



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

**3rd HIGH-LEVEL FORUM TO PRESENT CAADP BIENNIAL REVIEW
REPORT TO PARTNER STATES AND EAC KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN
THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR AND FOOD SECURITY**

31st October, 2022

VIRTUAL MEETING

BACKGROUND PAPER

**EAC SECRETARIAT,
P.O. BOX 1096,
ARUSHA, TANZANIA
October, 2022**

1.0 Introduction

In June 2014 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, during the AU Assembly, Heads of State and Government adopted the implementation of the Malabo Declaration on “Accelerated Africa Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods”. The Malabo Declaration has seven commitments. The said commitments define a clear pathway for Africa’s agriculture transformation for the period 2015 – 2025, and also a vehicle towards the achievement of the objectives of the 1st-ten years of Implementation Plan of Africa’s Agenda 2063.

To allow for both regular monitoring on the seven commitments’ progress and diagnose every two years, the bottlenecks that could hamper Continental achievement after Malabo ten-year period vis a vis to the commitments achieved, AU Heads of State and Government requested the AU Commission and the AUDA-NEPAD to produce a progress report for presentation to the AU Assembly every two years, starting from 2017. So far, the inaugural, second and third Biennial Review (BR) Reports were presented to and endorsed by the AU Assembly in January 2018, February 2020 and February 2022, respectively.

Sequencing the release of the BR report by the AUC, the EAC region is embracing a tradition of bringing together its stakeholders, State and Non-State actors into a high-level Biennial Review forum to discuss among other key things: (i) linkages of the BR to policies and programs and how to use it to trigger changes at country level so that it does not remain just a score; (ii) Strengthening of country-level data systems related to agriculture and food systems; (iii) broad communication of BR findings and how to enhance its visibility in the EAC Partner States; and (iv) improvement of uptake and utilization of BR recommendations. A communique with key implementable resolutions will be published at the margin of the high-level forum.

In addition to the above, the third high-level BR forum will consider the implementation progress of the resolutions from the previous BR forum and discuss the performance of EAC Partner States during the third BR report. Below is the matrix which depicted the progress of the EAC Partner States during the 2021, 3rd BR report which covered the years 2019 and 2020.

Seven commitments	Commitment	benchmark	EAC Partner States on-track
Recommitment to the Principles and Values of the CAADP Process:	Commitment 1	10.00	Rwanda (10.0); Tanzania (10.0)
Enhancing Investment Financing in Agriculture:	Commitment 2	7.5	No EAC PS has achieved the benchmark of 7.5
Ending Hunger by 2025:	Commitment 3	6.32	Kenya (6.40)
Halving Poverty through Agriculture by 2025:	Commitment 4	5.81	Rwanda (6.95), Tanzania (6.31),
Boosting Intra-African Trade in Agriculture Commodities and	Commitment 5	5.00	No EAC PS has achieved the benchmark of 5.0

Services:			
Enhancing Resilience to Climate Variability:	Commitment 6	8.00	Rwanda (9.70), Burundi (8.44),
Enhancing Mutual Accountability for Actions and Results:	Commitment 7	8.33	Rwanda (9.87), Tanzania (9.39),
Overall country score	All commitments	7 7.28	Rwanda (7.43)

As shown in the matrix above there is mixed performances across the commitments. The above results from the 3rd BR report thus raised the need of a high-level platform to discuss policy and programmatic approaches that may become game changer in the next BR profile. Nevertheless, we should also commend some EAC Partner States that managed; during Covid-19 pandemic; to showcase resilience in health sector and food system sustainability. This included introducing distribution of seeds and fertilizers to farmers, introduction of new policies of food distribution to consumers, enactment of trade measures and regulations as quick-win solutions to facilitate the import and export across EAC borders and mitigate the effect of the pandemic. More details about Covid-19 and food system are found in the 3rd BR report.

2.0 Key Objectives

The overall objective is to consider the progress of implementation of the resolutions from the previous BR forum and discuss the performance of EAC Partner States during the third BR report.

Specifically taking note of the above EAC Partner States performances in the 3rd BR report, EAC Secretariat will:

1. engage High-level policy makers and members of EALA to stimulate in-depth discussions of the core issues that impeded the trends of Partner States to sustain stable food system;
2. review good practices recorded and inspire widespread learning, replication, spur responsive policies and programs and agree on how to use BR report results to trigger changes at country level so that it does not remain just a score;
3. demand strong political and financial commitment towards investing in regional and national agriculture transformational plan (RAIP and NAIP);
4. ensure commitment for strengthening of country-level data systems related to agriculture and food systems, broad communication of BR findings and how to enhance its visibility in the EAC Partner States; and
5. request high-level policy makers and members of EALA to take strong commitment to continue supporting EAC Secretariat in the organization of a yearly regional multi-stakeholder platform as part of joint effort to strengthen data quality and reporting of the BR at the region and country level.

3.0 Expected Deliverables

The expected outcomes of the Forum are as follows:

1. Regional and National high-level policy makers engaged into policy BR dialogue to stimulate in-depth discussions of the core issues that impeded the trends of Partner States to sustain a stable food system;
2. Good practices reviewed and advocated to inspire widespread learning, and spur responsive policy and programmatic interventions responding to the recommendations of the BR report as well as the EAC BR brief report;
3. The region's priority issues identified and discussed based on the BR results and policy briefs generated by AGRA, IFPRI- ReSAKSS and the seven (7) EAC Partner States in their presentations;
4. Regional and national Stakeholders partnership and advocacy built or enhanced to demand strong political and financial commitment towards investing in regional and national agriculture transformational plan (RAIP and NAIP) taking into consideration the post Covid-19 era; and
5. A yearly regional multi-stakeholder platform sustainably supported as part of joint effort to strengthen data quality and reporting of the BR at the region and country level.

4.0 Place and Venue

The high-level BR forum will be convened virtually on 31st October, 2022, an invite link will be shared to participants to allow for timely registration.

5.0 Participation

The Forum will bring together AUC and AUDA-NEPAD delegates, dignitaries from Ministries from Agriculture, trade and industry and planning and financing. Members of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) from Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources Committee (ATNR) as well as trade and investment. In addition, regional stakeholders and Development Partners engaged in the implementation of CAADP program will be also invited to participate.

6.0 Methodology

There will be two panel discussions inviting

- (i) **Panel of High-level Government Officials, EAC, AUC, AGRA & EALA:** to elaborate more on how to set up a well-functioning system promoting inclusive public and private financial investment in EAC region;
- (ii) **A mixed Panel of Private Sector (EABC, EAFF, TRADE MARK, NSA):** Accelerating EAC trade policy implementation and enforcement to address multiple bottlenecks. Advocating for more investment in the agriculture and food systems in the EAC Partner States.

The agenda and program will be shared in due course.