

# CATALYZING ACTION & AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION IN AFRICA: TAKING THE PULSE OF CAADP

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## PRESENTATION TRANSCRIPT

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### PRESENTERS

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### MODERATOR

Julie MacCartee, USAID Bureau for Food Security

Julie M.:

Hello everyone. On behalf of Agrilinks, Feed the Future and the USAID Bureau for Food Security. I would like to welcome you to our webinar today on catalyzing action and agricultural transformation in Africa, taking the pulse of CAADP. My name is Julie McCarty and I'm with the USAID Bureau for Food Security. And I'll be your webinar facilitator today, so you'll hear my voice periodically especially during our question and answer session. USAID and BFS are really excited to be hosting this webinar in collaboration with African Union partners and Feed the Future of Africa Lead program. We're excited to help engage a broad audience in taking the pulse on the current status of the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program, also known as CAADP, which has been operating for almost 15 years now. And also to share some information about new tools and efforts that seek to leverage this robust African owned initiative. To help catalyze data-driven action towards accelerating improved food security and resilience on the continent.

We're also excited to be hosting this webinar on the heels of the 15th CAADP Partnership Platform Meeting, which was held in Nairobi last week. And which is an annual continental forum for promoting learning, reflection and adaptive management among CAADP stakeholders. We have some great experts on the panel to reflect on just how far we've come, what we've learned and some of the exciting new developments that are taking CAADP into a new phase of implementation.

Feed the Future of Africa Lead Program will be facilitating this session as part of their overarching mandate to support African Union institutions, member states and local stakeholders through facilitation, communication and learning within the CAADP context. Very quickly, before we dive into the content, I just want to orient you to a couple of pieces. First, and most of you have already done so, please do use the chat box to introduce yourself, to ask questions and to share resources.

We'll be collecting your questions throughout the webinar and we'll ask as many as we can after the presentation. You'll see that the slides are available for download on the bottom left of your screens, as well as a couple of recommended resources. And lastly we are recording this webinar and we'll email you the recording, the transcripts and some additional resources once they're ready. And they will also be posted on Agrilinks.

All right, I am going to introduce our first speaker and then we can get started. So I'd like to introduce Shannon Sabo, who is the deputy chief of Party for Africa Lead. And she supports Africa Leads continental activities and the activities

monitoring, evaluation and learning the elements. And she'll be giving a brief introduction to our topic and to our next speaker. So Shannon, please unmute and we'll see.

Shannon: Thanks Julie. Hi everyone.

Julie M.: Oh, I can hear you clearly.

Shannon: I hope you hear me okay. Good morning and good afternoon to everyone who's calling in. We're so pleased to have everybody on the call today. Like Julie mentioned, my name is Shannon Sabo and I work on the Africa Lead project. Which is a USAID funded Africa wide project, that's focused on strengthening leadership, building institutional capacity and facilitating learning for CAADP implementation at all levels. Today is the first webinar and our final program learning series. And at the end of today's webinar we'll be sharing some more information about how you can get involved in some of the future events. So to dive right in, CAADP stands for the Continental Africa Agricultural Development Program. And if you're not familiar with it, we're really hoping this webinar will be a useful orientation. CAADP is a program of the African Union that's been in place for almost 15 years. And like Julie mentioned, a lot of momentum has been generated and progress had has been made. But today this continental program still remains largely misunderstood by a variety of agricultural stakeholders.

So what we're hoping to do here today is one, follow up on the CAADP Partnership Platform Meeting, like Julie mentioned, it was just held last week here in Nairobi. But also really takes this opportunity to update a broad set of agricultural stakeholders on the current status of CAADP.

We're really lucky to have some great experts on the line with us here. Earnest Ruzindaza with the African Union, Fatmata Seiwoh from the Economic Community of West African States, we call that ECOWAS and Augustin Wambo Yamdjeu from the African Union Development Agency. Who are going to help us reflect on just how far we've come and what we've learned and kind of tee up some exciting new developments that are going to take CAADP into a next phase of implementation. So Africa Leaders facilitating this session as part of our overarching mandate, to support the African Union and African stakeholders through this flotation strategic communication and learning within the CAADP context.

