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IFPRI: Africa Strategy

Partnering for Evidence-Based Transformation



Grounded in a partnership-first approach with African institutions, IFPRI's Africa Strategy reflects our commitment to generating high-quality evidence that can drive transformational impact – by informing policies, shaping investments, and fostering resilience – and build the capabilities needed to successfully deliver Africa's ambitious development agenda.

The International Food Policy Research Institute's Africa Strategy focuses on achieving impact through partnerships, research and evidence-building, capacity development, and innovative communication and knowledge sharing in support of Africa's agenda for agrifood systems transformation. Building on decades of high-impact engagement at continental, regional, national, and subnational levels, IFPRI aims to sharpen and intensify its work in a rapidly transforming Africa. Through deepened partnerships with African institutions, IFPRI plans to help generate high-quality evidence to drive impact across Africa's fast-changing agrifood systems and economies to support sustainable, inclusive economic growth and open new opportunities for a better future.

Africa's Transformation: Opportunities, Diversity, and Evidence and Capacity Needs

Africa is undergoing a profound, multidimensional transformation, propelled by a dynamic youth population, urban growth, adoption of technology, vibrant entrepreneurship, expanding regional integration, and evolving governance structures, which are reshaping economies, societies, and agrifood systems. Yet the pace of change has been uneven, and the full potential of agrifood systems to drive inclusive transformation remains underutilized. Africa's 54 countries are extraordinarily diverse in their geography, political systems, levels of development, market structures, and institutional capacity—ranging from large middle-income economies to landlocked low-income countries and fragile and conflict-affected contexts. While their pathways to transformation differ, African countries share a core imperative: *turn bold regional and national policy commitments into tangible results for food and nutrition security, jobs, climate resilience, and broad-based growth that empowers women and youth.*

To meet this challenge, African leaders have charted a clear path and ambitious agendas. At the continental level, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Kampala Declaration and 2026–2035 Strategy and Action Plan frame Africa's agrifood system transformation agenda. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) offers a generational opportunity to unlock regional markets, drive agrifood industrialization, improve competitiveness, and build resilient regional value chains. These commitments interact with other continental frameworks—including Agenda 2063, the Abidjan Declaration, the Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan, the post-2025 Africa Water Vision, and the Africa Health Strategy. Regional economic community strategies and national flagship programs also contribute to this Africa-driven vision for agrifood transformation.

While the ambition is clear, the path is challenging. Food insecurity, malnutrition, climate risks, natural resource degradation, inequality, debt pressures, conflict, and global market volatility intersect with institutional constraints and implementation gaps. In many settings, even well-designed policies do not consistently translate into results on the ground. A central challenge for Africa's development agenda is not only designing strong policies, but also implementing them effectively and at scale. A new generation of home-grown solutions, councils of the wise, and peer review mechanisms are opening fresh opportunities. Meeting the challenge and seizing these opportunities requires robust evidence, institutional capability, and practical tools for execution in order to move from policy intent to policy impact.

IFPRI's Unique Contribution

With five decades of partnership in Africa, IFPRI brings a unique combination of rigorous research, policy engagement, institutional capacity strengthening, and implementation-focused support. IFPRI works with the African Union, CAADP structures, regional economic communities (RECs), AfCFTA institutions, national governments, universities, research institutes and networks, private sector actors, and civil society organizations to

generate and apply actionable evidence. Between 2015 and 2025, IFPRI worked with partners in 29¹ countries across Africa to undertake research projects that have yielded over 6,500 high-quality policy research outputs. Evidence shows that IFPRI's work with African partners has helped African governments improve food and nutrition security, facilitate agriculture-led growth, and build resilience [for millions of people](#).

IFPRI's [current portfolio in Africa](#) is supported by 10² country and regional offices with long-standing relationships and established trust with national policymakers, the private sector, grassroots women's organizations, and other partners. Our current work supports African-led strategies to accelerate agricultural transformation, expand regional trade and markets, strengthen governance and institutions, and close the persistent gap between policy commitments and policy execution. By combining forward-looking analysis with practical policy tools and implementation research, IFPRI enables partners to turn ambition into impact—delivering inclusive growth, resilient food systems, and better nutrition outcomes.

