12th ANAPRI STAKEHOLDERS CONFERENCE REPORT

DRIVING AFRICA'S FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION: STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS, RESILIENT POLICIES AND GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

3rd- 6th November 2025

Ubumwe Grande Hotel, Kigali, Rwanda

Hosted by

The Economic Policy Research Network (EPRN), Rwanda

Message from the ANAPRI Board Chair

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Africa Network of Agricultural Policy Research Institutes (ANAPRI), I extend my sincere appreciation to all participants, partners, and colleagues who contributed to the success of the 12th ANAPRI Annual Stakeholders Conference, held in Kigali, Rwanda, under the theme "Driving Africa's Food Systems Transformation: Strategic Investments, Resilient Policies, and Global Partnerships."

The Conference took place at a pivotal moment for Africa's food systems. Across the sessions, we reflected candidly on the global disruptions confronting the continent—from climate volatility and geopolitical shocks to tightening development finance—while also recognising the significant opportunities to reposition African agriculture as a driver of inclusive growth, resilience, and competitiveness. The discussions reaffirmed that Africa's response must be grounded in evidence, policy coherence, and coordinated action across national, regional, and continental levels.

The Board was particularly encouraged by the strong emphasis on translating analytics into action. Country experiences and technical sessions demonstrated how robust policy research—when embedded in partnerships with governments and the private sector—can shape fundamental reforms, guide investment prioritisation, and strengthen accountability. Equally important was the Conference's focus on partnerships and coalitions, which underscored ANAPRI's growing role as a continental coordination platform linking research, policy, and implementation.

I commend the ANAPRI Secretariat and our host institution, the Economic Policy Research Network (EPRN), for their exemplary leadership in convening this Conference, and I thank our partners for their continued trust and support. As a Board, we remain committed to supporting ANAPRI's mission to strengthen Africa's evidence systems and to ensure that the insights generated through this Conference are carried forward into tangible, long-term impact.

Dr. Damas Philip
Chairperson, ANAPRI Board of Directors

Message from the Executive Director, ANAPRI Secretariat

The 12th ANAPRI Annual Stakeholders Conference provided a timely and purposeful space to reflect on how Africa can accelerate food systems transformation in an increasingly complex and uncertain global environment. Guided by the theme "Driving Africa's Food Systems Transformation: Strategic Investments, Resilient Policies, and Global Partnerships," the Conference brought together policymakers, researchers, private-sector leaders, and development partners to advance evidence-informed decision-making and coordinated implementation.

Throughout the Conference, discussions reinforced a central message: transformation will not be achieved through fragmented or transactional interventions. Instead, it requires strategic prioritisation, predictable policies, and long-term investment frameworks that align public objectives with private incentives. Sessions on value chain analytics, climate adaptation, systems thinking, and foresight illustrated how advanced analytical tools - such as the PPVC framework, climate adaptation atlases, and policy optimisation models - are already informing policy reforms and investment choices across multiple countries.

Equally significant were the conversations on partnerships. In a context of constrained resources, the Conference highlighted the importance of moving from isolated projects toward co-created delivery platforms and coalitions. The formalisation of new partnerships during the Conference signalled a shared determination to deepen collaboration and scale impact in the years ahead.

I extend my sincere gratitude to the ANAPRI Board for its guidance, to EPRN for hosting us with such professionalism and warmth, and to our partners for their continued engagement. The task ahead is to ensure that the insights and commitments emerging from this Conference translate into sustained policy influence, stronger institutions, and measurable outcomes for Africa's farmers, consumers, and economies.

Dr. Antony Chapoto
Executive Director, ANAPRI Secretariat

Message from the Host Institution Executive Director

It was a privilege for the Economic Policy Research Network (EPRN) to host the 12th ANAPRI Annual Stakeholders Conference in Kigali. Bringing together Africa's leading policy research institutions, government representatives, and development partners, the Conference underscored the value of regional collaboration and shared learning in advancing food systems transformation across the continent.

The discussions resonated strongly with Rwanda's own development experience, where evidence-based policymaking, strategic investment, and institutional coordination have played a central role in agricultural transformation. Sessions on policy coherence, climate analytics, and value chain reform highlighted practical pathways for research to inform implementation, strengthen market systems, and enhance resilience for smallholders and agri-food enterprises alike.

Hosting this Conference also reinforced the importance of African-led research networks such as ANAPRI in shaping continental agendas and ensuring that policy debates remain grounded in local realities and rigorous analysis. The partnerships formalised during the Conference, and the commitments articulated by participants, provide a strong foundation for deeper collaboration in the period ahead.

On behalf of EPRN, I thank ANAPRI for entrusting us with hosting this important convening, and I express our appreciation to all participants and partners who contributed to its success. We trust that the relationships strengthened and the ideas generated in Kigali will continue to inform impactful policy action across Africa.

Seth Kwizera
Executive Director, Economic Policy Research Network (EPRN), Rwanda

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List of Acronyms

AAA	Africa Agriculture Adaptation Atlas
AFAS	African Fertiliser and Agribusiness Association
AFIDA	African Fertiliser and Agribusiness Development Association
AFSH-AP	African Fertiliser and Soil Health Action Plan
AFS	Agri-Food System(s)
AGNES	African Group of Negotiators Experts Support
AGRA	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
ANAPRI	Africa Network of Agricultural Policy Research Institutes
ATI	Agricultural Transformation Institute (Ethiopia)
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
BFAP	Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
C4PA	Coalition for Policy Action
C4SEAS	Coalition for Soil Extension and Advisory Services
C4SISA	Coalition for Sustainable Intensification of Soil and Land Management
CGE	Computable General Equilibrium
CIAT	International Centre for Tropical Agriculture
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
DP	Development Partner
ED	Executive Director
EPRN	Economic Policy Research Network (Rwanda)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FAPDA	Food and Agriculture Policy Decision Analysis
FARNPAN	Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network
FISP	Farm Input Subsidy Programme
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
HS	Harmonized System
IAPRI	Indaba Agricultural Policy Research Institute (Zambia)
IFDC	International Fertiliser Development Centre
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
ISSER	Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (Ghana)
IAT	Inclusive Agricultural Transformation
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
MoFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Ghana)
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSU	Michigan State University
PE	Partial Equilibrium
PILAF	Policy Initiative for Livelihoods and Food Security (Nigeria)
PolOpT	Policy Optimisation Tool

PPBC	Policy Prioritisation through Value Chain (used interchangeably with PPVC in discussion)
PPVC	Policy Prioritisation through Value Chain Analysis
PPP	Public–Private Partnership
REC	Regional Economic Community
RIAPA	Rural Investment and Policy Analysis Model
RSFR	Regional Strategic Foresight Report
SAF-A	Sustain Agriculture Foundation – Africa
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary (Measures)
VAT	Value Added Tax
WOAH	World Organisation for Animal Health
WB	World Bank

1. Introduction

1.1. Context

The 12th ANAPRI Annual Stakeholders Conference - hosted by the Economic Policy Research Network (EPRN), and convened in Kigali, Rwanda, from 4-6 November 2025, brought together a diverse community of African policymakers, researchers, private-sector leaders, development partners, and farmer representatives under the theme "**Driving Africa's Food Systems Transformation: Strategic Investments, Resilient Policies and Global Partnerships**." Over three days, participants engaged in rigorous dialogue and evidence-based deliberations across a wide spectrum of plenaries, technical sessions and country case studies.

The conference took place against a backdrop of complex and overlapping shocks that continue to strain Africa's agrifood systems. Persistent global disruptions - including geopolitical tensions, supply-chain volatility, rising import bills, and declining development finance - are constraining national capacities to safeguard and promote food security. These pressures intersect with longstanding structural challenges within the continent: severe soil degradation, which now affects up to 65 per cent of arable land; investment gaps that continue to undermine agricultural productivity; and fragmented policy ecosystems that slow the translation of continental commitments into concrete action at the country level.

The conference served as a critical platform to shift the continental agenda from analysis to decisive implementation, on the back of two significant continental policy developments, namely:

- The third iteration of the **Comprehensive African Agricultural Programme (CAADP 3.0)**, launched through the Kampala Declaration, which elevated Africa's agricultural agenda into an integrated, systems-oriented, and results-driven transformation pathway; and
- The **African Fertiliser and Soil Health Action Plan (AFSH-AP)** addresses the foundational imperative of restoring soil fertility to unlock sustainable productivity gains.

This report synthesises the core insights, deliberations and outcomes of the 12th ANAPRI conference, with a view to setting the policy research agenda for 2026. It reflects a continent at a pivotal juncture, moving with renewed clarity and resolve from rhetoric to results. The message that resonated in Kigali was unequivocal: Africa can and must seize this moment to build resilient, productive and inclusive food systems capable of withstanding global turbulence and delivering transformative growth for generations to come.

1.2. The 12th ANAPRI Annual Stakeholders' Conference at a Glance

The ANAPRI Annual Stakeholders Conference, as the premier platform for dialogue on agricultural policy issues in Africa, convened policymakers, donors and development partners, the private sector, academics and policy think tanks. The Conference brought into focus the heightened global uncertainty, marked by climate shocks, geopolitical disruptions, and tightening development finance. The conference provided a timely platform for evidence-driven dialogue on how Africa can accelerate inclusive, market-led agricultural transformation.

Discussions spanned the full policy-to-implementation continuum. High-level plenaries framed the global and continental context, highlighting the implications of external shocks for Africa's food systems and the urgency of aligning continental commitments with national action. Technical sessions showcased how **advanced analytics**, including climate spatial data, systems thinking, and value chain modelling, are being applied to inform long-term planning, prioritise investments, and manage trade-offs across productivity, resilience, and inclusion. Country case studies demonstrated how evidence can guide concrete reform pathways, moving beyond transactional interventions toward transformative, system-wide change.

A defining feature of the conference was its emphasis on **translating analytics into action**. Multiple sessions illustrated how policy research is influencing real-world decisions - informing national strategies, shaping legislative reforms, guiding public investment choices, and crowding in private-sector participation. Cross-cutting themes of policy coherence, institutional capacity, and monitoring and learning reinforced the message that sustained transformation requires predictable policy environments and strong coordination across actors.

The conference also underscored the centrality of **partnerships and coalitions** in an era of constrained resources. Through structured dialogues and formalised commitments, ANAPRI and its partners articulated a shared agenda for co-creation, co-delivery, and scale, positioning the network as a continental coordination platform linking research, policy, and investment. Collectively, the sessions conveyed a clear takeaway: Africa's food systems transformation is achievable when evidence, institutions, and partnerships are aligned around common priorities and long-term impact.

1.3. Structure of the Report

This report is organised into six thematic sections that reflect ANAPRI's core focus areas and the key deliberations of the Conference:

- **Section 2 – Aligning Continental, Regional, and National Frameworks for Agricultural Transformation** synthesises insights from two high-level plenary sessions and one technical session. Together, these discussions articulate the practical bridge between continental strategy and country-level implementation. The section captures reflections on how Africa can navigate global disruptions and reposition its food systems for resilience and inclusive growth, alongside in-depth dialogue on operationalising CAADP 3.0 and aligning national development strategies with continental commitments.
- **Section 3 – Inclusive Agricultural and Food Systems Transformation in Africa: A Shift from Transactional to Transformative Approaches** examines how ANAPRI member centres are applying value chain analytics to inform policy reform and investment prioritisation. Using Ghana and Zambia as illustrative case studies, the section demonstrates how evidence is translated into actionable, system-wide reforms that support inclusive, market-led transformation.
- **Section 4 – Applying Advanced Climate Analytics for Policy and Investment Planning: Insights from the Africa Agriculture Adaptation Atlas** highlights the use of advanced climate analytics and spatial data tools to support climate-responsive agricultural planning. The section draws on country experiences to show how the Atlas is informing long-term adaptation strategies and investment decisions.
- **Section 5 – Africa's Agricultural Outlook: A Systems Thinking and Foresight Analysis Approach** explores the application of systems thinking and strategic foresight to understand long-term drivers shaping Africa's food systems. It highlights how foresight tools and policy analytics can support future-ready planning and coherent agrifood system transformation.

