

MALAWI



Republic of Malawi

CAADP BIENNIAL REVIEW BRIEF

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Africa Agriculture Transformation Scorecard Performance and Lessons



Africa Agriculture Transformation Scorecard Performance and Lessons for Malawi¹

1. Introduction

The seventh commitment of the 2014 Malabo Declaration focuses on strengthening mutual accountability to actions and results in the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). African Heads of State and Government committed to systematic regular reviews on the implementation of the Malabo Declaration through a biennial agriculture sector review process for tracking, monitoring, and reporting progress (AUC, 2014). In line with this commitment, the African Union Commission (AUC) and the African Union Development Agency–New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD), in collaboration with the regional economic communities (RECs), member states, and technical and development partners, designed and implemented the inaugural agriculture sector Biennial Review (BR) for the continent. African Union (AU) member states participated in the BR process, self-reporting on progress made in the implementation of the seven Malabo commitments. The results of the BR process were presented at the 30th General Assembly of the AU in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2018.

In line with the continental commitment on mutual accountability, Malawi implemented the BR process to track progress in the implementation of the CAADP agenda, particularly the 2014 Malabo commitments. The process provided a platform for stakeholders in the agriculture sector (the public sector, private sector, development partners, civil society organizations, academia, and research institutions) to hold each other mutually accountable on both the financial and nonfinancial commitments they made on common development goals for the agriculture sector. The BR process also helped provide a platform for agriculture sector stakeholders to learn from each other (peer learning).

The objective of this brief is to present Malawi's performance and discuss lessons from the implementation of the inaugural CAADP BR mechanism. Based on the results, recommendations are proposed to help strengthen mutual accountability on actions and results and the performance of the agriculture sector in Malawi. The analysis is based on a review of the results of the inaugural BR report and Africa Agriculture Transformation Scorecard (AATS) that were presented to African Heads of State and Government in January 2018. Additional information was analysed using technical notes in the Malawi country BR report. Experiences and lessons from continental and regional engagements in the implementation of the BR process were also integrated into the analysis.

2. Overview and Structure of the BR Process in Malawi

Malawi is affiliated with two regional economic communities (RECs) in southern Africa: the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). In retrospect, SADC was the leading REC in the implementation of the BR process in the

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region. ReSAKSS-SA, as the lead technical partner to the AUC and AUDA-NEPAD, supported Malawi after the regional trainings (BR backstopping process) for the smooth implementation of the country BR roadmaps.

The BR process in Malawi started with the regional training in April 2017, organized by COMESA and AUC. The training was attended by a team of three officers (a CAADP focal person, a chief economist responsible for M&E, and the principal statistician). Given the tight deadline for submission, the team developed a roadmap to guide the entire process to ensure stakeholder buy-in, coordination, and timely delivery of the country report.

In line with the roadmap, the team briefed management on the BR exercise and mobilized an internal data collection team supported by research analysts from the policy support project in the ministry of agriculture. To expedite the process the team ensured that all existing data from the ministry was collected and populated into the data collection tool. With this effort, over half of the BR indicators were collected, entered, computed, and filled into the reporting template.

The ministry then organized a on Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E Technical Working Group (M&W TWG) to brief the other agriculture sector stakeholders on the BR process and solicit members' commitment to participate and provide the necessary data for the exercise. The TWG also served as a platform for technical validation of data collected and computed indicators. This process led to increased awareness of the BR process and provided contacts in institutions from which data would be collected. From this exercise, a total of 31 indicators were completed.

As required, before submitting the report to a (REC, the M&E TWG convened a validation meeting with expanded participation to ensure broader stakeholder representation. The report was also submitted to the ministry's senior management for endorsement before submission. The two meetings helped to increase coverage of indicators from an initial 31 to 35 out of the total 43 indicators, because some of the stakeholders who participated in the meetings helped to provide missing data from their respective data systems or provided critical links to data sources.

This first part of this brief details Malawi's performance at both the continental and regional levels, using the results of the BR process. The second part summarizes experiences and lessons from the inaugural BR process in Malawi and the Southern Africa region; it highlights what made the BR process a success in the region and what still needs to be improved so that in the future the process can be carried out effectively and efficiently to yield better results.

