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**SYNTHESIS PAPER ON THE THEME OF AGRICULTURE
AND FOOD SECURITY**

***“TRANSFORMING AFRICA’S AGRICULTURE FOR SHARED
PROSPERITY AND IMPROVED LIVELIHOODS THROUGH
HARNESSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR INCLUSIVE
GROWTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”***

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I. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Synthesis Paper

1. This synthesis paper on the theme: “*Transforming Africa’s Agriculture for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods through Harnessing Opportunities for Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development*” represents the systematic collective thinking, diagnosis, goals and plans relating to Agriculture in Africa as proposed by African agricultural and rural development practitioners and stakeholders in collaboration with a wide range of partners. It is based on inputs generated from a series of broad based consultations carried out by the African Union Commission (AUC) and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) with key stakeholders, including Member States, farmer, women and youth organizations, and development and technical partners across the continent and beyond to review, strategise and set goals, actions and targets for the next decade as part of *Sustaining the CAADP Momentum* and to commemorate “Year of Agriculture and Food Security” marking the 10th anniversary of the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

2. Starting from initial consultations at the “*CAADP 10 Years On: Dialogue to Improve Implementation, Coordination And Alignment With National Agriculture Investment Plans (NAIPS)*” held at the AUC in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 11-13 February 2014, then during the 10th CAADP Partnership Platform meeting held in Durban, South Africa from 19-22 March 2014 and culminating into the *AU Joint Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, Rural Development, Fisheries and Aquaculture* held at the AUCC in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 28 April – 2 May 2014. During these consultations stakeholders have reflected on progress and identified, based on lessons to date, the goals, actions and targets which Africa and its main partners should commit to achieving over the next ten years. The main products that have been generated from these meetings are as follows:

- a) CAADP 10 Years On: Dialogue to Improve Implementation, Coordination and Alignment with National Agriculture Investment Plans (NAIPS): The two key outputs are a Synthesis Report and a Technical report.
- b) The 10th CAADP PP Meeting: the key outputs are : (i) the 10th CAADP PP Communiqué; (ii) Nine Work stream session reports; and (iii) Nine Work stream synthesis papers that informed the preparation of background

papers on the five sub-themes of the 2014 Year of Agriculture and Food Security.

- c) The AU Joint Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, Rural Development, Fisheries and Aquaculture: the key output is the Ministerial Report, including a Resolution, also outlining seven Africa Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation Goals to be achieved by 2025 (3AGTGs 2025) as recommendations for consideration by the AU Assembly.

1.2. The link to the CAADP Results Framework

3. Guided by the *Sustaining CAADP Results Framework 2015-2025* for the agricultural transformation for the next decade and inspired by the declaration of AU Summit for 2014 to be Year of Agriculture and Food Security, AUC has been leading the commemoration of the year with the theme “*Transforming Africa’s agriculture for shared prosperity and improved livelihoods, through harnessing opportunities for inclusive agricultural growth and sustainable development*”. The consultations with stakeholders were guided by the following five sub-themes, which also correspond to Level 2 of CAADP Results Framework:

- i) Agricultural transformation for accelerating growth (production and productivity);
- ii) Harnessing markets and trade opportunities;
- iii) Enhancing investment financing in agriculture;
- iv) Food Security and Nutrition: towards ending hunger and malnutrition in Africa; and
- v) Enhancing Resilience of Africa’s agriculture to climate change shocks and other natural hazards.

4. To deepen the engagement of stakeholders and widen the scope for discussions, the sub-thematic areas were organized around nine work-stream areas¹, and the consolidated reports of the five sub-themes form the basis of this synthesis paper. The Synthesis Paper is expected to serve as an important input to the Joint Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, Rural Development, Fisheries and Aquaculture, and later for debate at the AU Summit during the Twenty-Third Ordinary Session of the AU Heads of State and Government scheduled for 26-27 June 2014 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea whose objective is to facilitate high level political dialogue on goals, targets and collective actions and seek demonstrable commitment by the Heads of States and Government for a sustained support and engagement on agricultural transformation into the next decade through the CAADP Result Framework.

¹ The nine work-stream areas are: 1) Science Agenda for agriculture, education and skills development; (ii) Agricultural inputs; (iii) Land and land policy; (iv) Rural Infrastructure, Market Access, Regional Trade and Integration; (v) Food security and nutrition; (vi) Public-Private Sector Engagement and Investment Financing; (vii) Agriculture and Climate Change in Relation to Resilience and Risk Management; (viii) Data, Monitoring & Evaluation and Mutual Accountability; and (ix) Policies and institutions

1.3. Scope and Coverage of the Paper.

5. As a summary of the final outcomes of the nine Work-streams and particularly as a synthesis of the five sub-thematic papers which were produced from the outcomes, the synthesis paper sets the stage and establishes the dimensions of the goals, actions and targets relating to interventions in African agriculture and related areas over the next decade. The paper therefore focuses on how the implementation of various sound measures for improving agriculture, rural development, fisheries and aquaculture will combine to instigate innovations and needed technologies and transform agriculture for enhanced production and productivity and accelerated growth in African countries.

II. AFRICAN AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: A SYNOPSIS

2.1 Current Performance

6. The agriculture sector has a central role in African economies as it accounts for over one-third of gross national product and export earnings, and employs over 60 percent of the continent's population. As such, the sector is critical for economic growth, poverty reduction and food and nutrition security. Yet, despite strong economic recovery in Africa over more than a decade, the agricultural annual growth in most countries is still below the CAADP annual target of 6 per cent. Fisheries production has stagnated, although aquaculture has increased significantly, but only in a few countries and from a low level. Fuelled by high human population growth, rapid urbanization and income growth, regional food demand continues to outstrip domestic supply, and intra-regional food trade (including provisions for informal cross-border flows) remains below 20%. As a result, the continent's food import bill has increased to some US\$ 70 billion a year, while the World Bank projects Africa's urban food markets to increase fast and exceed US\$ 400 billion by 2030. African agriculture must modernize, become more productive and competitive, create more value addition locally, to meet the fast-growing demand in both African and overseas markets.

2.2 Issues and Challenges

7. The unsatisfactory growth of the agriculture sector is attributable to a number of factors including low use of improved inputs and other technologies leading to low productivity and profitability at farm level while, as already mentioned high human population growth rates and increasing urbanization are putting pressure on demand for food, resulting in increased levels of poverty, food insecurity, and malnutrition. The following topics chosen for the five sub-thematic papers appropriately mirror the challenges which currently and into the next decade confront Africa:

- Agricultural Transformation for Accelerating Growth through Enhancing Production and Productivity;
- Harnessing Agricultural Markets, Infrastructure and Trade Opportunities;

- Improving Food and Nutrition Security;
- Enhancing Resilience of Africa's Agriculture to Climate Change and other natural hazards and Risk Management;
- Enhancing Public-Private Sector Partnerships and Investment Financing for African Agriculture.