IFPRI brings a unique blend of expertise, methodologies, and tools to address Africa's most pressing agricultural, food and nutrition security, and economic transformation challenges. The Institute's core competencies

BOX 1 IFPRI's Research Architecture

IFPRI's **four approaches to research and impact** guide the design and delivery of its work:

1. **Clarifying the situation and outlook:** Providing foresight, modeling, diagnostics, and policy analysis to anticipate trends, identify challenges, and inform strategic choices.
2. **Testing and scaling solutions:** Evaluating and adapting innovations, programs, and institutional models for broader impact and uptake.
3. **Understanding and shaping enabling environments:** Supporting governance, accountability, public sector effectiveness, and inclusive institutions that underpin food systems transformation.
4. **Strengthening tools, methods, and capacity:** Advancing analytical tools and building the capacity of researchers and institutions to generate and use evidence effectively.

These approaches frame IFPRI's contributions across **five strategic research themes**, which reflect the core challenges and opportunities facing food systems globally and in Africa:

1. **Inclusive growth and transformation:** Promoting broad-based economic growth and systemic change in agrifood systems that raise productivity, generate employment, and support sustainable, inclusive long-term development.
2. **Resilient and sustainable food production:** Strengthening the capacity of food systems to withstand shocks, adapt to climate change, and deliver long-term, inclusive growth and sustainability in production, supply chains, and resource use.
3. **Fair and efficient markets and trade:** Improving the functioning of markets and trade systems to ensure transparency, competitiveness, and equitable access to inputs, services, and opportunities.
4. **Sustainable healthy diets and nutrition:** Enhancing the availability, affordability, and consumption of diverse, nutritious, and safe foods to improve health outcomes and reduce malnutrition.
5. **Economic and social inclusion:** Addressing the root causes of poverty and inequality through policies and innovations that empower vulnerable groups and promote equitable access to resources and services.

1 The 29 countries are Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

2 IFPRI has offices in Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sudan, and Uganda. Staff in the Sudan office have temporarily relocated to Nairobi and Cairo.

lie in rigorous economic and policy analysis, market and food systems research, natural resources and climate change analysis, gender and social inclusion research, governance challenges, and capacity sharing. In its work, IFPRI applies a comprehensive analytical toolkit, including advanced economic modeling, value chain analysis, climate risk assessment, policy diagnostics, and data-driven and qualitative decision-support tools. This toolkit is designed to empower decision-makers with evidence-based solutions, ensuring that policies and investments are responsive to real-world challenges (Table 5). IFPRI's strengths are underpinned by a deep commitment to data-driven decision-making, high-quality research, and strategic partnerships that translate insights into action at continental, regional, national, and subnational levels.

IFPRI's Africa Strategy fully aligns the Africa-led agenda, with a strong commitment to partnership, implementation, and impact. IFPRI's Africa Strategy is also fully aligned with IFPRI's overarching mission and [global strategy](#), which emphasizes a growing role of partners and country-led agendas. It is also fully aligned with IFPRI's research architecture (Box 1 and Table 4). This dual alignment ensures that IFPRI's work leverages the full breadth of the Institute's global capabilities while contributing meaningfully to Africa's development priorities. In addition, the strategy is designed to complement [CGIAR's](#) science and innovation portfolio with policy research, foresight, governance, and institutional strengthening capabilities across the continent.

Four Strategic Pillars: Delivering Impact Across Africa's Priorities

IFPRI's Africa Strategy serves as a regional structure for achieving IFPRI's global mission, bringing the Institute's analytical approaches and thematic strengths to bear on Africa's agrifood systems transformation agenda through locally grounded, partnership-driven, and impact-oriented research and engagement. The Africa Strategy translates IFPRI's global approach into a regional framework organized around four critical pillars (Table 3): (1) *partnering for impact* aligns with IFPRI's commitment to shaping enabling environments and scaling solutions through deep engagement with African institutions; (2) *cutting-edge research and analysis for policy and investment decisions* reflects the focus on clarifying the outlook and delivering actionable knowledge; (3) *strengthening policy institutional capability* contributes to building enabling environments and strengthening capabilities in African contexts; and (4) *innovation in communications, data, and digital delivery* ensures that the insights generated through IFPRI's work inform decisions, scale solutions, and empower local actors.

These pillars define IFPRI's efforts to co-create knowledge with African institutions, inform data-driven policy choices, build institutional capacity, and make research accessible to key decision-makers. This structured approach ensures that evidence is not only generated but also applied to strengthen food systems governance, economic transformation, and social resilience across the continent. Across these pillars, IFPRI prioritizes accelerating implementation of Africa's flagship continental agendas—especially the CAADP-Kampala commitments and AfCFTA—while also tailoring support to the continent's diverse regional, national, and subnational contexts. Attention to gender inequality and social inclusion is critical in all pillars of the strategy, given the high level of involvement of African women in agriculture and persistent disparities in access to resources. Table 1 summarizes the strategy.

