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Informing CAADP 2026–2035: What A Decade of IFPRI Research in Africa Tells Us

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Abstract

This policy brief distills insights from a decade of IFPRI's research and engagement across 54 African countries, offering a strategic synthesis to inform the Kampala 2026–2035 implementation phase of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). Drawing from almost 5,700 publications between 2015 and 2025, and using a combination of natural language processing (NLP), deep learning algorithms and rule-based approaches, the review maps key findings against CAADP's six strategic objectives: (1) intensifying sustainable food production, agro-industrialization, and trade; (2) boosting investment and financing for agrifood systems transformation; (3) ensuring food and nutrition security; (4) advancing inclusivity and equitable livelihoods; (5) building resilient agrifood systems; and (6) strengthening agrifood systems governance. By aligning evidence with strategic priorities, this synthesis aims to sharpen the research and policy agenda needed to accelerate agricultural transformation, ensure food security, and deepen resilience across the continent. The review reveals areas of significant progress—such as advances innovative finance, nutrition policy, social protection design, gender equity, and market functioning—while also exposing enduring gaps in data, investment diagnostics, and implementation capacity. The brief is thus both a stocktaking and a springboard, harnessing what is known to guide the next phase of CAADP.

Keywords: Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), Kampala Declaration, IFPRI output, food system transformation

Key messages

IFPRI's research produces evidence directly related to all six CAADP 2026-2035 strategic objectives:

1. *Intensifying Sustainable Production, Agro-industrialization and Trade:* IFPRI's research shows that intensification efforts succeed when they are localized, data-informed, and supported by robust input systems. Site-specific fertilizer recommendations, credible seed certification, and resilient regional value chains are the cornerstones of a sustainable productivity revolution.
2. *Investment and Finance:* IFPRI's findings highlight the need for conflict-sensitive, gender-responsive, and psychologically informed investment models, particularly in fragile contexts. Public spending must shift toward high-return infrastructure, R&D, and inclusion—moving from fragmented and short-term expenditures to strategic investment ecosystems.
3. *Food and Nutrition Security:* IFPRI's research affirms that locally produced fortified foods, integrated agriculture-nutrition interventions, and well-designed trade policies (e.g., dairy liberalization) can enhance diet quality and reduce malnutrition—when guided by behavioral insight and public accountability.
4. *Inclusion and Equitable Livelihoods:* IFPRI's work reveals persistent structural barriers—land access, intrahousehold dynamics, and market bias—that limit the participation and empowerment of women, youth, and marginalized communities. Inclusive transformation demands not just participation, but bargaining power, tailored support, and gender-transformative programming grounded in context-specific diagnostics.
5. *Resilient Agrifood Systems:* IFPRI's research emphasizes the role of early warning systems, diversified livelihoods, and institutional trust as core components of resilience. Critically, governance quality—measured through participation and accountability—is among the most consistent predictors of resilience—underscoring the need for participatory systems that enable timely and flexible responses.
6. *Strengthening Governance:* IFPRI's analyses confirm that strong agrifood systems governance—credible regulation, cross-sectoral coordination, accountability mechanisms—is essential to scaling innovation and sustaining progress. At the same time, political economy constraints—ranging from elite capture and donor dependency to administrative fragmentation—must be confronted directly.

Introduction

The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), established in 2003 by the African Union, has evolved into Africa's foremost framework for transforming agriculture and food systems. With the upcoming 2026–2035 implementation phase under the Kampala Declaration, CAADP articulates a bold vision to eliminate hunger, halve extreme poverty, boost productivity by 45%, and deliver inclusive, climate-resilient, and economically vibrant agrifood systems. The declaration marks a shift in ambition—from sectoral interventions to a systems transformation agenda rooted in equity, resilience, and sustainability.

Realizing this vision requires more than financial resources or political commitment. It depends fundamentally on robust, timely, and context-sensitive evidence to inform policy, design programs, guide investments, and monitor progress. In this regard, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) plays a strategic and catalytic role. As a CGIAR research center with deep regional engagement, IFPRI generates empirical insights, diagnostic tools, and policy innovations that align directly with CAADP's six strategic objectives: 1) Intensifying sustainable food production, agro-industrialization, and trade; 2) Boosting investment and financing for agrifood systems transformation; 3) Ensuring food and nutrition security; 4) Advancing inclusivity and equitable livelihoods; 5) Building resilient agrifood systems; 6) Strengthening agrifood systems governance.

This brief highlights IFPRI's decade-long stock of Africa-focused knowledge (2015–2025) and its relevance to the Kampala Declaration. Drawing from over 25 peer-reviewed A-ranked journal articles, the brief distills actionable lessons from diverse African contexts. It shows how IFPRI's work bridges the full spectrum of agrifood challenges—from fertilizer and seed markets to climate modeling, nutrition-sensitive interventions, governance diagnostics, and gender equity. Across all six CAADP objectives, IFPRI's contributions reinforce key pillars of the Strategy and Action Plan: evidence-based decision-making, inclusive development, mutual accountability, and resilience to systemic shocks. Whether addressing post-conflict agricultural recovery, aspirations and investment behavior among youth, or the complex interactions between governance and food system resilience, IFPRI's work offers a pragmatic and scientifically grounded roadmap for African leaders, planners, and development partners.

