

# LESOTHO



Kingdom of Lesotho

## CAADP BIENNIAL REVIEW BRIEF

### Africa Agriculture Transformation Scorecard Performance and Lessons

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# Africa Agriculture Transformation Scorecard Performance and Lessons for Lesotho<sup>1</sup>

## 1. Introduction

African Heads of State and Government repositioned the agriculture sector as the main driver of growth and development on the continent with the adoption of the Malabo Declaration on *Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods* (AUC, 2014), with seven commitments:

1. Recommitment to the principles and values of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) process
2. Commitment to enhancing investment finance in agriculture
3. Commitment to ending hunger in Africa by 2025
4. Commitment to halving poverty by the year 2025 through inclusive agricultural growth and transformation
5. Commitment to boosting intra-Africa trade in agricultural commodities and services
6. Commitment to enhancing resilience of livelihoods and production systems to climate variability and other related risks
7. Commitment to mutual accountability to actions and results

With regards to the seventh commitment, countries are expected to track and conduct a systematic review of progress in implementing the Malabo Declaration using the agriculture Joint Sector Review (JSR) platforms (AUC, 2014; AUC & NEPAD NPCA, 2015). At the continental level, the African Union Commission (AUC) and the African Union Development Agency–New Partnership for Africa’s Development (AUDA-NEPAD) led the implementation of the inaugural Biennial Review (BR) mechanism in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities, with technical assistance from partners that include the Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (ReSAKSS), the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The inaugural BR report and the accompanying Africa Agriculture Transformation Scorecard was presented to Heads of State and Government at the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the African Union in January 2018 in Addis Ababa. The data and information from the BR and JSR assessments helps countries to improve decision making and implementation of their National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plans (NAFSIPs).

This brief summarizes the performance, key issues, and recommendations for Lesotho from the inaugural BR report to help improve and strengthen the country’s efforts to domesticate and implement the commitments of the Malabo Declaration within its own national agricultural investment plan and strategy.

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<sup>1</sup> This brief was prepared by M. Khesa (Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Maseru, Lesotho), C. Nhemachena, G. Matchaya, and S. Nhlengethwa (Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System—ReSAKSS Southern Africa, IWMI, Pretoria, South Africa).

## 2. Agriculture Transformation Scorecard Performance

The results of the Africa Agriculture Transformation Scorecard are presented in Figure 1. The benchmark score—that is, the minimum overall score to be on track in implementing Malabo Declaration commitments and targets—for the 2017 BR assessment was 3.94 out of 10 (AUC, 2018). Countries that scored higher were on track, while those that scored lower were not. Lesotho’s overall score was 3.75; indicating Lesotho was not on track to achieve the 2025 targets of the Malabo Declaration.

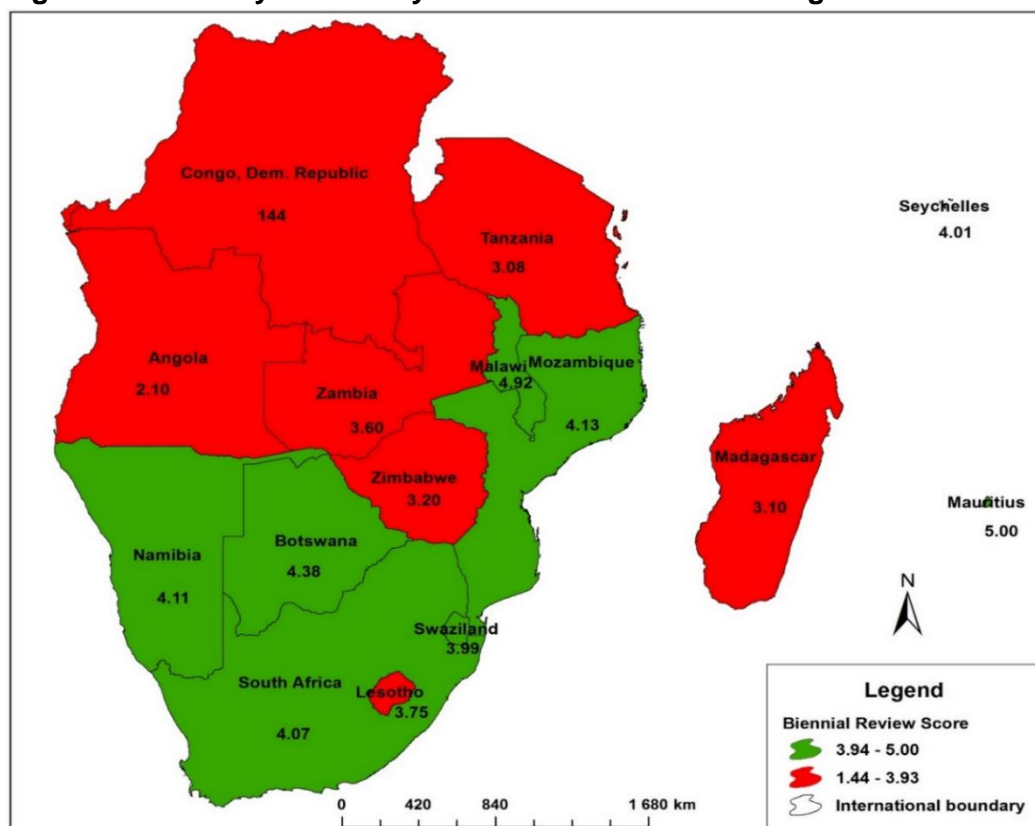
Figure 1: Results of the 2017 Africa Agriculture Transformation Scorecard