So that's why we are going to be your facilitators today. Next, I'd like to just do a brief, one run through of the agenda for today's conversation. I'll introduce my

colleague Robert Ouma in a second and he's going to give us sort of introduction and an overview of CAADP. Then we'll open it up to a panel discussion. We have some pre-programmed questions that will tee up for them. And then we'll open it up to you, to hear some questions from the audience that Julia and Robert are going to help moderate. And then we'll close and wrap up and have some ideas about how you can get involved in future events. So that's it for now, I'm going to turn it over to my colleague Robert Ouma. Robert is a senior CAADP policy advisor on Africa Lead and he's been working very closely with the African Union on many of the topics we're going to discuss today. So over to you Robert.

Robert O.:

Well, thank you very much Shannon for that introduction. And thank you everyone for joining this webinar. I'm really glad to be here and to speak to all of you about what is a critically important subject in African Development. CAADP that's the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program. CAADP is Africa's policy framework for agriculture development. And agriculture led development in particular. And CAADP objectives broadly includes, the big aims of reducing poverty, increasing the level of food security, providing jobs and income and what you would say are the usual big picture developmental goal, but using agriculture to achieve that. I'm going take you through the development of CAADP over the years and how it started. And right now on your screen, you should be seeing a timeline.

CAADP started about 2003 with what was known as the Maputo Declaration, which was made by African heads of state sitting in Maputo. And they were concerned with some of the big issues in Africa. Like the idea that a lot of Africans was still malnourished and it's still the case now, that Africa has about over 20% of the population is malnourished. And the fact that Africa spends a lot of money on food imports. I think current statistics anywhere between 35 to \$40 billion a year. And there was a feeling that using agriculture, developing agriculture would be a way to develop broadly the economies of African countries. And during the decade between 2003 in 2014, the focus of CAADP was really to try and encourage faster agricultural growth. In fact, there was a target of 6% growth during that period, the first 10 years of CAADP. And it was a big forecast also on trying to encourage African countries to spend more money from their budget expenditure. In fact the target was 10%. Putting 10% of agricultural expenditure, of national expenditure into agriculture so as to spur agriculture lead growth.

And so for those 10 years, the Maputo Declaration was the focal point and created a lot of focus on agriculture. And there were planning and plenty of activities within the continent around policy making for agriculture development, tools and processes and analysis, to encourage countries to do

more on agriculture. And this went on until 2014 when there was a, what you could call a pause and reflect. And 2014 was actually the year of agriculture. And many countries came together and convened by the African Union, to reflect on how the first 10 years of CAADP had gone. And some of the lessons of those 10 years informed a second declaration, which is known as the Malabo Declaration. Which brought a more results focused into CAADP. And they funded CAADP significantly to account for what was seen as the multifaceted, multidisciplinary nature of agricultural development.

And the Malabo Declaration, and I'll show you what some of the elements are in a moment, help to rejuvenate re-forecast CAADP around some seven clear goals. Which are currently the main targets to achieve those goals by 2025. But one important element of the Malabo declaration is what was called the biannual review. Which simply means a mechanism to measure progress every two years. Progress as far as the targets, the objectives of the Malabo Declaration are concerned. And so that's been going on and we're going to talk about that shortly. So that timeline tells you the evolution of CAADP over the years.

CAADP itself, and particularly with the current Malabo Declaration that kind of underpins its implementation, is very closely related to the sustainable development goals. Particularly SDG number two, there's a very close relationship. But it's also very closely related, in fact it implements an African aspiration of vision known as the agenda 2063. Which the first aspiration there is really about food security. And in particular trying to ensure that there's a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development. Of which one of the most important elements is a healthy and well nourished a citizenry and modern agriculture. Increased productivity and production and environmental sustainability. All of these elements in agenda 2063 are actually covered in the Malabo declaration.

I did mention that the Malabo Declaration has got seven broad targets. We call them the Malabo commitment. And if you do look, I think we're going post on your screen a copy of the Malabo declaration for those who are interested. Right on your screen, you have got those seven commitments. Re-commitment to the values and principles of the CAADP process. Enhancing increased investments. Finance into agriculture, which is a depending of what were the original objectives of CAADP. Ending hunger by 2025. Cutting poverty by half, by 2025, particularly through inclusive agricultural growth and transformation. Boosting intra-Africa trades in agricultural commodities and services. Some of you might be aware that we now have in place the continental free trade area in Africa, which supplements this objective five of the Malabo declaration. The

sixth one is on enhancing resilience of livelihoods and production systems, particularly to climate variability and other shocks. And the final one is strengthening mutual accountability to actions and results. And this links very well to the point I made earlier about a biannual review, a means and a mechanism for measuring performance.

