

ReSAKSS: Informing and Guiding CAADP Implementation

Recognizing that Africa's agricultural sector offers the greatest opportunity for leveraging growth and alleviating poverty and food insecurity on the continent, African Union (AU) member countries are currently implementing the unprecedented Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program (CAADP). To support this initiative, the Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (ReSAKSS) and a network of national, regional, and international partners are helping to provide policy-relevant analysis, data, and tools in order to improve policymaking, fill knowledge gaps, promote dialogue, and facilitate the benchmarking and review processes associated with the CAADP agenda.

RESAKSS: ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNANCE

ReSAKSS is organized into three regional nodes—West Africa (WA), East and Central Africa (ECA), and Southern Africa (SA)—established by their respective regional economic communities (RECs), the Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in collaboration with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the AU, and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and other centers of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

The ReSAKSS nodes are located at three Africa-based CGIAR centers: the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture in Ibadan, Nigeria; the International Livestock Research Institute in Nairobi, Kenya; and the International Water Management Institute in Pretoria, South Africa, jointly with the International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics. IFPRI is helping to coordinate a common agenda across the three nodes, providing technical and analytical support, and helping to strengthen links with a broad network of CAADP partners.

The nodes are governed via Steering Committees chaired by the respective RECs. The Steering Committees provide overall oversight and help to ensure that the ReSAKSS agenda re-

mains relevant to development priorities, CAADP, and regional strategies.

CAADP FRAMEWORK AND GOALS

CAADP is an African-owned and African-led initiative formulated under leadership of the AU and NEPAD, with a mandate to restore agriculture growth, food security, and rural development in Africa. Though continental in coverage, its broad framework allows Africa's many subregions and countries to align their agricultural-development strategies to suit local realities. The NEPAD Secretariat facilitates the overall process and mobilizes resources, while RECs coordinate the process in their subregions and national governments direct program implementation in their individual countries.

CAADP endeavors to:

- promote agriculture-led growth as the main strategy for achieving the first Millennium Development Goal of halving poverty and hunger by 2015;
- achieve high and sustained agricultural growth rates of at least 6 percent annually at the country level;
- allocate 10 percent of national budgets to the agricultural sector;
- exploit regional complementarities and cooperation to enhance trade and growth; and
- promote partnerships at all levels of soci-

ety as well as policy dialogue, review, and accountability to improve the program's efficiency.

RESAKSS SUPPORT TO CAADP IMPLEMENTATION

Achieving the CAADP goals requires efficient and consistent planning and execution of sector policies and programs, effective translation of government expenditures into public goods and services at adequate levels, and appropriate mechanisms to regularly and transparently measure performance and keep policies and programs on track. ReSAKSS is playing a critical role in the process by helping to facilitate improved access to high-quality information and analysis, thereby providing policymakers with credible evidence on which to base decisions.

In close collaboration with the RECs and their member states and local and regional partners, ReSAKSS provides support in the following three areas: strategic analysis, knowledge management and communications, and capacity strengthening.

The strategic analysis activities help fill critical knowledge gaps identified by regional stakeholders and help assist member states in assessing their progress toward realizing the CAADP goals of allocating 10 percent of the national budget to agriculture, achieving a 6 percent annual agricultural growth rate, and meeting the first Millennium Development Goal of halving poverty and hunger by 2015. Working with local and international centers of expertise, ReSAKSS helps countries to assess policy and investment options for accelerating growth and reducing poverty and hunger. In addition, IFPRI has been leading ReSAKSS efforts to develop a monitoring and evaluation framework, indicators, and benchmarks to inform CAADP implementation.

Under the knowledge management and communications component, ReSAKSS and its network of partners are collecting data on key indicators such as public spending; integrating and building upon existing data, analytical tools, and knowledge; and facilitating timely access of the knowledge by African policymakers and development partners to allow for more evidence-based decisionmaking. To this end, ReSAKSS is developing interactive knowledge platforms such as websites and compact discs that will help inform

CAADP review and dialogue processes.

Finally, ReSAKSS helps to build and strengthen institutional and technical capacity by promoting collaboration in generating and disseminating data and providing access to knowledge and information products. In particular, ReSAKSS helps to facilitate the formulation of shared standards and protocols for the collection, storage, and exchange of data, as well as cutting-edge methodologies for data and policy analysis. A key element under capacity strengthening has been to provide technical support to the CAADP Roundtable process and setting up country Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support Systems (SAKSS).