Country overall progress for implementing the Malabo Declaration for Agriculture transformation in Africa							
<p>Against the 2017 benchmark of <b>3.9 out of 10</b> which is the minimum score for a country to be on track for implementing the Malabo Declaration, countries whose score (out of 10) appears in "green" are <b>ON TRACK</b>, and countries whose score appears in "red" are <b>NOT ON TRACK</b> for the 2017 reporting exercise to the January 2018 AU Assembly.</p>				Algeria	Angola	Benin	Botswana
				n.a	2.1	4.3	4.4
				Burundi	Burkina Faso	Cameroon	Cabo Verde
				4.7	4.2	2.1	4.6
Central African Rep.	Chad	Comoros	Congo	Côte d'Ivoire	DR Congo	Djibouti	Egypt
2.4	2.2	n.a	2.8	3.5	1.4	3.2	3.4
Equatorial Guinea	Eritrea	Ethiopia	Gabon	Gambia	Ghana	Guinea	Guinea-Bissau
3.6	n.a	5.3	2.9	3.1	3.9	3.3	n.a
Kenya	Lesotho	Liberia	Libya	Madagascar	Malawi	Mali	Mauritania
4.8	3.7	0.9	n.a	3.1	4.9	5.6	4.8
Mauritius	Morocco	Mozambique	Namibia	Niger	Nigeria	Rwanda	Rep. A. Saharawi
5.0	5.5	4.1	4.1	3.5	3.4	6.1	n.a
São Tomé & Príncipe	Senegal	Seychelles	Sierra Leone	Somalia	South Africa	South Sudan	Sudan
1.5	3.8	4.0	1.5	n.a	4.1	n.a	1.9
Swaziland	Tanzania	Togo	Tunisia	Uganda	Zambia	Zimbabwe	2017 Benchmark
4.0	3.1	4.9	1.7	4.4	3.6	3.2	3.9

Source: AUC (2018)

In the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Lesotho was one of the 7 countries that were not on track to achieve the Malabo Declaration commitments (Figure 2). Lesotho’s performance across the seven Malabo Declaration commitments is presented in Table 1. Lesotho’s performance is also compared with the performance of other countries in the SADC region, including by economic groupings: low-income, lower-middle-income, and upper-middle-income countries. Lesotho’s BR results show that the country was on track to meet the targets of three commitments/performance themes: recommitment to CAADP, boosting intra-Africa trade in agriculture, and mutual accountability for action and results. But it missed the marks on: enhancing agricultural finance, ending hunger by 2025, halving poverty through agriculture, and enhancing resilience to climate change.

**Figure 2: Summary of Country BR Scores in the SADC Region**



Source: Authors, based on country BR scores

**Table 1: Summary of Lesotho's BR Results Relative to the SADC Average, by Theme**

Theme	Minimum Score	Lesotho	SADC Regional Average**	Regional Average***	Low-Income	Lower-Middle-Income	Upper-Middle-Income
Recommitment to CAADP	3.33	4.44	5.36	5.72	5.79	5.05	5.09
Enhancing Agricultural Finance	6.67	3.3	3.97	4.47	2.66	4.95	4.78
Ending Hunger by 2025	3.71	2.38	2.05	2.26	1.69	2.38	2.23
Halving Poverty through Agriculture	2.06	0.05	2.37	2.59	2.92	0.47	3.22
Boosting Intra-Africa Trade in Agriculture	1.00	5.19	2.65	3.22	1.78	1.90	4.28
Enhancing Resilience to Climate Change	6.00	3.33	3.63	3.94	3.20	3.35	4.35
Mutual Accountability for Actions & Results	4.78	7.52	5.59	5.94	5.13	5.43	6.25
Country Averages	3.94	3.75	3.66	4.02	3.31	3.36	4.31
Progress 2017 Benchmark = 3.94		Not on track	Not on track	On Track	Not on track	Not on track	On Track

Source: Authors' calculations based on country BR scores.

Notes: \*\* stands for average of the 15 SADC countries; \*\*\* stand for averages of the 15 SADC countries minus Tanzania, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Seychelles.