- **Section 6 – Partnerships as Catalysts for Africa's Agricultural Policy and Research Agenda** discusses the central role of partnerships in advancing ANAPRI's continental ambition to strengthen evidence systems and coordinated implementation architectures. The section illustrates how this agenda was operationalised through structured collaboration and culminated in the signing of three landmark Memoranda of Understanding with AFIDA, AKADEMIYA 2063, and SAF-A.

2. Aligning Continental, Regional, and National Frameworks for Agricultural Transformation

2.1. Background Sessions

The Conference hosted three sessions, which underscored the abiding principle that aligning continental ambition with regional coordination and national implementation requires coherent policy frameworks, strong institutions, sustainable financing, and evidence-driven learning platforms (see **Table 1**).

The Conference discussions on aligning national and regional policies with continental frameworks came at a critical juncture, as the continent seeks to address a fundamental question: How does Africa align continental and regional policies with national priorities while ensuring practical implementation at the country level, amid negative, disruptive global forces? The discussions reinforced the centrality of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) 3.0 and the African Fertiliser and Soil Health Action Plan (AFSH-AP) as anchoring frameworks, while highlighting the practical actions needed to translate commitments into measurable agricultural transformation across Africa.

Discussions revealed a set of interconnected challenges and priority areas that must be addressed to accelerate and broaden the inclusivity of Africa's agrifood transformation:

- **Global Disruptions and Structural Vulnerability:** Africa remains highly exposed to external shocks—including geopolitical tensions, supply chain disruptions, rising import bills, and reductions in development finance. These pressures exacerbate food price volatility and weaken social protection systems, revealing deep structural dependencies on imported food and inputs. Strengthening regional value chains and building resilient markets emerged as key priorities.

- **The Soil Health Crisis and Ineffective Fertiliser Use: With an estimated 65 per cent of arable land degraded** and nutrient depletion costing the continent nearly **US$190 billion annually**, soil health represents a fundamental constraint to inclusive transformation. Delegates emphasised the urgent need for integrated soil fertility management, combining mineral fertilisers with organic amendments and soil conservation practices, alongside improved access to affordable, high-quality fertiliser.

Table 1: Summary of Conference Sessions on Aligning Continental, Regional and National Frameworks

Session	Session Focus & Background	Core Objectives	Key Participants / Contributors
Session 1: High-Level Plenary – Navigating Global Disruptions and Africa's Food System Futures	Set the strategic context for Africa's agricultural transformation by examining how global disruptions—geopolitical conflict, trade fragmentation, energy price shocks, and declining development finance—are reshaping food systems. The session framed Africa's exposure to external shocks alongside opportunities for resilience, regional integration, and food systems transformation.	• Assess impacts of global shocks on Africa's food systems, trade, and food security • Share country, private sector, and donor responses to global disruptions • Identify priority resilience strategies to inform CAADP 3.0 and related frameworks	• **Facilitator:** Dr. Salomo Mbai (ATPI) • **Opening**. Antony Chapoto (ANAPRI) • **Keynote:** Mr. Ali Abdi (FAO) • **Panelists:** Mr. Wandile Sihlobo (Agbiz); Dr. Innocent Okuku (AFIDA); Dr. Nancy Laibuni (Office of the President, Kenya); Mr. Chris Chibwana (Hewlett Foundation); Dr. Luc Christiaensen (World Bank) • **Rapporteurs:** Zena Mpenda; Dr. Benjamin Oyelami
Session 2: Policy Coherence and CAADP 3.0 – Translating Continental Commitments into National Transformation	Focused on operationalising CAADP 3.0 following the Kampala Declaration. The session addressed persistent gaps between continental commitments and national implementation, emphasising policy coherence, institutional coordination, evidence use, and alignment with regional and national development frameworks.	• Deepen understanding of CAADP 3.0 objectives and implementation approach • Identify mechanisms for aligning national policies with continental commitments • Generate actionable recommendations to strengthen coordination, accountability, and monitoring	• **Facilitator:** Dr. Lilian Kirimi (Tegemeo Institute) • **Keynote:** Mr. Kennedy Ayason (African Union Commission) • **Panel Clusters:** o RECs: Dr. Godfrey Bahiigwa (former AUC); Dr. Bartholomew Chataika (CCARDESA); Mr. Houssein Mohamed Aden (IGAD)– o Policy Think Tanks: Dr. Djiby Dia (ISRA BAME); Mr. Francis Hale (FARNPAN)– Public Sector: DRC (Ms. Epiphanie Mwali); Ethiopia (Dr. Desalegn Begna); Malawi (Mr. Doshanie Kadokera)– o Donors: Mr. Jeffrey Ngari (GIZ); Dr. Sergiy Zorya (World Bank) • **Synthesis:** Dr. Andrew Agyei-Holmes (ISSER)
Session 6: Domestication and Status of the Implementation of the African Fertiliser and Soil Health Action Plan (AFSH-AP)	Examined progress, challenges, and financing of the African Fertiliser and Soil Health Action Plan as a key pillar of CAADP implementation. The session highlighted uneven country-level domestication, the role of implementation coalitions, and the importance of sustainable financing and coordination for scaling initiatives such as *Know Your Soil*.	• Review progress and gaps in domesticating AFSH-AP at the country level • Share coalition and country experiences and lessons • Identify financing, coordination, and accountability mechanisms to accelerate implementation	• **Co-Facilitators:** Mr. Francis Hale (FARNPAN); Dr. Asseta Diallo (AGRA) • **Opening Presentation:** Prof. Wole Fatunbi (FARA / AFSH-AP Secretariat) • **Coalitions:** Dr. Antony Chapoto (C4PA); Mr. Larry Umunna (CIFSH/IFDC); Dr. Wole Fatunbi (C4SISA); Dr. Lilian Lihasi (AFAS/C4SEAS); Ms. Sheila Keino (C4FPSE) • **Country Panel:** Prof. Bernard Bashaasha (Uganda); Dr. Brian Mulenga (Zambia); Dr. Fatou Ndeye (Senegal) • **Regional:** Dr. Bartholomew Chataika (CCARDESA) • **Synthesis:** Dr. David Nielsen

- **Policy and Institutional Fragmentation:** A persistent gap remains between continental commitments, such as CAADP 3.0 and AFSH-AP, and their domestication into coherent national policies. Weak cross-ministerial coordination limited technical capacity, and misaligned priorities across agencies continue to impede implementation. Overcoming fragmentation requires strengthened governance models that enable agriculture, trade, finance, infrastructure, and environment ministries to work toward unified national objectives.

- **The Agricultural Financing Gap and Inefficient Public Expenditure:** Agriculture in Africa remains chronically underfunded, with public expenditure averaging just **2 per cent** of national budgets—far below the CAADP commitment. Simultaneously, traditional donor support is declining. The conference highlighted the need for **more efficient and better-targeted public spending**, strategies to **crowd in private investment**, and innovative financing vehicles to support market development, soil health, and climate-resilient infrastructure.

- **Weak Implementation Capacity and Limited Mechanisms for Scaling:** While many countries have developed strategies and investment plans, translating these into effective implementation at scale remains a significant challenge. Constraints include inadequate extension systems, weak implementation coalitions, and limited pathways for scaling successful pilots—such as "Farmer Know Your Soil" campaign—into nationwide programmes that reach women, youth, and smallholder farmers equitably.

- **Persistent Data and Evidence Gaps:** Decision-making continues to be hampered by insufficient, inaccessible, or outdated data, particularly on soil health, market performance, and value-chain bottlenecks. Even when evidence exists, uptake by policymakers is inconsistent. Strengthening data systems, investing in digital tools, and promoting evidence uptake were highlighted as essential for enhancing accountability and improving policy effectiveness.

2.2. Continental Policy Context

For more than fifteen years, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) has served as the African Union's flagship framework for agricultural transformation. The journey began with the CAADP 1.0 Maputo Declaration (2003–2013), which committed Member States to allocate at least 10 per cent of their national budgets to agriculture and to pursue annual productivity growth of 6 per cent. Despite limited progress by 2013, African leaders recognised the central role of regional integration in driving agricultural transformation. This led to the CAADP 2.0 Malabo Declaration (2014–2025), which expanded the agenda to include seven commitments related to food security, nutrition, poverty reduction, resilience, climate change, intra-African trade, and mutual accountability.

Malabo ushered in important continental advances, notably the launch of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in 2018 and growth in intra-African trade in fertiliser and selected commodities. Yet persistent structural and institutional gaps highlighted the need for a more integrated, systems-based approach. This recognition culminated in CAADP 3.0, the Kampala Declaration (2026–2035), which reframes agricultural transformation within a holistic agrifood systems paradigm. **Table 2** outlines the evolution of CAADP, its targets and major achievements.

Table 2: Evolution of CAADP: From Commitments to Food Systems Transformation

CAADP Phase	Description	Key Strategic Targets	Major Achievements
CAADP 1.0 – Maputo Declaration (2003–2013)	• First continental agricultural transformation framework under the AU; introduced a strong focus on public financing for agriculture and productivity-led growth. • Served as the foundational agenda for aligning national agricultural investment plans with continental aspirations.	• Allocate **10% of the national budget** to agriculture. • Achieve **6% annual agricultural productivity growth**.	• Increased visibility of agriculture in national planning processes. • Development of National Agriculture Investment Plans (NAIPs). • Heightened policy attention to productivity constraints, though targets were only partially met.
CAADP 2.0 – Malabo Declaration (2014–2025)	• Expanded CAADP into a broader transformation agenda linked to food security, nutrition, resilience, intra-African trade, and accountability systems. • Marked a shift from investment commitments to performance-driven outcomes, supported by continent-wide monitoring.	**Seven commitments:** • End hunger and reduce poverty. • Enhance nutrition. • Triple intra-African agricultural trade by 2025. • Promote climate resilience. • Strengthen mutual accountability through reporting mechanisms.	• Launch of the **African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)** in 2018. • Introduction of the **Biennial Review Mechanism** (2017) with performance scorecards. • Growth in intra-African fertiliser trade and selected commodities. • Improved regional dialogue on food security, resilience, and trade.
CAADP 3.0 – Kampala Declaration (2026–2035)	• Represents a transition from agricultural sector thinking to a holistic **agrifood systems approach**. • Emphasises multi-sectoral coordination, governance reforms, innovation, and sustainable productivity. • Anchors CAADP directly to Agenda 2063 and long-term structural transformation.	**Six Strategic Objectives:** • Intensify sustainable food production, agro-industrialisation and trade. • Boost investment and financing for agrifood systems. • Ensure food and nutrition security. • Advance inclusivity and equitable livelihoods. • Build resilient agrifood systems. • Strengthen agrifood systems governance. Strategic objectives underpinned by 22 targets & 48 interventions.	• Introduction of a **step-by-step domestication guideline** for Member States (first of its kind). • Adoption of the agrifood systems transformation model at the continental level. • Clear integration of trade, climate, governance, and nutrition into a unified agenda. • Stronger emphasis on private-sector engagement, innovative financing, and multi-ministerial coordination.

Complementing CAADP 3.0, the African Fertiliser and Soil Health Action Plan (AFSH-AP) directly address one of Africa's most acute structural constraints: widespread soil degradation and nutrient depletion. By positioning soil health at the centre of productivity growth, AFSH-AP underscores the foundational investments required for a sustainable, inclusive, and climate-resilient agrifood system. Taken together, these frameworks reflect a continental commitment to transition from high-level planning to scaled grassroots implementation that delivers meaningful, measurable improvements in the livelihoods of African farmers, processors, and agribusinesses.