1. Partnering for Impact: *Deep, structured collaboration with African institutions to shape, test, and scale home-grown solutions.*

Partnerships are at the core of IFPRI's approach, ensuring that research is co-developed with African institutions and embedded in policy processes at continental, regional, national, and subnational levels. By working in partnership with governments, regional bodies, and key stakeholders, IFPRI ensures that evidence-based insights directly inform policies, investments, and institutional reforms, driving sustainable and inclusive transformation across Africa.

- Partner with continental and regional actors including the African Union (AU), AERC, ANAPRI, PAFO, EAC, COMESA, IGAD, SADC, AGRA, UNECA, Akademiya2063, and other major actors, seeking to ensure alignment with Africa's regional priorities.

- Partner with national and subnational actors, including national governments, research institutions, universities, think tanks, farmer networks, private-sector actors, and civil society groups, in designing and implementing evidence-based policies and investments.
- Emphasize alignment with Kampala Declaration commitments and AU food security priorities, AfCFTA market integration, and the priorities of RECs and national governments.
- Support implementation of CAADP³ and operationalization of AfCTA-compatible food, trade, and market strategies.

2. Cutting-Edge Research and Analysis for Policy and Investment Decisions: *Rigorous, forward-looking research to inform critical policy choices.*

IFPRI's research priorities (Box 2) in Africa respond to pressing and widely acknowledged challenges and opportunities that are captured in Africa's policy frameworks, commitments, and development ambitions (Table 2). It addresses the full spectrum of transformation-related challenges across agrifood systems, spanning markets and trade, macro-fiscal dynamics, employment and enterprise, technology and innovation, human capital and nutrition, climate and environmental resilience, and governance and institutional performance.

- Work with partners to carry out research on rural and urban systems, primary production and value addition, financing and market integration, and the enabling policy and delivery systems required for scale.
- Prioritize youth opportunity and innovation as well as gender equality and women's agency across all work.
- Support development of new economic opportunities in agrifood systems.
- Generate evidence to inform agricultural plans and investment to build resilient, inclusive, climate-adaptive agrifood systems.

3. Strengthening Policy and Institutional Capability: *Enhance the capacity of African public institutions and research systems for policy research, design, and implementation.*

Beyond research, IFPRI works with African governments and organizations to embed evidence in decision-making. Capacity sharing programs strengthen African institutions through technical training, organizational and leadership development, and knowledge-sharing. Policy convenings and dialogues organized with partners facilitate high-impact policy discussions that translate research into action.

- Support partners to design implementable, evidence-based solutions, track progress, and accelerate reform cycles by building tools and talent to plan, finance, and deliver reforms.
- Deepen the analytical work on political economy, institutional diagnostics, expenditure efficiency, and operational systems and delivery capabilities to understand and strengthen policy implementation and delivery systems and to sustain reform in the African context.
- Support national and subnational policy execution and monitoring as well as regional mutual accountability.

4. Innovation in Communications, Data, and Digital Delivery: *Use modern knowledge-sharing systems to bring actionable evidence to decision-makers in real time.*

- IFPRI strengthens regional knowledge systems and deploys cutting-edge knowledge-sharing strategies to ensure evidence reaches decision-makers, businesses, and civil society, including through digital platforms, regional and national convenings, and use of local languages and contextualized knowledge.
- Strengthen data accessibility, dashboards, and AI-supported policy tools to help governments and investors make informed decisions.

³ IFPRI has developed a dedicated strategy to support CAADP implementation: IFPRI Strategy for Engagement with CAADP 2026-2035: Supporting Implementation at Continental, Regional, and National Levels. <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/174069>

- Bring together researchers, policymakers, and private sector actors in high-impact forums at national and regional levels.
- Ensure that technical research findings and knowledge products are accessible, including through use of local languages, and context-relevant for diverse stakeholders, including no research audiences.