Overview of IFPRI output in Africa

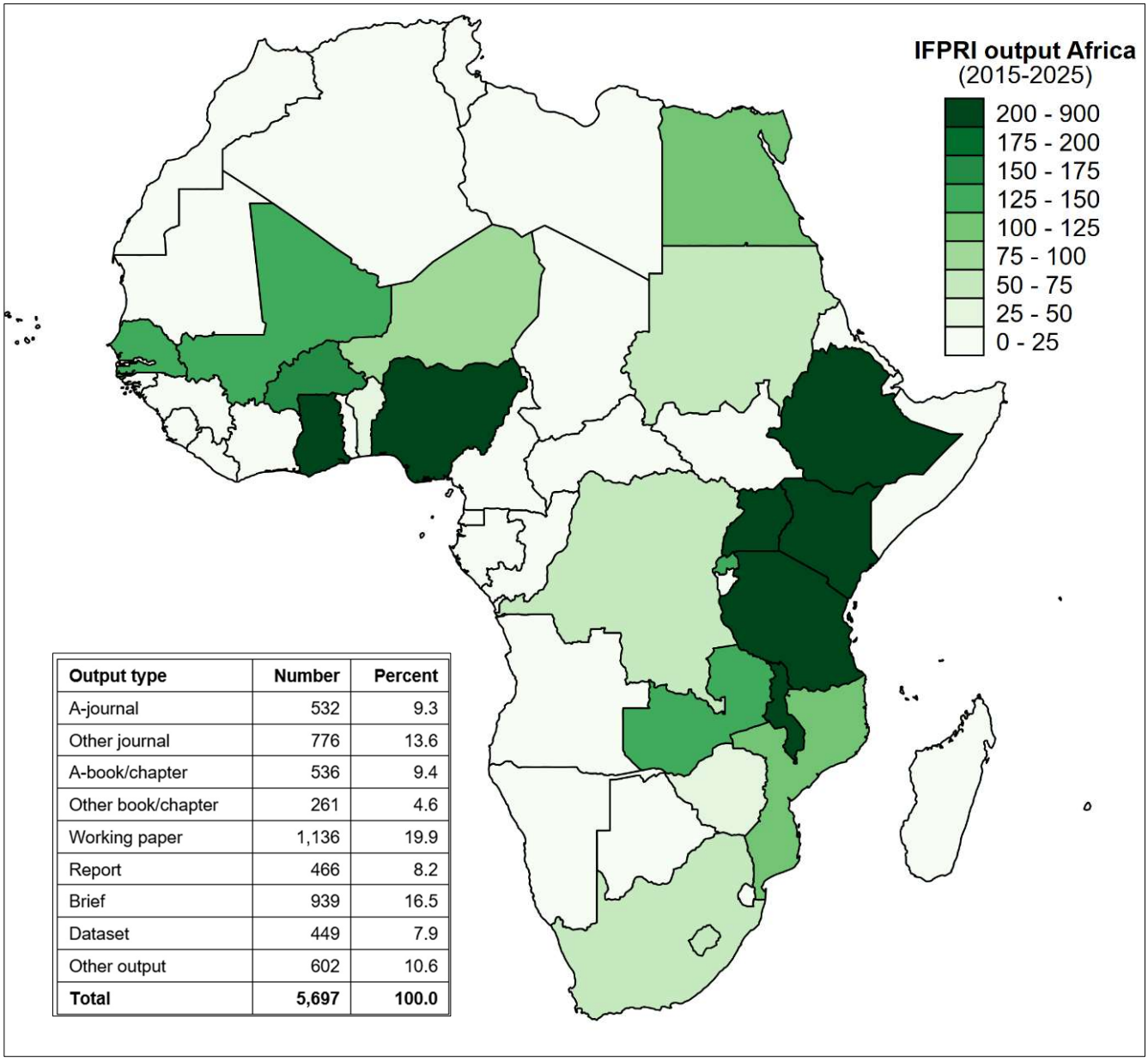
Figure 1 displays the total number of Africa-focused evidence products that IFPRI has generated between January 2015 and March 2025 by output type and country. In total, 5,697 outputs were published, with journals, books, and book chapters accounting for more than one third of total output (37%), in which A-ranked publications roughly take up half. Other common output types involve working papers (20%), briefs (17%), reports and datasets – the latter two representing each 8% of total output. Other outputs (11%) concern a wider range of evidence products, such as blogs, brochures, conference papers, infographics, opinion pieces, presentations, and training materials.

Unsurprisingly, the spatial distribution of the Institute's output in Africa is somewhat skewed to countries with a strategy support program (SSP) or where IFPRI has a regional or country office. This is clearly the case for Ethiopia, Malawi, Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, and Uganda, where more than 200 evidence products were generated over the period considered. Similarly, Rwanda, Senegal and Egypt have been the focus of much IFPRI research, each having generated between 100 and 150 evidence products, and to a lesser

extent Sudan, where an SSP has been more recently introduced in 2022. Furthermore, IFPRI has also been active in countries without a regional or country office. This observation applies in particular to Tanzania, Zambia and Mozambique, which falls under the Eastern and Southern Africa Office (ESAO) in Addis Ababa, and to Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, which are covered by the West and Central Africa Office (WCAO) in Dakar.

In contrast, several North-African countries as well as many Francophone countries in West and Central Africa are currently much less considered in IFPRI's work. This also applies to a couple of individual countries, such as Angola, South Sudan, Eritrea, and Somalia.

