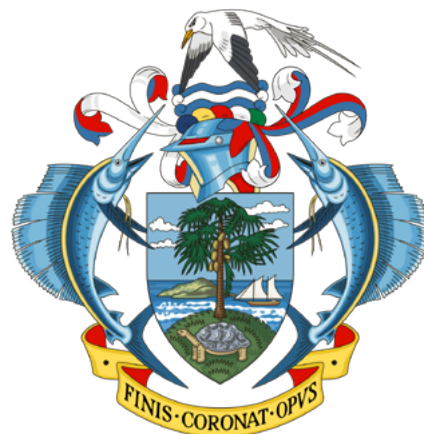


FOURTH CAADP
BIENNIAL REVIEW
BRIEF
SEYCHELLES



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

Africa Agriculture Transformation Scorecard: Performance and Lessons

Fourth CAADP Biennial Review Brief: Seychelles

David Mkwambisi,¹ Greenwell Matchaya,² and Sylvie Larue³

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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.

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¹ Malawi University of Science and Technology.

² ReSAKSS-ESA; International Water Management Institute (IWMI), South Africa.

³ Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change, and Environment, Seychelles.

1. Introduction

Agriculture in Africa has significant untapped potential; however, serious challenges persist (AU 2020). The continent has some of the world's most fertile lands and a burgeoning youthful population, yet it continues to face issues such as food insecurity, malnutrition, and the impacts of climate change (Adeyeye et al. 2023). The African Union (AU) recognizes the agricultural sector's vast potential and has committed itself to enhancing agricultural development, focusing on sustainable practices and increased investment to help Member States attain food self-sufficiency and improve their competitiveness in global markets (Matchaya et al. 2018). The AU's commitment is further evidenced in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), which aims to enhance agricultural productivity and food security through increased public investment and policy alignment. The Malabo Declaration is a milestone agreement designed to accelerate agricultural transformation and promote shared prosperity among AU Member States (Muroyiwa 2022; Hendriks et al. 2019).

In 2014, the AU adopted the Malabo Declaration at the Malabo, Equatorial Guinea summit. The declaration is a critical framework for advancing agricultural development, which seeks to address the pressing challenges of food security and poverty reduction across Africa (AU 2014). The Malabo Declaration emphasizes seven key Commitments,

1. Upholding the principles and values of the CAADP
2. Enhancing investment finance in agriculture
3. Ending hunger in Africa by 2025
4. Halving poverty 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 related risks
7. Ensuring mutual accountability for actions and results by conducting a continent-wide Biennial Review (BR) to monitor progress in achieving the seven Malabo Declaration Commitments (AU 2014, 2018, 2020, 2022, 2024).

However, recent assessments indicate that many African nations face significant challenges meeting the Malabo Declaration Commitments. The BRs have revealed that progress toward the 2025 targets is faltering, evident in the persistence of issues like food insecurity, insufficient investment in agricultural infrastructure, and low resilience to the adverse effects of climate change (Ulimwengu et al. 2018). The AU is engaged in discussions to formulate a new ten-year agricultural agenda that addresses the shortcomings of the Malabo Declaration and reinforces the commitment to sustainable agricultural growth (Benin et al. 2018). Additionally, the AU established a Biennial Review Mechanism to enhance accountability and monitor the progress of Member States in implementing the Malabo Commitments. This mechanism utilizes a review process that evaluates countries against 22 performance categories and 43 indicators, providing a comprehensive assessment of agricultural progress (AU 2018). The BRs aim to promote transparency and encourage the adoption of best practices among Member States. The BR reports released to date reveal mixed progress among African countries. These



reviews highlight the need for increased investments in agriculture and improved governance to achieve the objectives of the Malabo Declaration. Further, for the Malabo Declaration to be fully realized, member states must prioritize agriculture within their national development agendas, aligning agricultural policies with broader economic goals and ensuring that growth translates into tangible livelihood improvements (AUC 2014). Enhanced collaboration among stakeholders, including governments, private sector actors, and civil society, is essential to foster a conducive environment for agricultural transformation.

