

AFRICA LEADING ON AGRICULTURE

Supporting Country-Led Agricultural Transformation

Session Four: Supporting Adaptive Management and Policy Learning

One critical element needed for agricultural transformation and food security is the ability of governments and organizations to effectively collect and utilize data to make evidence-based programmatic management decisions and policy formulation, as well as to support advocacy efforts. Data that is collected needs to be analyzed, prioritized, and presented to key stakeholders and decision makers in a clear and convincing manner in order to be effective. However, effective policy learning is not just about data. Decisionmakers also rely on functional networks and feedback loops need to be in place to support learning and adaptive management. In addition to learning networks and platforms, government and other decisionmakers must have the capacity, incentives, and flexibility to learn and adapt from evidence.

Africa Lead recognizes that improved evidenced-based policy learning and adaptive management can contribute to transformative changes in agriculture. Africa Lead promoted learning and adaptation through M&E capacity building of government organizations, such as the Bureau Operationnel de Suivi (BOS) in Senegal; the creation and dissemination of tools for CAADP awareness building; facilitation and organization of learning events and networking activities; and supporting inclusive JSR processes.

In Senegal, Africa Lead worked with BOS to build M&E capacity and operationalize a food security dashboard monitoring system that enables the government to learn and adapt in real time. BOS provides a detailed weekly report on progress toward implementing the Plan Senegal Emergent (PSE), which now enables the President and Ministerial Council to make evidence-informed policy decisions.

Africa Lead provided planning, capacity building, communication, and logistical support to the first CAADP Biennial Review in January 2018. Africa Lead provided extensive capacity-building assistance in the runup to the review, training Biennial Review trainers and country technical staff, including 156 data experts from 51 AU countries. Africa Lead also was involved in continental and country-based post-review dissemination and learning events and helped develop plans for using the 2018 Biennial Review report. In preparation for the 2019/2020 Biennial Review, Africa Lead supported two major continental training events: a Training of Trainers on Biennial Review Technical Guidelines and Process in Kigali, Rwanda, and the training of 200 individuals who will implement the Biennial Review in their respective countries. To support the CAADP Biennial Review process, Africa Lead developed the CAADP Biennial Review communications and advocacy toolkit using a collaborative approach with various donor, NGO, and country-level CAADP focal points and in close consultation with AUC/DREA and AUDA-NEPAD technical staff. The toolkit, which can be used to educate stakeholders on the BR process, was launched by AUC/DREA and AUDA-NEPAD in June 2019, during the 15th CAADP Partnership Platform (PP) meeting. With Africa Lead's support, the AU is ensuring that the Biennial Review fulfills its function as a learning exercise that helps countries use evidence-based approaches to transform their agricultural sectors.

To facilitate increased learning and sharing among practitioners and technicians working on CAADP at the country level, the AU and Africa Lead launched the CAADP Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Network. Central to the

network is an online platform that features discussion rooms, newsfeeds, videos, a library, and webinars. Africa Lead has also designed and produced webinars for the network, which has more than 100 members. Africa Lead also facilitated networking activities in the seed sector that led to improved platforms for learning, dialogue, and consultation between government, the private sector, and trade associations related to the seed sector in East Africa.

Africa Lead played a key role in supporting the Joint Sector Review (JSR) process in Senegal by preparing stakeholders, including NSAs and the private sector, for the JSR and providing technical assistance and meeting facilitation support for four consecutive JSRs. The JSR process provides dynamic feedback loops to the government and has contributed to improvements in evidence-based analysis and learning, as data now informs the government's assessment of food security-related progress and challenges. Africa Lead's support to the MoA to conduct high-quality JSRs has helped to establish a critical feedback mechanism for Senegal's NAIP. This effort has generated learning to inform adaptive management and improvements in the implementation of the NAIP. The government is now including JSRs in its work plan and as part of its annual budgeting, which is an important step toward institutionalizing this review process for improving agricultural policies and programs.

USAID perspective:

Chris Shephard-Pratt, USAID Bureau for Food Security (BFS) Division Chief for Policy. As the Head of the Policy Team at BFS, Chris will share some USAID perspectives on the topic of using data to drive adaptive management and policy learning across Africa and specifically under CAADP.

Panelists:

Fatmata Seiwoh, ECOWAP & CAADP Program and Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Officer, ECOWAS Commission. As M&E officer for the ECOWAS Regional Agricultural Policy, Fatmata will offer unique perspectives and insights on using data for adaptive management purposes and policy learning from a Regional Intergovernmental Organization perspective.

Augustin Wambo-Yamdjeu, Head of CAADP at AUDA-NEPAD. Augustine has 19 years' experience working on African agricultural development issues, including signification work on CAADP. He'll share his perspective on how CAADP can encourage and support adaptive management and policy learning through the Joint Sector Reviews and Biennial Review processes.

John Ulimwengu, ReSAKSS Coordinator, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). As the ReSAKSS Coordinator at IFPRI, John Ulimwengu is involved in research and policy advisory work for CAADP implementation. He will share his perspective on how the Joint Sector Review and other data-driven research and assessment work can support policy learning and improve outcomes at the national and continental level.

Edwin Odhiambo, East Africa Program Lead, Africa Lead. Edwin will share his experiences leading and managing Africa Lead's unique regional pilot activity to facilitate learning and continuous improve in the East African seed sector, in particular focusing on the role of the private sector in this type of learning network.