In my next slide, I've presented something on the biannual review process. Which I think is an innovative and data driven approach to showing how well countries are implementing the Malabo Declaration. The previous ... The last biannual review was really covering 2017 and it was evaluating country performance. It had indicators across the seven thematic areas and 23 performance categories. 43 indicators in total. And some of the things we could say about it is that it overall enhances Africa's capacity for knowledge and data generation and management. In a way it is strengthening the appreciation for data driven decision making and for reflection around performance. So this is a new and interesting thing in agriculture development in Africa.

It's also helping to institutionalize a system of peer review. Where countries [inaudible 00:15:05] each other's performance and explain to each other why they are not performing as well as they should towards the targets they committed themselves in 2014. And this is happening frequently enough on a biannual basis. And the reports of delivered at a very high level to heads of states, when they meet in Addis Ababa every two years, to reflect on ongoing performance.

The results of the first biannual review that I just talked about were out for 2017. 47 members states reported, eight of them were unable to report for various reasons. Including issues like conflict, capacity issues and other things. The performance overall is presented as a summary in terms of a scorecard. Where each country has a score that's a kind of a total compilation of all the indicators, that show how far they are from achieving the Malabo Commitments. And perhaps I should say at this point that the biannual review was actually measuring performance covering the year, the period 2015 to 2016 and the next one will cover 2017 right up to 2018. So it's going to be up to 2019 and it's going to be released in 2020, January 2020.

The last biannual review showed that 20 countries we're on track. Being on track meant that they have achieved a minimum overall score of 3.95 out of 10. 10 is the total score to be able to say that you are on track to achieving the 2025 goals. So by, within the past two years, you should have achieved 3.94, if you're going to make it to 10 by 2025. And so 20 countries were on track but 27 countries were not on track. The average was 3.6 which is below the required

score. And so that was the result. And you can see on that map the countries that were on track and those that weren't, and those that had no data.

So overall this is how CAADP is being implemented. It is a unique and interesting development in Africa. And we think a lot of us that this is something going to be potentially transformative. But CAADP has not been without some challenges. And in the next 20 minutes or so, perhaps more, we're going to have a conversation with the three panelists that were introduced earlier.

That's Ernest Ruzindaza from the African Union Commission, the department of Rural Economy and Agriculture. Fatmatas Seiwoh who's from ECOWAS. And the ECOWAS is the regional economic block for West Africa. And lastly Augustin Wambo Yamdjeu, who's from the African Union Development Agency, NEPAD. NEPAD is the New Partnership for Africa's Development. I'll say a little bit more about Ernest, Fatmata and Augustin. Ernest Ruzindaza spent a lot of time working in the public sector in Rwanda. He was a permanent secretary. He has more than 15 years experience in managing the agricultural sector at a country level. Seven of those years were as PS actually. And he currently leads the CAADP program at the African Union. And he therefore has a very unique angle to all of this, having worked at country level and having worked at continental level. So we are really happy to have Ernest with us.

Fatmata on the other hand is from ECOWAS as I said. She joined ECOWAS in 2014 and is currently the CAADP M&E program officer. Not just CAADP but actually ECOWAP. ECOWAP is the ECOWAS regional agricultural program. And she has plenty of experience as well, particularly in M&E. Working under the Directorate of Agriculture and Rural Development in the ECOWAS commission. She's based in Abuja, Nigeria. And she has been working at all these levels, at continental level supporting the biannual review, and other things, as well as at regional level with the multiplicity of states, both Anglophone and Francophone. And then of course at the country level. And so we are really happy to have Fatmata with us.

Last but not least is Augustine Wambo Yamdjeu. Who has, I think almost 19 years experience in this sector. But more broadly also in program design and implementation, knowledge management, M&E and coaching. He started off working as a private consultant and has had stints with [inaudible 00:20:59] and the global donor platform. All of which were linked to CAADP in some ways. Finally joining the AU development agency NEPAD, where he's worked for some years now and he's currently the head of CAADP at NEPAD. So I want to welcome these three distinguished guests. Our conversation will cover three broad topics. The first is country ownership of CAADP and CAADP processes.