Since the inception of the BR process, African countries have engaged in systematic self-assessment and peer accountability exercises. The inaugural biennial review (BR1) conducted in 2017 introduced a comprehensive framework featuring 23 performance categories and 43 indicators. Subsequent reviews – BR2 in 2019 and BR3 in 2021 – expanded this evaluation framework while maintaining a focus on evidence-based results (AU 2022). Each cycle has provided critical insights, revealing progress, challenges, and opportunities for agricultural transformation across the continent. Seychelles exemplifies commitment to this process, consistently submitting reports across all cycles. The latest submission, BR4, was endorsed at the 35th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly in February 2024 (Seychelles Government 2024). This brief evaluates Seychelles’ performance against the Malabo Commitments, highlighting the challenges, lessons learned, and the necessary policy adjustments required to achieve sustainable agricultural transformation by 2025.

2. Progress Made by Seychelles toward Achieving the Malabo Commitments

2.1 Overall progress

Table 1 presents the progress made by Seychelles in its overall performance by Malabo commitment over the four BR cycles. The results show that the country’s overall BR4 score (2.69) was lower than its BR3 (4.92), BR2 (3.39) and BR1 (4.01) scores. Further, Seychelles has performed below each BR cycle’s respective benchmark.



Table 1: Summary of Seychelles' BR scores by Malabo Commitment.

#	Malabo Commitment	BR1 (2017)			BR2 (2019)			BR3 (2021)			BR4 (2023)		
		Score	Benchmark	Progress	Score	Benchmark	Progress	Score	Benchmark	Progress	Score	Benchmark	Progress
1	Recommitment to CAADP progress	3.64	3.33		2.22	10.00		2.89	10.00		4.04	10	
2	Enhancing agricultural finance	8.33	6.67		7.22	10.00		8.87	7.5		6.00	9.5	
3	Ending hunger by 2025	1.65	3.71		2.81	5.04		3.43	6.32		1.81	9.26	
4	Halving poverty through agriculture	2.85	2.06		1.2	3.94		1.05	5.81		1.07	8.94	
5	Boosting inter-African trade in agriculture	4.17	1.00		1.82	3.00		1.83	5.00		3.17	9.00	
6	Enhanced resilience to climate change	3.33	6.00		8.33	7.00		8.33	8.00		0.00	9.75	
7	Mutual accountability	4.1	4.78		8.14	6.67		8.33	8.33		2.75	8.6	
	All Commitments	4.01	3.94		3.39	6.66		4.92	7.29		2.69	9.29	

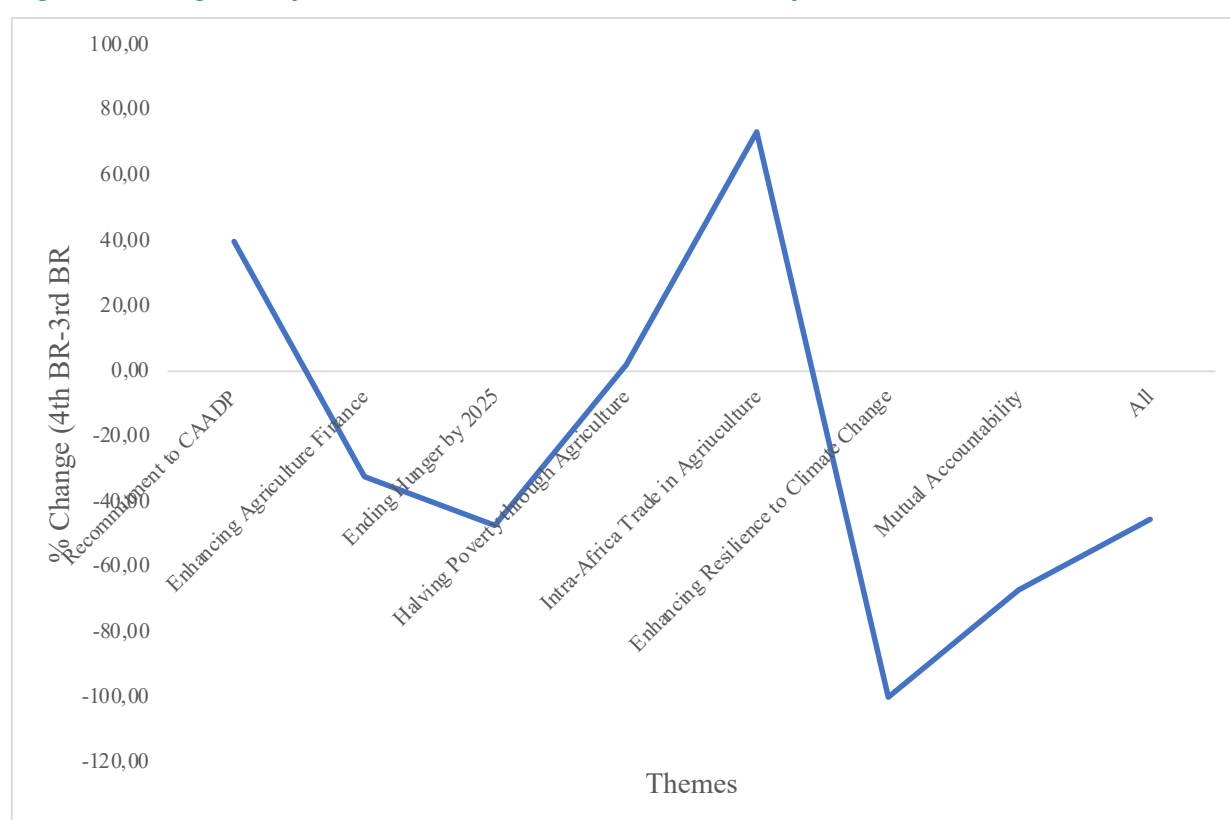
Source: Authors' calculations based on country BR scores (2023); Green = On track; Yellow = Not on track.