8. In addition, the cross cutting issues of gender, youth, small holder farmers and the environment assume relevance and significance in all the sub-themes to be addressed.

III. The AGENDA FOR TRANSFORMING AFRICA'S AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT – OPPORTUNITIES AND PROSPECTS

3.1 Increased Agriculture Production, Productivity and Value Addition

3.1.1 Background

9. Recent studies show that agricultural production generally increased in Africa during the past decade but the cultivated areas and the headcount of livestock also increased accordingly indicating lack of advancement in productivity enhancement. Furthermore, fisheries production has stagnated, and in some instances declined. Agricultural outputs may increase either through (i) expanding the area under cultivation or (ii) increasing yields. Further, the main viable income increment option for rural populations who have limited available land is to shift the product composition to higher-value products.

10. Enhancing agricultural productivity requires development and utilization of appropriate technologies and inputs (e.g. water through irrigation, improved seed and stocking materials, fertilizer, pesticides) combined with the right application of innovations (e.g. Integrated Pest Management, Integrated Nutrient Management). Raising agricultural production and productivity requires not only appropriate technologies or more cultivated areas, but also sound policies to encourage farmers to adopt the technologies and improve farming practices. Thus, increasing agricultural productivity not only relies on improved production efficiencies, such as through adoption of modern or improved technologies and practices, but also critically relies on many other factors such as adequate access to productive resources, well-functioning markets and infrastructure, and a conducive policy environment (e.g., stable macro-economic policies).

11. Education and skills are important for transforming agriculture in Africa. The improvement of learning and technical knowledge is a key factor for agriculture's contribution to the economic development.

12. Recent statistics on the state of African agriculture show that:

- Irrigated land as a proportion of potential is only **7 per cent**, which is low compared to East and South-East Asia with 29 per cent and : 41 per cent respectively;
- Rain-fed agriculture areas make up about 90% of total agricultural land;
- Use of fertilizer in Africa South of the Sahara is **13 kg/hectare**—(i.e., 7 per cent of the average for East Asia; **73 kg** in North Africa)These figures suggest that the level of use of fertilizers in Africa is much lower than the levels pertaining in other parts of the developing world such as South East Asia. As well, the irrigated land areas against the potential are lower in Africa compared to Asia. Water resources are not fully exploited for agriculture in Africa through irrigation to make significant impact on production and productivity. The use of human power in agricultural labour is still very high and studies have demonstrated that the appropriate use of technologies and innovations in agriculture can significantly contribute to higher agricultural production and productivity.

13. Increasing agricultural production is best achieved through intensification of an agriculture that creates surpluses for urban areas, limits rural exodus and lowers production costs while increasing individual incomes and minimizing the expansion of cultivated land. But this intensification must be sustainable. Sustainable intensive agriculture must ensure the conservative use of traditional inputs, fertilizers, pesticides, improved varieties of seeds, and veterinary products, etc., as well as incentives to implement intensive practices based on sustainable techniques (conservation practices, companion planting, animal manure and organic amendments, biological pest control), and investment in equipment to increase productivity. Guidelines for achieving this goal are emerging: promoting the controlled use of inputs (fertilizers, pesticide products, improved seeds) and agro-environmental techniques to manage soil fertility levels and to enhance productivity (organic manuring, techniques to combat erosion by rain and wind, etc.).

14. However, there are numerous challenges relating to the achievement of the above goals including how to reduce risks to agricultural production and revenue, to enable family farms, including small farms, to first invest in modernizing and intensifying their practices, and second, to improve the way in which markets operate, inter alia, to combat price volatility. Securing access to land and land transfers is also a shared challenge with numerous implications for encouraging investment and intensification strategies. Specific attention is given here to the role of science, promoting sustainable cropping practices, enhancing the use of inputs and securing land tenure for stimulating investment and adoption of innovations.

15. Recent evidence indicates that the incorporation of scientific principles of ecosystem management into farming practices can enhance crop production via yield. But sustainable intensification encompasses a range of factors that must be addressed

simultaneously: ecological components; genetic component and socio-economic component of intensification - each of which is equally important and must be used in combination in order to achieve the paradigm shift. A look at three key productivity conduits will illustrate this.

3.1.2 Development of technologies through Science Agenda, Education and Skills

16. Science is vital in the development of African agriculture. The role of science in enhancing agricultural productivity, competitiveness and market access in Africa is too important for it to be outsourced, and African leaders have to invest more of their own resources into Research & Development initiatives. Moreover, Africa is the world's future food basket and that is why the Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa (S3A) has the vision that *"By 2030 Africa is food and nutrition secure, a global scientific player, and the world's "food-basket"*. There is need to mainstream science and its application to agriculture in schools and institutions of higher learning. The science used must draw from and fully integrate conventional and local knowledge systems. The awareness by African governments on domestic investments in agriculture is gaining momentum. There is increased African leadership, ownership, willingness, commitment and understanding that destiny is in their hands. Agricultural Research for Development (AR4D) has incorporated productivity but also agricultural value addition into national plans. There is urgency for African governments to embrace a science agenda that will provide basis for applying science to increase productivity to a level that will enhance livelihoods.

17. The S3A covers sustainable productivity as major farming systems, agricultural mechanization, food systems and value addition, post-harvest handling, food processing, safety and storage, biodiversity, natural resource management and response to the megatrends and cross cutting themes.

18. Human capital is a crucial strategic factor for agricultural transformation as new technologies emerge, markets demand higher quality and safer products, and as consumers' requirements for quality and delivery time increase. Agricultural education and training must adapt to the current needs of AR4D and the demands on the market along value chains. The main achievements that have been accomplished in the adoption of science and technology applications during the past decade are the following:

- i) Public sector investment in AR4D has increased by 40% over the past decade in a number of countries.
- ii) Science and technology is contributing to increases in productivity of staple foods, diversification into higher value crops as well as in the 'greening' of the arid areas.

- iii) There is a clear vision and strategy for science and technology at the Africa Union Commission level.
- iv) There is more openness by researchers and the national agricultural research systems (NARS) in recognizing the role of farmers in knowledge generation and decision-making.
- v) The number of researchers with capacity has increased on the continent.
- vi) There is a substantial improvement in education capacity through improved curricula in learning institutions.