Many people say that CAADP, one CAAP's biggest challenges has been a failure to secure greater understanding and country ownership. And as a result, maybe we have not achieved as much increased investments, into agriculture by government and also by development partners.

To start us off Augustin, what are the steps ... Let's go into this country ownership \ issue. What are the steps that a country needs to take in order to be considered CAADP compliance? What are the key elements of a CAADP process? Then once a country has gone through, just in the interest of many of our listeners who may not be familiar with the CAADP country processes. So that you could say if you go through these steps on these elements are in place, then you have full ownership of CAADP.

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Augustin W.: Can you hear me now? Good afternoon

Julie M.: Oh yes. We can hear you now.

Augustin W.: Okay. Thank you Robert for the introduction. I think we are having a very interesting conversation on the topic that is very dear to our hearts. Just quickly to the point that you raised, Robert. That there are some key steps that country has to to cover up for [inaudible 00:23:52] compliance. Actually, following the adoption of the declaration in Malabo, country have to embark on what we called the Domestication of the Malabo Declaration. The Domestication of Malabo Declaration has basically three main deliverables. The country has to get stock of where it stands vis-a-vis CAADP. The country has to come with the Malabo Declaration country road map. And the country has to demonstrate that he has popularized the declaration for broadening the outreach for raising awareness. Reaching a broader range of stakeholders.

So those key elements constitute what we call the Domestication of Malabo Declaration. From there now the country has to come up with report on the current status of affairs. We can call it a stock taking the report, we can call it anything else, depends on countries. But at a minimum we should be in a position to have a clear picture of where the countries are. We also encourage a country to have some clarity on how they will plan to work with that agri-business and private sector to mobilize the investment. This means they could introduce the around the contract maybe some partnership framework. The country has to formulate the NAIP, National Agriculture Investment Plan.

After formulating the NAIP, the document has to go through independent review. By people who are not involved in the formulation, in the first place. And this will have to lead to stakeholder dialogue with the implementation agenda. At the country level in an inclusive way. We now all keep constituencies of in a country, have to be involved with broad consultation.

What comes up of this process is the final measure [inaudible 00:26:19] NAIP. We have to be implemented. So moving from that step which was national, we go into the third one, which is the implemented, actual invitation. How do you operationalize the content of NAIP, to make sure that you generate the type of impact that you want to see on the ground. Both in terms of volume and quality. You have a [inaudible 00:26:50] plan, you have to have a plan on how we want to be the private sector. You have to establish your mutual accountability system. You have to have a manual planning, that is before my implementation.

So this is what we'll call implementation, this is an important step, the third one. Now to see the Malabo compliance, you have to really look at. Your mutual accountability on that Malabo Declaration, it has to be in place, the mechanism ought to be able to collect information, and inform the kind of progress we are making, it has to be there. Information have to be collected in a timely manner, using the tools and instruments that we have generated in the process of biannual review process. So if a country is aligning its operations, in full, from all this four major steps, or major component, the country is as having aligned its operations for Malabo Declaration. So the country that is being implemented is Malabo compliance. Thank you.

Robert O.:

Thank you. Thank you very much Augustin for taking us through those steps. I mean I was just listening to you and it sounds really smooth and very easy to do. But I wonder and turning to you Ernest, particularly having worked at country level, you have been permanent secretary in the thick of things in Rwanda, working off from Kigali and then later on at the African Union. We've seen here people, and I think that they do have a point, saying that there's not so much ownership at country level. It seems that country ownership of CAADP processes and some of these steps appears to be a challenge. Why is this such a challenge? And in your opinion, what have we learned about, over the years particularly, about how to improve engagement in CAADP at country level? Because the plan looks really good. The process seems clear, but we still have challenges with ownership at country level. What's your view? What's your take on this Ernest?

Robert O.:

All right. As we try to figure out Ernest's connection, maybe I will ask Fatmata a question. And part of the challenge Fatmata is also the role of RECs which appears to be understated in some cases, in CAADP. And some have commented that the RECs and for our uninitiated listeners, RECs are Regional Economic Communities. So ECOWAS is just one of them that covers the West Africa part. We've got the East African Community in East Africa and Southern Africa Development Community in South Africa and what is known as the Arab Maghreb Union or UMA for shorts in the north. And there's another one in Central Africa. So Fatmata happens to fit in the one that covers what I think is probably the largest, if I'm not wrong. And Fatmata what value do RECs add or can RECs add to the CAADP processing countries, regions and the continental level, if you could hear me.