Figure 1: IFPRI output, Africa (2015-2025)



Output type	Number	Percent
A-journal	532	9.3
Other journal	776	13.6
A-book/chapter	536	9.4
Other book/chapter	261	4.6
Working paper	1,136	19.9
Report	466	8.2
Brief	939	16.5
Dataset	449	7.9
Other output	602	10.6
Total	**5,697**	**100.0**

Note: Multi-country evidence products are counted for each of the countries considered but only once per output type; global and continental analyses are not considered for the country statistics.
Source: IFPRI publication repository.

To map IFPRI's output to CAADP's six strategic objectives defined by the Kampala declaration, a combination of natural language processing (NLP), deep learning algorithms and rule-based approaches were applied using a pre-trained dataset of 109 publications and a standard description for each CAADP objective. Because of its higher accuracy (83%) and capacity to predict more CAADP objectives, the LSTM (Long Short-Term Memory) algorithm as opposed to BERT (Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers) has been selected to perform the final mapping.

For each country, the number of evidence products that discuss or deal with each of the six CAADP strategic objectives is assessed, either in the form of a journal article, book, or book chapter (JBC) or another type of output (Other) (details are shown in Annex). In aggregated terms, the first objective on intensifying sustainable food production, agro-industrialization, and trade (CAADP1) represents a major focus of IFPRI's work in Africa, with roughly half of all outputs covering these topics. The second most important objective covered by IFPRI's 2015-2025 portfolio concerns the third objective of ensuring food and nutrition security (CAADP3), which is covered by around one fifth of all outputs. The fourth, fifth and sixth strategic objectives (CAADP4/5/6) on advancing inclusivity and equity, building resilience, and strengthening governance in agrifood systems, respectively, are in each case topics that are discussed in roughly 15% of total country outputs. Finally, the objective of boosting investment and financing for agrifood systems transformation is currently the least prominent in IFPRI's work in Africa, a topic which is on average covered by roughly 5% of all evidence products. This general outlook can of course be quite different when considering specific countries. For example, IFPRI's work in Mozambique, the DRC and Sudan has an even greater focus on CAADP1. In contrast, the lion's share of IFPRI's work in Burkina Faso actually lies on CAADP3, while Sudan and Rwanda are focusing relatively more on CAADP5 and CAADP6, respectively.

Lessons and findings from selected A-journal publications by IFPRI across the six CAADP's strategic objectives

1. Intensifying Sustainable Food Production, Agro-Industrialization, and Trade

The CAADP Strategy and Action Plan (2026–2035) envisions a shift from narrow, input-centric agricultural growth to a systemic, sustainability-driven transformation of agrifood systems. Central to this transition is intensifying food production while ensuring environmental sustainability, building efficient regional value chains, and fostering resilience amid global disruptions. Recent research from IFPRI offers critical insights into how productivity can be scaled while safeguarding livelihoods and food systems in a volatile global environment.

A key challenge—and opportunity—emerges from the volatility of global fertilizer markets. Assefa et al. (2025) provide nationally representative evidence from Ethiopia demonstrating how surging global fertilizer prices between 2021 and 2023 significantly reduced demand for fertilizer inputs and lowered farm-level profitability, despite government subsidy programs. The most price-sensitive crops—such as teff—saw the steepest drops in input application. This has profound implications for CAADP's goal of raising agrifood output by 45% by 2035. The authors recommend the establishment of localized supply chains, price stabilization mechanisms, and subsidy redesigns targeting smallholders and food-insecure zones. These recommendations directly support CAADP's strategic interventions on strengthening functional input systems and ensuring affordable, high-quality agricultural inputs.

Complementing this, Vos et al. (2025) assess the macroeconomic consequences of fertilizer market disruptions, revealing how global shocks—triggered by the Russia-Ukraine war and pandemic-era supply bottlenecks—amplify food insecurity across Africa. National production shortfalls and growing food import bills resulted in widening food trade deficits and declining resilience in low-income countries. Their research validates CAADP's emphasis on regional fertilizer production hubs, diversified import sources, and trade corridor development to bolster Africa's capacity to withstand future shocks.

However, increasing fertilizer use alone is not enough. Ragasa et al. (2025) conducted a multi-country analysis spanning Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia to evaluate the profitability and yield responsiveness of maize fertilizer application. Their findings underscore that one-size-fits-all fertilizer recommendations often result in inefficiency or economic losses, especially in low-potential areas. Profitability varied widely across agroecological zones, with net returns often negative where market prices were volatile or extension support weak. The study strongly advocates for site-specific fertilizer recommendations, improved monitoring of subsidy programs, and stronger farmer education. These insights reinforce CAADP's call for digital advisory tools, strengthened agro-extension systems, and granular agro-ecological targeting.

Improved input systems also depend on the credibility and functionality of seed certification and distribution. Takeshima et al. (2025) explore this in Nigeria, finding that better-regulated seed systems correlate with higher certified seed adoption and yield gains. However, weak enforcement of certification standards leads to farmer mistrust, mislabeling, and underutilization of quality seeds. The study proposes intermediate certification tiers and regulatory coherence as essential governance innovations. This aligns with CAADP's vision of creating enabling policy environments for emerging technologies and regulatory reforms to foster agro-industrial competitiveness.

Finally, institutional infrastructure remains a keystone in sustaining productivity advances. Schneider et al. (2025) emphasize that governance—not just technology—will determine the success of Africa's agrifood transformation. Their cross-country study outlines how participatory institutions, accountability mechanisms, and cross-sectoral coordination are prerequisites for sustainable intensification. Technologies such as AI and precision agriculture can enhance output, but without inclusive policy platforms and adaptive institutions, they may reinforce inequities or fail to scale. Their work reinforces CAADP's call for multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs) and evidence-based policymaking as cornerstones of systemic transformation.