3.1.3 Production and Utilization of Inputs

(a) Past AU Decisions and Declarations

19. The serious state of input production, supply and utilization in Africa and the setback it causes to the cherished dream of continental food security has propelled African Union Heads of State and Government to decisively intervene with declarations as follows:

(i) The Abuja Declaration on Fertilizers for an African Green Revolution

20. Aimed at increasing agricultural productivity through policy and market development interventions to increase the availability, accessibility and incentives to use fertilizer; the Declaration consists of 12 resolutions, including harmonization of policies and regulations, promotion of intra-regional trade, capacity building for women and youth, development of agro-dealer networks, introduction of targeted subsidies, increasing infrastructural investments, establishing national financing mechanisms, establishment of regional procurement and distribution facilities, promotion of fertilizer production, improving access to complementary inputs and market information, and rehabilitation/development of irrigation infrastructure.

(ii) Creation of the African Seed and Biotechnology Programme (ASBP)

21. First, the 2005 AU Assembly Decision, in Sirte, Libya, on the Danger of Imported Seeds on the African Continent, requested the AU to develop the ASBP, the continental seed programme and framework.

22. Then, the Eighth Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, in January 2007, approved the newly-created African Seed and Biotechnology Programme (ASBP). The overall programme goal of ASBP is to contribute to increased food security and nutrition and to poverty reduction in Africa, through the establishment of effective and efficient seed systems and enhanced application of biotechnology and methodologies within the seed sector. The programme is based on an interrelated set of components, to be implemented at national, regional and continental levels, to collectively provide a

strategic approach to address the main barriers and challenges to improving the seed sector in Africa. As part of the implementation plan, and key to the eventual exit strategy, the African Seed Network (ASN) has been mandated to act as surrogate institution to act for the African Union Commission (AUC) in hosting the ASBP Secretariat and in overseeing the implementation of ASBP, marking the start of the programme.

23. Through the Addis Ababa Decision, the AU Heads of State and Government sent an urgent message which recognized that Africa lags far behind the rest of the world in attaining a good level of seed security that would support the continental dream of food security for all. The Heads of State and Government also recognized that the complexity and enormity of the foreseen tasks required that Africa acts together if success is to be achieved.

(iii) Challenges and Opportunities on agricultural inputs

a) *Taking Stock of the Abuja Declaration and the Status of Fertilizer Markets in Africa*

24. The status report on the fertilizer sector, since the Abuja Declaration, reveals the following:

- Progress has been limited and slow. Hence in the majority of cases, fertilizer consumption remains about 13kg/ha, which is significantly below the 50kg/ha target set in the Abuja Declaration;
- There are outstanding policy and non-policy issues to be addressed, despite the fact that many African countries have since 2006 introduced measures to improve their input policies;
- The continental, regional, and country implementation processes since 2006 show that:
 - there exists some knowledge from lessons learned that provides information for policymakers;
 - the measures and interventions laid out by the Abuja Declaration are still relevant and can be improved upon;
 - based on the current fertilizer market challenges and the lessons learned, we can improve on implementable actions for the next decade of CAADP.

b) *Production, Supply and Utilization of Seeds*

25. In the early efforts in national seed programme development, between 1960 and 1980, African Governments initiated seed development solely as a public sector function.

26. Privatization has currently emerged as a more viable alternative and in recent times, the commercial activities in the seed sector, particularly for high value crops and hybrids, are slowly being taken up by the private sector.

27. But privatization has brought only limited relief since seeds with limited profit prospects but which in several instances are important in terms of food security, have been side-lined.

28. Support for small-scale seed entrepreneurs has been inadequate.

29. Further to that, the gender dichotomy in access to and use of quality seeds continues to grow, particularly in the rural areas.

30. A new approach is required which will address the barriers that are impeding farmers access to high quality seeds. The new approach should address the following:

- environmental, technological and gender concerns;
- improved linkages between the formal and informal seed sectors;
- enhancing rural youth in agriculture to stem the rural-urban drift.

3.1.4 Securing land tenure

(a) Background

31. Improving security of land tenure encourages smallholders to invest in the land, and in principle it may lower the cost of credit by increasing the use of land as collateral. It also encourages more sustainable farming, particularly through sustainable land management practices, the planting of trees and through more responsible use of water resources. The challenge is how to improve security of tenure. The classical approach based on the Western concept of property rights has not worked adequately, has been subject to abuse and individual titling has posed the risk of favoring men at the expense of women. Conversely, a number of African countries have extended formal legal recognition to existing customary rights, including collective rights, as an alternative to individual titling. In a context in which commercial pressures on land are increasing, it is crucial that countries improve the protection of land users by ensuring security of tenure and by prioritizing development models that do not lead to evictions, disruptive shifts in land rights and increased land concentration.

32. True legal empowerment of farmers encompass different types of measures including the following principles: (a) a protection from eviction; (b) the provision of tools (legal aid, legal literacy training, paralegals) to effectively defend land rights; (c) support for land users in their utilization of the land; and (d) strengthening of the capacity of land administrations and efforts to combat corruption.

(b) The Land Policy Initiative Framework and Guidelines and AU Declaration on Land

33. The Land Policy Initiative (LPI) launched in 2006 by AUC, the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) has successfully developed a Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa (F&G) to facilitate national land policy development and implementation processes. The F&G was endorsed in the Declaration on Land Issues during AU Assembly in July 2009 following which LPI has promoted dialogue, awareness raising and consensus building on Land Policies to allow African governments, stakeholders and partners to discuss how countries can derive benefits while minimizing the risks and threats posed.

34. The LPI processes resulted in the Nairobi Action Plan which, operational in synergy with CAADP, calls for urgent action to: develop land policies that reduce the underlying risks in Large Scale Land Based Investments (LSLBI) by enhancing the security of land rights, especially in customary land governance systems. In May 2011, African governments and stakeholders engaged on a global stage and agreed on the need to develop appropriate African instruments to guide LSLBIs. During the African Development Forum (ADF-VIII) held in October 2012 on governing and harnessing natural resources for Africa's development, a consensus statement was adopted, calling for the urgent implementation of the Nairobi Action Plan including the development of principles to strengthen the capacities of member states in the design and implementation of responsible LSLBIs.

