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

Africa Agriculture Transformation Scorecard: Performance and Lessons

2019 CAADP Biennial Review Brief: Eswatini

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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 agricultural growth and transformation on the African continent through seven broad commitments from 2015 to 2025. 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 the 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 (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 Eswatini'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 Eswatini that can be attributed to the first (2017) and second BRs. It concludes by highlighting required policy actions for Eswatini to implement to meet the Malabo Commitments by 2025.

2. Progress in Achieving the Malabo Commitments

For the second BR, the benchmark (minimum score for a country to be on track in implementing the Malabo Declaration commitments) was 6.66 out of 10 (AUC, 2020). Even though Eswatini did not meet the benchmark, the overall score indicates an increase of 5 percent in the country's performance compared to the first BR. As shown in Table 1, Eswatini 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 Southern African Development Community (SADC) middle-income countries as well as SADC countries as a whole, on average, in 3 thematic areas (themes 3, 4, and 7) (Table 1). For theme 5, however, Eswatini performed below SADC low-income countries, on average. The areas of very weak performance included the commitment on agriculture finance (score of 3.27 compared to the minimum score of 10) and a commitment on boosting intra-Africa trade and services (score of 1.39 compared to the minimum score of 3).



Table 1: Eswatini summary of BR scores by theme

Theme	Second BR Benchmark	SADC	Regional (Southern Africa)	SADC Low income	SADC Middle income	Eswatini	Eswatini progress
Recommitment to CAADP	10.00	7.42	7.50	6.76	7.03	6.89	Not on track
Enhance Agriculture Finance	10.00	4.22	4.15	3.25	4.20	3.27	Not on track
Ending Hunger by 2025	5.04	2.51	2.47	2.07	2.42	3.34	Not on track
Halving Poverty Through Agriculture	3.94	1.29	1.25	1.18	1.14	3.51	Not on track
Intra-Africa Trade in Agriculture Commodities and Services	3.00	2.66	2.91	3.24	2.35	1.39	Not on track
Enhancing Resilience to Climate Change	7.00	4.81	4.65	3.78	4.61	3.82	Not on track
Mutual Accountability for Actions and Results	7.64	7.04	6.95	5.43	7.03	7.10	Not on track
All Commitments	6.66	4.28	4.27	3.67	4.11	4.19	Not on track
Progress on All Commitments		Not on track	Not on Track	Not on track	Not on track	Not on track	

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 themes with already weak performance—by 59 percent on theme 2 and 10 percent on theme 5 (Table 2). Conversely, Eswatini saw notable improvements on 5 of the 7 commitments compared to the first BR, namely: recommitment to the CAADP process; ending hunger by 2025; halving poverty through agriculture; enhancing resilience to climate change, and commitment to mutual accountability for action and results as depicted in Table 2. While Eswatini reported on most of the BR indicators, some data gaps remain which the country needs to address in future BRs.

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

	First BR	Second BR	Change	% Change	Second BR Benchmark	Status
CAADP Recommitment	5.15	6.89	1.74	40%	10.00	Not on track
Agriculture Finance	8.07	3.27	-4.8	-59%	10.00	Not on track
End Hunger By 2025	2.72	3.34	0.62	23%	5.04	Not on track
Halve Poverty Through Agriculture	1.00	3.51	2.51	251%	3.94	Not on track
Boost Intra-Africa Trade	1.54	1.39	-0.15	-10%	3.00	Not on track
Enhance Resilience To Climate Change	3.33	3.82	0.49	15%	7.00	Not on track
Mutual Accountability	6.16	7.10	0.94	15%	7.64	Not on track
All Commitments	3.99	4.19	0.19	5%	6.66	Not on track

3. Challenges and Lessons Learned from the Second BR

Data quantity and quality challenges continued to affect the BR process, including in this round which was engulfed by several data gaps due to incorrectly compiled or uncompiled data. Data for the reported commodities were obtained through special studies conducted by consultants who were engaged by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Availability of data on post-harvest losses and climate change resilience remained a challenge. Furthermore, given that Eswatini is still in the process of developing a trade-in service strategy, data on trade-in services could not be obtained for reporting purposes.

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

The following actions taken by Eswatini contributed to the country's success during the second BR:

- ▶ Participation at regional BR training workshop and dissemination of BR report within the country. Stakeholders also reported on and reviewed the (National Agriculture Investment Plan) NAIP annually.
- ▶ An independent technical review report was submitted to the Ministry evaluating the implementation of NAIP.
- ▶ The projects related to NAIP were funded and the funds allocated were reflected in the national budget. These helped to ease the implementation of projects, particularly regarding accountability and transparency and enhanced reporting to the portfolio committee.
- ▶ Public expenditures to agriculture increased as compared to the reported figures in the first BR and more resources were made available for emergency relief activities, including for drought.
- ▶ The ministry of agriculture began to pilot the commercialization of Swazi Nation Land Bill to enable households to secure their land rights.

5. Recommendations for Ensuring Achievement of Malabo Commitments by 2025

Overall, the second BR report shows that Eswatini is not on track to achieving the Malabo commitments by 2025. This is a setback for the country because in the first BR, the country's overall score was above the minimum benchmark, indicating that the country was on track to achieving the Malabo targets. 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. Eswatini needs to implement recommendations emanating from the second BR to ensure there is progress on the commitment areas for which it did not do well, while still focusing on areas where the performance was satisfactory.



The following recommendations are important for Eswatini to improve implementation of the Malabo commitments and to get back on track for the next BR:

- ▶ There is a need to develop or update the national plan for implementing the Malabo declaration using the CAADP implementation approach, including an inclusive and participatory approach to facilitate the Eswatini CAADP Process. Eswatini needs to expedite the process of developing a NAIP that is compliant with the Malabo Declaration commitments and also prepare a NAIP implementation progress report. The second generation of NAIPs (NAIP 2.0) is quite imperative for Eswatini to attain the Malabo Declaration targets. Continuous Stakeholder engagement is also necessary to maintain the CAADP momentum.
- ▶ Eswatini should focus on increasing the proportion of men and women engaged in agriculture with access to financial services.
- ▶ There is a need to increase total agricultural research spending as a share of agricultural GDP. This will offer useful insights into relative levels of agricultural research and development investment needed in Eswatini.
- ▶ Eswatini is known to have weak land tenure security and obtained poor scores on this indicator. Therefore, the country needs to invest more in strengthening the land tenure rights of land users or owners to increase the proportion of farm households with ownership or secure land rights.
- ▶ There is also a need to improve and develop efficient monitoring and evaluation and data management systems in Eswatini as well as harmonise all the BR data into the Central Statistics Office. The country needs to align its indicators and targets with those of the BR process to avoid duplication and to minimise discrepancies.
- ▶ In-order to foster the principles of ownership and mutual accountability in the agriculture sector, there is an urgent need to improve the coordination of Eswatini's BR report validation processes. Presenting the country BR report to parliament—the agriculture portfolio committee—and to the cabinet can help to generate buy-in and ownership of the process at the highest level of political leadership.
- ▶ Lastly, Eswatini should ratify the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to enhance and strengthen bilateral agricultural trade.

6. References

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