2.3. Key Takeaway Messages

2.3.1. What Must Be Done Differently Under the Kampala Declaration?

The CAADP 3.0 agenda, articulated through the Kampala Declaration, marks a significant shift toward a holistic agrifood systems approach, one intended to address longstanding implementation gaps and deliver transformative results. Building on lessons from CAADP

1.0 and CAADP 2.0, the conference deliberations highlighted several critical actions required to ensure that CAADP 3.0 achieves its intended outcomes.

- **Accelerate Domestication and Country-Level Adoption:** Member States must domesticate the Kampala Declaration with urgency and intentionality. Implementation cannot follow a "business as usual" trajectory; it requires clear national commitments, integration into policy and planning frameworks, and time-bound execution strategies.
- **Foster Shared Responsibility Through Strong Partnerships:** Successful domestication demands coordinated, multi-sectoral leadership—anchored by political will at the highest levels of government. Lessons from CAADP 2.0 show that countries with strong executive engagement made more substantial progress. Governments must leverage the complementary strengths of development partners, the private sector, civil society, and research institutions to drive a unified domestication agenda.
- **Strengthen Monitoring, Evaluation, and Mutual Accountability:** A robust monitoring and reporting architecture is essential for tracking progress and informing implementation. The **Biennial Review Mechanism**, introduced under CAADP 2.0, provides a solid starting point, but its use must be deepened. Countries should actively interpret scorecards, institutionalise performance reviews, and integrate findings into policy reforms and investment decisions.
- **Mobilise Adequate and Sustainable Financing:** Achieving the ambitions of CAADP 3.0 requires consistent and efficient resource allocation. Member States must increase domestic financing for agrifood systems transformation while also exploring blended and innovative financing instruments. The international finance community remains an important partner for closing strategic investment gaps.
- **Strengthen Evidence Generation and Use:** Think tanks, including ANAPRI and its member institutes, play a critical role in producing timely, policy-relevant analytics. However, evidence can only drive transformation when it is fully utilised. This calls for targeted capacity development for policymakers and implementing agencies, ensuring they understand, value, and integrate evidence into decision-making processes.
- **Leverage the New CAADP 3.0 Implementation and Domestication Guideline:** For the first time in CAADP's history, Member States are equipped with a **comprehensive domestication guideline** that outlines step-by-step actions for translating continental commitments into national programmes. This tool, absent during CAADP 1.0 and 2.0, represents a significant advancement and should be systematically applied to streamline coordination, planning, and implementation.

A critical question emerging from the discussions is how countries can **systematically dismantle institutional silos** to build a coherent, nationally owned trade and market development strategy that is fully aligned with CAADP 3.0 and regional commitments. This raises a related challenge: **what governance models or coordination mechanisms are required to ensure that ministries of agriculture, trade, finance, and infrastructure operate toward a unified objective**, rather than pursuing parallel or fragmented mandates? These are issues that national governments will have to confront and address over the next decade to ensure the success of CAADP.

2.3.2. Key Takeaways for Think Tanks and ANAPRI's Role in Advancing CAADP 3.0

- **Strengthen Evidence Generation and Policy Analytics**: Think tanks must produce timely, high-quality, and actionable evidence to guide the domestication and implementation of CAADP 3.0. This includes deploying tools such as PPVC, foresight modelling, and market systems analysis to help countries prioritise investments, align national strategies, and address binding constraints in agrifood systems.

- **Build Policy Capacity and Enhance Evidence Uptake**: Beyond generating evidence, think tanks, and ANAPRI in particular, should invest in capacity strengthening for policymakers and technical officers. This ensures that governments have the institutional capability to interpret, apply, and mainstream evidence into planning, budgeting, and monitoring processes.
- **Support Coordination Across Sectors and Stakeholders**: ANAPRI can play a vital convening role by fostering structured platforms that bring together agriculture, trade, finance, and infrastructure ministries alongside private sector and development partners. These coalitions help countries overcome institutional fragmentation and create integrated approaches consistent with CAADP 3.0's agrifood systems framework.
- **Monitor Progress and Strengthen Mutual Accountability**: Think tanks should support governments in strengthening monitoring and evaluation systems, including interpreting Biennial Review scorecards and generating supplementary analytics. ANAPRI's regional presence positions it to promote cross-country learning, peer review, and accountability, critical for sustaining momentum and ensuring CAADP 3.0 delivers measurable impact.

2.4. Key Priority Actions for Advancing Africa's Agrifood Systems

2.4.1. Priority Actions for Key partners and various stakeholders

Africa's agrifood systems are operating in a world where global disruptions, such as geopolitical tensions, market volatility, climate shocks and declining development finance, etc., are no longer episodic but structural. This new reality requires **a fundamental reorientation toward resilience**, supported by adaptive strategies that enable countries to withstand shocks while sustaining long-term transformation pathways. **Table 3** outlines key priority action areas provided as touchpoints for driving agrifood system transformation.

Table 3: Key Priority Actions for Advancing Food System Transformation

Key Issue	Description	Priority Actions	Lead / Key Stakeholders
1. Structural Global Disruptions and Resilience	Global shocks (geopolitics, climate change, supply chain disruptions, falling aid) have become structural, driving food price volatility, import dependence, and livelihood vulnerability.	• Integrate resilience as a core objective in national agricultural and food systems strategies. • Develop and finance risk management instruments (e.g. strategic reserves, insurance, early warning systems). • Strengthen regional trade and logistics to cushion local markets from global shocks.	**National Governments** (Agriculture, Finance, Trade, Planning); **AU & AUDA-NEPAD** (continental resilience frameworks); **RECs** (regional trade and contingency planning); **World Bank & FAO** (analytical work, financing, technical support); **AGRA, FARA, ANAPRI Centres** (innovations, analytics, resilience solutions).
2. Domestication of CAADP 3.0 and Kampala Declaration	Continental commitments often remain at the framework level and are not sufficiently embedded into national policies, plans and budgets. CAADP 3.0 offers flexibility but demands early, intentional domestication.	• Integrate CAADP 3.0 priorities into national development plans, NAIPs and budget frameworks. • Establish multi-sectoral coordination platforms to align agriculture, trade, infrastructure and climate agendas. • Use CAADP 3.0 implementation guidelines as a practical roadmap for domestication.	**National Governments** (Prime Minister/Presidency, Agriculture, Finance, Planning); **AU & AUDA-NEPAD** (guidance, standards, peer review); **RECs** (regional alignment and support); **World Bank, FAO, AGRA** (technical support and financing for domestication processes); **ANAPRI Centres** (evidence, diagnostics, investment prioritisation).

Key Issue	Description	Priority Actions	Lead / Key Stakeholders
3. Governance Gaps and Institutional Fragmentation	Weak coordination and overlapping mandates across ministries and agencies undermine coherent implementation and dilute accountability.	• Clarify mandates and responsibilities for CAADP 3.0 implementation across institutions. • Create or strengthen high-level inter-ministerial councils/taskforces on agrifood systems. • Develop performance frameworks with clear indicators and regular reviews.	**National Governments** (Cabinet, Agriculture, Trade, Finance, Infrastructure); **AU & AUDA-NEPAD** (governance frameworks, peer learning); **RECs** (regional coordination and policy harmonisation); World Bank, FAO (institutional development, governance support); ANAPRI Centres (governance assessments, design of coordination models).
4. Weak Evidence Systems and Limited Uptake of Analytics	Data gaps, weak information systems and limited use of evidence constrain planning, targeting and accountability. Research–policy linkages are often ad hoc.	• Invest in national data systems (soil information, market data, digital M&E platforms). • Formalise partnerships between governments and research institutions for regular policy analytics. • Build capacity of policymakers to interpret and use evidence (e.g. PPVC, foresight, scenario analysis).	**National Governments** (Statistics Offices, Agriculture, Planning); **ANAPRI Centres & FARA** (analytics, tools, training); **World Bank & FAO** (data systems, diagnostics, capacity building); **AGRA** (evidence-to-policy initiatives); **AU & AUDA-NEPAD**(continental data platforms, BR systems).
5. Financing Gap and Inefficient Public Spending	Public spending on agriculture remains low (≈2% of budgets) and is often poorly targeted. Donor support is tightening, requiring smarter, more catalytic use of domestic resources.	• Increase domestic allocations to agriculture and related infrastructure in line with CAADP commitments. • Improve the quality of expenditure, prioritising soil health, research, extension and trade logistics. • Develop blended finance and risk-sharing instruments to crowd in private investment, especially for SMEs, women and youth.	**National Governments** (Finance, Planning, Agriculture); **World Bank** (sovereign lending, blended finance); **AGRA** (innovative financing, SME support); **FAO** (public expenditure reviews and policy advice); **AUDA-NEPAD & AU** (guidance on financing norms); **RECs** (regional investment initiatives); **ANAPRI Centres** (public expenditure analyses, investment prioritisation).
6. Weak Implementation and Scaling Mechanisms	Many strategies exist on paper, but implementation at scale is constrained by weak extension systems, limited coalitions and poor mechanisms for scaling successful pilots.	• Build broad implementation coalitions (government, private sector, farmer organisations, development partners). • Strengthen and modernise extension services (digital tools, farmer field schools, PPP models). • institutionalise pathways to scale proven pilots (e.g. soil health campaigns, climate-smart practices) into national programmes.	**National Governments** (Agriculture, Local Government); **AGRA & FARA** (innovation scaling, extension models); **World Bank & FAO** (programme design and financing); **RECs** (regional scaling of successful models); **ANAPRI Centres** (impact evaluations, scaling strategies); **Farmer Organizations/Private Sector** (co-implementation, last-mile delivery).
7. Underutilization of the Biennial Review (BR) and Mutual Accountability Tools	The BR mechanism provides rich diagnostics but is often underused for course correction, learning and	• Integrate BR findings into annual and medium-term planning and budgeting cycles.	**AU & AUDA-NEPAD** (BR design, continental reporting, peer review); **National Governments** (Agriculture, Planning, Statistics); **RECs** (regional

Key Issue	Description	Priority Actions	Lead / Key Stakeholders
	accountability at the national level.	• Use BR scorecards as a basis for policy dialogue, peer review and public accountability. • Strengthen national M&E systems to improve data quality feeding into the BR.	performance reviews); **World Bank**, **FAO** (support to M&E and data quality); **ANAPRI Centres** (independent analysis of BR results, policy briefs for follow-up).
8. Limited Market Integration, Youth Engagement and AfCFTA Operationalisation	Fragmented markets, NTBs and policy misalignment constrain regional trade. Agriculture is often perceived as high-risk and low-return, limiting youth engagement.	• Accelerate implementation of AfCFTA protocols (tariffs, NTBs, standards, trade facilitation). • Harmonise policies and regulations to support regional value chains. • Promote youth- and gender-responsive agribusiness models, incubation hubs, and digital innovations.	**RECs & AU** (AfCFTA alignment, harmonisation); **National Governments** (Trade, Agriculture, Industry, Youth); **World Bank** (trade/logistics investments); **FAO** (policy support, value-chain development); **AGRA & FARA** (youth and SME agribusiness programmes); **ANAPRI Centres** (trade analytics, NTB diagnostics, youth opportunity mapping).

Overall, achieving Africa's agrifood systems transformation will require the purposeful domestication of CAADP 3.0, strengthened institutions, smarter investments, and evidence-driven decision-making, supported by coordinated action from governments, researchers, private-sector actors, and development partners. A future where Africa becomes more resilient, self-reliant and competitive is within reach, but only if every stakeholder plays their part with urgency and focus.

2.4.2. Action Points for ANAPRI

Drawing on the critical questions and transformation priorities outlined during the 12th ANAPRI Stakeholders' Conference, the following action areas define how ANAPRI and its member centres can drive impact in 2026 and beyond. These actions focus on strengthening evidence generation, policy support, capacity development, and implementation partnerships to ensure that CAADP 3.0, AFSH-AP, and AfCFTA commitments translate into tangible country-level outcomes.