3.1.5 Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture

(a) Background

35. Africa has diverse fish resources in the form of oceans, seas, lakes, rivers, floodplains as well as appropriate ecology for fish farming. This resource offers huge opportunities for contributing significantly to Africa's food and nutrition security as well as social and economic growth. It is for this reason that the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) was adjusted to include the Companion Document of Fisheries. In 2005, the African Heads of State and Governments endorsed the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Action Plan for the Development of African Fisheries and Aquaculture in Abuja, Nigeria, during the AU/NEPAD Fish For All Summit. Later in 2006 at the Abuja Summit on Food Security, the HSG endorsed fish as one of the five strategic commodities (alongside maize, rice, livestock and cassava) and affirmed their commitment to attain self-sufficiency in fish by 2015. Prior to the Abuja Summits, and during their February 2004 Sirte Summit, the Heads of State and Government, endorsed the Sirte Declaration which mandated the AU Commission to promote the development of fisheries resources, improve facilities to promote post-harvest management, including fisheries management in the exclusive economic zones and regional cooperation in fisheries management.

36. The major milestone in the development of African fish sector came in September 2010, when the first Conference of African Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture (CAMFA) was held in Banjul, The Gambia. The CAMFA was subsequently endorsed by the 18th Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State, in 2011, as the policy organ responsible for fisheries, within the Conference of African Ministers of Agriculture (CAMA).

37. Weak human and institutional capacity continues to be a key constraint for positive reform of the fisheries and aquaculture sector. This is evident, for example, in the continued over-fishing and relatively slow pace of aquaculture development on the continent as a complementary fish production technology since about 40 years ago. However, the African aquaculture scenario has change a lot over the past five years. In 2012, FAO reported that nine of the countries with the fastest growing aquaculture sectors were in Africa (Egypt, Uganda, Kenya, Zambia, Ghana, Madagascar, Tunisia, Malawi and South Africa).

(b) Building on Continental and Regional Economic Integration Strategies in Support of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development

38. Led by the AU and the RECs, key policy and investment initiatives are underway in various strategic areas of fisheries and aquaculture to promote sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in Africa, providing strong opportunities to rebuild the fish stocks and increase aquaculture production. The Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture, that was adopted through the Joint Ministerial Resolutions in May 2014 in Addis Ababa, offers Africa the opportunity to that transition its fish sector to productivity, sustainability and profitability with options for enhanced regional collaborative management of shared resources. The Policy urges AU Member States to make use of a number of approaches, including economic, ecosystems, food and nutrition security as well social and welfare.

39. Moving on, the following actions will need to be placed on the priority list:

- Commitment to put in place market-led strategies in order to fully realize the potential of the fisheries and aquaculture sector to generate wealth, social benefits;
- Commitment to create awareness and enhance the capacity of policy-makers and stakeholders on the potential and importance of the fish sector;
- Commitment to enhance conservation and sustainable use of fisheries and aquaculture resources;
- Commitment to put in place governance and institutional arrangements that ensure societal contribution generated by the fisheries and aquaculture sector have the greatest impacts at the community level;

- Commitment to the development of sustainable small-scale fisheries in order to increase the contribution of the sector to poverty eradication, food and nutrition security and socio-economic benefits of fishing communities, especially women and the vulnerable;
- Commitment to accelerated trade by promoting responsible and equitable fish trade and marketing in order to significantly harness the benefits of Africa's fisheries and aquaculture endowments;
- Commitment to strengthen cooperation and coordinated mechanisms among Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs); and
- Commitment to increase the "African Voice" in international dialogue on issues which have implications of African fisheries.

3.2 Harnessing Agricultural Markets, Infrastructure and Trade Opportunities

3.2.1 Background

40. The transformation that Africa's agriculture must undergo must allow small-scale farmers to play their role in supplying agricultural products to domestic and regional markets and feed a rapidly-increasing population of non-agricultural producers, taking advantage of the opportunities provided by expanding increasingly diversified urban markets, and to have decent livelihoods.

41. In this agricultural transformation agenda, further development of agriculture markets and trade in agricultural inputs and outputs will continue to play a pivotal role, because it is mostly through markets that farm producers will gain greater access to productivity-enhancing inputs and equipment; that farmers and agro-food processors will have more opportunities to earn income from their products; that investors, including farmers, will see opportunities to invest in additional production, processing and marketing capacities.

42. Potentially, enhanced regional integration will increase farmers' incomes, create jobs within and around agro-food value chains, and ensure that intra-African food supplies flow to where there is a demand unsatisfied by local production. Farmers and traders of agricultural produce face constraints to accessing domestic markets for a variety of reasons, including considerable gaps in the required rural infrastructure, which undermines their global competitiveness. Furthermore, geographic market catchment areas are fragmented both by policy and non-policy barriers to trade and the related infrastructure gaps along the lines of national borders and Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

43. Improved dynamics in the domestic and regional markets will further offer cheaper food staples and a greater diversity of food products, stabilize food availability and prices for consumers, and improve dietary diversification and nutrition.

44. Building on lessons learned over the past ten years, it is emerging that the CAADP framework can, indeed, be instrumental in contributing to the African transformative agenda through building regional markets and fostering regional trade, by: identifying the relevant policy reforms and necessary investments; adequately improving linkages among institutions dealing with agriculture and trade, among different levels (national, regional and continental); building their capacities; mobilizing public and private resources; and fostering the alignment and coordination of development partners support accordingly.

45. To take advantage of fast-growing intra-African market opportunities, African agriculture must undergo a structural transformation that entails shifting from highly diversified and subsistence-oriented production systems towards more market-oriented ones. Efforts must be made to address the problems of inadequate capitalization, low productivity and competitiveness of the sector. Such efforts must address two major impediments.

46. First, they must help bridge the poor linkages of African farmers backward to agricultural input markets and forward to the continent's product markets, which are increasingly demanding for processed, convenient and quality food and agricultural products. Second is to resolve the high degree of fragmentation of the African agricultural market along national borders and among more than a dozen – often overlapping -- sub-regional groupings. This landscape does not provide for the required levels of economies of scale, economies of vertical coordination and transactions, and economies of complementary diversification and specialization.

3.2.2 Infrastructure

47. Infrastructure development is key to agricultural transformation and overall economic growth. Yet rural infrastructural development in Africa is grossly inadequate. Rural transport access rates in Sub-Sahara Africa are around 40% while transport charges account for 76% of total agricultural marketing costs. As a result, farmers face considerable constraints to accessing domestic (national and regional) markets.

48. In 2012/2013, AUC carried out regional assessment studies on the status of infrastructure development in Africa. One of the outcomes of those studies was a good body of information and data which established the status of infrastructure development in the five Regions of Africa. The study noted that recent infrastructure development focused on energy (40%), water and sanitation (21%), transport (18%), Agricultural value chains/market infrastructure vary among and within regions, remain inadequate, and poor rural road connectivity is a key constraint to intra-African market access/competitiveness vis-à-vis imports. That outcome therefore provides a good basis for future actions to address the infrastructure shortfalls in African markets and trade.

