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

Africa Agriculture Transformation Scorecard: Performance and Lessons

2019 CAADP Biennial Review Brief: Botswana

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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 in 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 Botswana's performance in the second BR and assesses challenges faced and lessons learned by the country during the review. The brief also reviews policy and programmatic changes in Botswana which can be attributed to the first (2017) and second BRs and concludes by highlighting required policy actions for Botswana to meet the Malabo commitments by 2025.

2. Progress in Achieving the Malabo Declaration Commitments at the Country Level

For the second BR, the benchmark is 6.66 of a total of 10 as depicted in Table 1. The benchmark is the minimum score for a member state to be considered on track regarding the implementation of the Malabo Declaration commitments (AUC, 2020). Botswana achieved an overall score of 3.35, indicating that the country is not on track to meet the Malabo commitments by 2025 (Table 1). This score indicates a decline of 24 percent in the country's performance when compared to the first BR. It should be noted that Botswana was amongst the five least performing countries in Africa based on the second BR. Only four countries in the continent (Ghana, Mali, Morocco, and Rwanda) were on track and no country in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region was on track, compared to 8 countries that were on track in the first BR.

Botswana performed way below the benchmark and the poor performance is attributed to the country's poor performance in all the thematic areas (Table 1). In fact, Botswana performed below the SADC countries average score of 4.28 and also below the Low-income SADC countries average score of 3.67—these performance scores show the extent of the regression of Botswana's performance in the second BR. Compared to its performance during the first BR, when it was on track, the country lost traction towards meeting the Malabo Declaration Commitments by 2025.



Table 1: Botswana summary of BR scores by theme

Theme	Benchmark	SADC	Regional Southern Africa)	SADC Low income	SADC Middle income	Botswana	Botswana progress
Recommitment to CAADP	10.00	7.42	7.50	6.76	7.03	5.92	Not on track
Enhance Agriculture Finance	10.00	4.22	4.15	3.25	4.20	3.76	Not on track
Ending Hunger by 2025	5.04	2.51	2.47	2.07	2.42	3.40	Not on track
Halving Poverty through Agriculture	3.94	1.29	1.25	1.18	1.14	0.21	Not on track
Intra-Africa Trade in Agriculture Commodities and Services	3.00	2.66	2.91	3.24	2.35	0.65	Not on track
Enhancing Resilience to Climate Change	7.00	4.81	4.65	3.78	4.61	3.33	Not on track
Mutual Accountability for Actions and Results	7.64	7.04	6.95	5.43	7.03	6.15	Not on track
All Commitments	6.66	4.28	4.27	3.67	4.11	3.35	
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.

As depicted in Table 2, Botswana demonstrates notable improvements in 3 of the 7 commitments (compared to the first BR) namely: CAADP recommitment, commitment on agriculture finance, and commitment on ending hunger by 2025. In the other four thematic areas, halving poverty through agriculture, intra-Africa trade in agriculture commodities and services, enhancing resilience to climate change, and mutual accountability for actions and results, the country saw a regression in scores, compared to the first BR (Table 2).

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

	BR 1	BR2	Change	% Change	Minimum score for BR2	Status
CAADP Recombitment	5.4	5.92	0.52	10%	10.00	Not on track
Agriculture Finance	3.4	3.76	0.37	11%	10.00	Not on track
End Hunger By 2025	2.37	3.4	1.02	43%	5.04	Not on track
Halve Poverty Through Agriculture	3.68	0.21	-3.48	-95%	3.94	Not on track
Boost Intra-Africa Trade	4.68	0.65	-4.03	-86%	3.00	Not on track
Enhance Resilience To Climate Change	4.61	3.33	-1.27	-28%	7.00	Not on track
Mutual Accountability	6.52	6.15	-0.37	-6%	7.64	Not on track
All Commitments	4.38	3.35	-1.03	-24%	6.66	Not on track

3. Challenges and Lessons Learned from the Second BR

The second BR process for Botswana had huge data gaps due to incorrectly compiled or uncompiled data, hence, the poor performance of the country on the overall score and most thematic areas. Moreover, Botswana does not have a timely and reliable agricultural and rural statistics platform or tool for the coordination and harmonisation of agriculture-related data. Further, there is no National Agriculture Investment Plan (NAIP) in place—the CAADP NAIP is currently being finalized with technical assistance from AU. As a result, the projects related to the Malabo targets were not funded by the state budget and implementation of those projects seemed difficult without budgetary support.

4. Recommendations for Ensuring Achievement of Malabo Commitments by 2025

This brief indicates that Botswana was not on track to meet the Malabo Declaration targets for 2025 during the second BR process. The country showed an improvement in 3 thematic areas in comparison to the first BR. Botswana was among the 8 countries in the Southern Africa region that were on track to meet the Malabo commitments in the first BR. The regression of Botswana's performance in the second BR highlights the substantial efforts required to implement the Malabo Declaration commitments and national priorities in the agriculture sector. Botswana needs to implement recommendations from the BR to ensure progress in commitment areas where it underperformed, while still working tirelessly on commitments where improvements were observed.

In general, recommendations for Botswana to improve implementation of the Malabo Declaration commitments to get back on track for the next BR and to achieve set goals by 2025 are as follows:

- ▶ Botswana should intensify efforts to increase public agriculture expenditure as a share of total public expenditure to meet the CAADP target of 10 percent. The government's increase of the agricultural sector's budget is a positive move, this should subsequently be channelled to the the intergration of the NAIP and the current National Development Plan.
- ▶ The country should ensure an adequate policy framework is put in place to facilitate evidence-based policies, supportive institutions, and corresponding human resources as well as to ensure the completion of the CAADP process. The development of the NAIP and the reconfiguration of national development structures will create an enabling environment for domestic private sector investment in the agricultural sector.
- ▶ There is a need to harmonise all BR data into one digital platform. The adoption of the eBR for electronic data collection and data verification should be considered.

5. References

AUC (African Union Commission). 2018. Biennial Report to the AU Assembly on Implementing the June 2014 Malabo Declaration. The 2017 Report to the January 2018 Assembly. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: AUC.

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