

INVITE



Africa's Agriculture Development Program 2026–2035: Dream or Reality?

Aligning Dutch food security policy with CAADP, focusing on smallholder farmers

The African Union adopted a new ten-year action plan to transform Africa's agri-food systems and boost local food security. The upcoming foodFIRST dialogue session will explore how future Dutch food security policy and *Dutch Diamond* actors could support the plan's implementation, with its key agricultural and governance challenges. This first dialogue in a series on CAADP will emphasise the prospective of smallholder farmers and local food systems across Africa.

Program

- 15:00 **Opening remarks** by Ewald Wermuth (Chair foodFIRST)
- 15:05 **Keynote: Effectiveness of CAADP for Smallholders**
by Stephen Muchiri (CEO Eastern Africa Farmers Federation)
- 15:25 **Keynote: Governance and the ATA Model**
by Khalid Bomba (CEO Development Sovereignty Group)
- 15:45 **Response: Sustainability in CAADP**
by Duncan Williamson (IIED)
- 15:53 **Response: Implementing CAADP in Fragile Contexts**
by Timmo Gaasbeek (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
- 16:00 **Coffee & Tea break**
- 16:10 **Panel discussion with audience & private sector input**
- 17:05 **Wrap-up**
- 17:15 **Networking & drinks**



June 12, 2025, 15:00 – 18:15, including networking & drinks



foodFIRST, Sijthoff Offices, Grote Marktstraat 45, Den Haag

Registration via forms.office.com/e/TTbnNsxZVv

Africa's CAADP 2026-2035 ambitions

Africa's political leaders have launched a new 10-year strategy (2026–2035) with concrete targets, including the increase of Africa's agri-food output by 45% and achieving food security through more sustainable and integrated agri-food systems. Adopted at the recent African Union summit ([Kampala Declaration on CAADP 2026–2035](#)), the plan focuses on supporting smallholder farmers, women, and youth, while addressing challenges like land degradation, insecure land tenure, and low investment in soil health. Key goals are halving post-harvest losses, tripling intra-African agri-food trade, increasing local food processing to 35% of agrifood GDP by 2035, and mobilising \$100 billion in public and private investments. The strategy also commits to dedicating 10% of national budgets and 15% of agri-food GDP to the sector annually, reducing extreme poverty by half, and ensuring 30% of farmland is sustainably managed and 40% of households are protected from climate and economic shocks by 2035.

Event objectives

This first event in a foodFIRST-series focused on delivering Africa's CAADP agenda, explores how the Netherlands and its stakeholders can align its future food security agenda with Africa's strategic goals and contribute meaningfully to the implementation of CAADP through the priorities outlined in [Minister Klever's 2024 policy letter](#). The letter emphasises opportunities for collaboration, in particular the support of smallholder farmers who face ongoing challenges despite the CAADP framework.

The key discussion questions include: how CAADP's implementation has been thus far; how relevant transformative governance models such as Ethiopia's Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA) are; how Dutch actors can assist African governments and stakeholders politically and through partnerships; how to ensure integrated approaches promoting food sovereignty, biodiversity, and climate resilience; what the role of smallholder farmers should be in stability and conflict resolution; how the local food processing can be supported through Dutch trade and investment; how African countries could be prioritised considering geopolitical and funding realities. By bringing together diverse stakeholders, this event aims to initiate practical, action-oriented dialogue to support Africa's food systems transformation and strengthen cooperation.

Ultimately, the event seeks to come up with concrete policy advice and actionable perspectives for Dutch stakeholders, rooted in the African-led strategies and aligned with Dutch priorities on trade, developmental cooperation, and stability.

Program Flow

The event is structured around four angles each linked to Dutch priorities: effectiveness, governance, sustainability and fragility.

- **Stephen Muchiri** opens by assessing CAADP performance so far and its effectiveness for smallholders, highlighting both promise and structural weaknesses.
- **Khalid Bomba** follows with the governance lens, including insights from Ethiopia's ATA model, offering lessons for scalable and transformative institutional innovation.
- **Duncan Williamson** brings the sustainability dimension, with a focus on land use and agro-ecological resilience.
- **Timmo Gaasbeek** adds a fragility perspective, addressing risks in conflict-prone areas where Dutch policy also intersects with migration and security concerns.

Speaker Profiles



Stephen Muchiri is the CEO of the Eastern Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF), representing over 20 million farmers across 10 countries. With over 20 years of experience in agriculture, he leads EAFF's work in advocacy, capacity building, and farmer organization. He previously held senior roles in Kenya's horticulture export sector.



Khalid Bomba is the CEO and Managing Director of the Development Sovereignty Group (DSG). He previously served as CEO of Ethiopia's Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA) for a decade, leading one of Africa's most recognized institutional models for agri-food reform. He has also held senior leadership roles at the FAO, World Food Programme, and Mastercard Foundation, with a focus on innovation, policy delivery, and systemic transformation in agri-food systems.



Duncan Williamson is the food systems lead and principal researcher, specializing in sustainable food systems with over 20 years of experience. He has worked with major organizations including WWF, Forum for the Future, Action Against Hunger, and Rainforest Alliance. His expertise lies in sustainable diets, agroecology, and agrobiodiversity.



Dr. Timmo Gaasbeek, Policy Coordinating Officer at the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, brings 25 years of expertise at the nexus of food security, water management, conflict, and climate change, with extensive experience across NGOs, academia, and government in Asia and Africa.

A private sector voice will contribute during the panel discussion, linking Dutch commercial involvement to fragile contexts and development impact.