3.2.3 Intra-African and international trade

49. Despite the impressive GDP growth experienced in recent years, Africa has remained a marginal player in world trade. The continent's shares in world exports (2.8% on average) and imports have fallen significantly over 1970-2010. In addition to losing shares in the global markets, Africa trades relatively little with itself. Official intra-African trade was just 11% of the continent's total trade in 2012, compared to 54% in developing Asia; 32% in developed America, and 66% in Europe. Intra-African trade performance remains low even when the related estimates are doubled to take into account unrecorded informal trade flows.

50. The poor intra-African trade performance is of particular concern as, in the face of abundant endowment in unexploited suitable resources (e.g. land and water) for agriculture, the continent depends, at levels of 87% to 90%, on extra-African sources for all its imports of food and agricultural products. As a result, Africa has faced a food and agricultural import bill averaging US\$ 69.5 billion over 2010-2012, rising by 15% per year faster than intra-African trade (12%) to reach some US\$ 78 billion in 2012.

51. Major constraints on national and regional food marketing and trade include: High transport costs resulting from poor infrastructure and inadequate transport policies; Important post-harvest losses due to poor storage infrastructure and processing facilities; Unclear/unpredictable trade policies and regimes; Ineffective implementation of regional trade agreements; Lack of harmonized standards, rules and regulations; Restrictive customs/cross-border procedures; Poor stakeholder information on markets, policies and regulations; and Limited access to efficient and affordable value-chain and trade finance.

52. Tackling these constraints calls for facing up to two broad categories of challenges: (i) prioritizing and filling the deficit in hard and soft market and trade infrastructure, and (ii) tackling the policy and institutional deficiencies to strengthen intra-regional and inter-regional market integration and trade facilitation. Moreover, there is a challenge of linking the agriculture, industrialization and trade policy and investment planning processes. Upgrading intra-African food and agricultural trade out of informality is a major challenge on the way forward. Regional cooperation to develop regionally-coordinated value chains and boost value-chain development and intra-regional trade for the strategic food commodities could help in this regard.

3.2.4 The Agenda for Transforming Africa's Agriculture markets, infrastructure and trade— opportunities and prospects

a) Capturing increasing intra-African market opportunities

53. Africa's food and agricultural market is growing fast. Fuelled by strong population growth (about 3% per annum) and recent income growth (about 5% per year), this market is currently estimated at one billion people, including some 123 million 'middle

class' consumers with daily per capita expenditure levels of US\$4-20. Furthermore, rapid urbanization (at an annual rate of 5%) contributes to expanding demand for food even faster, and the World Bank projects Africa's urban food markets to increase fourfold and exceed US\$ 400 billion by 2030.

54. Africa has all it takes to meet this fast-growing demand and even go beyond. The continent still has abundant land suitable for agriculture yet to be exploited across a diversity of complementary agro-ecological zones. Africa is not short of water for agriculture as only 4% of available water resources is used, while only 6% of arable land is irrigated. Available technologies (conventional and new) abound to significantly increase productivity not only at the farm level, but also across different stages of agri-food commodity value chains. Furthermore, a bulging population of increasingly educated youth, including women, is just eager to engage in innovative and gainful entrepreneurship and employment. Yet, as discussed above, Africa has been increasingly importing from the rest of the world to meet its food needs. The missed opportunities and growing costs of this unfortunate state of business are mainly associated with the poor connection of African farmers to their national and regional markets on the one hand, and to the weak integration of the intra-African food and agricultural markets on the other hand. The African agricultural transformation agenda should boldly aim at capturing intra-African trade opportunities in food and agriculture, by building on on-going initiatives in support of regional integration and regional and continental trade promotion.

b) Building on Continental and Regional Economic Integration Strategies in Support of Agricultural Transformation

55. Led by the AU and the RECs, key policy and investment initiatives are underway in various strategic areas to promote trade and market development for agricultural and food products in Africa, providing strong opportunities to build on while facing remaining key challenges in the lead to trade liberalization, trade facilitation and regional market integration in Africa.

c) Continental Approaches

56. In addition to RECs' initiatives and processes towards regional free trade areas, customs unions and common markets, the 18th Summit of AU Heads of State and Government launched an initiative for "Boosting Intra-African Trade" (BIAT) and called for the establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) by 2017. In this context, the first joint conference of AU Ministers of trade and agriculture held in December 2012 adopted a joint declaration emphasizing the need to work at national, regional and continental levels to remove barriers to intra-regional trade in agricultural commodities. The agenda for the way forward should build on achievements and lessons from these regional and continental strategies and initiatives, while aiming at clear goals in enhancing infrastructure, markets and trade for the structural transformation of African agriculture.

3.3 Food and Nutrition Security

3.3.1 Background

57. Food security is essential for peace and prosperity of communities and nations. The right to food is a universal human right. Sound nutrition throughout the life cycle is fundamental to the health and productivity of nations and their citizens. Sustainable solutions to food insecurity lie in building sustainable livelihoods. Access to food is ensured through production and income to buy food and other essential goods. However, increasing food production and incomes are essential but not sufficient determinants of food security and sound nutrition.

3.3.2 Challenges and opportunities

58. Extensive consultation across Africa in the design of the CAADP Framework for African Food Security identified four key causes of food insecurity and under-nutrition in Africa. These were:

- Inadequate emergency response mechanisms and early warning systems;
- Inadequate supply of affordable food and poor access to this food;
- Inadequate incomes among the most poor and needy populations;
- Inadequate diets in terms of quality and quantity.

59. In addition, rapidly changing diets (the nutrition transition) are increasing the incidence of diseases of lifestyle (obesity, hypertension and diabetes).

60. Numerous programmes across various sectors have been implemented as part of national investment plans – especially post the 2008 world food price crisis – but are not efficient due to being uncoordinated, lacking institutional coordination and having weak monitoring and evaluation systems.

61. A lack of engagement with beneficiaries and target populations who are meant to benefit from policies and programmes addressed at improving the food security and nutrition situation of communities, households and individuals in Africa means that investments are not effective and efficient in attaining the CAADP Goals. The lack of inclusive design and consultation means that policies and programmes have also not recognized the unique and specific needs of groups who most need support in this area. Although women are the major producers of food in Africa, gendered social practices and norms constrain secure access to tenure rights, expansion opportunities and access to technology, inputs and credit. There is an urgent need to address gender inequality. A new challenge that has been menacingly challenging the continent lately is the issue of food safety, as various sources of contaminants have started to stream in unabated.