The priority actions outlined in **Table 3** will see ANAPRI and its member centres across the continent increasingly:

- Serve as **trusted knowledge partners** to governments, RECs and continental bodies.
- Provide **rigorous, demand-driven, and actionable evidence** to guide transformation.
- Build capabilities for implementation, monitoring and accountability.
- Foster partnerships that connect government, private sector, farmers and development partners.
- Promote continental cohesion by supporting harmonisation and peer learning.

The pursuit of this policy research agenda in 2026 will enable ANAPRI to help catalyse Africa's transition from planning to implementation, driving a resilient, inclusive and competitive agrifood transformation across the continent.

Table 4: ANAPRI's action areas to support food system transformation in Africa

Key Area	Description of the Issue	Action Points for ANAPRI & Research Centres
1. Domestication of CAADP 3.0 and AFSH-AP	Continental commitments remain insufficiently translated into national strategies, budgets and institutional mechanisms. Countries require technical support to align CAADP 3.0 and AFSH-AP with national realities.	• Conduct diagnostic assessments of national policies and identify alignment gaps with CAADP 3.0 and AFSH-AP. • Develop domestication roadmaps and costed investment frameworks for countries. • Produce policy briefs and guidance notes on integrating CAADP 3.0 objectives into NAIPs and food system strategies. • Facilitate peer learning through RECs to accelerate harmonisation and support lagging countries.
2. Systems Thinking, Analytics and Evidence-Based Policy Design	Agrifood transformation requires integrated, forward-looking approaches rather than siloed interventions. Many governments lack analytical tools to prioritise interventions and anticipate future shocks.	• Institutionalise systems-thinking tools (FAO PolOpT, foresight modelling, risk assessments) within national planning processes. • Expand the PPVC tool to more countries and value chains, guiding prioritisation of high-impact investments. • Develop strategic foresight reports on climate, trade, demographics and technology. • Generate cross-country evidence on the effectiveness of policy mixes and resilience strategies.
3. Strengthening Evidence Systems and Research–Policy Linkages	Weak data systems and limited use of evidence undermine policy quality and accountability. Research–policy relationships remain inconsistent across countries.	• Support governments to strengthen soil information systems, market data platforms and agricultural M&E systems. • institutionalise ANAPRI's research-to-policy model through evidence clinics, policy dialogues and technical roundtables. • Produce "delivery-focused" policy packages translating analytics into actionable steps. • Build policymaker capacity in interpreting evidence (PPVC, budget tools, foresight).
4. Sustainable Agricultural Financing & Smarter Public Expenditure	Agricultural financing remains insufficient, poorly targeted and overly dependent on donor support. Governments need guidance on optimising budgets and leveraging private investment.	• Conduct public expenditure reviews assessing alignment with CAADP 3.0 priorities. • Analyse subsidy repurposing and blended finance models to guide smarter resource allocation. • Support mobilisation and operationalisation of the African Fertiliser Financing Mechanism (AFFM). • Provide analytics and policy guidance for crowding in private investment, especially youth, women and SMEs.
5. Strengthening Implementation and Scaling Mechanisms	Many transformation strategies remain unimplemented at scale due to weak coalitions, limited extension capacity and inadequate scaling pathways.	• Support governments to design and evaluate implementation coalitions linking government, private sector and farmer organisations. • Generate evidence on effective extension models (digital advisory tools, PPP models). • Document and scale pilots such as soil health campaigns or fertiliser market reforms across ANAPRI countries.

Key Area	Description of the Issue	Action Points for ANAPRI & Research Centres
		• Conduct implementation research to identify bottlenecks and propose adaptive management solutions.
6. Enhancing Mutual Accountability Through the Biennial Review (BR)	BR results are underutilised for policy decision-making and course correction. Many countries struggle with data quality and translating scorecards into action.	• Produce independent BR analyses identifying performance gaps and policy priorities. • Support countries to integrate BR results into annual planning and budgeting processes. • Facilitate cross-country peer learning on BR interpretations and accountability mechanisms. • Strengthen national data quality and M&E systems feeding into the BR.
7. Advancing Regional Integration and AfCFTA Operationalisation	NTBs, weak trade logistics and unharmonized policies constrain intra-African trade and limit regional market opportunities for farmers and agribusinesses.	• Conduct NTB diagnostics and analyse the trade impacts of AfCFTA for agriculture. • Map regional value chain opportunities and identify where policy harmonisation can unlock competitiveness. • Support structured dialogues between governments, private sector associations (e.g., PAFO) and RECs. • Conduct research on youth and gender-inclusive opportunities within AfCFTA-enabled markets.
8. Foundational Investments: Soil Health, Digital Tools, Capacity and Data	Soil degradation, data gaps and limited institutional capacity remain binding constraints to agricultural transformation across the continent.	• Lead analytical work on soil health economics and integrated soil fertility management models. • Support scaling of AFSH-AP initiatives like "Farmer Know Your Soil" through data analytics and farmer targeting tools. • Facilitate capacity development for policymakers, extension staff and researchers on soil diagnostics, digital tools and evidence systems. • Strengthen ANAPRI's internal technical capacity and cross-country research platforms.

3. Inclusive Agricultural and Food Systems Transformation in Africa: A Shift from Transactional to Transformative Approaches

3.1. Session Background

This session examined how African countries can move beyond transactional, short-term policy interventions toward transformative, inclusive agricultural reforms that deliver sustained growth, equity, and resilience. Anchored in the Policy Prioritisation through Value Chain Analysis (PPVC) framework, the session demonstrated how rigorous analytics can be translated into concrete policy choices, investment prioritisation, and implementation pathways.

Drawing on deep-dive value chain analyses from Zambia and Ghana, the session highlighted how specific reforms affect competitiveness, rural incomes, and economy-wide spillovers, while also shaping private-sector incentives and public investment efficiency. The discussion emphasised that inclusive transformation requires more than identifying "what works"; it requires sequencing reforms, aligning financing, strengthening institutions, and embedding monitoring and evaluation to track results over time. By showcasing real-world applications of PPVC, the session illustrated how evidence can bridge the gap between analysis and action and how governments can systematically prioritise reforms that maximise inclusive and sustainable outcomes across food systems.

3.2. Session objectives

- Present evidence and findings from PPVC applications in Zambia and Ghana, highlighting reform impacts, distributional effects, and cross-value-chain spillovers.
- Demonstrate how PPVC analytics can inform the prioritisation and sequencing of agricultural reforms and public investments.
- Equip policymakers with practical decision tools and rules to identify cost-effective and inclusive interventions; and
- Foster peer learning and regional collaboration by sharing country experiences and good practices to scale the PPVC approach across Africa.

3.3. Key contributors and participants

The session convened policymakers, policy researchers, and private sector leaders to reflect the full policy-to-investment continuum required for transformative food systems reform.

- **Moderator and closing remarks:** Dr. Mmatlou Kalaba
- **Opening remarks:** Alan Rennison, who provided an overview of the PPVC framework and its role in evidence-based prioritisation.
- **Technical and analytical presentations:**
    - Fwasa Singogo (IAPRI) on Zambia's beef value chain deep dive.
    - Brian Chisanga (IAPRI) on Zambia's soybean value chain analysis.
    - Dr. Brian Mulenga (IAPRI) on policy implications and reform pathways.
    - Dr. Andrew Agyei-Holmes (ISSER, Ghana) on Ghana's rice value chain analysis.
- **Government perspectives:**
    - Mr. Opoku Agyemang (Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ghana);
    - Ms. Caroline Simushi Chipango (Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Zambia);
    - Ms. Mukela Lubasi (Ministry of Agriculture, Zambia), sharing experiences on the use of data and analytics in policy formulation and implementation.

- **Private sector perspectives:**
    - Mr. Wandile Sihlobo (Agbiz, South Africa);
    - Mr. Nana Osei Bonsu (Private Enterprise Federation, Ghana);
    - Mr. Stephen Ruzibiza (Private Sector Federation), discussing how analytics influence investment decisions and public–private engagement.
- **Rapporteurs:** Tim Njagi (ANAPRI)

Together, the Ghana and Zambia case studies presented in the session demonstrated how PPVC moves policy dialogue from **transactional interventions** (such as ad hoc subsidies or trade controls) toward **transformative reform pathways** grounded in evidence, sequencing, and market incentives. The approach equips governments with practical guidance on *what to prioritise, how to finance it, and how to align public and private actors* around inclusive agricultural transformation.

3.4. Session Context

Policy Prioritisation through Value Chain Analysis (PPVC) has emerged as a central analytical and policy engagement framework for advancing inclusive agricultural and food systems transformation across Africa. At its core, PPVC responds to a persistent policy challenge faced by governments: how to prioritise scarce public resources toward value chains and interventions that deliver the greatest combined returns in growth, inclusion, resilience, and fiscal efficiency. Rather than promoting transactional, single-issue interventions, PPVC applies a market-led, systems-oriented approach that integrates farm-level realities with economy-wide modelling, private-sector incentives, and policy feasibility considerations.

Since 2017, PPVC has been implemented in multiple African countries—including Zambia, Ghana, Malawi, Kenya, Tanzania, and Ethiopia—with deep-dive analyses conducted across more than a dozen priority value chains. The framework combines value chain diagnostics, partial equilibrium and CGE modelling, and structured stakeholder engagement to assess both the development case (poverty reduction, jobs, diets, equity) and the business case (competitiveness, scalability, investment attractiveness) for alternative policy and investment options. This dual-lens approach enables governments to distinguish between value chains that warrant sustained public investment and those that are better positioned for private-sector-led growth.

Importantly, PPVC has demonstrated growing policy influence beyond analytical outputs. In Zambia, PPVC findings have informed revisions to the Livestock Development Plan and contributed directly to legislative and regulatory reforms in the beef sector, including the development of carcass grading standards and export-oriented biosecurity measures. In Ghana, PPVC rankings and deep-dive results have helped policymakers reassess long-standing value chain priorities, shifting attention from politically salient but low-impact interventions toward reforms with stronger productivity and inclusion outcomes. Similar engagements in Malawi, Kenya, and Tanzania have strengthened government capacity to engage with data, improved the credibility of evidence used in policymaking, and fostered deeper partnerships between ministries, think tanks, and private-sector actors.

Across contexts, a consistent lesson has emerged: transformative impact depends not only on the quality of analytics but also on sustained government buy-in, policy coherence, and a predictable reform environment. PPVC's emphasis on reform sequencing, monitoring, and institutional alignment, positions it as a practical bridge between analytics and action,

supporting governments in moving from fragmented, short-term measures toward integrated reform pathways that crowd in private investment and deliver inclusive outcomes over time.

3.5. Key Priority Actions for Promoting Policy Adoption and Implementation

The discussions on the Ghana and Zambia deep-dive value chain analyses provided critical guidance on what policy think tanks such as IAPRI and ISSER need to do in Ghana and Zambia, respectively.

3.5.1. Action Matrix for ISSER in Ghana's Rice Value Chain

The Ghana rice action matrix reflects a deliberate shift away from price- or import-focused interventions toward productivity-led and market-system reforms. PPVC evidence demonstrates that long-term progress toward self-sufficiency hinges on raising yields, reducing post-harvest losses, and improving quality consistency, rather than relying solely on trade restrictions or subsidies. **Table 5** outlines a set of priority actions that ISSER and supporting partners can take to support the government in implementing policy reforms to improve and upgrade the rice value chain.