In sum, these studies converge on the imperative to reimagine productivity not as an input race but as a systemic transformation. Africa's agrifood future must be powered by context-aware technologies, resilient regional supply chains, and governance ecosystems that foster innovation, trust, and inclusion. The CAADP 2026–2035 agenda wisely integrates these imperatives, calling for investments that not only raise yields but also stabilize markets, empower producers, and future-proof food systems in a fast-changing world.

2. Boosting Investment and Financing for Accelerated Agrifood Systems Transformation

Agrifood systems transformation in Africa cannot succeed without bold reimagining of how investments are mobilized, governed, and directed. As articulated in the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan (2026–2035), financial flows must shift from fragmented, short-term expenditures toward coordinated, high-quality, and equity-driven investments that support inclusive transformation and long-term resilience. This

calls for a deliberate convergence of public finance, private capital, and development support to align with Africa's broader aspirations for sustainability, job creation, and regional competitiveness.

The Kampala Declaration sets an ambitious target: mobilizing $100 billion in public and private agrifood investments by 2035, with at least 10% of public expenditure and 15% of agrifood GDP reinvested annually. Yet the true challenge lies not just in the quantity of investment but in its quality, inclusivity, and adaptive capacity. Insights from IFPRI's portfolio of research illuminate how economic, psychological, and political factors interact to shape investment decisions and outcomes across the continent.

At the micro level, Amare et al. (2025) present compelling evidence from conflict-affected zones in Nigeria. Their study shows that recurrent violence significantly reduces farm-level investment in productive inputs and technologies. Women and land-poor farmers are particularly affected, underscoring the importance of designing financing tools that are conflict-sensitive and gender-responsive. These may include blended finance models with risk-sharing instruments, contingent credit guarantees, and policy support tailored to fragile contexts. The findings reinforce CAADP's call for adaptive fiscal frameworks that support vulnerable populations in rebuilding agricultural activity amidst instability.

Investment behavior is also shaped by less tangible—yet equally powerful—factors such as aspiration and agency. Tabe-Ojong et al. (2023) demonstrate this in pastoral communities of Kenya, where farmer aspirations directly influence their willingness to invest in livestock systems. The study finds that while moderate aspirations catalyze investment, unrealistic expectations often lead to withdrawal and risk aversion. Crucially, individuals with a strong internal locus of control were more likely to invest. These insights signal that financial inclusion must go hand-in-hand with psychosocial interventions, such as mentorship, youth leadership programs, and behavioral training. CAADP's strategic emphasis on empowering youth and women through entrepreneurship and leadership pathways aligns directly with these findings.

At a structural level, Benfica et al. (2018) provide macroeconomic modeling evidence from Mozambique, showing that investment composition matters as much as volume. Their general equilibrium model reveals that spending on agricultural research and rural infrastructure yields far greater pro-poor growth than input subsidies or untargeted irrigation projects. The study calls for a rebalancing of public expenditure toward productivity-enhancing investments that support smallholders and rural economies. This aligns with the CAADP strategy's recommendation to repurpose public support toward high-impact, cost-effective interventions, while leveraging private capital for scale.

The importance of integrated, climate-conscious investment planning is further underscored by Mason-D'Croz et al. (2019), who use foresight modeling across Africa to examine investment portfolios under climate change. They find that investments in R&D and infrastructure reduce hunger even under severe climate scenarios, especially when paired with trade integration. Their findings directly support CAADP's emphasis on flagship projects, cross-border trade corridors, and investment in regional infrastructure that enable both economic inclusion and climate resilience.

Yet, as Mogues and Billings (2019) reveal, investment efficiency is not merely a technical issue—it is also deeply political. Their study on Mozambique shows that investment decisions are often skewed by political incentives, donor influence, and bureaucratic inertia. Programs that promise visibility and electoral gains tend to be prioritized, even when less impactful. The authors call for transparent public investment governance, participatory planning, and stronger accountability mechanisms. CAADP's proposed

creation of an Africa-wide agrifood investment fund, reinforced by mutual accountability frameworks like the Biennial Review (BR), provides a concrete institutional response to these governance challenges.

Together, these studies underscore that Africa's agrifood financing must transition from fragmented, short-term expenditures to a strategic investment ecosystem—one that blends capital with social empowerment, political reform, and institutional innovation. Such an ecosystem must:

- Integrate conflict sensitivity and gender equity into all investment decisions.
- Address behavioral and psychological barriers to investment, particularly among youth and marginalized groups.
- Target spending toward long-term growth multipliers like infrastructure, research, and education.
- Link national agricultural investment plans (NAIPs) with regional and continental priorities for scale and coherence.
- Build institutional integrity and transparency through participatory governance and data-driven monitoring.

By embracing these principles, Africa can transform finance into a catalyst of inclusive, resilient agrifood systems, rather than a constraint. The CAADP 2026–2035 agenda, grounded in evidence and regional solidarity, provides the platform to actualize this transformation.

3. Ensuring Food and Nutrition Security

Achieving food and nutrition security in Africa demands more than just increased agricultural output. The CAADP Strategy and Action Plan (2026–2035) articulates a bold vision: to reduce stunting and wasting by 25%, ensure that 60% of the population can afford a healthy diet, and ultimately achieve zero hunger by 2035. These targets reflect a recognition that nutrition outcomes are not solely the product of food availability, but the result of complex interactions among dietary practices, household behavior, food environments, and public policy. IFPRI's robust evidence base provides essential guidance for crafting the kind of multisectoral, nutrition-sensitive strategies needed to realize this vision.