The results in Table 1 show that in BR4, Seychelles was not on track in all Commitments, especially for (Commitment 6) Enhanced resilience to climate change (0.00 score against a benchmark of 9.75). This poor performance was followed up by (Commitment 4) Halving poverty through agriculture (1.07 score against a benchmark of 8.94); (Commitment 3) Ending hunger by 2025 (1.81 score against a benchmark of 2.96); and (Commitment 7) Mutual accountability (2.75 score against a benchmark of 8.60).

Figure 1 shows the percentage changes in each commitment's scores between BR3 and BR4. Seychelles performed better in BR4 on the commitment to boost intra-African trade in agriculture (73.22 percent improvement) and in recommitment to CAADP (39.79 percent improvement). However, the Commitments that saw the worst change in performance were: (Commitment 6) Enhancing climate change resilience (100 percent); (Commitment 7) Mutual accountability (67 percent); and (Commitment 3) Ending hunger by 2025 (47.23 percent).

Figure 1: Change in Seychelles' scores between BR3 and BR4 cycles.



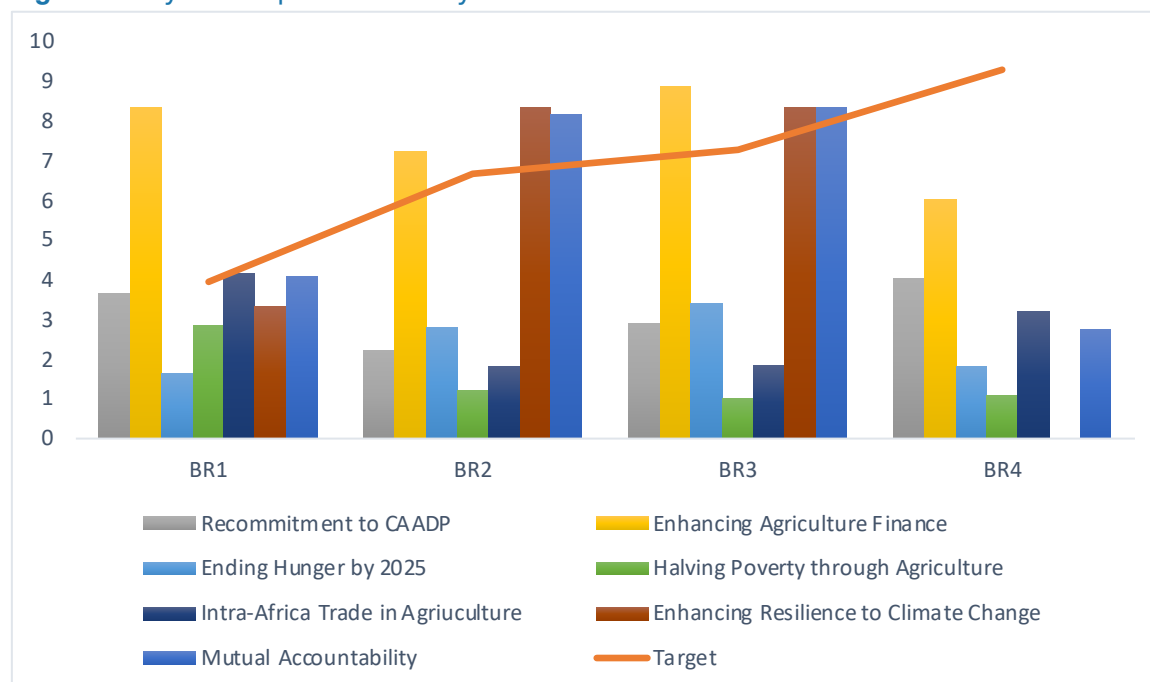
Source: Authors' calculations based on country BR scores (2023).