BOX 2 Priority Themes for IFPRI's Research in Africa

IFPRI's research in Africa addresses 10 priority areas:

1. *Macroeconomic and structural change*: Examining trade policy, debt dynamics, and their implications for food security, rural development, and overall growth.
2. *Trade, markets, and regional integration*: Advancing market access and regional trade to strengthen agrifood system integration.
3. *Agrifood system transformation*: Promoting productivity growth, value addition, and resilience in agrifood systems, including food security, nutrition, and agrifood livelihoods in Africa's rapidly growing urban areas.
4. *Labor, jobs, and youth in agrifood systems*: Identifying pathways for inclusive employment in agrifood value chains.
5. *Technology and innovation in agriculture*: Clarifying the role of digitization, artificial intelligence (AI), and agri-tech in boosting access to productivity-enhancing inputs and services.
6. *Financing smallholder farmers and agrifood small and medium enterprises*: Identifying and evaluating alternative financing models (including blended finance), public-private mechanisms, risk-sharing tools, digital financial services, and policy reforms to crowd in private capital.
7. *Nutrition, health, and inclusive growth*: Tackling malnutrition (both undernutrition and obesity) and diet-related health challenges through multisectoral approaches.
8. *Climate, conflict, and resilience*: Understanding how climate change and instability shape food security and economic resilience, focusing on management of key natural resources.
9. *Natural resource management*: Improving the governance of, and investments in, natural resources for enhanced food and environmental systems and food system transformation.
10. *Governance and institutional reform*: Improving public sector investment prioritization, effectiveness, and accountability in agrifood systems.

From Policy Intent to Policy Impact

Africa's transformation depends on both good policy *and* strong implementation systems. A defining element of this strategy is a strengthened commitment to understanding and supporting policy implementation. Across Africa, policy frameworks are often strong, yet implementation capacity, institutional coordination, accountability systems, and delivery mechanisms can lag behind ambitions. IFPRI will deepen work on the political economy of reform, institutional diagnostics, and system-level implementation analysis, while expanding support for governments and regional bodies to design executable policies, track delivery, and learn from practice. This focus on implementation will be embedded across IFPRI's research, capacity development, and engagement efforts, and will support implementation discipline and delivery capability by generating the evidence and tools that help African institutions bridge the gap between strategy and sustained impact.

At the heart of IFPRI's approach is a commitment to co-developing knowledge with African partners, ensuring that analytical insights are locally relevant and actionable. IFPRI's work is responsive to the unique demands of the African context. The Institute's competencies and toolkit provide a powerful foundation for supporting Africa's growth and resilience, reinforcing its position as a trusted research and policy partner in the pursuit of sustainable and inclusive development. Whether supporting governments in shaping agricultural policies, working with civil society on climate resilience strategies, or equipping regional organizations with cutting-edge policy tools, IFPRI focuses on bridging research and impact, ensuring that Africa's transformation is informed by the best available evidence.

IFPRI's Implementation Approach

IFPRI's implementation approach is rooted in long-term partnerships, practical execution, and sustained resource mobilization, with a strong emphasis on local ownership and responsiveness. Research is co-designed with African stakeholders to ensure relevance, timeliness, and policy impact, and is delivered through targeted outputs such as policy briefs, modeling tools, and digital dashboards. Funding is mobilized through diverse partnerships with donors and African organizations, including the private sector, ensuring alignment with African priorities and support for both research and action. Robust monitoring, evaluation, and learning systems track influence, adapt strategies, and support institutional learning, seeking to make evidence not only actionable but transformative in shaping Africa's development trajectory.

Our Commitment

This strategy affirms IFPRI's commitment to working alongside African partners to support a future where decisions are based on solid evidence, institutions are capable and confident in leading change, and food systems contribute to broad-based economic growth and resilience. It builds on a long track record of collaboration, while adjusting to new realities with a sharper focus and deeper engagement. Through targeted research, practical tools, and strong partnerships, IFPRI aims to contribute directly to solving real challenges and supporting Africa's development goals. Our aim is to be a reliable partner in turning knowledge into action, and action into lasting progress.

For more information:

[IFPRI Strategy 2026-2030: Food Policy Research for a Changing World](#)

[IFPRI Africa web site](#)

[IFPRI Strategy for Engagement with CAADP 2026-2035](#)

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Table 1: Summary of IFPRI's Africa Strategy