Fatmata:

So I was saying that during the first phase of the CAADP process, clearly RECs were simply been mentioned as part of the CAADP team to implement at the regional and country levels. But in terms of real action, that was not very intensive. By the time we got through to first 10 years of the CAADP process, the role of the RECs have evolved. Because if you look at the implementation modalities for the CAADP 2015, 2025, you would see that there is more emphasis lead on optimizing the existing blocks, regional economic communities. And is merely because of tourism because it has been recognized that for our agricultural development, to really take it's right cause, especially at the national level, it cannot be done without the regional economic communities. Because RECs seem to have more opportunities to coordinate their country in harmonizing policy and other regulations.

And as well during the process from the first phase to it adds a lot of improvement in our capacity. For example, at the ECOWAS level, we had a CAADP advisor we were able to develop an ECOWAS agriculture policy and a lot of lessons have been drawn.

So you will see that there has been that trend from just in to really [inaudible 00:34:12] our role as regional economic communities. So the value direct can add up to the CAADP process, clearly. RECs primarily are key to increasing the recognition of the importance and potential added value of regional actions on agriculture. So if you want to see the region and the countries performing well, it's very important to have the RECs managing their respective countries. And during Augustin's presentation, he spoke about domestication. If you want to see sustained domestication of the CAADP process, clearly the RECs have to change the lead role. We have to firstly see the implementation of ... Also you know that when the CAADP is developed and is translated into our regional agricultural policy, we have our investment plans that are being developed. So

we have a regional agricultural investments plan and countries have their national agricultural investment plan. So the RECs easily facilitate implementation of their regional agricultural investment plan.

ECOWAS as an example to help us do that easily, we've established Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food. And it has helped to address capacity issues so that they really focus on supervising, monitoring and tracking food get some programs are implemented towards regional and country investment plan. RECs are also able to establish multi stake holders [inaudible 00:35:55]. At the ECOWAS level we talk about the food reserve, for example of value chains. If you have the RECs managing that, it's able to easily align country by country, as well in harmonizing, like I said earlier, the process, the policy and the formulation. That as a region ECOWAS for example having 15 countries is very easy to coordinate and make sure that we're [inaudible 00:36:19] all the countries towards achieving this CAADP policy or the CAADP.

Robert O.: Thanks very much for an elaborate and very clear answer. I wonder if Ernest is back with us yet, but as we try to figure out how to get him on, I want to come back to you Augustin with the question that I pose to Ernest. And maybe like in a minute, if in your experience you have some hypotheses or some explanation why countries still find it hard to get engaged in the CAADP process. And potentially a suggestion on how that could be improved.

Ernest: Hello Robert, can you hear me?

Robert O.: Yes Ernest, I can hear you now. That was actually your question.

Ernest: Can we go back to the question?

Robert O.: Yes. And my question was really to make your mind on why countries are still facing challenges, to really owning CAADP in what they do, despite sometimes signing compacts and going through emotions. What have we learned over the years about improving the engagement or in CAADP at country level? And this is just drawing from your experience in Rwanda and now at the AUC. Thank you.

Ernest: Okay. Thank you very much Robert. And thank you everyone attending this conversation. It's really good to have this conversation today. After this CAADP PP, this success of CAADP PP. I think researching on where we are implementing CAADP is very important. So that we draw lessons and we also chart a way forward. As you know Robert and colleagues here, we have done a comprehensive review after 10 years of CAADP implementation. Before we come up with this chart that you are showing here, that draw CAADP

implementation guidelines. So the purpose was to see how is CAADP implemented at country level. And how CAADP as a framework, is actually driving agriculture transformation agenda at country level. So, I will say that what we've seen in many countries, the picture is not really harmonized. We have [inaudible 00:39:03], I will say, six to eight countries.

