

**A Smallholder  
Farmer's Guide on  
CAADP  
Kampala Declaration  
and the AU Strategy &  
Action Plan 2026 - 2035**

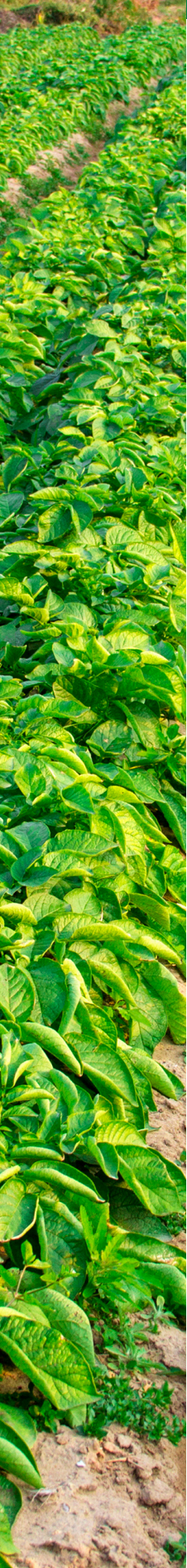
**This popular version is based on the CAADP Kampala Declaration & Strategy and  
Action Plan 2026 - 2035 of January 2025**





## List of Acronyms

<b>AfCFTA</b>	African Continental Free Trade Area
<b>AfDB</b>	African Development Bank
<b>AI</b>	Artificial Intelligence
<b>AU</b>	African Union
<b>AUC</b>	African Union Commission
<b>AUDA NEPAD</b>	African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development
<b>BR</b>	Biennial Review
<b>CAADP</b>	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
<b>eBR</b>	Electronic Biennial Review System
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>ESAFF</b>	Eastern and Southern Africa Small-Scale Farmers Forum
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>GIS</b>	Geographic Information Systems
<b>ICT</b>	Information and Communications Technology
<b>IFAD</b>	International Fund for Agricultural Development
<b>IFPRI</b>	International Food Policy Research Institute
<b>IGAD</b>	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>ISDB</b>	Islamic Development Bank
<b>JSR</b>	Joint Sector Review
<b>M &amp; E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>NASIP</b>	National Agrifood Systems Investment Plan
<b>NWFP</b>	Non-Wood Forest Product
<b>RASIP</b>	Regional Agrifood Systems Investment Plan
<b>REC</b>	Regional Economic Community
<b>SME</b>	Small and Medium Enterprise
<b>SO</b>	Strategic Objective
<b>SPS</b>	Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards
<b>TVET</b>	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
<b>TWG</b>	Technical Working Group
<b>UNCTAD</b>	United Nations Trade and Development
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNECA</b>	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
<b>WB</b>	World Bank
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>WOAH</b>	World Organization for Animal Health



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# Message from Farmer Leader

Fellow Farmers, I humbly present "A Smallholder Farmer's Guide to the Kampala Declaration (2026–2035).

**The CAADP Strategy and Action Plan.**" This guide illuminates the path toward an African agricultural transformation in which smallholder farmers are empowered agents of change.

This guide is a simplified, farmer-friendly version of the Kampala CAADP Strategy and Action Plan: 2026-2035. It is designed to help smallholder farmers understand this important continental plan and how it directly impacts their lives, farming activities and communities.



The Kampala Declaration 2026 - 2035 is a roadmap for building a sustainable and resilient agricultural future across Africa. Focusing on smallholder farmers, this guide breaks down complex strategies into actionable, easy-to-understand and implementable steps. This guide is a tool to empower farmers to take advantage of opportunities and overcome challenges while contributing to a stronger, more sustainable agri-food system.

**The CAADP Kampala Declaration 2026 - 2035, adopted on January 2025, signifies a watershed moment.**

It embodies the collective will of African leaders to build resilient, inclusive and sustainable agricultural systems by 2035. Smallholder farmers, the very heart of Africa's food production, are pivotal to realizing this transformative vision. By harnessing the potential to enhance productivity, navigate the complexities of climate change and unlock access to markets, this Declaration offers a lifeline to millions across the continent.