Strategic Pillar	Strategic Aim	Actions and Approaches	Key Partners
Partnering for Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Align with Africa's transformation agenda Strengthen partnerships with African institutions Support CAADP implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with continental and regional bodies Work with national and subnational governments, universities, and think tanks Integrate research into policy dialogues and investment strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continental and regional: AU, AERC, PAFO, EAC, COMESA, IGAD, SADC, AGRA, and others National and subnational: ministries, research institutions, farmer organizations, industry groups
Cutting-Edge Research and Analysis for Policy and Investment Decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generate high-quality, policy-relevant research on Africa's transformation Provide evidence-based solutions to key challenges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on priority areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Macroeconomics, debt, and trade – Trade, markets, and regional integration – Agrifood system transformation – Youth and jobs in agrifood systems – Agri-tech and digital innovation – Financing smallholders and SMEs – Nutrition, health, and inclusive growth – Climate, conflict, and resilience – Natural resource management – Governance and institutional reform Cross-cutting priorities: Gender equality and social inclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> African governments and policy institutions Private sector actors in agribusiness, technology, and finance NGOs and global research organizations
Enhancing Policy and Institutional Capability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embed evidence in policy decisions Build capacity for better policy formulation and implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen African research institutions through training and knowledge-sharing Develop policy toolkits and data-driven decision support Facilitate policy dialogues and advisory support to governments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National governments, ministries, and statistical agencies African universities and research networks Regional organizations (e.g., RECs, AU, AERC, PAFO)
Innovation in Communications, Data, and Digital Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make research accessible, actionable, and widely disseminated Engage policymakers, investors, and civil society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use digital tools, AI-driven analytics, and policy dashboards Strengthen regional convenings of re-researchers, decision-makers, and private-sector leaders Ensure knowledge products are tailored to local contexts and translated where necessary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional policy organizations (EAC, COMESA, SADC, IGAD) African and global media outlets Private sector actors in digital and data services

Table 2: Alignment of research priorities with key African policies, strategies, and frameworks

Research Priority	Selected Relevant African Policies, Strategies, and Frameworks
Macroeconomic and Structural Change	Agenda 2063; AfCFTA; AfDB Strategy for Economic Governance; CAADP 2025–2035
Trade, Markets, and Regional Integration	AfCFTA Agreement; CAADP 2025–2035; Boosting Intra-African Trade Action Plan (BIAT); AfDB Integrate Africa Strategy
Agrifood System Transformation	Agenda 2063; CAADP 2025–2035; African Agribusiness and Agro-Industries Development Initiative (3ADI+); AfDB Feed Africa Strategy; African Urban Agenda; CAADP Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture Framework
Labor, Jobs, and Youth in Agrifood Systems	Agenda 2063; African Youth Charter; AfDB Jobs for Youth in Africa Strategy
Technology and Innovation in Agriculture	CAADP Science Agenda for Agriculture (S3A); AU Digital Transformation Strategy 2020–2030; AfDB Feed Africa Strategy; Africa Soil Health and Fertilizer Action Plan
Financing Smallholder Farmers and Agrifood SMEs	CAADP 2025–2035; African Agri-SME Catalytic Financing Facility (AfDB); Africa Agriculture Transformation Scorecard; AfDB Feed Africa Strategy
Nutrition, Health, and Inclusive Growth	Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy; Africa Health Strategy; Abidjan Declaration on Strengthening Resilience in Nutrition and Food Security; Africa Health Strategy
Climate, Conflict, and Resilience	Africa Adaptation Initiative; Malabo Declaration on Climate-Resilient Agriculture; AU Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan
Natural Resource Management	Agenda 2063; Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Strategy and Action Plan; Africa Water Vision post 2025; AU Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
Governance and Institutional Reform	AU Public Sector Reform Strategy; CAADP Mutual Accountability Framework; Africa Governance Report
Cross-cutting: Gender	Agenda 2063; CAADP 2025–2035; AU Strategy for Gender Equality & Women’s Empowerment (2018–2028); AfDB Gender Strategy

Table 3: Alignment of research priorities with IFPRI's global research themes

Research Priority	Selected Relevant African Policies, Strategies, and Frameworks
Macroeconomic and Structural Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusive Growth and Transformation
Trade, Markets, and Regional Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fair and Efficient Markets and Trade • Inclusive Growth and Transformation
Agrifood System Transformation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilient and Sustainable Food Production • Sustainable Healthy Diets and Nutrition I
Labor, Jobs, and Youth in Agrifood Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic and social inclusion
Technology and Innovation in Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilient and Sustainable Food Production
Financing Smallholder Farmers and Agrifood SMEs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fair and Efficient Markets and Trade
Nutrition, Health, and Inclusive Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Healthy Diets and Nutrition
Climate, Conflict, and Resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilient and Sustainable Food Production
Natural Resource Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilient and Sustainable Food Production
Governance and Institutional Reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic and Social Inclusion • Inclusive Growth and Transformation

Table 4: Alignment of strategic pillars with IFPRI's research and engagement approaches