2.2 Country performance by thematic area

Figure 2 presents a closer analysis of the seven Commitments where the country has been off track across the four BR cycles. The results show that the main challenge is Commitment 3 (Ending hunger by 2025) where the country has not been on track across all cycles. This is followed by Commitment 1 (Recommitment to CAADP), Commitment 4 (Halving poverty through agriculture), and Commitment 5 (Boosting inter-African trade in Agriculture), which has not been on track for the past three cycles.

The results further show mixed performance for Commitment 6 (Enhanced resilience to climate change), Commitment 7 (Mutual accountability), and Commitment 2 (Enhancing agricultural finance), with Seychelles not on track in two cycles and on track in another two.

Figure 2: Seychelles' performance by thematic area across four BRs.



Source: Authors' calculations based on country BR scores (2023).

2.2.1 Results and analysis: Performance across the seven themes

Commitment 1: Recommitment to the CAADP process

This commitment emphasizes political will and policy alignment with CAADP goals. Figure 2 shows that Seychelles started well in BR1 but performed poorly in BR2. This was followed by a steady rise between BR3 and BR4, although the scores were still below the benchmark. There was a slight improvement in BR4.

Commitment 2: Enhancing agricultural finance

Figure 2 presents the performance and benchmarks for Commitment 2. Seychelles initially over-performed, but this was followed by declines in later review cycles. The benchmarks ranged from 6.67 to 9.50 across the four BRs, while the country's scores varied from 8.33 (2017) to 7.22 (2019), then 8.87 (2021), and a decline to 6.00 (2023). The results highlight that male-led, large-scale farming enterprises often dominate access to credit and financial products, while women and smallholder farmers have limited access. This has contributed to the limited progress on this theme.

Commitment 3: Ending hunger by 2025

Seychelles recorded low but consistently improving scores on this commitment from BR1 to BR3 (1.65 in 2017, 2.81 in 2019, 3.43 in 2021). This was followed by a decline in BR4 (1.81 in 2023). There was moderate progress toward the benchmarks, which ranged from 3.71 (2017) to 9.26 (2023), although scores remained below the target (see Figure 2). Despite the progress made from BR1 to BR3, the drop in BR4 points to systemic issues such as food insecurity

exacerbated by climate shocks. Further understanding the barriers to food production by farmers could enhance overall performance. Strengthening rural extension services and ensuring equal access to agricultural innovations for all genders will also be important.

Commitment 4: Halving poverty through agriculture

Despite the country's focus on poverty reduction, scores on this commitment remained consistently low (Figure 2). Seychelles has consistently underperformed in this commitment, shifting from 2.85 (2017) to 1.20 (2019), 1.05 (2021), and 1.07 (2023). It will be important to promote equitable market linkages and value chain participation for women and youth in agriculture to address these gaps.

Commitment 5: Boosting inter-African trade in agriculture

Performance on this commitment improved marginally, with the latest score reaching 3.17 compared to the benchmark of 9.00 (Figure 2). This improvement came following the decline from 4.17 (2017) to 1.82 (2019) and 1.83 (2021). Removing trade barriers and supporting gender-inclusive trading platforms to enhance equitable participation will help improve performance under this commitment.

Commitment 6: Enhanced resilience to climate change

Performance in Commitment 6 has been inconsistent, with BR4 recording a steep decline (Figure 2). Scores initially improved from 3.33 in 2017 to 8.33 in 2019 and 2021. However, this was followed by a decline to 0.00 in 2023. Benchmark scores increased from 6.00 to 9.75 across the four cycles. Encouraging a gender-inclusive approach to climate adaptation strategies could improve this commitment's scores. It will also be important to strengthen national climate adaptation programs with a focus on smallholder and female farmers.