I sincerely thank the **AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, DREA, Policy Link, EAC & SADC as well as AKADEMIA2063, Thematic Working Group Leaders** and other development partners for providing farmers (including ESAFF) with a platform to engage in all the CAADP Post-Malabo processes. Through these engagements, ESAFF took part in the RECs led dialogues in Nairobi and Lusaka and submitted various inputs through the Thematic Working Groups (TWGs), also submitted a memorandum to the AUC which many issues were taken on board except agroecology and food sovereignty. The efforts to amplify smallholder farmers' voices has helped to shape inclusive agricultural policies and build sustainable food systems across Africa.

**ESAFF remains steadfast in its commitment** to empowering smallholder farmers through advocacy, capacity building and facilitating access to essential resources. By aligning our efforts with the principles enshrined in the CAADP Kampala Declaration 2026 - 2035.

I invite you to embrace this guide as an instrument of empowerment, a catalyst for transforming your communities and contributing to Africa's agricultural renaissance. Together, let us rise to the challenge, actualize the ambitious goals of the CAADP Kampala Declaration 2026 - 2035 and secure a future where prosperity and abundance reign for generations to come.

**In solidarity and service**

**Mr. Hakim Baliraine**  
ESAFF Chairperson  
January 2025

# Chapter 1: Genesis of CAADP

## 1.1 Why CAADP matters

The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) is a transformative initiative launched by the African Union in 2003. Its primary goal is to eliminate hunger and poverty in Africa through agriculture-led development. CAADP embodies the collective commitment of African leaders to prioritize agriculture as a driver of economic growth and social progress, aligning with the African Union's Agenda 2063. These commitments are underpinned by ambitious targets, including reducing poverty and malnutrition, increasing agricultural productivity and farm incomes, and ensuring the sustainability of agricultural practices and natural resource use. CAADP serves as a unifying framework to accelerate the transformation of Africa's agricultural sector and achieve long-term development goals.

Under CAADP, African governments pledged to;




**Allocate at least;**  
**10%** of their national budgets to agriculture and rural development



**Achieve**  
An annual agricultural growth rate of **6%**

## 1.2 What are the processes that CAADP has evolved



**CAADP**

**The Maputo Declaration: 2003**

African leaders agreed to allocate at least **10%** of their national budgets to agriculture and achieve

**6%** annual agricultural growth.

It introduced the concept of **country-led** and **regionally integrated** development processes.



**7**  
MALABO COMMITMENTS

**The Malabo Declaration: 2014–2025**

Focused on accelerated agricultural growth and transformation to improve livelihoods and shared prosperity.

Emphasized ending hunger, reducing poverty by half, and tripling intra-African trade in agricultural goods and services.

Prioritized climate resilience, accountability, and inclusive development for women and youth.



**6**  
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

**The Kampala Declaration: 2026–2035**

Builds on the progress and lessons of Maputo and Malabo.

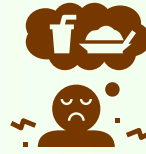
Adopts a broader agri-food systems approach, addressing challenges across the entire food value chain.

Aims to create sustainable and resilient systems that benefit farmers, improve nutrition, and support economic stability

## 1.3 Key numbers that matter

**2.5 billion**

 Africa's projected population by 2050 doubling the demand for food



**20.4%**

Share of Africans experiencing **hunger**



**58%** Population facing food insecurity with **924.8 million** **unable to afford** healthy diets.



**130,000**

Annual foodborne illness cases causing high medical costs and lost productivity



Target for national budget allocations to agriculture is currently met by only a handful of countries.



The ambition is to triple intra-African agricultural trade by leveraging the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).



Photo credit: MVIWATA

# Chapter 2: The CAADP Kampala Declaration (2026 - 2035)

## 2.1 What it is

The Kampala Declaration is a **promise by African leaders (African Union)** to improve farming and food systems across Africa. **Declared on January 11, 2025**, it aims to ensure everyone has enough food, protect the environment, and help farmers earn more by 2035.