Strategic Pillar (Africa)	Aligned Operational Approach (Global)	Nature of Alignment
Macroeconomic and Structural Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shaping the enabling environment • Testing and scaling solutions • Shaping the enabling environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging with African institutions and policy processes to co-create and scale evidence-based solutions that shape institutional reform and accountability
Trade, Markets, and Regional Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarifying the situation and outlook • Testing and scaling solutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering high-quality, forward-looking research to inform strategic choices across Africa's agrifood systems
Agrifood System Transformation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening research methods and capabilities • Shaping the enabling environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening analytical, organizational, and leadership capacities of African policy institutions to enable evidence-based reform and program design
Labor, Jobs, and Youth in Agrifood Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarifying the situation and outlook • Testing and scaling solutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translating research into actionable tools and insights for decision-makers through innovative communication, digital platforms, and policy engagement

Table 5: IFPRI's core competencies and analytical toolkit

Core Competency Area	Key Methods and Tools	Applications in Africa
Rigorous Economic and Policy Analysis	<i>Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) Models:</i> Assess macroeconomic impacts of policy changes on agriculture, trade, food security, nutrition, health, and the environment	Informs national agricultural investment plans and macroeconomic policy reforms in partnership with AU, RECs, and governments
	<i>Partial Equilibrium Models (IMPACT Model):</i> Project future food demand, supply, and trade under different scenarios	Supports long-term food system planning under CAADP and climate action, natural resource management, and trade strategies
	<i>Econometric and Statistical Methods:</i> Evaluate policy interventions and investments using micro- and macro-level data	Applied in impact evaluations of programs such as cash transfers, fertilizer subsidies, irrigation, energy, and trade interventions
Food Systems and Market Analysis	<i>Value Chain Analysis:</i> Map bottlenecks and opportunities in agrifood systems	Guides agribusiness development strategies and regional agricultural value chain integration efforts
	<i>Price, Cost, and Margin Analysis:</i> Build understanding of price formation, transmission, and volatility, market structures, and competitiveness in agrifood value chains	Applied to assess competitiveness, and identify and test innovations to increase market efficiency, pricing policies, and market access constraints for smallholders and SMEs
	<i>Food and Nutrition Security Assessments:</i> Measure dietary patterns, affordability, and drivers of malnutrition	Used in designing nutrition-sensitive policies and social protection programs
Climate and Resilience Research	<i>Climate Risk, Energy, and Water Models:</i> Evaluate effects of climate risks on food, land, water, and energy systems	Contributes to national climate action plans, anticipatory action, and climate resilience strategies
	<i>Resilience Measurement and Early Warning Systems:</i> Identify vulnerabilities and design crisis response mechanisms, increasingly using AI-supported tools	Supports food crisis early warning systems and resilience measurement frameworks
Data-Driven Decision Support	<i>Household and Farm Surveys (LSMS, DHS, IFPRI-led surveys):</i> Provide insights into farmer behavior, nutrition, and livelihoods	Feeds into household targeting, policy analysis, and rural development strategies
	<i>Big Data and Remote Sensing:</i> Leverage AI, satellite imagery, and real-time monitoring for food system analysis	Enhances monitoring of production trends, land use change, and vulnerability hot spots
	<i>Digital Policy Dashboards:</i> Develop interactive tools for policymakers to track food security, trade, and climate trends	Informs real-time policy decisions through user-friendly dashboards for ministries and RECs

Core Competency Area	Key Methods and Tools	Applications in Africa
Institutional and Governance Analysis	<i>Political Economy and Institutional Diagnostics:</i> Identify policy implementation gaps and governance challenges	Applied in diagnosing reform bottlenecks and identifying opportunities for institutional strengthening
	<i>Public Expenditure Reviews:</i> Evaluate public investment coherence, effectiveness, and efficiency	Used to improve efficiency of public agriculture spending and align with national development goals
	<i>Policy Process Mapping:</i> Trace decision-making pathways and stakeholder dynamics in food and agricultural policy	Helps clarify who influences policy and how, to inform inclusive and participatory reform processes
Capacity Sharing and Knowledge Transfer	<i>Behavioral Change Interventions:</i> for strengthened natural resource governance	Improves natural resource governance, institutions, and outcomes
	<i>Training for Policymakers and Researchers:</i> Build skills in policy modeling, data analytics, and forecasting	Delivered through regional training workshops and tailored capacity-strengthening initiatives
	<i>Technical Assistance to Governments and Regional Bodies:</i> Support evidence-based policymaking and investment planning	Supports policy formulation and implementation across sectors including agriculture, nutrition, and trade



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