62. A number of strategic opportunities for action exist. These are:

- The significant gains in terms of putting nutrition on the agenda of decision makers in 2013 offers a jump-start to addressing the critical needs of young children;
- Increased production in many regions driven by advances of the CAADP agenda in Africa;
- A burgeoning young population that is generally better educated and socially networked through ICT, offers significant human capacity for the agricultural sector;
- Stronger ownership of the African development agenda from national leadership, national CAADP Teams, SAKSS nodes, farmer organizations and renewed interest from the Development Partners;
- Learning from the success stories and model activities;
- With a rapidly growing African middle class, consumers becoming more discerning; thus demand for safe, nutritious food has increased, even among the poor.

3.4 Enhancing Resilience of Africa's Agriculture to Climate Change and other Natural Hazards and Risk Management

3.4.1 Background

63. Climate change and other natural hazards are increasingly recognized as a challenge to development, particularly in Africa where persistent problems of poverty and environmental degradation are already impeding development. Depending on the vulnerability of the agricultural production system, it will be affected to diverse extents by climate related hazards that vary in intensity and frequency. Managing the complexity of the real world interactions between agriculture, climate change, risk reduction and building resilience will require complex, context-appropriate responses and an ability to address inevitable trade-offs.

64. There is need for a deliberate and systematic policy shift aimed at supporting and enhancing the effectiveness of various institutional and technical solutions tackling the adverse effects of climate change. Achieving effective and equitable outcomes will require coupling innovations in agricultural production, supported by appropriate environmental ethics, with strong policy support aimed at encouraging or reinforcing social processes that build resilience, reduce risk and exposure and enhance knowledge and information flows. It is important to remember that climate-related disasters and extreme weather events are expected to increase not only as a result of global warming but also as a result of human-induced environmental destruction and de-capitalization.

65. In view of this, accelerating the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and its Programme of Action in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action and other existing relevant policies, strategies, plans and programmes supporting climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as addressing other practices that destroy the environment and the ecosystem are of paramount importance to build resilience and reduce disaster risk. There is need for formulating and implementing new policy and legal frameworks and put strong institutional bases and other mechanisms and capacities in place to fill existing gaps. Supporting the integration of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction programmes and mainstreaming both into national and sectoral plans and programmes, including NAIPs and RAIPs, as outlined in the Programme of Action, and strengthening and scaling up on-going resilience building initiatives are also essential to increase adaptive capacity and building resilience of the agricultural sector in general and vulnerable communities in particular.

66. There is need for prioritizing resilience building in Africa's contribution to the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Sustainable Development Agenda, and Climate Agreement to facilitate harmonization of global frameworks and generate commitment for and ensure coordination and synergy during their implementation to support, among others, resilience building and risk reduction efforts at continental, regional, national, and sub-national levels.

67. Resilience building and risk reduction programmes must prioritize the most vulnerable, women, children, youth, and people with disabilities, among the identified target groups and give adequate attention to capacity building and distribution issues and build on local knowledge and emerging research and technologies.

3.4.2 Challenges and opportunities

68. A wide range of resilience building and risk reduction initiatives supported by continental and regional strategies such as the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and its Programme of Action that aligned with the Global Framework, the Hyogo Framework for Action and Drought Disaster and Sustainability Initiative of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IDDRSI) exist. While this has led to key milestone achievements around resilience building and risk management, including accumulation of experiences and learnings, many challenges still exist that need to be urgently addressed to make Africa's agriculture resilient to climate change and other hazards and thus be able to keep momentum going and realize the vision of transformation. Major challenges hindering the resilience building and risk reduction efforts include: varying level of progress in translating existing relevant policies, strategies, frameworks, plans, and programmes; inadequate effort and investment in interventions aimed at addressing underlying risk factors; slow progress in integrating climate change adaptation and risk management programmes and mainstreaming both into national and sectoral plans, including National and Regional Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs and RAIPs); limited availability and access to information on climate change and other hazard related risks and associated losses and damages; inadequate

attention to inclusive and participatory approach; inadequate capacity and accountability mechanism; and prevalence of silo-based approaches.

3.5 Enhancing Public-Private Sector Partnerships and Investment Financing for African Agriculture

3.5.1 Background

69. Public and private sector investment and financing are central to attain agricultural transformation goals in Africa. At the same time, public sector investment and financing is central to leveraging private sector investment in agriculture. Evidence also shows that transforming Africa's agriculture through robust and inclusive agricultural growth depends on level of public and private investment & financing. Furthermore, evidence shows that public agriculture investment has large poverty-reducing effects.

70. Investment in improving smallholder agriculture could be the best way to generate and expand employment opportunities and create wealth at the grassroots level, generating demand for goods and services that create a broader base of jobs and incomes in rural areas. Smallholder farms offer generally best return on investment (compared to large scale farms, due to the decreasing marginal return). Family farms are recognized as having the ability to maximize the use of labour: they give the most opportunities to absorb increasing human power. In view of the importance of smallholder farmers being at the centre of current agricultural performance in Africa, consensus seems to have emerged on how to build the inclusive linkages between smallholder farmers and commercially-viable large scale farmers so that both can benefit from each other, with smallholder farmers potentially being in the main stream for effective poverty reduction and ensuring food security.

3.5.2 Africa's Financial Systems and Agricultural Financing

71. Financing systems in Africa's agriculture can be categorized into two, (i) public and (ii) private financing systems.

(a) Private agricultural financing systems

72. Private financial systems in most African countries remain poorly developed relative to other regions, with only 24% of the adult population having bank accounts at formal financial institutions, which is half the global average. Banks and other deposit-taking institutions, such as cooperatives, dominate financial systems in most Africa countries, with regulated Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) increasingly playing an important role in expanding access to financial services to low-income earners.

73. On a positive note, the last few years have witnessed the emergence and rapid expansion of Pan-African banking groups and financial services companies in the region that have benefitted from a significant share of domestic deposits. This has

resulted in increased local competition, while infusing new technologies, products, and managerial techniques. Mobile money and other ICT products are increasingly playing a role in expanding access to financial services in Africa where 16% of adults reportedly use a mobile phone to pay bills or send or receive money compared to a global average of less than 5%. This notwithstanding, the majority of the region's population remains locked-out of the formal financial system.

(b) Public agricultural financing system

74. Through the Maputo Declaration of 2003, African Union Heads of State and Government launched the CAADP and committed to invest at least 10 % of their total annual expenditures to agriculture. During 2003 – 2010, the amount of Public Agricultural Expenditure (PAE) for Africa as a whole increased from an average of about USD 0.39 billion per country in 2003 to USD 0.66 billion in 2010. While this growth appears impressive at 7.4 % per year on average, it was lower than the growth in total expenditures of 8.5 % per year on average. This suggests that for Africa as a whole, the share of PAE in total government expenditures has declined over this period. Since 2003, only 11 countries have surpassed CAADP's 10 % target in any year and only seven have surpassed it for many years.

