



FANRPAN Strategy 2025-2035

The 2025-2035 Strategic Plan of the Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) outlines a renewed vision and strategic direction to respond to Africa's evolving food systems challenges. Building on the lessons and achievements of the 2016-2024 strategy, this new roadmap reaffirms FANRPAN's mission to promote an enabling policy environment for the transformation of agriculture and food systems across Africa.

About FANRPAN

The Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) is an autonomous, multi-stakeholder policy network dedicated to coordinating agricultural policy research, analysis, and dialogue. It promotes the dissemination of policy-relevant research findings across Africa and serves as a platform for engaging all agrifood systems stakeholders.

Established in response to a 1994 call by the Ministers of Agriculture from Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) for a regional agricultural policy research network, FANRPAN is designed to strengthen indigenous capacity for policy formulation and reduce reliance on foreign expertise in developing agricultural policies and food and nutrition security strategies (COMESA Gazette, 1994). In 2010, following interest from countries beyond the ESA region, FANRPAN's mandate was expanded to cover the entire African continent.

FANRPAN's work is anchored in a bold vision and a clear mission that guides its strategic direction and programming.

Vision

Resilient African agriculture and food systems, in harmony with nature, delivering prosperity and health for all.

Mission

Promote an enabling policy environment for the transformation of agrifood systems in Africa.

Addressing Africa's food systems challenges

The state of agriculture and food (agrifood) systems in Africa is marked by significant challenges and opportunities. While agricultural productivity remains low in many regions due to inadequate policies, limited access to modern technologies, poor infrastructure, and climate variability, there is considerable potential for growth through the adoption of innovative farming practices, improved agricultural education, and expanded extension services. Despite these challenges, the demand for more diverse and nutritious food, driven by urbanization and changing consumer preferences, presents opportunities for agribusiness growth and innovation.

The main challenges facing African agrifood systems are not limited to agriculture but extend to broader megatrends such as rapid urbanization, shifts in food demand, climate change, technological advances, and geopolitical factors like the COVID-19 pandemic. These challenges contribute to rising hunger and poverty, with one in four people in Africa experiencing hunger, and the continent's systems failing to meet the needs of its growing population.

Additionally, Africa's agrifood systems contribute significantly to environmental degradation, biodiversity loss, and global greenhouse gas emissions. Outdated farming practices, low adoption of improved technologies, poor soil health, and infrastructure deficiencies exacerbate these issues.

Agrifood policies in Africa have historically prioritized cereal adequacy and general food security, often at the expense of a more holistic focus on food and nutrition security. This narrow approach contributes to persistent and widespread malnutrition across the continent, particularly among vulnerable populations such as women, children, and youth.

FANRPAN recognizes its unique position to support countries throughout the policy cycle, from formulation to implementation, monitoring, and learning. The network continues to deepen its collaborations with Regional Economic Communities, the African Union, research institutions, farmers, and civil society to ensure inclusive and responsive policy environments. Guided by frameworks such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Food Systems Summit Action Tracks, the AU's Agenda 2063, the Comprehensive Africa agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) emerging opportunities, including youth-led innovation, AI-driven agriculture, and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), FANRPAN is poised to deliver a strategy that empowers African countries to build sustainable, resilient, and inclusive agrifood systems for future generations.

Our Strategic Framework

FANRPAN's Strategic Framework guides the organisation's contribution to Africa's transformation of agrifood systems. It is anchored in continental and regional policy frameworks and designed to strengthen the link between evidence, policy, and implementation. Through this framework, FANRPAN supports countries and regional institutions to domesticate and implement key African and global commitments that advance resilient, inclusive, and sustainable agrifood systems.

Our work is organised around **four strategic areas**, implemented across **seven (7) thematic focus areas**.

Strategic Areas

Policy Research and Analysis

FANRPAN generates high-quality, policy-relevant evidence to inform agrifood systems decision-making.

Knowledge Management and Advocacy

FANRPAN translates complex evidence into accessible knowledge and advocacy products that inform policy dialogue and reform.

Capacity Strengthening

FANRPAN strengthens the capacity of institutions and individuals to engage effectively in agrifood systems policy processes.

Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning

FANRPAN promotes accountability, learning, and continuous improvement across all programmes to strengthen evidence-informed decision-making.

Thematic Focus Areas

FANRPAN implements its strategy across interconnected thematic areas that address the full spectrum of Africa's agrifood systems challenges:

- 1. Climate Change Resilience** – Strengthening national, regional, and continental policy frameworks to build climate-resilient, low-emission agrifood systems, aligned with the Paris Agreement, CAADP, the African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and the related Regional Economic Communities (RECs) climate change frameworks.
- 2. Nutrition and Sustainable Livelihoods** – Advancing integrated agrifood systems policies that improve nutrition and health outcomes, enhance food security, promote dietary diversity, and support inclusive and sustainable livelihoods across rural and urban value chains.
- 3. Natural Resources and Environment** – Supporting policy and regulatory reforms that promote sustainable land and water management, ecosystem restoration, biodiversity protection, bioeconomy and nature-based solutions to safeguard long-term agrifood systems productivity and resilience.
- 4. Trade and Markets** – Strengthening policy harmonisation, standards alignment, and regulatory coherence to enhance intra-African agri-food trade under the AfCFTA, ensuring smallholders, women, and youth can participate competitively in regional and global markets.
- 5. Investments in Agriculture** – Enabling evidence-based public and private investment frameworks that catalyse climate-smart, nutrition-sensitive, and inclusive agrifood value chains development, while strengthening domestic resource mobilisation and innovative financing mechanisms.
- 6. Technology and Innovation** – Promoting enabling governance environments for responsible and inclusive adoption of digital agriculture, biotechnology, data systems, climate information services, and emerging innovations that improve productivity, sustainability, and market access.
- 7. Gender, Equity, and Social Inclusion (GESI)** – Mainstreaming gender-responsive and socially inclusive approaches across agrifood systems policies to ensure equitable access to resources, services, markets, finance, technology, and decision-making for women, youth, and marginalised groups.

Delivering the FANRPAN Strategy

Achieving Africa's agrifood systems transformation requires collaboration, shared leadership, mutual accountability, and sustained investment. To deliver its 2024–2035 Strategic Plan, FANRPAN is implementing a robust, inclusive delivery model grounded in strong governance, strategic partnerships, and a comprehensive monitoring and resource mobilisation framework. We invite partners across sectors to join us in turning evidence into action at scale.

Contact

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