Table 5: Ghana's Rice Value Chain Policy Action Matrix

Policy Reform Area	Priority Actions Required by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture - Ghana	ISSER and Partner Support
Productivity-led rice transformation	• Priorities yield-enhancing investments (seed, irrigation maintenance, mechanisation) • Rebalance spending from price controls to productivity drivers	• Provide productivity-impact modelling and cost–benefit analysis • Support MOFA in sequencing reforms for maximum returns
Post-harvest loss reduction and quality upgrading	• Invest in drying, storage, and milling quality systems • Strengthen standards and certification for domestic rice	• Generate evidence on loss reduction and quality premiums • Support standards agencies with analytics on consumer preferences
Market system coordination	• Ensure consistent paddy supply to mills through aggregation and contracting frameworks • Improve access to finance for farmers and processors	• Facilitate dialogue between farmers, millers, and financiers • Provide value chain finance diagnostics
Import management aligned with competitiveness	• Avoid blanket import restrictions; align trade measures with productivity gains	• Model trade-offs between protection, prices, and welfare • Advise on transition pathways to competitiveness

The priority actions outlined in **Table 5** emphasise coordinated investment across production, post-harvest handling, and market linkages, recognising that milling capacity and consumer demand cannot be sustained without a reliable paddy supply and quality assurance. The table also highlights the importance of financial and aggregation mechanisms in supporting farmer–processor linkages. ISSER's support role focuses on providing the analytical basis for reform sequencing, evaluating trade-offs between protection and competitiveness, and facilitating dialogue between government, private millers, and financiers.

3.5.2. Action Matrix for IAPRI in Zambia's Soybean and Beef Value Chains

The beef action matrix captures a transformational shift from subsistence-oriented livestock production to an export-ready, competitive value chain. PPVC findings demonstrate that Zambia's beef sector constraints are structural, linked to biosecurity, grading, and infrastructure, rather than demand-driven. Accordingly, the priority actions focus on establishing biosecure production zones, transparent carcass grading systems, and modern processing infrastructure.

These reforms are designed to reward quality, reduce market uncertainty, and crowd in private investment, while generating significant employment and poverty-reduction spillovers. **Table 6** also highlights the importance of institutional coordination across livestock, trade, and SPS systems. ANAPRI's support role centres on providing the analytical justification for these reforms, supporting regulatory design, and facilitating public–private partnerships to finance and implement infrastructure upgrades.

Table 6: Zambia's Beef and Soybean Value Chain Policy Action Matrix

	Policy Reform Area	Priority Actions Required by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries	ANAPRI and Partner Support
Beef value chain	**Biosecure production and export readiness**	• Establish disease-free compartments • Introduce transparent carcass grading and pricing systems	• Provide regulatory impact analysis and export market studies • Support the development of grading standards and institutions
	Value chain infrastructure upgrading	• Invest in abattoirs, cold chain, and logistics • Provide fiscal incentives for private investment	• Develop business cases and blended-finance proposals • Support PPP structuring and investor engagement
	Institutional coordination	• Align livestock policy, SPS standards, and trade strategies	• Facilitate inter-ministerial coordination platforms • Track implementation progress and bottlenecks
Soybean Value Chain	**Targeted input support ("Soy Pack")**	• Introduce a soybean-specific input bundle (seed, fertiliser, lime, inoculant) • Deliver through e-voucher systems to reduce leakages	• Provide design parameters and fiscal-impact analysis • Support piloting and evaluation of the soy pack
	Seed system strengthening	• Establish and operationalise a seed technology levy • Channel funds to varietal R&D and release	• Support levy design and governance frameworks • Link national research systems with regional seed innovation
	Downstream demand pull (poultry & feed)	• Reform VAT on poultry and address dumping risks • Align livestock and crop policies	• Model feed–livestock–crop linkages and spillovers • Facilitate cross-ministry coordination (agriculture, trade, finance)
	Trade policy predictability	• Eliminate ad hoc export bans • Signal clear export rules to producers and processors	• Provide export scenario modelling and price-stability analysis • Support stakeholder consultations on trade reforms
	Energy for agro-processing	• Prioritise electricity supply to crushers • Support PPPs for grid upgrades and renewables	• Provide infrastructure investment cases and financing models

The soybean action matrix illustrates how sequenced, mutually reinforcing reforms can unlock inclusive growth in a rapidly expanding value chain. Rather than treating input subsidies, trade policy, and processing constraints as isolated issues, PPVC evidence frames them as interlinked levers that must be addressed together to avoid unintended consequences.

The emphasis on a targeted "soy pack", seed system financing, and predictable export policy reflects the need to simultaneously raise smallholder productivity, stimulate downstream demand, and maintain price stability. Importantly, the table shows how reforms in related value chains (notably poultry) can create a demand pull that improves returns across the soybean system. ANAPRI's role is to support reform design, fiscal appraisal, and stakeholder coordination, ensuring that productivity gains translate into sustained market participation and economy-wide benefits.

3.5.3. Priority Actions for ANAPRI

ANAPRI action matrix highlights reforms that are foundational to systemic agricultural transformation across countries and value chains. At the core is the institutionalisation of evidence-based prioritisation, ensuring that scarce public resources are directed toward value chains and interventions with the highest combined returns in growth, inclusion, and resilience. The emphasis on policy coherence and predictability reflects the consistent message from PPVC findings that private investment and productivity gains depend on stable, rules-based policy environments rather than ad hoc interventions.

Table 7 also underscores the importance of monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) as a core reform function, enabling governments to track whether adopted policies are delivering intended outcomes and to course-correct where necessary. ANAPRI's role across these actions is to act as a technical anchor and convening platform, translating analytics into policy-relevant guidance, supporting cross-country learning, and strengthening public–private coordination for reform delivery.

Table 7: ANAPRI's Priority Actions to Operationalise PPVC Policy Recommendations

Policy Reform Area	Priority Actions Required by Government	ANAPRI and Partner Support (Think Tanks, Private Sector, DPs)
Evidence-based prioritisation of value chains	• Institutionalise PPVC-style ranking in national agriculture investment plans and MTEFs • Align budget allocations with high-impact value chains rather than politically driven lists	• Provide PPVC analytics, rankings, and scenario modelling • Support ministries with technical briefs and budget-alignment notes • Facilitate peer learning across countries (e.g. Zambia–Ghana–Malawi)
Policy coherence and predictability	• Reduce ad hoc trade and pricing interventions • Establish transparent, rules-based policy frameworks for priority value chains	• Track policy consistency and impacts through monitoring dashboards • Convene public–private dialogue platforms to surface policy risks and adjustments
Monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL)	• Mandate results tracking for adopted reforms (yields, jobs, prices, inclusion) • Use evidence to course-correct policies	• Design and implement PPVC MEL frameworks • Produce annual policy impact scorecards and learning notes

Public–private coordination	• Formalise PPP platforms for priority value chains • Use public investments to crowd in private capital	• Broker partnerships between government, financiers, and value chain actors • Provide investment-ready analytics and risk assessments

Table 7 demonstrates how PPVC evidence translates into clear, implementable reform pathways. Government leadership is critical for adoption, but ANAPRI's role as an analytical, convening, and delivery partner, working alongside private sector and development partners, is central to ensuring that reforms move beyond recommendations to measurable, inclusive transformation outcomes.

4. Applying Advanced Climate Analytics for Policy and Investment Planning: Insights from the Africa Agriculture Adaptation Atlas

4.1. Session Background

This session examined the role of advanced climate analytics in strengthening agricultural policy formulation and investment planning in Africa, using the Africa Agriculture Adaptation Atlas (AAAI) as a central case. The Atlas is an online, publicly accessible analytical platform that integrates spatially explicit data on climate hazards, exposure of agricultural systems and populations, and adaptive capacity, including evidence on the effectiveness of climate adaptation and mitigation interventions.

Against the backdrop of increasing climate variability and growing demands for climate-smart agricultural transformation, the session highlighted the need for forward-looking, evidence-based tools to support long-term decision-making at national and subnational levels. It also reflected on lessons from structured user testing and country-level applications of the Atlas, demonstrating how spatial climate data can be translated into actionable policy insights. Particular attention was given to usability, institutional uptake, gender-responsive analysis, and integration of the Atlas into existing planning and investment processes.

4.1.1. Session Objectives

- Showcase the Africa Agriculture Adaptation Atlas as a practical decision-support tool for climate change adaptation and mitigation policy and investment planning.
- Present lessons learned from recent user testing and refinement of the platform, including improvements in functionality and policy relevance.
- Demonstrate how spatial climate analytics can be applied to inform national, sub-national, and sector-specific agricultural planning.
- Promote wider adoption of the Atlas among African policymakers, research institutions, and development partners; and
- Highlight gender-responsive applications of the Atlas in identifying climate risks, investment needs, and inclusive adaptation strategies.

4.1.2. Key contributors and participants

The session brought together platform developers, policy research institutions, regional technical agencies, development partners, and government representatives, reflecting a multi-stakeholder approach to climate-informed decision-making.

- **Moderator:** George Njuguna (SAF-A)
- **Opening remarks:** Alan Rennison (Gates Foundation), emphasising the strategic importance of climate analytics in guiding long-term agricultural transformation and investment prioritisation.
- **Technical platform presentation:** Brayden Youngberg (CIAT), who provided a walkthrough of the Atlas architecture, analytical notebooks, and insights from user feedback.
- **Policy research and use-case applications:** Prof. Thinah Moyo (ANAPRI), presenting applications of the Atlas across eight African countries and demonstrating its relevance for policy reform and investment targeting.
- **Partner and regional perspectives:**
    - Telvin Denje (AGNES) on enhancing usability among policymakers and negotiators.
    - Josphat Makanga (RCMRD) on sub-national integration of climate analytics in Kenya.
    - Bereket Fitsum (ATI) on deploying and customising the Atlas for Ethiopia's agricultural decision-making.
- **Government perspectives:** Senior officials from Malawi (Doshanie Kadokera), Tanzania (Longino Chrisante), Kenya (Lily Chebet Kiptoo), Rwanda (Dr. Chantal Ingabire), and Ghana (Frank Kwesi Nansam-Aggrey), who shared experiences on adopting the Atlas within national planning, budgeting, and climate finance processes.

4.2. Session Context

Climate change continues to intensify risks facing Africa's food systems, rural livelihoods, and economic stability. With agriculture dominated by smallholder farmers, the continent remains acutely vulnerable to shifting climate patterns, recurrent extreme weather events, and progressive environmental degradation. These pressures have heightened the need for robust, data-driven analytical tools to support evidence-based policymaking, investment planning, and informed climate adaptation decisions.

As a leading continental policy research network, ANAPRI has played a central role in advancing climate analytics and strengthening Africa's capacity for climate-responsive planning. Earlier work under the USAID-funded Comprehensive Action for Climate Change Initiative (CACCI) laid an important foundation by demonstrating how spatial and economic evidence can inform climate-smart decision-making. Although CACCI concluded with the end of USAID funding, ANAPRI sustained and expanded its climate research portfolio through strategic partnerships and innovations—including the development of the Africa Agriculture Adaptation Atlas.

The Adaptation Atlas is a dynamic, online decision-support platform that integrates spatial datasets, analytical models, and interactive visualisations. It enables users to examine climate hazards, assess smallholder exposure, and evaluate the potential impacts of adaptation interventions at scale. Supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Agricultural

Development (AgDev) team, the Atlas underwent a structured user-testing initiative to promote adoption, evaluate usability, and gather insights for further refinement.

The user-testing phase was coordinated through a network of African institutions led by the Sustainable Agriculture Foundation-Africa (SAF-A), a non-profit organisation committed to scaling climate-smart agriculture and empowering women, youth, and marginalised communities. SAF-A provided strategic oversight and ensured that the testing process aligned with the broader goal of assessing the Atlas's utility for African policymakers and practitioners responsible for climate adaptation, planning, and prioritisation.

The Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, as a core technical partner and platform developer, played a critical role in supporting the testing process. Their contributions included facilitating in-depth assessments of Atlas datasets and analytical notebooks, incorporating user feedback, and refining platform functionalities to enhance relevance for real-world policy, planning, and financing applications.

The testing process prioritised capacity building, the integration of Atlas outputs into institutional workflows, and the systematic collection of user insights. Across participating countries, users reported notable improvements in their ability to interpret climate-risk information, translate complex datasets into actionable insights, and apply these tools to practical policy and investment decisions. The initiative demonstrated that, when paired with strong institutional partnerships and targeted training, the Adaptation Atlas can significantly enhance Africa's capacity to design, prioritise, and finance climate-resilient agricultural interventions.