At the heart of these efforts is the imperative to reach Africa's most nutritionally vulnerable populations—infants, young children, and women of reproductive age. Ilboudo et al. (2024) evaluate the cost-effectiveness of treating moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) through community-based programs in Burkina Faso using locally produced fortified food supplements. Their randomized control trial reveals not only superior recovery rates but also lower delivery costs compared to imported alternatives. This underscores a core principle of CAADP's agenda: that African food systems themselves can deliver nutrition solutions when supported by innovation, investment, and local engagement. Community-driven nutrition delivery aligns closely with CAADP's call for expanding social protection coverage and tailoring food assistance to local capacities and preferences.

Behavioral factors within households also play a decisive role in shaping nutrition outcomes. Bliznashka et al. (2024) demonstrate that caregiver knowledge, empowerment, and mental health directly influence children's dietary diversity and feeding frequency in Nigeria. Through path analysis, they show that these modifiable factors are strong predictors of early childhood development and nutrition, suggesting that interventions must go beyond food provision to include structured behavior change communication (BCC) strategies. These findings support CAADP's strategic approach of integrating agriculture with nutrition education and maternal support programs.

A similar thread emerges from Tizazu et al. (2022), whose study of rural Ethiopia reveals that despite improvements in food availability, children's diets remain inadequate due to the growing presence of ultra-processed foods (UPFs) and limited caregiver knowledge. Their findings suggest that nutrition-sensitive agriculture must be paired with diet quality messaging and stronger regulation of food marketing, especially for infant and young child foods. This resonates with CAADP's target to reduce child stunting to 10% and ensure that at least 50% of children aged 6–23 months receive a minimum acceptable diet.

Beyond household and community levels, food and nutrition security is shaped by market dynamics and policy environments. Liu et al. (2023) assess how dairy trade liberalization affects child stunting across Sub-Saharan Africa. Their cross-country analysis shows that lowering dairy tariffs significantly reduces stunting in countries with weaker domestic production systems, thanks to greater import availability and affordability of milk. The study provides compelling evidence that trade policy—when thoughtfully designed—can be a powerful tool to expand access to nutrient-rich foods, aligning with CAADP's emphasis on cross-border trade facilitation and the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to improve food affordability.

The importance of linking agriculture and nutrition through integrated value chains is exemplified in Gelli et al. (2023). Evaluating a bundled poultry production, gender, and nutrition intervention in Burkina Faso, they find that combining poultry rearing with BCC leads to significant increases in children's intake of animal-sourced foods. While anthropometric changes were modest, improvements in caregiver knowledge, child feeding behavior, and household diet diversity were clear. This reinforces CAADP's strategy of leveraging livestock, horticulture, and biofortified crops as nutrition-sensitive agricultural pathways.

Collectively, these studies support a paradigm of multisectoral nutrition policy—one that combines food systems innovation with health services, maternal empowerment, social behavior change, and policy coherence. The CAADP Strategy and Action Plan's targets for 2035—ranging from halving food insecurity to reducing child malnutrition—can only be achieved through integrated programming and data-driven decision-making. IFPRI's research makes clear that sustainable nutrition outcomes do not rest on food production alone; they emerge when systems, institutions, and communities work in concert to ensure that all Africans can access, afford, and consume healthy diets across the life course.

4. Advancing Inclusivity and Equitable Livelihoods

Transforming Africa's agrifood systems will remain incomplete—and unsustainable—without a concerted focus on equity and inclusion. The CAADP Strategy and Action Plan (2026–2035) clearly recognizes this imperative, setting ambitious targets to reduce extreme poverty by 50%, halve the gender yield gap, and empower at least 30% of women, youth, and marginalized populations in agrifood value chains by 2035 . Inclusive transformation is not only a moral imperative—it is an economic necessity for building resilient, dynamic, and just agrifood systems. IFPRI's body of work under this objective provides vital evidence for designing interventions that move beyond surface-level participation to address the structural barriers, social norms, and institutional exclusions that constrain opportunity for women, youth, and marginalized communities across Africa.

Amare et al. (2025) examine how violent conflict reshapes the agricultural landscape in Nigeria, especially for women and land-poor farmers. Their longitudinal analysis shows that areas exposed to conflict experience significant reductions in cultivated area and investments in high-return, long-cycle crops like

perennials and trees. Women farmers—already disadvantaged by weaker land tenure and limited access to financial instruments—experience sharper declines in investment and resilience capacity. This evidence strongly supports CAADP's call for conflict-sensitive agricultural support, prioritizing land rights, access to secure inputs, and post-conflict recovery instruments.

Building inclusive systems also requires recognizing the power dynamics within households, which shape access to resources, labor allocation, and agricultural decisions. Ambler, Jones, and Recalde (2024) use lab-in-the-field experiments in Ghana and Uganda to explore these dynamics, revealing that while women are often more willing to pay for control over resources, their preferences are overridden in joint decisions—especially when conflicting with male counterparts. These findings question the adequacy of empowerment interventions based solely on participation, and validate the need for gender-transformative programming that addresses intra-household bargaining asymmetries—a focus also echoed in CAADP's gender equity interventions.