We have seen countries where CAADP has been embedded into the country planning system. A country where CAADP is part of the country planning cycle. And we have seen other countries where CAADP is just another project. Countries have developed [inaudible 00:39:33] just to place a request that was coming from African Union. And they will have like three frameworks that are guiding the country planning process. So these are two different pictures. And of course you also have countries where we don't have even guiding strategies. I know there are countries mostly which have not able to sign the compact. So what we've seen for the first category, in the countries that's have actually embedded the CAADP principles that have been able to align CAADP. Align ... Take CAADP, own it, embed it to the country planning process and therefore translate that plan into the budget planning.

Augustin has actually mentioned the spending plan. Of course the spending plan should be the one informing the budget planning process at country level. So today in what we are trying to do with countries, we are of course checking if the NAIP which are available in countries, are the ones informing the country budget planning process. So what we are seeing in countries is that, countries are very different. You have an NAIP which is not even informing the country budget planning process. And you have a misalignment even at country level with partners who are supporting those NAIPS. Partners have put money into these processes, but when it comes to implementation ... Because the implementation is guided by the country plan and the budget plan and when the NAIP is not informing that budget plan, then alignment and harmonization for that plan becomes a very big challenge.

And of course it goes with also coordination. Because you can only coordinate a plan which is owned by everyone. Who can govern the plan which is owned by everyone. And what we are trying to tell countries is of course make sure that CAADP importance but alignment to the country planning cycle is also very important if you want countries to implement confidently in alignment with the aspiration of course what is captured in the NAIP. So this is the key lesson and I think to the countries where they're aligning budget to the ... Why NAIP ... Informing NAIP, we're also seeing implementation happening very efficiently. Thank you.

Robert O.:

Thank you Ernest and I'm glad that you made this point. It seems like aligning CAADP with the country's own national processes for planning and budgeting. Is a key lesson for all of us. Particularly those listening from African countries who are wondering how to make CAADP stronger in the country. Thanks so much for all the points you've made. I'd like to turn our attention ... And sooner or later I'm going to open it up to our listener to also ask some questions. But for the moment I'd like to turn our attention to the issue of NAIP the National Agriculture Investment Plan and particularly what we consider their utility in the CAADP process. And I have less time, so I'm probably going to ask you to try and see if you could respond in a minute or so. I'll stay with you Ernest for now.

Why is NAIP, the National Agricultural Investment Plan considered the tool of choice, by the African Union for ensuring that these continental declarations are implemented in countries? And, and how does the AU do that? How does it use NAIP to influence the implementation of its CAADP agenda? In a way, you probably began to touch on this, but what's your take on this?

Ernest:

Thank you Robert. I think you a NAIP I mean we are calling it a NAIP but when embedded at country level, it can have different names. For example, come to Rwanda, you will not see anything called NAIP. Of course in the strategic plan for the agriculture transformation, they will say that this is our NAIP. So different countries have different names. But a NAIP is a domesticated investment plan at country level. Let's say it's a CAADP ... It's a Malabo, at country level. It's a Malabo Declaration domesticated at country level. And what we're told to say that, this NAIP of today is different from the NAIP that we used to have. Because NAIP touches seven key important commitments, which are not necessarily part of the agriculture ministry. It call for greater coordination, because it discussing not only issues related to agriculture, let's say increased productivity, but also touches on issues that are managed outside of the Agriculture Ministry. Which means that it is important to come up with, greater coordination.

So it's a third tool, because if you don't have the plan, you will not know a plan which does translates your targets by 2025, because our declaration has a deadline by 2025. If you don't have a plan, you will not be able to also coordinate your interventions at country level. So in respect of CAADP principles, making sure that country stakeholders, led by government, with the involvement of the private sector, CAADP [sectors, come together and agree on a plan that leads to achieving the Malabo targets, which is called, let's say NAIP by African Union jargon but domesticated can have a country name. Come with ambitious innovations with clear policies and investment that leads to those

targets is very important. And also making sure that this plan is very clear on what capacity it need to get it implemented.

One is to have a ambitions, but also it's important to be clear on how you also plan for operation. I think that we need to get into consideration in this discussion. We somehow lose the bulk of the content of the NAIP. And stick to the process to get a NAIP. But when you get a NAIP, the important thing is to get this NAIP implemented. A NAIP implementation, of course will be linked to how we would evaluate this NAIP, but this is really the element. How do we support member states? I mean now all players. Government partners, partners, private sector, CAADP and farmers themselves come together to implement this NAIP, which have been formulated in a very manner. And translates the ambitions of heads of state. How do we make sure that this is implemented?