3. Agriculture Transformation Scorecard Performance

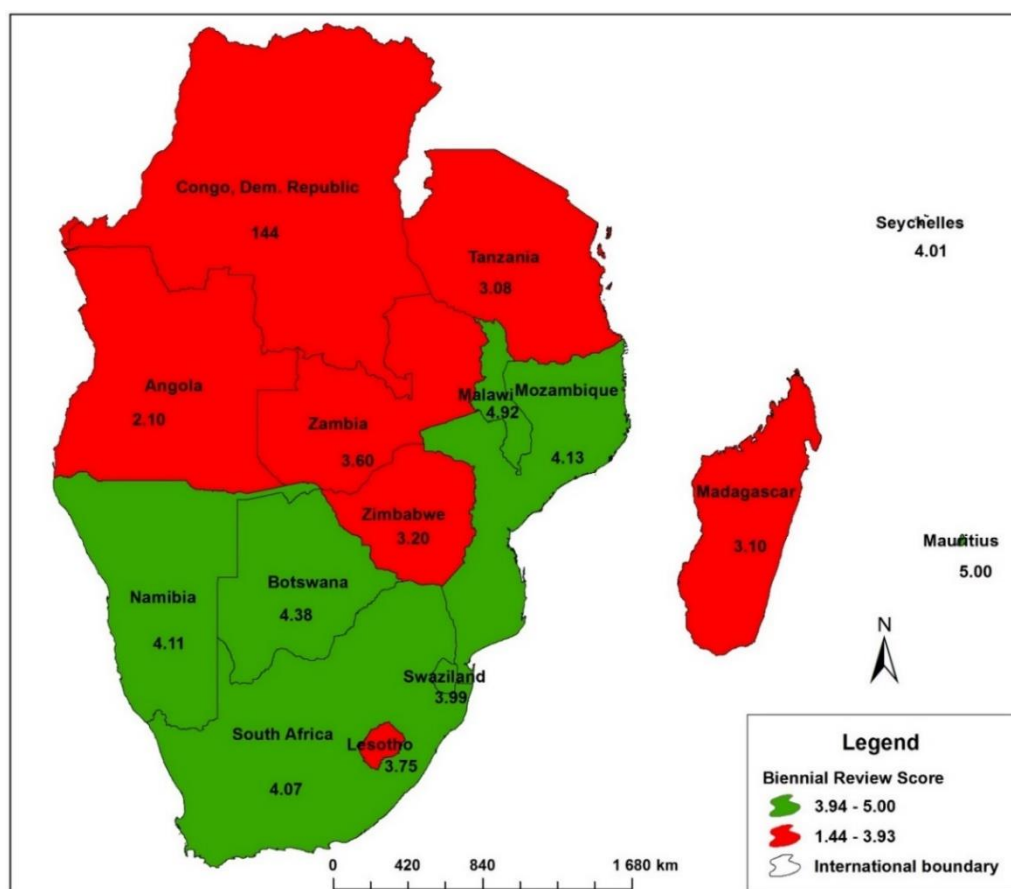
The results of the Africa Agriculture Transformation Scorecard are presented in Figure 1. For the 2017 BR, the benchmark (minimum) score for a country to be on track in implementing Malabo Declaration commitments was 3.94 out of 10 (AUC, 2018). Countries with scores in green are on track, while countries with scores in red are not. Malawi achieved an overall score of **4.92** indicating it is on track to meet the Malabo/CAADP targets. Malawi is among the 8 out of 15 SADC countries that are on track (Figure 2).

Figure 1: Results of the 2017 Africa Agriculture Transformation Scorecard

Country overall progress for implementing the Malabo Declaration for Agriculture transformation in Africa							
<p>Against the 2017 benchmark of 3.9 out of 10 which is the minimum score for a country to be on track for implementing the Malabo Declaration, countries whose score (out of 10) appears in "green" are ON TRACK, and countries whose score appears in "red" are NOT ON TRACK for the 2017 reporting exercise to the January 2018 AU Assembly.</p>							
Algeria	Angola	Benin	Botswana	Burundi	Burkina Faso	Cameroon	Cabo Verde
n.a	2.1	4.3	4.4	4.7	4.2	2.1	4.6
Central African Rep.	Chad	Comoros	Congo	Côte d'Ivoire	DR Congo	Djibouti	Egypt
2.4	2.2	n.a	2.8	3.5	1.4	3.2	3.4
Equatorial Guinea	Eritrea	Ethiopia	Gabon	Gambia	Ghana	Guinea	Guinea-Bissau
3.6	n.a	5.3	2.9	3.1	3.9	3.3	n.a
Kenya	Lesotho	Liberia	Libya	Madagascar	Malawi	Mali	Mauritania
4.8	3.7	0.9	n.a	3.1	4.9	5.6	4.8
Mauritius	Morocco	Mozambique	Namibia	Niger	Nigeria	Rwanda	Rep. A. Saharawi
5.0	5.5	4.1	4.1	3.5	3.4	6.1	n.a
São Tomé & Príncipe	Senegal	Seychelles	Sierra Leone	Somalia	South Africa	South Sudan	Sudan
1.5	3.8	4.0	1.5	n.a	4.1	n.a	1.9
Swaziland	Tanzania	Togo	Tunisia	Uganda	Zambia	Zimbabwe	2017 Benchmark
4.0	3.1	4.9	1.7	4.4	3.6	3.2	3.9

Source: AUC, 2018

Figure 2: Summary of Country BR Scores in the SADC Region



Source: Authors illustration based on data from AUC, 2018.