This concern is deepened by Bageant et al. (2024), who conduct a rare comparative analysis of five empowerment indices (e.g., pro-WEAI, WELI, SWPER) in rural Kenya. They find wide disparities in who is classified as "empowered," and weak correlations between metrics and actual outcomes such as nutrition or mental health. Their findings caution that metric selection critically shapes program design and evaluation, underscoring CAADP's emphasis on context-specific data systems and gender-disaggregated evidence for monitoring inclusivity goals.

In the agribusiness domain, De, Miehe, and Van Campenhout (2024) reveal that even when quality is equal, female agro-input dealers receive significantly lower customer ratings than male counterparts, due to gendered perceptions of trust and competence. This market bias reduces women's commercial viability in key input sectors, further entrenching gender disparities. The study strongly aligns with CAADP's intervention to improve institutional environments for women entrepreneurs, combat discriminatory norms, and increase women's access to finance, markets, and visibility across agrifood value chains.

Finally, Gelli et al. (2023) evaluate the SELEVER program in Burkina Faso—an integrated poultry value chain intervention bundled with nutrition, gender, and WASH messaging. While the intervention led to improved women's knowledge and child-livestock separation practices, its limited intensity yielded no significant improvements in child nutrition or hygiene outcomes. The results suggest that while bundled interventions hold promise, greater frequency, follow-up, and structural support are required to translate behavioral gains into measurable health improvements. This affirms CAADP's approach to pairing technical support with intensive social programming and empowerment curricula.

The CAADP Strategy and Action Plan (2026–2035) echoes lessons from IFPRI's research, emphasizing investments in inclusive rural infrastructure, climate-smart youth employment, gender-sensitive policies, social protection, and institutional accountability. Equity must not be treated as an externality or side goal—but as a structural pillar of agrifood transformation. Only by embedding inclusion into every node of Africa's food systems—planning, finance, production, trade, and evaluation—can the continent fulfill its promise of a food-secure, just, and prosperous future for all.

5. Building Resilient Agrifood Systems

The Kampala CAADP Strategy and Action Plan (2026–2035) defines agrifood system resilience not as a static capacity to withstand shocks, but as a transformational capability—one that enables African food

systems to anticipate, absorb, and adapt to climate, conflict, economic, and epidemiological disruptions. This holistic vision of resilience echoes through CAADP's strategic emphasis on systems thinking, multi-level governance, and anticipatory risk management. IFPRI's recent empirical contributions can help translate this vision into an actionable, evidence-based agenda. By examining how farmers, markets, and institutions respond under conditions of stress, IFPRI offers robust tools to operationalize resilience through investment, policy innovation, and governance reform.

In one of the most compelling studies to date, Amare et al. (2025) use georeferenced panel data from Nigeria to explore how exposure to conflict reshapes agricultural decision-making. The study finds that households facing persistent violence significantly reduce cultivated land, abandon perennial crops, and shift toward fast-maturing, low-risk staples. These responses are rational but yield-suppressing, with particularly severe effects for women and land-poor households, who lack collateral, insurance, or secure tenure. The evidence powerfully illustrates that resilience in fragile zones requires conflict-sensitive financing, post-crisis asset recovery, and integrated peacebuilding strategies embedded in rural development planning. These findings support CAADP's call to mainstream peace and stability frameworks into agrifood policy, particularly in areas with overlapping climate and political fragilities.

While infrastructure and technology matter, Schneider et al. (2025) argue that resilience is governed before it is engineered. Using a global dataset across 42 food system indicators, they show that governance indicators—such as government effectiveness, civil society engagement, and legal guarantees of the right to food—are highly correlated with resilience performance. Their findings suggest that participatory institutions, cross-sectoral planning, and local accountability systems form the backbone of adaptive capacity. The study provides a clear rationale for CAADP's emphasis on multistakeholder coordination platforms, policy coherence, and institutional reform as levers for resilience. CAADP rightly identifies governance not as an external enabler, but as a core input to systemic adaptation.

The COVID-19 pandemic served as a real-world test of market resilience. Amare, Abay, and Hatzenbuehler (2024) analyze how pandemic-related mobility restrictions affected food market integration in Nigeria. Their results show that price transmission between regional cereal markets slowed down dramatically—by 200–300%—particularly for perishables and in remote regions. Notably, the study finds that access to digital infrastructure, such as mobile internet, buffered some of these effects, facilitating information flow and virtual trade. This evidence reinforces CAADP's investment priorities in digital infrastructure, rural logistics, and last-mile connectivity—not just as development goals, but as shock absorbers during crises.

Climate resilience is also closely linked to livelihood flexibility. In their study of rural Nigeria, Amare and Balana (2023) integrate satellite-based temperature data with household income records to track the effects of rising "harmful heat days." They find that these climatic anomalies reduce crop productivity and prompt a shift away from farming toward livestock, wage labor, and non-farm income. Households also alter cropping patterns and reduce fertilizer use—suggesting adaptive responses, but ones with long-term productivity trade-offs. These dynamics support CAADP's call for climate-resilient technologies, diversified income portfolios, and extension systems that promote flexible, location-specific responses to environmental stress.

Ansah et al. (2023) provide strong statistical evidence that resilience capacities mediate the effects of climate shocks on food security. In Ghana, structural equation models show that households with high

absorptive and adaptive capacities—such as access to early warning systems, social protection, and agricultural advisory services—experience less food insecurity and faster recovery from drought and heat stress. The study quantifies that 74% of the effect of heat on calorie consumption is mediated by these capacities. This directly aligns with CAADP's framework to invest in early warning systems, shock-responsive safety nets, and resilience diagnostics at household and community levels.