4.3. User Testing Applications of the African Adaptation Atlas

The Africa Agriculture Adaptation Atlas is a dynamic, interactive decision-support platform designed to help African governments and institutions plan and prioritise climate-smart agricultural investments. By integrating diverse climate and socioeconomic datasets, the Atlas provides insights into changing climate hazards, smallholder exposure and vulnerability, and the adaptive capacity of farming systems. It serves as a foundational tool for shaping national and regional adaptation strategies, guiding investment decisions, and informing policy reforms.

The Atlas offers multiple levels of engagement: interactive dashboards and thematic "spotlight" stories; downloadable datasets that can be integrated into local GIS systems; and the option for institutions to customise the platform for their own analytical needs. In practice, users employ the Atlas to analyse climate risks, assess the economic returns of adaptation options, evaluate gendered vulnerabilities, map crop suitability under future climates, and generate district-level insights. These applications allow policymakers to align adaptation actions with local realities and design more targeted, evidence-based interventions. **Table 8** outlines the various applications of the Atlas by multiple partners:

Table 8: Summary of partner roles, applications, and outputs in the Africa Agriculture Adaptation Atlas Initiative

Partner	Description of Partners	How They Applied the Atlas	Key Outputs / Results
ANAPRI – Africa Network of Agricultural Policy Research Institutes	A continental network of agricultural policy think tanks operating in 15+ African countries, supporting evidence-based policy and investment decisions.	• Led real-world testing of the Atlas across 8 countries. • Integrated Atlas analytics into value chain studies and climate-risk assessments. • Conducted capacity-building workshops with CIAT for member centres. • Applied Atlas data within PPVC modelling and broader policy research.	• Eight country-level test cases (e.g., Ghana NAP localisation; Malawi banana CBA; Rwanda smallholder adaptation strategy). • Strengthened the institutional capacity of ANAPRI centres. • Gender-responsive analyses with gender-disaggregated data. • Demonstrated Atlas utility for climate adaptation investment and planning.
AGNES – African Group of Negotiators Expert Support	A continental climate policy think tank supporting Africa's voice in global climate negotiations and promoting climate science–policy integration.	• Led a 14-month engagement programme to strengthen scientific and policy uptake of the Atlas. • Conducted structured scientific testing with climate researchers, agronomists, socio-economists, and young scientists. • Facilitated four sub-regional policy convenings involving 43 African countries.	• Improved scientific robustness and policy relevance of Atlas datasets and notebooks. • Trained policymakers, CSOs, the private sector and practitioners in applying the Atlas to adaptation planning. • Strengthened the bridge between climate science and policy implementation.
ATI – Agricultural Transformation Institute (Ethiopia)	Ethiopia's agricultural transformation agency focused on accelerating growth and improving agricultural planning and coordination.	• Cloned the Atlas platform and Sanity CMS for national hosting. • Integrated localised datasets (regional, zonal, and woreda-level data). • Adapted the platform to local languages and Ethiopian climate–agricultural contexts. • Conducted stakeholder consultations and gender-responsive data integration.	• A fully customised Ethiopia-specific Atlas hosted on ATI servers. • Expanded data coverage for subnational planning. • Improved inclusion of gender-disaggregated insights. • Established foundation for Ethiopia's climate-informed investment planning.
RCMRD – Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development	An intergovernmental organisation providing Earth Observation and geospatial services to 20+ Eastern and Southern African countries.	• Applied Atlas geospatial datasets to support Kenya's BETA agenda, CIDPs and county climate-smart strategies. • Engaged 38 counties to use the Atlas for climate-risk profiling and value chain adaptation planning. • Integrated gender analysis and M&E components in county-level work.	• County-level climate risk and adaptation insights. • Knowledge products: bulletins, fact sheets, feasibility studies, and gender-sensitive enterprise selection criteria. • Enhanced county capacity to generate its own climate information products for planning and policy.

Partner	Description of Partners	How They Applied the Atlas	Key Outputs / Results
CIAT – Alliance of Bioversity International & CIAT	A global research organisation providing technical expertise in climate analytics, agricultural modelling and data systems.	• Core technical developer of the Atlas platform and analytical notebooks. • Supported structured user testing and refinement of datasets, models and visualisation tools. • Integrated user feedback to improve functionality for decision-makers.	• Enhanced usability, accuracy, and analytical strength of Atlas tools. • Improved integration of Atlas into institutional workflows across partners. • Expanded documentation and technical guidance for climate modelling and adaptation analysis.

The implementation and testing of the Africa Agriculture Adaptation Atlas brought together a diverse coalition of African policy institutes, technical organisations, and regional centres whose complementary roles significantly strengthened the platform's relevance and impact. ANAPRI led the practical application of the Atlas across eight countries, demonstrating its value for climate-risk analysis, investment planning, and gender-responsive policy design. AGNES broadened scientific and policy uptake through continent-wide engagements, bridging the gap between research and decision-making. ATI customised the Atlas for Ethiopia's subnational planning needs, while RCMRD applied its geospatial expertise to empower county-level adaptation planning in Kenya. CIAT, as the technical architect, ensured continuous refinement of datasets, models, and tools. Together, these partners validated the Atlas as a scalable, context-responsive platform that can inform climate-smart agricultural transformation across Africa.

4.4. Policy Influence, User Dissemination, and Continental Scaling

The Africa Agriculture Adaptation Atlas was developed as a dynamic, evidence-driven platform to support African governments and institutions in strengthening climate-smart policy design, adaptation planning, and investment prioritisation. By integrating datasets on spatial climate hazards, socioeconomic vulnerabilities, crop and livestock exposure, and adaptation solutions, the Atlas aims to transform how African countries approach climate resilience in agriculture. Its implementation focused on three core areas of impact: policy influence, broad dissemination, and scaling for continental adoption.

4.4.1. Policy Influence: Integrating Climate Analytics into National and Subnational Decision-Making

Across all partner countries, the Atlas demonstrated substantial value in shaping climate-informed policy decisions. Through ANAPRI centres and other technical partners, the tool was applied to real-world policy questions, showing how climate risk information can strengthen national strategies and investment decisions. In Malawi, Atlas insights informed the climate-sensitive assessment of the banana value chain, revealing how hazard exposure affects returns on investment. In Rwanda, the tool guided the integration of climate risks into the Small-Scale Irrigation Technology (SSIT) programme. Kenya used the Atlas to refine crop-specific adaptation decisions, aligning agricultural planning with climate vulnerability profiles. In Uganda, Atlas analytics was applied to its livestock mitigation strategy, while in Zambia, the evidence generated was used to strengthen parliamentary engagement through Atlas-

informed policy briefs. Botswana employed the tool at the local government level to support district adaptation planning. These experiences highlighted the Atlas's ability to anchor policy processes in location-specific risk diagnostics, ensuring interventions are grounded in evidence and responsive to local realities.

4.4.2. Dissemination: Expanding Access and Building a Diverse Community of Users

A significant achievement of the Atlas initiative has been the widespread dissemination of the platform across research, policy, academic, and practitioner communities. ANAPRI's member think tanks were early adopters, integrating the Atlas into their analytical models and value-chain assessments across eight countries: Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda. Other implementing partners - including AGNES, ATI, and RCMRD - further extended the Atlas' reach through scientific testing, local customisation, and county-level applications. The user base broadened rapidly to include national research institutes, universities, government ministries, provincial administrations, and district planners. Multilevel training sessions ensured that policymakers, technical officers, and researchers were equipped to apply the Atlas to their planning and evaluation tasks. This diverse and growing user community illustrates the Atlas's strength as a flexible, accessible tool that supports multiple analytical and decision-making needs across the continent.

4.4.3. Scaling out the ATLAS: Towards a Continental Decision-Support Ecosystem for Climate-Resilient Agriculture

With strong adoption in the initial project countries, partners are now driving efforts to scale the Atlas into a continental public-good platform. The positive trajectory of uptake has led to the proposal for an Atlas 2.0 initiative, aimed at enhancing platform functionality, expanding datasets, improving the user experience, and broadening country participation. To consolidate these ambitions, ANAPRI and SAF-A formalised a long-term collaboration through a Memorandum of Understanding, setting the foundation for a multi-institutional consortium that will champion the next phase of the Atlas's development. The objective is to create an integrated, Africa-wide ecosystem where policymakers, researchers, development partners, and local governments routinely use the Atlas to inform policy decisions, investment strategies, and climate adaptation planning. This scaling vision positions the Atlas as a central instrument for supporting continent-wide climate resilience and agricultural transformation.

5. Africa's Agricultural Outlook: A Systems Thinking and Foresight Analysis Approach

5.1. Session background

This session explored how systems thinking and strategic foresight can be applied to shape Africa's agricultural outlook and support coherent, future-ready agrifood transformation. Jointly convened by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and the Africa Network of Agricultural Policy Research Institutes (ANAPRI), the session responded to the growing recognition that fragmented policies and short-term interventions are insufficient to address the complex, interlinked challenges facing Africa's agrifood systems.

The session introduced FAO's systems approach to agrifood transformation, which emphasises integrated governance, investment, and learning across sectors, and presented insights from the draft Regional Strategic Foresight Report for Sub-Saharan Africa (RSFR). Through an interactive plenary exercise, participants provided structured feedback on long-term trends, emerging risks, and "triggers for transformation" shaping Africa's food systems to 2050. To bridge foresight with implementation, the session showcased practical policy analytics tools - particularly FAO's Policy Optimisation Tool (PolOpT) and the Food and Agriculture Policy Decision Analysis (FAPDA) platform - demonstrating how systems thinking can be operationalised within national planning and expenditure frameworks. The session positioned ANAPRI as a key partner in scaling these approaches through collaborative analysis, data validation, and policy engagement aligned with the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan (2026–2035).

5.1.1. Session Objectives

- Demonstrate how systems thinking and foresight can guide long-term agrifood system transformation in Africa.
- Present and validate key insights from the draft Regional Strategic Foresight Report for Sub-Saharan Africa, including drivers, leverage points, and early signals of change.
- Gather structured stakeholder feedback to enhance the relevance and policy utility of the RSFR at regional and national levels.
- Showcase FAO policy analytics tools—particularly the Policy Optimisation Tool (PolOpT) and FAPDA—as practical instruments for embedding systems approaches in country planning and budgeting processes; and
- Strengthen collaboration between FAO and ANAPRI member centres to expand foresight, policy analytics, and evidence-based advisory support across the continent.

5.1.2. Key contributors and participants

The session brought together senior FAO experts, policymakers, farmer representatives, and policy researchers, reflecting a multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder perspective on agrifood transformation.

- **Co-facilitators:** Mr. Mark Fynn (FAO Regional Office for Africa) and Dr. Antony Chapoto (ANAPRI)
- **Key presentations:**
  - Dr. Corinna Hawkes (FAO HQ) on transforming food and agriculture through a systems approach.
  - Mr. Pedro Morais de Sousa (FAO HQ) on draft findings from the Regional Strategic Foresight Report for Sub-Saharan Africa.
- **Interactive plenary facilitation**
  - Dr. Antony Chapoto (ANAPRI), leading a structured foresight feedback exercise with participants.
- **Panel moderation:** Dr. Milu Muyanga (Michigan State University)
- **Panelists:**
  - Dr. Marco Sánchez (FAO) on the Policy Optimisation Tool (PolOpT).
  - Ms. Cecilia Nardi (FAO) on the FAPDA policy tracking and intelligence platform.
  - Dr. Babafemi Oyewole (Pan-African Farmers' Organisation).
  - Mr. Longino Chrisante (Ministry of Agriculture, Tanzania).
  - Dr. Tinashe Kapuya (ANAPRI Secretariat).
  - Mr. Sibusiso Nhlengethwa (AGRA).