Commitment 7: Mutual accountability

Figure 2 shows the results on Commitment 7. Performance under this commitment has generally been positive: 4.10 in 2017; 8.14 in 2019; 8.33 in 2021; and 2.75 in 2023. The benchmark scores increased moderately from 4.78 to 8.60. Scores were relatively stable but declined drastically in the last review. This decline suggests lapses in governance, monitoring, or reporting frameworks. There is a need to encourage participatory and gender-inclusive accountability systems to sustain progress.

2.2.2 General discussion

Seychelles' performance relative to the Malabo Declaration's Commitments has been mixed, showing some progress and persistent challenges. While the country has made significant strides in expanding intra-African trade in agriculture and agricultural finance, Seychelles still lags on important Commitments, including enhancing resilience to climate change, ending hunger, and halving poverty through agriculture. These findings highlight the need for focused interventions, coordinated policies, and stakeholder cooperation to resolve systemic issues and realize the full potential of the country's agricultural sector.

The country's inability to meet the benchmarks on ending hunger and halving poverty reflects systemic issues such as limited market access, low adoption of innovative agricultural practices, and insufficient rural extension services. Food insecurity and poverty are further exacerbated

by climate vulnerabilities, highlighting the critical need for measures to strengthen resilience. However, the lack of progress on climate resilience, seen in the BR4 score of zero, points to gaps in policy implementation and investment in climate-smart practices. This calls for the scaling up of climate adaptation programs with an emphasis on supporting smallholder farmers and incorporating a gender-inclusive approach.

The commitment on mutual accountability experienced a sharp decline in performance. This points to lapses in governance, monitoring frameworks, and participatory mechanisms. Strengthening these frameworks with active involvement from diverse stakeholders, including civil society and private sector actors, can enhance transparency and foster a culture of accountability.

2.3 Regional comparison

Table 2 presents Seychelles' scores in comparison to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. In general, Seychelles has performed worse than the SADC region on all themes except Commitment 2 (Enhancing agricultural finance), where the country had a score of 6.00 compared to the regional score of 3.08, and Commitment 5 (Boosting intra-African trade in agriculture) where Seychelles scored 3.17 against a regional score of 1.61.

Table 2: Country performance relative to SADC in BR4.

Theme	Benchmark	SADC Region	Seychelles 4 th BR	Progress
1. Recommitment to CAADP	10.00	9.02	4.04	Not on track
2. Enhancing agricultural finance	9.50	3.08	6.00	Not on track
3. Ending hunger by 2025	9.26	3.89	1.81	Not on track
4. Halving poverty through agriculture	8.94	1.21	1.07	Not on track
5. Boosting intra-African trade in agricultural commodities and services	9.00	1.61	3.17	On track
6. Enhancing resilience to climate change	9.75	6.18	0.00	Not on track
7. Mutual accountability for actions and results	8.60	6.81	2.75	Not on track
All Commitments	9.29	4.61	2.69	Not on track
Progress on All Commitments		Off track	Off track	

Source: Authors' calculations based on country BR scores (2023).

Seychelles performed poorly relative to the SADC region, especially for Commitment 6 on Enhancing resilience to climate change (Seychelles: 0.00; SADC: 6.18) and Commitment 7 on Mutual accountability (Seychelles: 2.75; SADC: 6.81). It should be noted that only Malawi was on track for Theme 7 in BR4 with a score of 9.17, against the 2023 benchmark of 8.6.

3. Challenges and Lessons Learned from BR4 in Seychelles

3.1 Challenges

Challenges with the quantity and quality of data affected the BR process. Like other reviews across Africa, there is a mismatch between the country's existing data collection protocols and CAADP requirements for collection and reporting. This is further impacted by data unavailability – in terms of quality and quantity – for some of the indicators, which results in the non-reporting of these indicators.