The CAADP strategy underscores that transformation toward resilient agrifood systems must be inclusive, transparent, and data-driven. As IFPRI's research confirms, resilience cannot be imported or imposed—it must be cultivated at the intersection of institutions, incentives, and innovations that are fit for Africa's evolving risk landscape.

6. Strengthening Agrifood Systems Governance

Strengthening agrifood systems governance is a cornerstone of the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan (2026–2035), which identifies governance as both an enabler and a central pillar of agrifood systems transformation. In the post-Malabo context, governance is reconceptualized not merely as administrative efficiency, but as a systemic determinant of equity, resilience, innovation, and accountability. IFPRI's empirical contributions—spanning seed regulation, food system diagnostics, political economy, and cross-sectoral coordination—offer clear direction for operationalizing governance reform in Africa's complex agrifood environments.

Takeshima et al. (2025) provide a grounded example of how regulatory weaknesses in seed certification can undermine the effectiveness of improved inputs. Drawing on data from Nigeria, the study reveals significant yield gains from certified seeds only when quality assurance mechanisms are credible and tailored to agroecological contexts. Where enforcement is weak or farmer trust is low, adoption suffers, and input subsidies deliver suboptimal returns. This evidence calls for spatially targeted governance approaches and stronger institutional oversight to build confidence in formal input systems and ensure public investment effectiveness in technology diffusion.

At the systems level, Schneider et al. (2025) offer the most comprehensive global analysis of the governance-resilience nexus to date, using 42 indicators across countries. Their findings identify governance as the single most interconnected driver of food system performance—shaping everything from affordability to sustainability and nutrition outcomes. In African contexts, their country case studies (e.g., Ethiopia) emphasize the transformative effect of participatory governance models, especially where civil society engagement and legal right-to-food provisions are institutionalized. The authors argue that achieving resilience and sustainability goals requires embedding governance innovation into national food strategies.

Timu et al. (2024) contribute a novel diagnostic framework for assessing governance performance in agricultural programs. Applying it to Malawi's Sustainable Agricultural Production Programme (SAPP), they map farmer transitions across livelihood categories and link these transitions to implementation effectiveness. Their typology—distinguishing subsistence, emerging, and market-oriented farmers—provides a dynamic tool for monitoring how governance structures facilitate or constrain inclusive rural development. Crucially, this diagnostic approach aligns closely with CAADP's call for evidence-based and adaptive governance in National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs).

Resnick (2024) complements these diagnostics with a sweeping political economy review that examines how food and agriculture policy in Africa is shaped by elite interests, donor influence, and institutional capacity. She highlights how subnational political dynamics, electoral incentives, and administrative fragmentation often stall reform. Her findings underline CAADP's emphasis on strengthening inter-ministerial coordination, decentralizing authority, and building stakeholder accountability through transparent monitoring systems like the Biennial Review. Importantly, Resnick stresses that governance bottlenecks are not always technical but often deeply political.

A sector-specific application of governance innovation is offered by Basheer et al. (2024), who use integrated assessment models to evaluate governance around the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD). Their work shows how fragmented decision-making across hydrology, energy, agriculture, and diplomacy leads to trade-offs between sectors—reducing sustainability, equitable resource distribution, and regional cooperation. Their conclusion—calling for integrated, anticipatory, and multi-sectoral governance—resonates with CAADP's holistic approach to agrifood governance that includes transboundary infrastructure, environmental sustainability, and political accountability.

These findings converge with CAADP's own Strategy and Action Plan (2026–2035), which calls for "evidence-based decision-making," "mutual accountability," and "multi-stakeholder coordination" as foundational principles for agrifood governance reform. The Plan identifies governance as critical to implementing national investment plans, ensuring policy coherence, empowering decentralized institutions, and aligning financing with long-term transformation goals.

In sum, IFPRI's evidence base reinforces the CAADP vision that strong agrifood governance is not an accessory—it is the architecture through which Africa will build food system resilience, nutritional equity, and agricultural innovation. Strengthening governance entails more than building institutions; it requires enabling inclusive, informed, and adaptive leadership across all levels of food system governance.

Conclusion

The next decade is pivotal for Africa's agrifood transformation. The CAADP Strategy and Action Plan (2026–2035) charts a bold and necessary course: not only to end hunger and poverty, but to build food systems that are inclusive, resilient, sustainable, and capable of delivering broad-based prosperity. Yet, as this synthesis has shown, achieving these ambitions will require more than declarations or increased investments. It will demand a deep commitment to evidence-based policymaking, adaptive governance, and inclusive innovation—anchored in the lived realities of African farmers, entrepreneurs, and institutions.

Over the past decade, IFPRI has generated a rich body of empirical research that directly supports the strategic pillars of the Kampala Declaration. From modeling fertilizer profitability and seed system governance to evaluating gender equity, nutrition programs, resilience strategies, and political economy dynamics, IFPRI's work offers a practical and scientifically rigorous foundation for transformative action. Across all six strategic objectives, a consistent message emerges: systems transformation requires systemic thinking.

This means recognizing that productivity gains must be linked to market access, land rights, and institutional trust. That nutrition security depends as much on governance and caregiver behavior as on food

supply. That resilience is not just about infrastructure, but also about social capital, early warning systems, and inclusive planning. And that equity is not achieved through participation alone, but through challenging entrenched norms and redistributing decision-making power.