- **Rapporteurs:**
    - Mr. Adama Taoko (FAO Subregional Office for Central Africa);
    - Dr. Benjamin Oyelami (PILAF, Nigeria)

5.2. Session Context

Projecting the future of Africa's agriculture requires an analytical approach that recognises the interconnected, dynamic, and non-linear nature of agrifood systems. A systems thinking approach provides this lens by examining how multiple components, such as climate, markets, soils, technologies, demographics, trade, and policies, interact to shape outcomes across space and time. Rather than treating agricultural challenges in isolation, systems thinking identifies interdependencies, feedback loops, and potential trade-offs, allowing policymakers to understand not only what may happen, but why and under what conditions different scenarios emerge.

At the 12th ANAPRI Annual Conference, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) tested the validity of the sentiments discussed in its foresight publication titled "The future of food and agriculture: Drivers and Triggers for Transformation," which outlined alternative scenarios that will shape Africa's food system. The Conference also discussed the use and application of tools such as foresight modelling, scenario analysis, and systems mapping, enabling the exploration of multiple futures, ranging from business-as-usual trajectories to transformative pathways driven by targeted investments or policy reforms.

5.3. Key Challenges, Opportunities, and Drivers Shaping Africa's Agricultural Outlook

Conference deliberations underscored that Africa's agrifood systems sit at a pivotal moment, characterised by deep structural challenges but also clear opportunities for transformation.

- **Policy incoherence and fragmented interventions**: where siloed approaches across sectors impede coordination and reduce the effectiveness of investments. This fragmentation highlights the need for systems thinking—an approach that links agricultural, environmental, trade, and social objectives into a coherent strategy.

- **Prioritisation under constrained budgets**: Countries continue to struggle with identifying which reforms and investments yield the greatest impact on productivity, inclusivity, and resilience. Evidence from PPVC applications in Ghana and Zambia shows that even value chains with strong potential—such as beef, soybeans, and rice—remain hindered by low yields, inconsistent export policies, and high logistics costs.

- **Data and evidence gaps** further weaken decision-making. While platforms like FAO's FAPDA provide important information, they require greater regional coverage and validation - an area where networks like ANAPRI can play a catalytic role. Even when evidence exists, **implementation capacity gaps** and weak research-policy linkages limit uptake, underscoring the need for stronger institutional capabilities and deeper collaboration across government, research organisations, and the private sector.

Looking ahead, conference participants highlighted several **drivers and triggers** likely to shape Africa's long-term agricultural outlook. **Climate change and environmental shocks** emerged as the most influential, followed closely by **demographic shifts**,

including rapid population growth and urbanisation. These two forces are expected to exert greater pressure on food systems than technological or global market trends in the medium term. The Regional Strategic Foresight Report (RSFR) stimulated reflection on plausible futures: "**Struggling to keep up**" was identified as the most likely scenario if current policy inertia and underinvestment persist, implying widening food deficits, increased import dependence, and rising vulnerability.

Despite this sobering view, opportunities remain. Stakeholders identified **innovative finance and infrastructure development** as critical triggers for accelerating transformation, alongside deeper **regional trade integration** to unlock market scale and resilience. Participants emphasised that a sustainable future will require decisive leadership, including investing in climate-smart agriculture and renewable energy, empowering youth through access to land and finance, strengthening the AfCFTA, and institutionalising data-driven decision-making.

Together, these insights point to an agricultural outlook shaped by climate pressures, demographic change, and governance choices, where proactive, evidence-based interventions could shift Africa from vulnerability to resilience and long-term transformation.

5.4. Action Points for Systems Thinking and Foresight

Table 9 outlines a strategic roadmap for how ANAPRI and its research centres can strengthen their role in supporting Africa's agrifood transformation, using systems thinking and foresight tools. It identifies six priority thematic areas that not only focus on systems thinking, foresight, and scaling analytical tools, but also on strengthening data ecosystems, building long-term capacity, deepening research–policy linkages, and focusing on high-impact transformational levers.

Table 9: ANAPRI priority thematic areas, policy research focus, and action points

Thematic Area	Policy Research Focus	Action Points for ANAPRI & Research Centres
1. Operationalising Systems Thinking & Foresight	Strengthen agricultural policy coherence by embedding systems thinking into national planning, budgeting, and CAADP implementation. Apply foresight tools (e.g., FAO's PolOpT, RSFR) to identify leverage points, risks, and long-term scenarios.	• Integrate systems thinking methodologies into country agricultural reviews and CAADP domestication processes. • Produce country-level foresight briefs using RSFR methodologies. • Train policymakers and analysts to apply foresight tools to budgeting and strategy formulation. • Support governments in developing adaptive, long-term food system strategies.
2. Scaling Analytical Frameworks (PPVC, CBA, Climate-Risk Analytics)	Expand use of PPVC, cost-benefit analysis, and climate-risk tools to guide investment prioritisation, value chain development, and market reform.	• Scale PPVC to additional countries, value chains, and subnational contexts. • Integrate climate-risk modules (using Atlas analytics) into PPVC. • Develop regional comparative studies showcasing investment priorities across similar value chains.

Thematic Area	Policy Research Focus	Action Points for ANAPRI & Research Centres
		• Provide technical assistance to ministries for embedding PPVC in national investment planning.
3. Data Systems, Evidence Platforms & Policy Intelligence	Strengthen national and regional data ecosystems through improved data generation, validation, and integration with platforms such as FAO's FAPDA and the Adaptation Atlas.	• Formalise ANAPRI's role in supplying and validating FAPDA and Atlas datasets. • Develop data quality assurance protocols and metadata standards. • Create national "evidence dashboards" for monitoring policy outcomes. • Conduct periodic data gap assessments and coordinate cross-country evidence-generation efforts.
4. Long-Term Capacity Building & Skills Development	Build institutional capacity to generate evidence, conduct economic modelling, perform climate analytics, and interpret policy across research centres and government agencies.	• Expand ANAPRI's Community of Practice (CoP) for modelling, foresight, and PPVC. • Provide continuous in-house training for researchers and policymakers. • Develop certification programmes in partnership with universities and FAO. • Mentor young economists and analysts through fellowships and practical assignments.
5. Strengthening Research–Policy Linkages & Partnerships	Enhance collaborative mechanisms among government, research institutions, the private sector, and farmer organisations to ensure that evidence is translated into action.	• Establish structured national policy dialogues and evidence clinics. • Strengthen partnerships with RECs, AUDA-NEPAD, FAO, SAF-A, AGNES, and ATI on climate and food system reforms. • Produce policy briefs, investment guides, and toolkits tailored to political decision-makers. • Support governments in designing predictable policy instruments that reduce uncertainty for private investors.
6. Prioritising Actionable Transformation Levers	Focus policy research on interventions with the highest system-wide impact—public expenditure optimisation, market integration, soil health, trade, infrastructure, and climate-smart agriculture.	• Conduct public expenditure reviews using PolOpT to optimise agricultural budgets. • Research NTBs, trade corridors, and AfCFTA implementation bottlenecks. • Produce investment cases for soil health, irrigation, logistics, and digital agriculture. • Identify high-impact reform opportunities through cross-country synthesis studies.

Table 9 emphasises the need for ANAPRI to move beyond traditional research towards a more integrated approach that combines analytics, capacity building, and policy engagement. A key takeaway is the importance of embedding systems thinking into national planning, scaling proven tools like PPVC, formalising partnerships to fill data gaps, and equipping policymakers with practical, evidence-based insights. Together, these actions position ANAPRI to inform policymakers and the private sector on relevant and future-proof policy reforms across Africa.

6. Partnerships as Catalysts for Africa's Agricultural Policy and Research Agenda

6.1. Session Background

This session focused on the strategic role of partnerships and coalitions in advancing Africa's food systems transformation in a context of tightening development finance and rising demand for high-quality, locally grounded policy evidence. As donor funding for public-good research becomes more constrained and increasingly oriented toward crisis response and climate finance, African policy research institutions face growing pressure to move beyond standalone studies toward co-created, delivery-oriented collaboration models that link research, policy, and investment.

The session positioned ANAPRI as a continental coordination platform capable of aligning national think tanks with regional and global partners to ensure that African priorities remain central to the design and implementation of food systems interventions. Emphasis was placed on shifting from fragmented engagements toward joint delivery platforms, strengthened coalitions, and structured public–private partnerships that can translate evidence into scalable policy and investment outcomes. The session also served as a forward-looking alignment space, outlining collaboration priorities for 2026 and beyond and formalising commitments through the signing of Letters of Cooperation.

6.2. Session Objectives

- Position ANAPRI and its partners around a clear, forward-looking collaboration agenda for 2026–2028.
- Showcase existing and emerging partnerships that will anchor coordinated food systems transformation initiatives across Africa.
- Affirm ANAPRI's role as a convening, coordination, and delivery platform linking research, policy, and investment actors; and
- Formalise collaboration principles and priority areas through the signing of Letters of Cooperation, reinforcing shared commitments to evidence-based action.

6.3. Key contributors and participants

The session brought together senior representatives from leading continental, regional, and global organisations working across policy research, development finance, technical assistance, and private-sector engagement.

- **Co-facilitators:** Dr. Zena Mpenda (ANAPRI) and Dr. Antony Chapoto (ANAPRI)
- **Partner presentations and contributors:**
    - Jonathan Said, AGRA,
    - Dr. Cheickh Sadibou Fall, International Fertilizer Development Centre (IFDC),
    - Mrs Akinyi Linda Koi, Sustain Agriculture Foundation – Africa (SAF-A),
    - Marco Sánchez, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO),

- Dr. Sergiy Zorya, World Bank,
- Dr. Debisi Araba, Akademiya 2063,
- Dr. Innocent Okuku, Africa Fertiliser Industry Development Association (AFIDA),

- **Closing reflections:** Dr. Antony Chapoto (ANAPRI), highlighting the strategic importance of partnerships, coalition-building, and private-sector engagement in scaling impact and sustaining relevance.
- **Rapporteurs:** Lusungu Matemanga (ANAPRI) and Othalia Moukilou (ANAPRI)

6.4. Session Outcomes

Strategic partnerships are central to ANAPRI's mission to strengthen evidence-based policymaking and drive agricultural transformation across Africa. No single institution can address the continent's complex food system challenges alone; collaboration is therefore essential to generate high-quality evidence, harmonise policy efforts, and scale innovations. By working closely with global, regional, and national organisations, ANAPRI enhances its analytical capacity, expands its policy influence, and accelerates the uptake of actionable research. **Table 10** outlines several partnerships that enable ANAPRI to bridge the gap between research and implementation, mobilise resources, and deliver coordinated support to governments as they pursue resilient, inclusive, and sustainable agrifood systems.

Table 10: ANAPRI's institutional partners and strategic areas of collaboration

Partner	Focus Areas	Strategic Areas of Collaboration with ANAPRI
World Bank	Global development institution supporting policy reforms, agricultural financing, soil health, and ag-incentives data systems.	• Joint work on AgIncentives data collection and e-seminars. • ANAPRI as an official knowledge partner. • Collaboration on soil health support and "Farmer Know Your Soil" across six countries.
FAO	UN agency focused on systems thinking, food security, foresight, policy modelling, and monitoring.	• Integrate and operationalise systems thinking and foresight tools. • Joint validation of modelling tools; expert consultations. • Support policy monitoring, modelling, and calibration of FAO tools with ANAPRI country data. • Enhance evidence uptake by policymakers.
AGRA	A continental focus on supporting inclusive agricultural transformation, market systems, and policy alignment.	• Joint analytical work (e.g., PPVC). • Regional value-chain and trade analysis aligned with AfCFTA. • Support domestication of AFSH-AP. • Collaboration on youth, gender, and inclusivity. • Forthcoming MoU (2026).
IFDC	Fertiliser and soil health institution focused on input markets, soil fertility, and policy reforms.	• Collaboration on soil health and input market development. • Support AFSH-AP domestication. • Joint rollout of Farmer Know Your Soil (e.g., Senegal). • Harmonisation of fertiliser quality standards and advocacy.
AFIDA	The premier continental fertiliser industry association supporting policy reform, quality standards, and market development.	• Research on fertiliser subsidies and market reforms. • Harmonisation of fertiliser standards and registration systems. • Support Farmer Know Your Soil and public information campaigns. • Advocacy on sustainable fertiliser use.