## 2.2 Why it is important

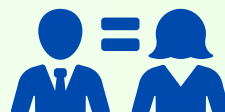
Africa's population is projected to reach **2.5 billion by 2050!** The Kampala Declaration helps us tackle these challenges;



**Enough food for everyone:**  
Growing more food in a changing climate.



**Better farming:**  
Helping farmers grow more food using new methods that protect the environment.



**Fairness:**  
Making sure everyone benefits, including women and young people.



Photo credit: Joe Mzinga

Africa Heads of State and high level delegates during the Extraordinary Summit on Post Malabo Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) in Kampala, Uganda in January 2025



Photo credit: AUC

Various Ministers during the Extraordinary Summit on the Post Malabo Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) in Kampala, Uganda in January 2025



## 2.3 Commitments by African Leaders (Data) 2026 – 2035

The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) is a transformative framework designed to propel Africa's agricultural sector toward sustainable growth and food security. The six CAADP goals serve as the pillars of this ambitious agenda, providing clear benchmarks for policy reform, strategic investment and inclusive development across the continent. These goals not only set targets for increasing agricultural productivity and economic growth but also emphasize environmental sustainability, market access, and improved livelihoods for rural communities.

Below are the six CAADP Kampala Commitments 2026 - 2035



### Intensifying Sustainable Food Production, AgroIndustrialization, and Trade

To increasing agrifood output by **45%** to meet growing Africa food requirements and global trade opportunities.

Reducing post-harvest loss by **50%**.

Tripling intra-African trade in agrifood products and inputs by **2035** in line with the AfCFTA.

Raising the share of locally processed food to **35%** of agrifood GDP by 2035



### Boosting Investment and Financing for Accelerated Agri-Food Systems Transformation

To mobilize a total of **\$100 billion** in public and private sector investment in African agrifood systems.

At least **10%** of annual public expenditure is allocated to agrifood systems

At least **15%** of agrifood GDP is reinvested annually into the sector.



### Ensuring Food and Nutrition Security

To reduce stunting by **25%**

To reduce wasting by **25%**

To reduce overweight by **25%**

To reduce ensuring that **60%** of the population can afford a healthy diet.



### Advancing Inclusivity and Equitable Livelihoods

Reducing the number of people living in extreme poverty by **50%**

Reducing the yield gap between men and women farmers by **50%**

Empowering at least **30%** of women, **30%** youth and **30%** vulnerable groups in agrifood value chains by 2035



### Building Resilient Agri-Food Systems

Ensuring that Africa's agrifood systems are resilient to climate, socio-economic, and environmental shocks

To have at least **30%** of agricultural land under sustainable management and **40%** of households protected from shocks by 2035



### Strengthening Agri-Food Systems Governance

African Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) **integrate** the Kampala CAADP Declaration into their national and regional agrifood systems investment plans by 2028

African countries **adopt best practices in governance** of agrifood systems based on CAADP principles.

African countries incorporate the CAADP Biennial Review process into their **national agriculture joint sectoral review platforms**

## 2.4 Why this plan is different

The CAADP Kampala Declaration 2026 - 2035 is not the first attempt to transform Africa's agricultural landscape. Previous declarations, such as the Maputo and Malabo Declarations, laid important groundwork but faced challenges in achieving their ambitious goals. The Kampala Declaration learns from these experiences and introduces key innovations to ensure its success:

### A Broader Vision:



It takes a holistic "agri-food systems" approach, considering the entire journey of food from farm to table to waste management, encompassing production, nutrition, markets, and environmental sustainability.

### Climate Resilience



It strongly emphasizes building resilience to climate change, recognizing the urgent need to adapt to a changing environment and promoting sustainable practices.

### Inclusivity at its Core



It prioritizes inclusivity, ensuring that women, youth, and vulnerable groups are actively involved in shaping the future of agriculture.

### Policy Integration



It calls for stronger integration of agricultural policies across different sectors, promoting a coordinated approach to development.

### Accountability and Collaboration



It establishes mechanisms for mutual accountability through biennial reviews and emphasizes collaboration among governments, farmers, civil society, and the private sector.



Photo credit: MVIWATA

## 2.5 Guiding Principles:



### Ownership and Leadership.

Country-led processes integrated into national plans and budgets.