CAADP's renewed commitment to mutual accountability, regional integration, and national ownership creates the institutional framework for this transformation. IFPRI's knowledge base complements this framework by offering diagnostics, monitoring tools, and contextualized insights that can shape National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs), guide regional programming, and support continental policy harmonization.

At the same time, this review reveals persistent deficits—in reliable and timely data, in forward-looking policy diagnostics, and in context-specific analyses that speak directly to African institutions' real-world challenges. Addressing these gaps is just as critical as putting existing knowledge to work. As CAADP enters its next phase, the imperative is twofold: to deploy the research already available more effectively, and to invest in the kinds of inquiry that remain underdeveloped or missing.

Looking ahead, Africa's agrifood transformation will depend on how well evidence, leadership, and collaboration come together. This report affirms that robust, localized research—such as that produced by IFPRI—will remain essential to translating the vision of CAADP into lasting and inclusive change. With the Kampala Declaration as its guiding mandate, and with science as its compass, Africa has the opportunity to shape a new era of agrifood development, rooted in dignity, resilience, and shared prosperity.

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AI DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

During the preparation of this work, we used Scholar GPT to select relevant papers and generate summaries used in the drafting process. After using this tool/service, we reviewed and edited the content as needed and take full responsibility for the content of the publication.

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Annex: Mapping of IFPRI output against the six CAADP strategic objectives, Africa (2015-2025)

	CAADP1		CAADP2		CAADP3		CAADP4		CAADP5		CAADP6		TOTAL
	JBC	Other	JBC	Other	JBC	Other	JBC	Other	JBC	Other	JBC	Other	
Global/Continental	478	405	26	84	204	176	84	162	112	114	183	208	1724
Ethiopia	166	214	14	21	91	156	37	74	22	55	43	68	865
Malawi	57	182	2	7	39	49	13	31	9	19	20	45	553
Nigeria	83	144	9	22	53	72	21	52	21	42	28	64	485
Ghana	83	138	7	9	22	48	20	36	15	7	22	49	406
Kenya	58	83	6	13	40	36	21	38	8	34	20	37	344
Uganda	61	85	5	4	19	19	16	50	13	14	15	21	292
Tanzania	48	69	2	5	18	22	21	18	5	6	12	17	242
Burkina Faso	31	20	1	1	52	48	23	14	7	10	7	7	169
Rwanda	22	55	0	5	17	22	4	15	3	8	7	38	147
Zambia	29	35	0	3	28	15	6	6	7	10	14	17	138
Mali	14	26	4	6	11	22	8	10	15	17	6	13	136
Senegal	22	40	5	5	9	11	6	17	6	6	10	12	128
Mozambique	19	49	4	2	10	11	8	7	5	7	7	12	112
Egypt	17	39	1	6	3	15	3	4	2	6	5	20	103
Niger	23	14	4	4	4	9	7	14	11	11	6	12	94
South Africa	19	16	2	1	9	4	3	1	6	3	6	5	71
Congo, DRC	21	23	1	0	9	10	4	0	5	2	4	2	70
Sudan	11	32	1	4	0	4	0	2	6	23	3	15	67
Benin	11	7	1	0	3	8	3	6	4	0	3	1	37
Zimbabwe	7	11	0	0	2	2	0	1	3	3	1	3	27
Burundi	5	4	0	0	11	4	1	0	3	0	0	0	23
Côte d'Ivoire	5	4	0	0	0	5	0	1	4	0	2	0	20
Togo	7	6	0	0	1	5	0	0	4	0	3	0	20
Cameroon	5	3	1	1	3	1	1	2	5	1	1	1	19
Tunisia	2	10	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	3	19
Madagascar	3	7	0	0	1	3	0	0	2	2	0	3	18
Mauritania	2	2	0	1	0	5	0	0	5	2	2	1	18
Gambia	4	1	1	1	2	5	0	0	4	0	1	0	17
Somalia	2	3	1	0	0	3	0	1	1	3	1	3	16
Chad	2	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	4	2	2	1	15
Guinea	4	3	0	0	0	5	0	0	4	0	2	1	14

Annex: Continued

	CAADP1		CAADP2		CAADP3		CAADP4		CAADP5		CAADP6		TOTAL
	JBC	Other	JBC	Other	JBC	Other	JBC	Other	JBC	Other	JBC	Other	
Botswana	5	2	0	0	2	1	1	1	3	0	0	0	13
Sierra Leone	3	1	0	0	0	5	0	0	3	0	2	0	13
Guinea-Bissau	3	2	0	1	0	6	0	0	3	0	1	0	13
Lesotho	4	3	0	0	1	1	0	1	3	0	1	0	13
Eswatini	3	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	2	11
Cabo Verde	2	2	0	0	0	5	0	0	2	0	1	0	10
Namibia	3	4	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	10
Liberia	3	1	0	0	0	5	1	0	2	0	1	0	10
South Sudan	3	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	2	1	1	0	9
Morocco	1	4	1	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	1	0	9
Mauritius	3	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	8
Congo	2	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	8
Angola	3	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	1	0	7
Algeria	0	2	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	6
Eritrea	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	4
Djibouti	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	4
Central African R.	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	4
Equatorial Guinea	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	4
Seychelles	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Comoros	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Gabon	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Sao T. & Principe	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Libya	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2

Note: JBC stands for all journal articles, books, and book chapters, while Other refers to all other types of output. Depending on the analysis, each evidence product can cover multiple objectives or none. Given that multi-country evidence products were mapped to each individual country, the sum of total output compiled in this table is higher than the actual number of publications.
Source: IFPRI publication repository.

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