Of course you mentioned investment. Investment is very key. But investment will come only if we're translating, if we're clear that what we're going to implement evidently can lead to the targets or to aspirations that's captured in the NAIP. That's why, one of the call for Malabo is really to abide to evidence-based planning. And of course, performance based and peer review invaded in this biannual review that also we'll discuss

Robert O.: All right. Thanks Ernest. In a moment I'm going to go to the metrics of all this including the biannual review and how different actors are involved. But just to close off on the NAIP ... Someone was telling me at the CAADP PP the other day, that only a handful of countries have actually reviewed or reformulated their national agriculture investment plans to reflect the Malabo declaration. And this is five years after the declaration itself and five years before we have to see the results. And I'm wondering Augustin, what suggestions do you have for speeding up the reformulation? First of all, if you do have the statistics that would be quite helpful. Like how many countries I've got Malabo compliant NAIP? And then what's your one or two suggestions for speeding up that process of getting NAIP to reflect the Malabo Declaration?

Augustin W.: Yes Robert, Can you hear me?

Robert O.: Yes. I can hear you loud and clear.

Augustin W.: Yes thank you. Yes, I think the mitigation process from the experience of the past three years has been a very ... How will I call it? Kind of slow one. Countries embark on domestication and Malabo Declaration. But as you would imagine, implementation of something continues to happen, by the time you are done with everything, we're talking about two or three years. Is also good not to, for

you to drag for too long. Ideally if you have to spend eight months to 12 months to complete the package, to make sure that you are fully aligned. The Malabo Declaration that's very okay. Otherwise when it drags so some fatigue start to kick in.

Now going back to the statistics, you were asking me how many countries can we confidently say fully Malabo compliant. Fatmata will correct me here if I'm wrong, maybe except two countries in ECOWAS that are not yet fully aligned with their plan. I think out of the 16, 13 are fully Malabo compliant. And when we move to the other region, Southern Africa and Eastern Africa. The COMESA countries and the southern countries including East African Community countries, we are talking of around seven countries or so. And now you move central, the country, the group of country at the moment that are working towards domestication Malabo Declaration, which were nationally compliant. We are working currently with eight countries in total, within central, eastern and southern Africa. That are also trying to align the operations to the content of Malabo Declaration.

Now one question you are asking me, one point I want to raise is what is making it so difficult for countries to move and fully embrace the Malabo Declaration. I think it is one thing to commit to do ABCD, actually doing it is something different. From experience, try and create and embrace the Maputo Declaration, came up with the, they were under the impression that resources would flow from somewhere to come fund the plan and the act put together. That did not materialize because it was important for their own sources, in country resources to mobilize, to be vehicle to fund the actual implementation. Looking at how countries are behaving today, history seems to be repeating itself.

We are also facing challenges with some countries that are really struggling to put the resources that are required for national stakeholder consultations to take place. Again they're turning to the African institutions to mobilize themselves, to even bring stakeholders together to agree on the key priorities that have to do in the national. So the ownership has, and I've mentioned. We have to start from the beginning. Countries have to demonstrate that they are very much in charge of one to take lead and show the way. Additional support could come from government partners or for marketing institution. But the country resources has to view what it has to share the process to what they're having in [inaudible 00:54:10] Malabo Compliance. This is only the formation.

There's also another challenge that we are seeing. But sure we went to talk about it in a minute but the biannual review has created something we didn't

witness before. Countries are struggling to ensure that they have a report that is telling. Meaning that they have to improve their score. In doing that, their main focus or some of them, is mostly on receiving support to be able to collect the data. Inform all the indicators. Analyze them, and prepare the report. Completely overlooking the need for them to come up with Malabo compliant, taking into account all the key elements that are captured into the Malaba Declaration.

So if a country with more on the biannual review, of scoring impact, what about making sure that you have in place a mechanism that is going to create the results that you need to kind of track? Well, these are the challenges that we are facing. So countries are still, for some, waiting to be assisted from outside. But luckily there are some countries that are very proactive. That are taking advantage of the lessons that have been learned so far to show them to say that yes, we take full responsibility for what happens on our watch. We have to be the ones setting the tone. Or we want to walk the talk.

Robert O.:

Thank you.