Poverty Through Agriculture	3.94	1.29	1.25	1.18	1.14	1.36
Intra-Africa Trade in Agriculture Commodities and Services	3.00	2.66	2.91	3.24	2.35	2.21
Enhancing Resilience to Climate Change	7.00	4.81	4.65	3.78	4.61	5.46
Mutual Accountability for Actions and Results	7.64	7.04	6.95	5.43	7.03	6.09
All Commitments	6.66	4.28	4.27	3.67	4.11	4.58
Progress on All Commitments						

Source: Authors' calculations based on country BR scores (2020). Legend: ■ not on track ■ on track

Notes: SADC Low-income Countries: Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe. SADC Middle-income Countries: Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, and Zambia. Tanzania was not included in the SADC average and the SADC low-income category because it was grouped as part of the East African Community.

In comparison to the first BR, the country also regressed in theme 1 and theme 3, by 20 percent and 13 percent, respectively (Table 2). Conversely, Zimbabwe saw notable improvements in 5 of the 7 commitments compared to the first BR, namely: agriculture finance; halving poverty through agriculture; boosting intra-Africa trade; enhancing resilience to climate change; and mutual accountability for actions and results as depicted in Table 2. The improvements in themes 2 and 5 were enormous with increases of 183 percent and 135 percent, respectively. While Zimbabwe reported on most of the BR indicators, some data gaps remain which the country needs to address in future BRs.

Table 2: Zimbabwe BR scores by theme (first and second BRs)

	First BR	Second BR	Change	% Change	Second BR Benchmark	Status
CAADP Recommitment	9.24	7.39	-1.85	-20%	10.00	
Agriculture Finance	2.39	6.77	4.38	183%	10.00	
End Hunger By 2025	3.31	2.78	-0.53	-16%	5.04	
Halve Poverty Through Agriculture	0	1.36	1.36		3.94	
Boost Intra-Africa Trade	0.94	2.21	1.27	135%	3.00	
Enhance Resilience To Climate Change	3.36	5.46	2.10	63%	7.00	
Mutual Accountability	3.14	6.09	2.95	94%	7.64	
All Commitments	3.2	4.58	1.38	43%	6.66	

Legend: ■ not on track ■ on track

3. Challenges and Lessons Learned from the Second BR

Data quantity and quality challenges continued to affect the BR process in Zimbabwe, including in this round which was engulfed by several data gaps due to incorrectly compiled or uncompiled data. Zimbabwe should engage its technical partners to invest in strengthening the national data systems and capacities for generating adequate and quality data on all indicators. The second BR report should instigate wide interest and dialogue from the public and private sector on the achievement of agricultural transformation by increasing the commitment of the government to public expenditure allocated to agriculture.

4. Policy and Programmatic Changes Following the First and Second BRs

The following actions taken by Zimbabwe contributed to the country’s success during the second BR:

- Zimbabwe improved access to agricultural advisory services in the second BR and the country was on track for this indicator with 100 percent of farmers recorded as having access to agriculture advisory services in the country.
- The target for bringing down the proportion of the population that is undernourished to 5 percent or less by the year 2025 has been met by the country in the second BR. Zimbabwe was on track for this indicator; the proportion of undernourished people was 0.1 percent, surpassing the 2025 target for undernourishment.
- Zimbabwe has managed to achieve the continental target for bringing down the prevalence of stunting (proportion of children under 5 years old) to 7.8 percent compared to the continental target of 10 percent.

5. Recommendations for Ensuring Achievement of Malabo Commitments by 2025

Overall, the second BR report shows that Zimbabwe is not on track to achieve the Malabo commitments by 2025. This is worrisome because in the first BR, the country's overall score was below the minimum benchmark, just like the second BR. Moreover, the country is still quite a long way regarding putting in place policies to attract its youth into agricultural value chains and increasing spending for agriculture research and development as a share of GDP. Further, there is an urgent need to increase the allocation of government public expenditure to agriculture for agricultural transformation to be realised. The following recommendations are important for Zimbabwe to improve the implementation of the Malabo commitments and to get back on track for the next BR:

1. Zimbabwe has to ensure the strengthening of evidence-based policies, supportive institutions, and corresponding human resources, to successfully implement the NAIPs and achieve Malabo Declaration goals and targets.
2. The country needs to recommit to allocating at least 10 percent of annual public expenditures to agriculture. The results show that Zimbabwe was not on track in the thematic area of enhancing investment finance in agriculture. The country should put in place measures to encourage more public-private partnership investment projects for priority agricultural commodity value chains.
3. Zimbabwe has regressed on the commitment to end hunger in Africa by 2025 in the second BR. Hence, concerted efforts should be addressed in accelerating agricultural growth, reducing post-harvest losses, and increasing agricultural productivity. Furthermore, access to agricultural inputs and technologies should be increased to improve yields and productivity and the level of investments in agricultural research and development should be increased to at least 1 percent of agricultural GDP.
4. Zimbabwe's performance shows several data gaps, indicating either that the data could not be fully gathered in time for reporting or that they were not available. The Government of Zimbabwe should strengthen agricultural data collection and management systems to support evidence-based policies and decision making. Additionally, there is need to improve and strengthen coordination with other ministries and technical partners that collect data on different Malabo indicators.

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