At the indicator level, Lesotho was on track to achieving targets for only 6 of the 43 indicators under the following themes:

*Recommitment to the CAADP process:* establishing CAADP-based cooperation partnerships and alliances; and establishing CAADP-based policy and institutional review/setting/support.

*Ending hunger by 2025:* improving food security and nutrition.

*Boosting intra-Africa trade in agricultural commodities:* tripling intra-Africa trade for agricultural commodities and services (Lesotho won a prize for performing well on this indicator).

*Mutual accountability for actions and results:* increasing country capacity for evidence-based planning, implementation, and M&E, fostering peer review and mutual accountability.

### 3. Key Issues and Recommendations for Improving Progress Toward Agricultural Transformation

This section presents key issues and recommendations on the commitments where Lesotho was not on track. The recommendations are provided to highlight areas that require action to improve the country's progress toward agricultural transformation:

1. *Recommitment to the CAADP process:* Lesotho is already taking actions to complete the national CAADP process, which had stalled since 2013. The country is currently finalizing revising its NAFSIP. It is important to ensure that the priorities in the updated NAFSIP are implemented with adequate funding (public and private) and an enabling environment.
2. *Enhancing investment finance in agriculture:* Public expenditure in agriculture needs to be increased to the target of at least 10 percent of the national public expenditure budget. The BR report highlights a lack of data on domestic and foreign private sector investment in agriculture, agribusiness, and agro-industry, and enhancing access to finance. The Ministry of Agriculture should promote both domestic and foreign private sector investments as elaborated in Lesotho's investment plans. Lesotho should also strengthen access to finance for agriculture, especially for youth and women so that they can actively engage in agricultural value chains and agribusinesses.
3. *Ending hunger by 2025:* This requires substantial effort in Lesotho, including measures to double agricultural productivity by improving access to improved agriculture inputs and technologies such as irrigation, seeds, and fertilizers. Lesotho should also invest in measures to reduce postharvest loss in agriculture and strengthen social protection.
4. *Halving poverty through agriculture by 2025:* Lesotho was not on track on all indicators in this performance theme. Investments in the agriculture sector should prioritise measures to improve and sustain agricultural GDP for poverty reduction, establishing inclusive public-private partnerships for commodity value chains, creating jobs for youth in agricultural value chains, and women's participation in agribusiness. The "zeros" for four of the indicators in this theme could also indicate lack of data, which

calls for the ministry to set up M&E and data collection systems to ensure they are reported on in the next BR process.

5. *Boosting intra-Africa trade in agricultural commodities*: Although the country was on track on this commitment/performance theme, efforts should be strengthened to establish and implement intra-Africa trade policies and the enabling environment.
6. *Enhancing resilience to climate variability*: There is need for Lesotho to invest more to building resilience capacity to climate-related risks in the agriculture sector.
7. *Mutual accountability for actions and results*: Lesotho is undertaking a JSR assessment and, together with lessons from the inaugural BR, the country should be in a position to report on all indicators for this theme.

#### 4. Recommendations for Improving the BR Process

This section provides overall recommendations for Lesotho to improve implementation of the Malabo Declaration commitments and the contribution of the agriculture sector to the goals by 2025.

1. *Improve M&E and data collection and management systems in agriculture*: Lesotho's BR scorecard indicates several data gaps in the reporting. To address this shortcoming, there is need for strengthening M&E and data collection and management systems in the agriculture sector. Strengthened M&E systems would help in tracking progress in the implementation of the NAFSIP and providing data and information for evidence-based planning and implementation of agriculture sector policies and programmes.
2. *Improve public and private sector funding in agriculture, targeting indicators where the country was not on track to achieve Malabo Declaration targets by 2025*: Lesotho needs to increase public and private investment in agriculture to at least the Malabo Declaration targets. It is also necessary to create an enabling environment that is conducive for both public and private sector investment across priorities in the NAFSIP.
3. *Strengthen collaboration and coordination across ministries and agriculture sector stakeholders*: Strengthening collaboration and coordination is necessary to improve data and information sharing related to the agriculture sector that is collected from other ministries and technical partners.
4. *Sustain progress in strengthening mutual accountability to action and results in implementing Malabo Declaration commitments*: Lesotho should sustain the momentum in strengthening mutual accountability to action and results. This includes commitment to ensuring implementation of the recently updated NAFSIP and the Malabo Declaration commitments.

#### 5. Conclusion

This BR brief shows that Lesotho was not on track to meet the Malabo Declaration targets for 2025. Three commitments were on track: recommitment to CAADP, boosting intra-Africa trade in agriculture, and mutual accountability for action and results, while the others were not on

track. Lesotho was on track on 6 of the 43 indicators, highlighting the substantial efforts required to implement the commitments of the Malabo Declaration and national priorities in the agriculture sector.

## **6. References**

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