### Holistic and Integrated Perspective

Address entire value chains, sustainability, dietary diversity.



### Sustainability

Social, economic, and environmental considerations embedded in all actions



### Inclusivity

Engage women, youth, vulnerable groups



### Multi-Stakeholder Coordination

Strong collaboration across sectors and borders.



### Evidence-Based Decision-Making

Use data, mutual accountability, BR processes.



### Mutual Accountability and Transparency

Strengthen JSR and BR mechanisms.



### Subsidiarity and Regional Complementarities

Regional cooperation where issues transcend national boundaries.



### Embrace Technological Advancements

Digital tools, AI, precision agriculture, climate-smart approaches.

## 2.6 Roles and Responsibilities of Stakeholders

This section outlines the **roles and responsibilities** of key actors in the agri-food system in driving the successful implementation of CAADP Kampala Declaration 2035 goals.

These roles include;

### Farmers



- Tracking and Monitoring agriculture budgets
- Participation in Joint Agriculture Sector Review (JASR) at grassroot and district level
- Encourage women and young people to participate in farming
- Mobilize and build strong grassroots movements to push for inclusive agricultural policies and fair markets.

### National Governments



- Integrate CAADP commitments into national policies, strategies, and budgets through NASIPs with effective implementation tools.
- Increase investments in infrastructure, research, & extension services to accelerate agrifood systems transformation.
- Strengthen coordination and inclusive governance, ensuring women, youth, and vulnerable groups are actively involved.
- Establish a high-capacity monitoring team supported by knowledge systems, technical experts, and digital platforms for data management.

### Continental/Regional Bodies (AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs)



- Support AU Member States and RECs to incorporate the commitments in this declaration into National and Regional Agrifood Systems Investment Plans
- Facilitate regional collaboration, economic integration, and harmonization of policies across African Union Member States to boost intra-African trade
- Establish a private sector-led advisory council to enhance private sector engagement
- Conduct a biennial Agricultural Review Process, beginning the year 2027, and report on progress to the AU Assembly
- Enhance the utilization of the results of the CAADP biennial review report to inform planning and decision-making

### Parliamentarians



- Support AU Member States and regional bodies in shaping and implementing agrifood policies and investment plans by ensuring proper laws, funding, and oversight.
- Ensure that at least 10% of annual public expenditure is invested in agrifood systems and monitor its efficient utilization at national and regional levels.

### Private Sector



- Invest in technology, innovation, market development and value chain integration to drive agri-food systems transformation
- Increase investments in sustainable value chains to boost food production, agro-industrialization and trade

### Civil Society



- Create a dedicated framework to oversee the NASIPs & RASIPs, ensuring transparency and accountability in their implementation.
- Advocate for resource allocation for agrifood systems development, enhancing funding opportunities and support for NASIPs/RASIPs initiatives.

### Development Partners









- Commit to support implementation of the Kampala CAADP Declaration 2035 by aligning their technical and financial resources to the continental priorities.
- Support AUC, AUDA-NEPAD and RECs to provide support to Member States to integrate the Kampala CAADP declaration in NASIPs/RASIPs

# Chapter 3: What are the 6 Strategic Objectives?

This section provides a summary of the six strategic objectives outlined in the CAADP Kampala Strategy and Action Plan 2026 - 2035. These strategic objectives are designed to drive sustainable agricultural transformation by enhancing policy alignment, strengthening investment frameworks, promoting accountability, and fostering resilience as well as governance in Africa's agri-food systems.

