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**MAURITIUS**



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

# Africa Agriculture Transformation Scorecard: Performance and Lessons

## 2019 CAADP Biennial Review Brief: Mauritius

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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, between 2015 and 2025, agricultural growth and transformation on the African continent through seven broad commitments. 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 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 Mauritius' performance in the second BR and assesses challenges faced and lessons learned by the Mauritius during the review. The brief also reviews policy and programmatic changes in Mauritius which can be attributed to the first (2017) and second BRs and concludes by highlighting required policy actions for Mauritius 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). The overall performance of Mauritius—a score of 5.95 which is below the set benchmark of 6.66—indicates that the country was not on track to meet the Malabo Commitments by 2025. It is worth noting that, in the second BR, there were only four countries (Ghana, Mali, Morocco and Rwanda) in the continent of Africa which are on track and no country in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region is on track—representative of a regression from the first BR (there were 8 countries in the SADC region that were on track in the first BR). The assessment shows that member states with relatively good agricultural data management systems produced better reports for the BR process. In addition, aligning and implementing policies and programs based on CAADP principles contributed to better performance of countries.

Mauritius received an overall average score which is higher than that of the SADC low income and Middle income countries as shown by the Table 1 below. This shows good performance as compared to SADC countries, however, the country was not on track. Among all the thematic areas, Mauritius did not perform well on the commitment of Ending Hunger by 2025 as it got low average score below SADC Low and Middle income countries.



**Table1: Mauritius summary of BR scores by theme**

Theme	Benchmark	SADC	Regional (Southern Africa)	SADC Low income	SADC Middle income	Mauritius	Mauritius progress
Recommitment to CAADP	10.00	7.42	7.50	6.76	7.03	9.47	Not on track
Enhance Agriculture Finance	10.00	4.22	4.15	3.25	4.20	8.49	Not on track
Ending Hunger by 2025	5.04	2.51	2.47	2.07	2.42	2.03	Not on track
Halving Poverty through Agriculture	3.94	1.29	1.25	1.18	1.14	2.65	Not on track
Intra-Africa Trade in Agriculture Commodities and Services	3.00	2.66	2.91	3.24	2.35	3.35	Not on track
Enhancing Resilience to Climate Change	7.00	4.81	4.65	3.78	4.61	5.90	Not on track
Mutual Accountability for Actions and Results	7.64	7.04	6.95	5.43	7.03	9.75	On track
All Commitments	6.66	4.28	4.27	3.67	4.11	5.95	
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 in the SADC low-income category because it was grouped as part of the East African Community.

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

Themes	First BR	Second BR	Change	% Change	Second BR Benchmark	Status
CAADP Recommitment	8.09	9.47	1.37	16.9	10.00	Not on track
Agriculture Finance	5.55	8.49	2.94	53.0	10.00	Not on track
End Hunger By 2025	1.44	2.03	0.59	41.0	5.04	Not on track
Halve Poverty Through Agriculture	3.13	2.65	-0.48	-15.3	3.94	Not on track
Boost Intra-Africa Trade	4.93	3.35	-1.58	-32.0	3.00	Not on track
Enhance Resilience To Climate Change	6.47	5.90	-0.57	-8.8	7.00	Not on track
Mutual Accountability	5.39	9.75	4.36	80.9	7.64	On track
All Commitments	5.00	5.95	0.95	19.0	6.66	Not on track

**Legend:** ■ not on track ■ on track

As shown in Table 2, Mauritius performed well in five thematic areas in the first BR—recommitment to CAADP (8.09), enhance agriculture finance (5.55), intra-Africa trade in agriculture commodities and services (4.93), enhancing resilience to climate change (6.47), and mutual accountability for actions and results (5.39). For the second BR, Mauritius performed well in three thematic areas with scores beyond the benchmark of 6.66 and these thematic areas are: recommitment to CAADP (9.47), enhance agriculture finance (8.49), and mutual accountability for actions and results (9.75). Additionally, it is worth noting that the country's performance improved in the thematic area—ending hunger by 2025 as compared to the first BR as shown by the positive change of 0.59. The average country performance was also above the average of the SADC region which was 4.27. Regarding the sub-thematic areas on increasing access of smallholder farmers or rural households to financial services for the purposes of transacting agricultural business (such as purchasing inputs, machinery, storage technologies), there are only two countries (Mauritius and Seychelles) with 100 percent score compared with other countries that were on track in the first BR. In terms of access to agricultural advisory services, Mauritius is among the seven countries on-track in the continent and among the twelve countries that on track in terms of increasing the level of investments in agricultural research and development to at least 1 percent of agricultural GDP.

The country has number of key areas of strong performance across thematic areas. Within the thematic area of recommitment to CAADP, the country performed better across different indicators, such as putting in place evidence-based policies, supportive institutions, and corresponding human resources, and ensuring existence and quality of multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination bodies. The country also performed better on the second thematic area of enhancing agriculture finance. This is shown by higher scores in various indicators, such as improving the proportion of men and women engaged in agriculture with access to financial services, public agriculture expenditure as a percentage of agriculture value-added and official Development Assistance (ODA) disbursed to agriculture as a percentage of total commitments. On the theme of enhancing resilience to climate change, the country achieved higher scores in most indicators, including the percentage of farm, pastoral, and fishery households that are resilient to climate and weather-related shocks and existence of government budget lines to respond to spending needs on resilience building initiatives.