3.5.3 Challenges and Opportunities

(a) Challenges for financing Africa's Agriculture

75. A number of challenges characterize financing of Africa's agriculture. They can be summarized as: (i) limited institutional lending to agriculture; (ii) inadequate rural infrastructure; (iii) risk associated with weather variability and climate change in agriculture; (iv) the capacities of smallholder farmers, youth and women to access and utilize credit; and (v) land tenure issues.

(b) Limited Institutional Lending to Agriculture

76. Agricultural finance has been the intense focus of public and private support programs in Africa. In the 1960s and 1970s, African governments took a proactive approach through state-owned agricultural development banks, direct lending and widespread subsidization of agriculture and agricultural finance. Lack of results gave way to market-based approaches from the 1980s onwards. The emphasis on the development of financial markets, which were expected to find ways to serve farmers effectively, opened the door to microfinance initiatives. However, in spite of some notable successes, the current situation is that in most African countries, institutional lending to agriculture as a share of total lending is quite low. Smallholder farmers in Africa particularly continue to have inadequate access to seasonal credit and practically no access to investment credit. Payment services, savings vehicles, and insurance are also unavailable to most farmers and agro-dealers.

(c) Lending risks due to variability in agricultural outputs and incomes

77. Farmers operate in a very uncertain economic environment with high price volatility. Due to the high seasonal nature of rain fed agriculture, farmers incur higher investment costs during planting seasons relative to other times of the year generating a pattern of high credit demand during planting seasons. This demand cannot be adequately fulfilled; especially when required and the high covariant risks (vagaries of weather, pests, fluctuating and often unpredictable produce prices and markets etc) exacerbate the challenges to small holder agriculture. Risk therefore remains one of the main barriers to investing in agriculture.

(d) Gender and Smallholder Agriculture

78. Social norms and customs have tended to discriminate against women when it comes to ownership and control of land resources. Yet, women remain the primary users of agricultural land in most African communities. Development interventions aimed at promoting extension services, vocational training, better information, more fertilizer, better machinery etc., are unlikely to fully achieve their goals unless women and men are placed on equal footing.

(e) Land Tenure Issues and Large Scale Land Based Investment in Agriculture

79. Strengthening the property rights of the rural poor leads to increased investment and contributes to economic growth and more equitable development. It is also essential to ensure that large scale investments promote inclusive sustainable development and promote the right types of investment, under the right terms. But the administration issues that matter most to young entrants to agriculture are: improved security of tenure; relaxation of controls on rental; redistribution of land and decentralization of land administration.

(f) Youth Employment and Agricultural lending

80. The low interest in agriculture by many youth in Africa is further exacerbated by the limited lending and borrowing opportunities available to the youth for investment in agricultural enterprises. Since most youth have little or no usable collateral and little experience with financial services, innovative financing instruments presents a huge potential to attract and finance youth entrepreneurship in agriculture in the next decade.

(g) Opportunities for financing Africa's agriculture

81. Attracting public and private financing will require an agri-business that is profitable and has the ability to generate the best returns to any investment, be it private or public. There are a number of opportunities that currently exist to attract public and private sector financing in agriculture.

(h) Positive Agricultural Forecasts

82. Africa agriculture and agribusiness combined are projected to be a USD 1 trillion industry by 2030, as opposed to the forecast of USD 313 billion in 2010.

(i) Growing National, Regional and International Interest in Africa's Agriculture

83. There is growing interest both in Africa and beyond to invest in Africa's agriculture. For example, there are a number of national, regional and global agriculture and agribusiness sector investments, which are drawing much needed attention to opportunities in the agricultural sector and promising the much needed public, private and catalytic resources for African agriculture.

84. Recent developments in the global and donor community further show that agriculture regained momentum which led to some reversal in the previous downward trend of ODA dedicated to agriculture. Some of the examples include the G8 commitments of US\$22 billion made in L'Aquila Italy, in 2009 to make resources available, among others, for countries that have met the criteria set under CAADP and mainly for implementation of National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plans.

(j) Mobile Financial Services and ICT Innovations in Financial Delivery

85. The use of mobile financial services in Africa could serve as a platform for agricultural transformation, if adopted across sectors and mainly in agriculture. As already mentioned the market for financial services in Africa is significant and remains largely untapped.

(k) New approaches for collaterals

86. New approaches are emerging, combining access to credit with insurance or collateral. However, many obstacles remain, preventing one-off initiatives from becoming available to the majority of producers. Lack of a clear policy for financing agriculture — aside from ad hoc fertiliser subsidies — combined with episodic development aid actions are the two main barriers to scaling up, i.e. building sustainable institutions and delivering technical and financial services adapted to suit the diversity of the agricultural sector as a whole.

IV. TOWARDS SETTING AN AGENDA FOR AFRICA'S ACCELERATED AGRICULTURAL GROWTH AND TRANSFORMATION GOALS (3AGTGS) 2025**4.1 Proposed Goals and Commitments**

87. The commemoration of 2014 Year of Agriculture and Food Security marking the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development

Programme (CAADP) has availed immense opportunities which should position Africa well as it charts the course for agriculture and rural development over the next ten years. The outcomes generated in the process have provided a wide body of knowledge which forms an invaluable base upon which the goals, actions and targets mentioned in this synthesis paper have been based.

88. In particular, the AU Joint Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, Rural Development, Fisheries and Aquaculture discussed critical issues and, adopted Resolutions on:

- 1) Acceleration of inclusive growth of agricultural production and productivity;
- 2) Harnessing markets and trade opportunities for transformation and shared prosperity;
- 3) Achievement of food and nutrition security goals;
- 4) Enhancing resilience of Africa's agriculture to climate change and other types of hazards;
- 5) Enhancing public-private partnerships and investment financing for African agriculture;
- 6) Harnessing the potentials of fisheries and aquaculture resources;
- 7) Sustaining the CAADP Momentum Results Framework.

89. The Ministers also identified seven priority areas of commitments to drive the African Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation Goals to be achieved by 2025 (3AGTGs 2025) for consideration by the AU Assembly in June 2014.