3.2 Lessons Learned from BR4

a. Importance of integrated data systems

The BR process made it clear that centralized, standardized data systems are required for effective assessments. Setting up a single data management platform can reduce delays and streamline data collection. Establishing sector-to-sector collaborative frameworks for information sharing can increase accuracy. Future BR reports will require early preparation and investments in data infrastructure. The importance of reliable, real-time data collection techniques was emphasized in the previous reviews.

b. Capacity-building as a priority

One important lesson learned was to strengthen local technological skills. Maintaining qualified staff and creating specialized training programs is essential to ensure continuity across the reviews.

c. Securing sustainable funding sources

Diversifying financing sources is important to help maintain financial sustainability. The reliance on external donors can be reduced by creating funding specifically for climate reporting and action.

d. Effective stakeholder engagement

Involving all relevant parties early enough helps enhance data quality and promotes ownership of the process. Aligning sectoral priorities requires frequent consultations and open lines of communication.

e. Using technology for climate reporting

The BR process demonstrated how the use of cutting-edge technologies can have significant impacts. Accurate reporting can be achieved by investing in digital tools like emission-tracking software and geographic information systems (GIS).

f. Mainstreaming climate resilience

Incorporating resilience planning into reporting procedures is crucial for island states like Seychelles. Strengthening institutional adaptive capacity can help ensure that reporting continues even in the face of climate shocks.



g. Value of regional and international collaboration

Access to financial and technical assistance was made possible through cooperation with international partners and regional organizations. Platforms for knowledge exchange made sharing creative ideas and excellent practices easier.

4. Policy and Programmatic Changes Following the BRs

Seychelles has continued to intensify its participation in CAADP processes. The country quickly replaced retired national focal points to ensure continuity in the work. There has also been a general increase in awareness of CAADP, and dialogues on agricultural financing and the development of value chains continue.

5. Priority Actions for Implementation and Recommendations to Ensure Achievement of the Malabo Declaration Commitments by 2025

5.1 Enhance agricultural financing

Despite initial progress in recommitting to the CAADP, sustained gains in agricultural outcomes, including productivity, have been elusive, indicating the need for stronger political will and institutional mechanisms to integrate continental goals into national agricultural strategies. Targeted programs to increase financial inclusion, especially for women and youth, could catalyze broader economic benefits.

5.2 Strengthen policy and institutional frameworks

Establishing strong structures and institutions that enable efficient coordination between government, business, and civil society actors is necessary to achieve stronger policy and institutional frameworks. Promoting policy coherence across sectors to integrate agricultural development with more general socioeconomic goals such as poverty alleviation, food security, and climate resilience will be essential. Seychelles can develop a more integrated strategy that optimizes resources and tackles systemic issues by ensuring that agricultural policies align with trade, health, and education policies.

5.3 Promote climate resilience

Promoting climate resilience will help ensure sustainable growth and reduce the effects of climate change on the country's agricultural sector. This calls for significant investments in climate-smart agricultural practices and technologies, such as precision irrigation, the development of drought-resistant crop varieties, and the use of renewable energy sources like solar-powered machinery.



5.4 Accelerate efforts to end hunger and reduce poverty

Targeted interventions that take into account the needs of marginalized populations and smallholder farmers are necessary to speed up Seychelles' efforts to eradicate hunger and combat poverty. To support farmers in increasing agricultural production and sustainability, it will be essential to expand rural extension services to spread best practices, contemporary technologies, and information.

5.5 Improve governance and mutual accountability

Ensuring the success of the Malabo Commitments in the Seychelles requires good governance and mutual responsibility. Transparency and inclusivity can be improved by establishing participatory monitoring frameworks that include a range of stakeholders, such as farmers, civil society actors, business sector players, and representatives from government agencies.

5.6 Foster regional collaboration

Seychelles must promote regional cooperation to strengthen its agricultural transformation initiatives and support broader regional objectives. Because of its comparative advantages in intra-African commerce and agricultural finance, Seychelles can take the lead in advancing policies that encourage equitable economic growth throughout the region.



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ReSAKSS **ESA**

Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System
by AKADEMIYA2063 & IWMI

ReSAKSS-Eastern and Southern Africa

Hatfield Gardens, Block G - Ground Floor
333 Grosvenor Street, Hatfield 0083
Pretoria, South Africa
Email: resakss@akademiya2063.org
Website: www.resakss.org



AKADEMIYA

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AKADEMIYA2063 Headquarters

Kicukiro/Niboye KK 341 St 22
P.O. Box 1855
Kigali, Rwanda
Tel: +250 788 318 315
Email: kigali-contact@akademiya2063.org
Website: www.akademiya2063.org

AKADEMIYA2063 Regional Office

Lot N*3 Almadies
P.O. Box 24 933
Dakar, Senegal
Tel: +221 33 865 28 81
Email: dakar-contact@akademiya2063.org
Website: www.akademiya2063.org