## Strategic Objective 1

### Intensifying Sustainable Food Production, Agro-Industrialization and Trade

- 
**Strengthen Input Systems**  
 Including seed systems, soil health and fertilizers, water management, and research and extension services, while promoting sustainable agricultural practices that conserve resources, protect ecosystems, and long-term productivity and production.
- 
**Create policy and regulatory environment** for the development and integration of technologies.
- 
**Stimulate growth of agro-industrial enterprises** especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).
- 
**Integration of smallholder farmers, women and youth into value chains** and regional markets in compliance with sustainability standards.
- 
**Strengthen market access and trade facilitation** by removing trade barriers and improving infrastructure.
- 
**Invest in regional value chains**, post-harvest infrastructure, food baskets and trade corridors for increased trade and improved food and nutrition security across Africa

## Strategic Objective 2

### Boosting Investment and Financing for Accelerated Agri-Food Systems Transformation





- 
**Strengthen capacities** to develop and implement flagship programs and bankable projects, ensuring that investments lead to impactful and scalable outcomes.
- 
**Improve access to financing** for agrifood systems transformation and participation of stakeholders to ensure climate finance reach farmers and small and medium scale food producers and processors
- 
**Increase both public and private sector investment** in agrifood systems
- 
**Expand public sector investment** to support critical infrastructures



Photo credit: Policy Link

EAC and IGAD Stakeholders during the Regional Economic Communities led consultative meeting on Post Malabo Agenda in Nairobi, Kenya in May 2024

### Strategic Objective 3

#### Ensuring Food and Nutrition Security



**Promote agrifood systems that enhance human nutrition** and health outcomes, promoting diets that contribute to overall well-being



**Boost the production and consumption of nutritious traditional and indigenous crops**, animals, fish and fisheries products through policy and financing strategies



**Strengthen nutrition policies, programs, education, and consumer awareness** to eliminate micronutrient deficiencies



**Enhance sanitary and phytosanitary standards (SPS)** and implement One Health protocols to safeguard food safety and protect human, animal, plant and environmental health.



**Invest in disease surveillance**, veterinary laboratories, vaccine production and eradicate peste des petits ruminants (PPR) and improve cooperation on transboundary animal diseases.



**Prioritize research** and development of improved fodder crop varieties



**Strengthen fisheries and aquaculture** value chains while promoting sustainable practices



**Develop innovative social safety nets** that effectively tackle malnutrition and promote food and nutrition security.

### Strategic Objective 4

#### Advancing Inclusivity and Equitable Livelihoods



**Facilitate access to productive resources** including friendly financial services, innovation, technology and access to land for women, youth, and vulnerable groups



**Implement inclusive social protection** programs that address the needs of vulnerable populations



**Improve infrastructure and access to social services** in rural areas and vulnerable communities.



**Reduce the yield gap** between male and female farmers.



**Facilitate climate resilient and green jobs** for youth, women and vulnerable groups.

### Strategic Objective 5

#### Building Resilient Agri-Food Systems



**Increase investments in human and physical capacity** for research to generate agricultural technologies and innovations that mitigate climate change



**Strengthen early warning and response systems** for various shocks while implementing national resilience strategies that integrate resilience into plans and policies as well as resources for capacity building



**Enhance the absorptive capacity of agrifood systems** to minimize damage, protect livelihoods, and support recovery efforts following shocks or disruptions



**Promote adaptation strategies** within agrifood systems and livelihoods to reduce vulnerability to major shocks and stressors



**Increase mobilization of climate finance** and technical assistance to support farmers, particularly smallholders and transition to low-carbon farming practices



**Promote indigenous knowledge** and practices, recognizing their role in fostering environmental stewardship and resilience

## Strategic Objective 6

### Strengthening Agri-Food Systems Governance



**Maintain the CAADP principles** that include agrifood-led economic growth for inclusive and sustainable development; regional cooperation and participation of all stakeholders, especially women, youth, and vulnerable groups



**Promote evidence-based decision-making** and mutual accountability



**Strengthen the African Union Commission, AUDANEPAD, and regional economic communities** to enable them to fulfill the roles and mandates



**Develop a financial instrument** designed to support the effective implementation of this Declaration



**Empower national, regional and continental parliaments, and their committees**, to provide oversight and consistent alignment of legislation and national budgets to the objectives of the Kampala CAADP Declaration



**Strengthen producer organizations** to enable them to fulfill their role in developing and implementing national and regional policies, as well as the mandates outlined in this Declaration



Photo credit: Policy Link

SADC Non State Actors during the RECs led consultative meeting on Post Malabo Agenda in Lusaka, Zambia in June 2024