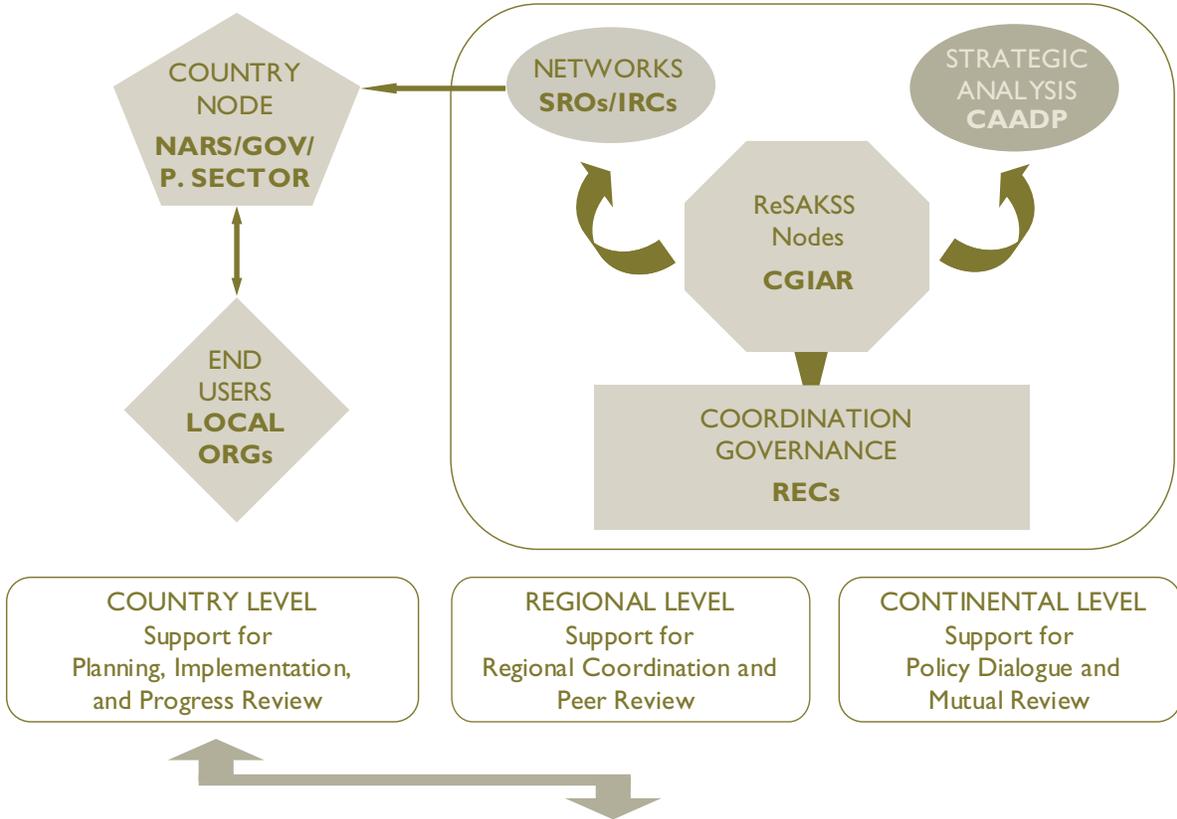
Providing Technical Support to the Country Roundtable Process and Establishing Country SAKSS

At the country level, the ReSAKSS nodes and their local and international partners are helping to facilitate stocktaking exercises and provide technical support for the analytical work that is required prior to each CAADP Roundtable as countries move to align their agricultural strategy with the CAADP framework and prepare investment compacts. At the request of individual countries, ReSAKSS nodes are also establishing country SAKSS. The diagram illustrates the relationship between ReSAKSS and country SAKSS. A country SAKSS allows for proper follow up to Roundtable outcomes and subsequent policy debates and decisionmaking. From the country's perspective, this is intended to help maintain the momentum generated by the Roundtable and use the knowledge and analysis to inform policy choices. In collaboration with ReSAKSS and other partners within and outside the country, the country node is expected to address information and knowledge gaps that emerge during the implementation of the CAADP compact and help strengthen local capacities.

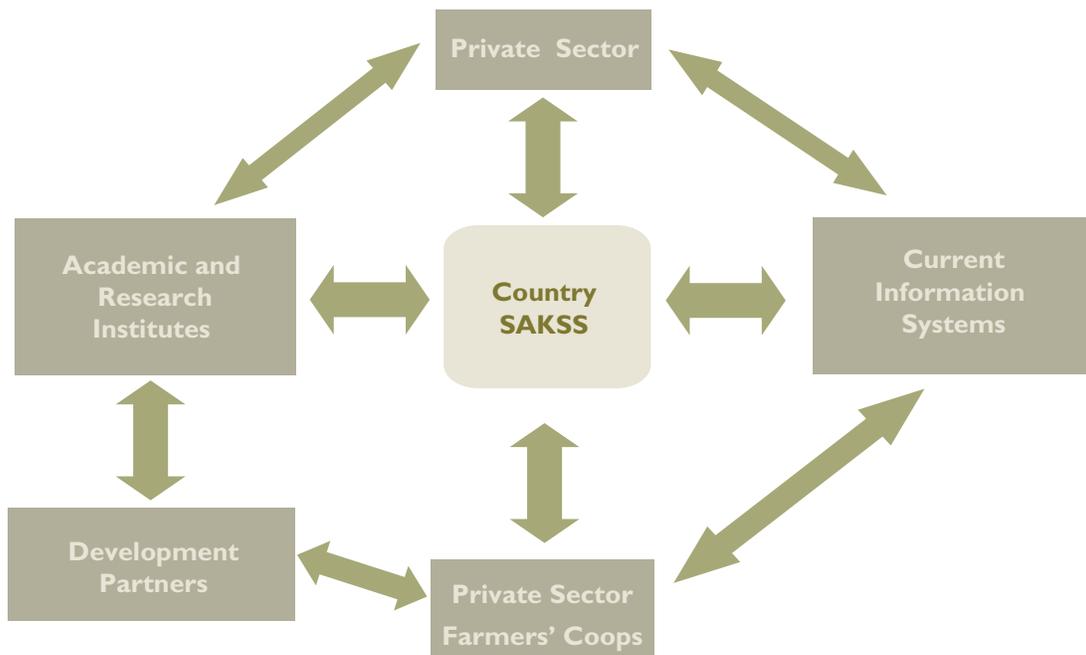
By providing strategic analysis and timely access to policy-relevant information, ReSAKSS is helping African countries to successfully implement CAADP-aligned agricultural strategies and is strengthening local capacity for evidence-based policymaking. This will go a long way toward increasing agricultural growth and reducing poverty and hunger in Africa.

Relationship between ReSAKSS, Country SAKSS, and Regional CAADP Partners

ReSAKSS
Knowledge Support for Planning, Review, and Dialogue



Country SAKSS for Planning, Review, and Dialogue



For further information by region:



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