Partner	Focus Areas	Strategic Areas of Collaboration with ANAPRI
SAF-A	Advancing climate-smart agriculture, farmer inclusion, and data-driven adaptation.	• Scaling the Africa Adaptation Atlas (data validation, new notebooks, national databases). • Collaboration on soil health technologies. • Co-develop training programmes and national dialogues. • Joint resource mobilisation and proposal development.
AKADEMIYA2063	Pan-African research institution focused on analytics, foresight, and policy support for Agenda 2063.	• Joint research, analytics, and regional evidence generation. • Coordination of continental policy dialogues and harmonisation efforts. • Mutual support in strengthening Africa's evidence ecosystem.

ANAPRI intends to leverage these partnerships to deepen its policy impact and broaden its reach across national, regional, and continental levels. By aligning with organisations that bring complementary strengths - global analytical tools from FAO, financial and policy leverage from the World Bank, implementation networks from AGRA and SAF-A, soil health expertise from IFDC and AFIDA, and continental foresight leadership from AKADEMIYA2063 - ANAPRI can drive more coherent, scalable, and evidence-based reforms. These collaborations will also enhance ANAPRI's capacity to support the domestication of CAADP 3.0, strengthen data ecosystems, expand climate adaptation analytics, and bridge the gap between research and policy implementation. Ultimately, these partnerships position ANAPRI to act as a unifying platform for African-led solutions, fostering transformation that is both locally grounded and continentally coordinated. To demonstrate this intent, Memoranda of Understanding were signed between ANAPRI and AKADEMIYA 2063, AFIDA and SAF-A.

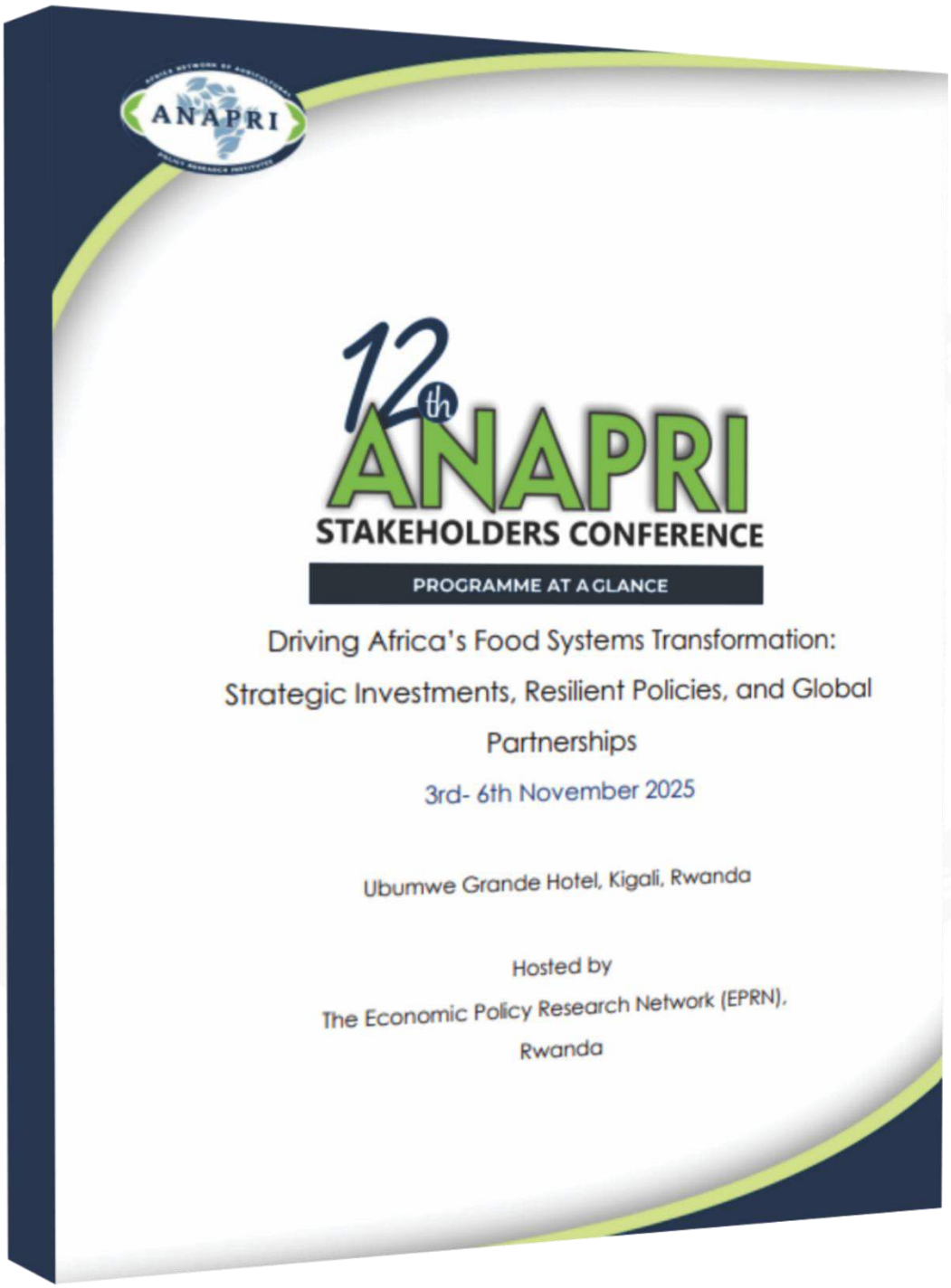
From left to right: Mrs Akinyi Linda Koi (Executive Director, SAF-A) and Dr Antony Chapoto (Executive Director, ANAPRI), during the signing of the MoU between ANAPRI and SAF-A.

From left to right: Dr Debisi Araba (Managing Director, AKADEMIYA2063) and Dr Antony Chapoto (Executive Director, ANAPRI), during the signing of the MoU between ANAPRI and AKADEMIYA2063.

From left to right: Dr Innocent Okuku (Executive Director, AFIDA) and Dr Antony Chapoto (Executive Director, ANAPRI), during the signing of the MoU between ANAPRI and AFIDA.

From left to right: Prof Thinah Moyo (APRI-NUST, Dr Djiby DIA (ISRA-BAME), Dr Antony Chapoto (Executive Director, ANAPRI), Dr Ndeyè Fatou (ISRA-BAME), Dr Salomo Mbai (APRI-NUST), presenting the signed MoU to the ANAPRI Board

ANNEXURE 1: Conference Programme

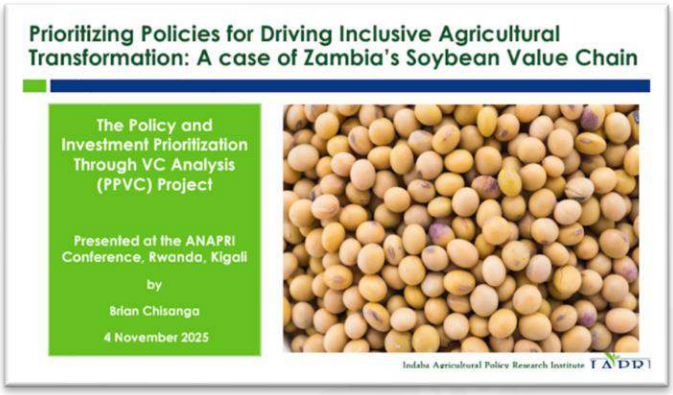


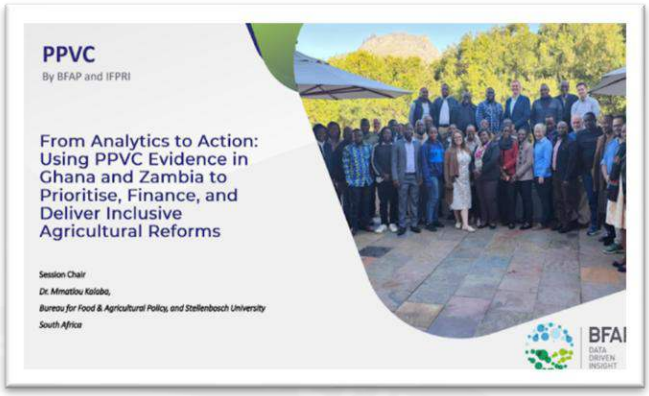
Download the conference programme here.

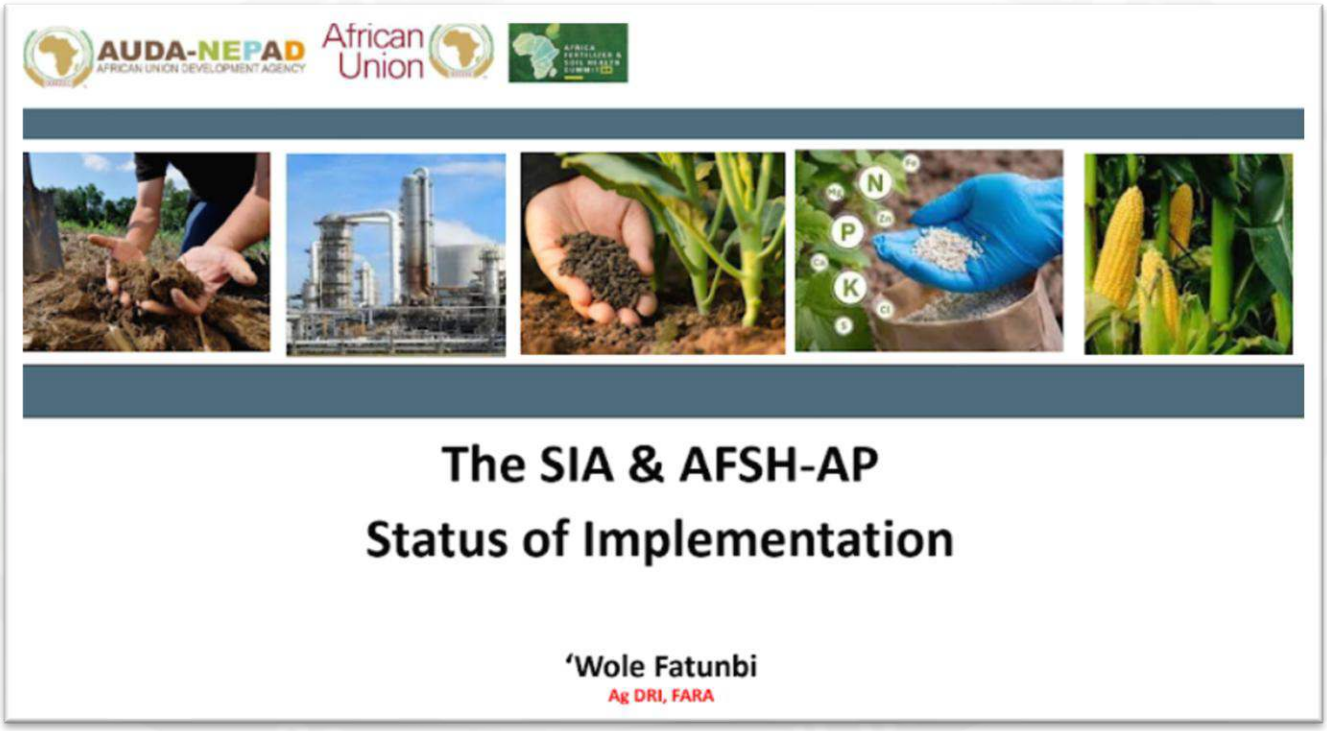
ANNEXURE 2: Conference in Pictures

For more conference pictures, click here

ANNEXURE 3: Conference Resources







For presentations made at the conference, click here