Concerning the last thematic area of mutual accountability for actions and results, the country performed well in the indicators measured, including index of capacity to generate and use agriculture statistical data and information and existence of inclusive institutionalized mechanisms and platforms for mutual accountability. However, the country still needs focus efforts on some areas of weaknesses regarding ending hunger by 2025 (theme 3) and intra-Africa trade in agriculture commodities and services (theme 4). The country also needs improvements on indicators such as growth rate of agriculture value-added, reduction rate of poverty headcount ratio at national poverty line, trade facilitation index and public expenditure investment in agriculture as a share of total public expenditure.

### 3. Challenges and Lessons Learned from the Second BR

Even though Mauritius had some outstanding performance in a number of thematic areas compared to other countries in the continent, the country has missing data on proportion of the population experiencing moderate and severe food insecurity, rate of reduction of foodborne diarrhoeal diseases, number of diarrhoeal disease cases recorded per year, number of cases of diarrhoeal mortality recorded per year in children under 5 years of age, rate of reduction of the cases of liver cancer caused by diarrheal exposure to aflatoxin and number of liver cancer cases per year. Another challenge is that the country has realised diminishing change in the total number of male and female children between 0-59 months of age since 2014 to 2018.



Mauritius also lacks national assessments of in-country laboratory capacity, accredited laboratories in food analysis and national capacity building programmes on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), and Good Hygiene Practices (GHP) need support. For the accredited laboratories in food analysis, GAD is in the process of getting accredited to International Organization for Standardization (ISO). Lessons learned clearly reflect that the poor performance of the country on other thematic areas can be attributed to lack of sufficient financing in the agricultural sector and failure to put in place systems needed for improving food security and nutrition and alleviating hunger. The country also needs to focus on filling missing data gaps important for responding to areas of weaknesses.

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

In the second BR, Mauritius made progress in terms of CAADP policies and strategies that are evidence-based and the number of policies and strategies put in place in the National Investment Plan (NAIP). In 2018, the country made improvements regarding the development of risk-based food safety standards for at least 5 priority commodities, competent regulatory institutions with clear mandates and coordination mechanisms, demonstrable government programmes to build, equip, and sustain competent laboratories, national training programme for the qualification of laboratory analysis, national laboratory standards qualification or accreditation programme, national budget to support laboratory infrastructure and instruments maintenance, as well as operational and Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) requirements.

The country also saw some improvements in food testing and laboratory capacity, training of suitable staff relative to food safety regulation, national support or incentive for industry and producers, and national food safety awareness raising programmes or activities. It is also worth noting that Mauritius made considerable progress in terms of adherence to mutual accountability principles, existence of mutual accountability mechanisms and platforms, and number of key areas covered by the country's review report. These policy and programmatic initiatives contributed to improvements in the country's performance in the second BR compared to the first BR.

## 5. Recommendations for Ensuring Achievement of Malabo Commitments by 2025

This section provides overall recommendations for Mauritius to implement to improve its performance in the next BR in line with the execution of the Malabo Declaration commitments and contribution of the agriculture sector to achievement of the commitments by 2025:

- *Enhancing investment finance in agriculture:* Even though Mauritius performed well in some indicators under this theme, the country is not on track to achieve this commitment as it still devotes less than 10 percent of its public expenditure to agriculture. It is therefore recommended that the country increase its investment in agriculture as a share of total public expenditure.
- *Ending Hunger by 2025:* The country performed well in a few indicators in this thematic area which includes increasing the proportion of farm households with ownership or secure land rights and made progress on establishing operational and functional food safety

systems. However, the country is not on track in this thematic area as indicated by its poor performance in both the first and second BRs. This could be attributed to the country's poor performance in many indicators, including low fertilizer consumption, low growth rate of the size of irrigated areas from its value in the year 2000, failure to reduce rate of post-harvest losses for at least 5 national priority commodities and many more indicators. Therefore, it is recommended that Mauritius improve its fertilizer consumption to boost agricultural production, improve on its irrigation facilities to cover larger more areas and reduce post-harvest losses which contribute to hunger and poverty. Furthermore, the country should allocate more resources to spending needs on resilience building initiatives to boost its agriculture and food security. In terms of food safety and laboratory capacity, the country should improve its accredited laboratories for food analysis and proportion of minimum dietary diversity.

- *Eradicating poverty through agriculture by 2025:* Even though the country demonstrated considerable progress in increasing the proportion of rural women that are empowered in agriculture, Mauritius is not on track in this thematic area due to failure to meet some indicators, including low growth rate of agriculture value-added, failure to reduce the rates of poverty headcount ratio at both national and international poverty lines, failure to reduce the gap between wholesale and farm gate prices, and low percentage of youths engaged in new job opportunities in agriculture value chains. It is recommended that the country improve on agricultural systems that will contribute to improving agricultural GDP and reduction in poverty. This should include engaging both youths and women in agriculture and reconciling the gap between wholesale and farm gate prices.
- *Boosting intra-African trade in agriculture commodities:* The country had a diminishing score in this thematic area from the first BR to the second one. Even though the country performed better in the Domestic Food Price Volatility Index, the overall score in this thematic area remained very low. This could be attributed to poor performance in this theme, including failure to achieve better growth rate of the value of trade of agricultural commodities and services within Africa and a low Trade Facilitation Index. The recommendation here is that Mauritius improve on the Trade Facilitation Index and its growth rate of the value of trade of agricultural commodities and services within Africa. The country's intra-African trade policies and institutional conditions also require attention.

## 6. References

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