## Chapter 4: ESAFF Recommendations

### 4.1 ESAFF Recommendations

As a regional organization representing smallholder farmers across Eastern and Southern Africa, ESAFF acknowledges and appreciates the clarity, inclusivity and forward-thinking vision of the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan: 2026 - 2035. This document provides a strong foundation for transforming the agricultural sector and achieving sustainable food systems. However, based on our experience and grassroots interactions, We propose the following recommendations to enhance the plan's impact and ensure effective implementation

#### Appealing for Further Action

##### (i) Food Sovereignty and Agroecology

**Food sovereignty and agroecology should be central to the CAADP Kampala Strategy and Action Plan 2026–2035 indicators**, guiding national adoption and implementation. The framework must include targets for sustainable practices, farmer-managed seed systems, agroecological extension services and local knowledge. It should ensure **smallholder farmers' control over food systems**, promote local production, and reduce reliance on external inputs, while advocating for budgets, incentives, and regional cooperation, with a focus on gender equity, inclusivity, and climate resilience. Additionally, it should include protection of biodiversity and ecosystems integrity to enhance agricultural resilience over the long-term. Ensure the co-creation of policies that reflect the lived experiences of farmers, particularly women and youth, and promote participatory research and data collection to strengthen evidence-based decision-making.

##### (ii) Farmers participation in the development of indicators

Farmers should be actively involved in defining indicators for the CAADP Kampala Strategy and Action Plan to ensure their needs and realities are reflected. Their participation will enhance accountability and the effectiveness of agricultural policies. AU and RECs should create inclusive platforms for meaningful farmer engagement.

##### (iii) Inclusion of CAADP in NASIPs and RASIPs Frameworks

African governments should integrate CAADP commitments into their National Agri-food Systems Investment Plans (NASIPs) and Regional Agri-food Systems Investment Plans (RASIPs) to align with strategic priorities. This ensures coordinated policies, funding and accountability for sustainable agricultural growth. Recognition of agroecology as a viable investment pathway, and prioritization of equitable, humane, and sustainable food systems that work for all

##### (iv) Strengthening Monitoring Systems

Create inclusive, user-friendly tools (e.g, mobile apps, SMS platforms) to help smallholder farmers report challenges, successes and policy impacts. These tools will collect disaggregated data (gender, age, location) for targeted solutions and track biodiversity and ecosystem health as part of agricultural monitoring supported by training to enhance farmer capacity, accountability and evidence-based advocacy.

##### (v) Sustainable Financing Models

Provide examples of financing models, such as public-private partnerships or cooperative credit facilities, tailored to smallholder needs and ensuring access to funding. Digital platforms can also enable farmers to apply for loans via mobile phones, increasing access in remote areas. These models help smallholders overcome financial barriers, boosting investment in sustainable agriculture and improving productivity. Financial incentives must also be provided to smallholder farmers that adopt climate-resilient and biodiversity-friendly farming methods. Subsidies should be directed towards smallholder producers and away from harmful industrial agriculture

## **(vi) Policy Alignment Across Sectors**

Facilitate intersectoral dialogues and ensure that agricultural policies complement other national and regional priorities and integration of agricultural policies with trade, health, and environmental policies

## **(vii) Decentralization of CAADP to District Level (District Agriculture Development Plans)**

To ensure the effective implementation of the (CAADP) at the grassroots level, there is a need to decentralize and integrate them into District Agriculture Development Plans (DADPs). To enhance localized planning, budgeting and resource allocation, ensuring that smallholder farmers actively participate in decision-making processes.

ESAFF remains committed to working collaboratively with all stakeholders to ensure the success of the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan: 2026–2035. By addressing the gaps identified and adopting the proposed recommendations, member states can fully realize CAADP's vision of a transformed, resilient, and inclusive agricultural sector that uplifts smallholder farmers and secures food systems for future generations





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### Farmers Speak for Themselves

The Eastern and Southern Africa Small-Scale Farmers Forum (ESAFF) is a network of grassroots organizations of smallholder farmers with a membership of 5.5 million smallholder farmers, operating across 17 nations of Eastern and Southern Africa



Botswana, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, eSwatini, Seychelles, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe,

#### For more information



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