90. The proposed actions and targets for the goals are:

- 1) Recommitment to the Principles and Values of the CAADP Process;
- 2) Recommitment to the allocation of at least 10% of public spending on agriculture;
- 3) Commitment to Zero Hunger through (i) at least doubling agricultural productivity by focusing on inputs, irrigation, and mechanization; (ii) reducing Post Harvest Losses (PHL) by at least by half, and (iii) Improving Nutrition - reduce stunting by half;
- 4) Commitment to reduce poverty through agriculture by half, through: (i) sustaining annual sector growth in agricultural GDP by at least 6%; (ii) establishing and/or strengthening inclusive public-private partnerships for at

least five (5) priority agricultural commodity value chains with strong linkage to smallholder agriculture; and (iii) creating job opportunities for at least 30% of the youth in agricultural value chains;

- 5) Commitment to triple Intra-African Trade in Agricultural commodities and services;
- 6) Commitment to ensuring at least 30% of farm/pastoral households to be resilient to shocks;
- 7) Commitment to the CAADP Results Framework and to an Agricultural Review Process to be conducted every two years.

4.2 Implementation and Monitoring and Evaluation for Results and Impacts

91. Implementation of the actions contained in this synthesis paper will be monitored using the CAADP Results Framework that was developed as part of the Sustaining CAADP momentum exercise. The Results Framework has three levels:

- **Level 1** presents the desired high level development goal to agricultural interventions contribute, including wealth creation, reducing poverty, improving food and nutrition security, creating jobs, and increasing resilience of individuals and communities to various shocks.
- **Level 2** presents the focus areas for intervention to transform agriculture by boosting agricultural production and productivity; creating functioning commodity markets and increased access to them, especially for small scale farmers; increasing both public and private sector investment in agriculture, focusing on priority value chains; increasing access to food and better nutrition, and putting in place safety nets for the vulnerable, especially women and children; and, improving the natural resource use and management for sustainable agriculture. The five sub-themes of this synthesis paper are based on level 2 actions in the CAADP results framework.
- **Level 3** presents cross-cutting actions needed to create a conducive environment for agricultural transformation, including designing inclusive policies and strategies that are evidence-based; creating accountable institutions and strengthening their capacity to provide services; improving sector governance by enhancing multi-sectoral coordination; and increasing access to quality data, information and knowledge to support policy making, dialogue, joint sector reviews and mutual accountability.

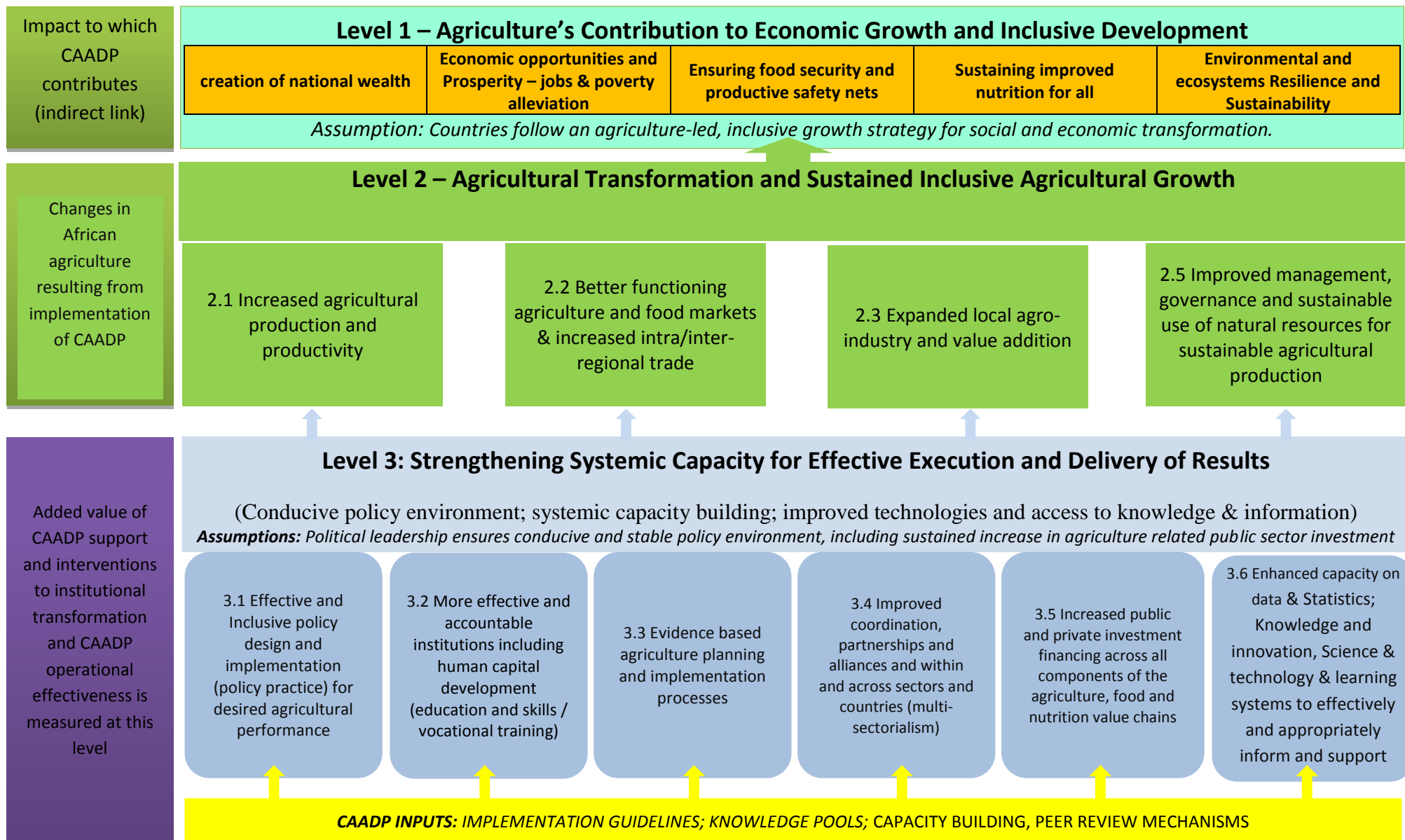
92. For each of the actions in the results framework, indicators have been developed, as well as medium and long term targets against which progress will be

measured. The results framework has been informed by a series of consultations and inputs from various *fora*, including the 10th CAADP Partnership Platform Meeting held in Durban in March 2014.

93. For implementation at country level, the AUC and NPCA, working with the regional economic communities, will support Member States to customize the results framework to fit their needs for tracking implementation of national agricultural investment plans (NAIPs). However, it will be important to ensure that all core indicators of the results framework are tracked by all Member States to facilitate assessment of CAADP implementation progress across the continent, to facilitate mutual accountability, and also to enable comparison of performance among different countries. At country level, outputs from the results framework will be used to support annual planning and joint sector reviews. Country SAKSS that are being established will support countries in tracking implementation of NAIPs using the Results Framework.

**FIGURE 2: CAADP 2014-2024 RESULTS
FRAMEWORK**

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