The 2017 Malawi BR Report includes 23 performance categories and 43 indicators that were clearly defined for the seven thematic areas of performance aligned to the Malabo commitments. These were used to evaluate each country's performance toward achieving agricultural growth and continental transformation goals. Malawi was among the regional contingent of countries that submitted their validated BR reports to SADC, which together with ReSAKSS-SA vetted the report, created the country profile, and then submitted both the BR report and the country profile to the AUC. The AUC and NPCA, with support from the RECs and technical partners, prepared the scorecard shown in Figure 1, which was presented at the 30th African Union Assembly in January 2018.

Table 1 shows that the SADC region did well and is on track in four thematic areas: recommitment to the CAADP process; halving poverty through agriculture by 2025; boosting intra-Africa trade in agricultural commodities; and commitment to mutual accountability for actions and results. Although there are obvious country variations, the SADC region as a whole needs to pay attention to three thematic areas where it was not on track: ending hunger by 2025; enhancing resilience to climate variability; and enhancing investment in agricultural finance.

Malawi performed well (above the minimum score) and is on track in four thematic areas: the recommitment to the CAADP process; enhancing agricultural finance; boosting intra-Africa trade in agricultural commodities; and commitment to mutual accountability for action and results (as depicted in Table 1). Malawi submitted 86 percent of the required data, indicating that most of the indicators were reported on. But there are still data gaps that need to be filled.

Table 1: Summary of Malawi's BR Results Relative to the SADC Average, by Theme

	Recommitment to CAADP	Enhancing Agriculture Finance	Ending Hunger by 2025	Halving Poverty through Agriculture	Boosting Intra-Africa Trade in Agriculture	Enhancing Resilience to Climate Change	Mutual Accountability for Actions & Results	Average
Malawi	7,20	4,92	2,09	4,98	1,36	4,65	9,24	4,92
SADC Average*	5,72	4,47	2,26	2,59	3,22	3,94	5,94	4,02
SADC LI	5,91	3,04	1,91	2,17	1,49	3,17	4,78	3,21
SADC MI	5,00	5,04	2,32	2,45	4,02	4,06	6,42	4,19
Minimum Score	3,33	6,67	3,71	2,06	1,00	6,00	4,78	3,94
Malawi's Progress	On Track	On Track	Not on Track	On Track	On Track	Not on Track	On Track	On Track

Notes: SADC lower income (LI) countries: Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe.

SADC middle income (MI) countries: Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Eswatini, and Zambia.

*Tanzania was not included in the SADC average or in SADC LI countries because it was grouped in the East African Community.

4. Experiences and Lessons from the Implementation of the BR Process in Malawi

- *Participation at BR training workshop and dissemination of BR report in the country.* Malawi selected and sent the right candidates to the regional training (the CAADP focal person, economist, and statistician).
- *Stocktaking of data and developing a clear BR roadmap.* During the regional training, the Malawi BR team undertook a stocktaking of the available data. This enabled them to draw a roadmap that was later followed while implementing the BR process in the country.
- *Raising awareness and fostering ownership of the BR process.* The Malawi BR team created a good level of awareness of the BR process and the country took strong ownership of the process.
- *Physical and virtual backstopping by ReSAKSS-SA.* ReSAKSS-SA team provided backstopping and training support to countries in the region including Malawi.
- *Embracing the use of communication technology applications.* The Malawi BR team tapped into communication platforms such as WhatsApp to share milestones with the other country BR teams in the region and also between the technical experts and country BR teams.

5. Conclusion

The results show that Malawi is on track to achieving Malabo Declaration commitments based on the inaugural BR report. However, this does not imply that it will stay on track in the next round. Malawi is still quite a long way from ending hunger and halving poverty through agriculture by 2025. There is still tremendous work that needs to be done in order to enhance resilience against climate change. This indicates that to surpass the minimum benchmark set for the next round, Malawi needs to concentrate its efforts both on the themes it was on track and those it was not. Key policy issues and recommendations for Malawi to advance its progress toward achieving the Malabo commitments include:

- Investing more in productivity enhancing inputs including irrigation, and modern technology including improved seeds.
- Investing in resilience building, as well as agriculture insurance schemes to enhance resilience
- Strengthening mutual accountability processes and embedding the BR process in the agriculture Joint Sector Review process to ensure that they are more participatory and inclusive.
- Strengthening of M&E and agriculture data systems: Malawi's current performance shows a number of data gaps indicating that either the data could not be gathered in time for the inaugural reporting or it was not available. Strengthening M&E and agriculture data systems should help the country to systematically track performance of the National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plans (NAFSIP) and Malabo commitments indicators.
- Coordination with other ministries and agriculture sector technical institutions: This is linked to the data gaps highlighted above, improving coordination with other ministries and technical partners that collect data on different Malabo indicators is necessary to support and track implementation of the NAFSIP.

- Strengthening integration and implementation of Malabo commitments in the NAFSIP: While Malawi performed well on some indicators, it is important that it improves performance across all the 7 commitment areas of the Malabo Declaration.

6. References

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This brief was prepared by the Malawi Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development with technical support from the Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System for Southern Africa (ReSAKSS-SA).

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