

# Declaration of the Conference

## 1. Background

The 'Scaling Access to Finance for Agripreneurs in Africa' conference brought together more than 100 delegates and experts from diverse stakeholder groups. Participants included representatives from government, financial institutions, the private sector, non-state organizations, international organizations, and development cooperation, representing 14 countries, primarily from Africa.

The outcome from this conference is a joint declaration which provides tangible recommendations to further implement the Kampala Declaration of the African Union's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) on "Building Resilient and Sustainable Agri-Food Systems in Africa" as committed to by the heads of state in January 2025.

This declaration is handed to AUDA-NEPAD as recommendations for the development of the Kampala implementations framework for the upcoming Kampala decade.

This declaration brings together recommendations on commitment II of the Kampala Declaration "Boosting investment and financing for accelerated Agrifood Systems transformation".

Four P4C ambassadors from this conference shall present the joint recommendations on scaling access to finance as input to the P4C Network Meeting 2026.

The following declaration is the participants commitment to support the transformation of Agri-Food Systems in their home countries by scaling access to finance for agripreneurs.

## 2. Preamble

We, the delegates gathered at the 'Scaling Access to Finance for agripreneurs in Africa' conference, inspired by the principles outlined in the CAADP Kampala Declaration, reaffirm our commitment to transforming Africa's Agri-Food System. Recognizing the critical role of agripreneurs in achieving food and nutrition security, household incomes, leading to economic growth, and poverty alleviation, we assert that scaling access to finance is a cornerstone of this transformation.

## 3. Acknowledgment of Challenges

We acknowledge that agripreneurs across Africa face numerous challenges in accessing the financial resources necessary to thrive, including:

1. Limited availability of tailored financial products that address the unique needs of agripreneurs.
2. Barriers to entry for smallholder farmers to access financial services and products.
3. Insufficient capacity-building initiatives aimed at enhancing financial capability among agripreneurs.
4. Weak environments to support business development.
5. The challenge of climate change and market uncertainties.

## 4. Recommendations

To drive sustainable transformation in the Agri-Food System, a collaborative approach involving public, multilateral, private and civil society stakeholders is essential. Recommendations in five key areas - derived from the more detailed annex attached to this declaration - are:

### A Improve the overall strategy for promoting Agri-Food Systems

1. Public-Private Sector Engagement: Achieve inclusive growth by fostering aligned public and private sector efforts, focusing on development and access of affordable financial services and products leveraging on information and communication technology (ICT).
2. Strengthen access to local, regional and global markets: access to market information and trade financing.

### B Improve regulatory frameworks

3. Strengthen regulatory frameworks: Ensure a coherent and adaptive regulatory framework for financial service providers which also protects the consumers and value chain actors (i.e. cyber security).
4. Create an enabling environment that ensures equal access to financial services and leverage the full potential of women, youth and differently abled persons.

### C Develop financial products/services tailored to agripreneurs

5. Enhance sustainable agricultural productivity and develop financial products tailored to the diverse needs of the Agri-Food System value chains, including climate sensitive and green financial products for investment in

processing, storage and transportation infrastructure.

### D Capacity building for all players in the Agri-Food System

6. Building Financial Capabilities: Scale training initiatives for both agripreneurs and financial institutions, to strengthen the capacity of all actors in the Agri-Food system.

### E Derisk and encourage financial institutions funding of investment in the Agri-Food System

7. Support to Financial Infrastructure: Private and public investments are needed to support digitizing of Agri-Food System financing.
8. Provision of concessional re-financing and capital for financial institutions for cheaper onward lending (e.g. blended finance).
9. Derisking financial services: Introduce risk management tools like credit guarantee schemes, insurance and climate smart approaches.

## 10. Conclusion

As we conclude this conference, we reaffirm our commitment to implement the CAADP Kampala Declaration. Let us work together to turn our recommendations into actions for scaling up access to finance, that will empower agripreneurs to drive the Agri-Food System transformation.

## 11. Signed

13th March 2025

- Country delegations from Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, Togo, Zambia
- Africa Business Angel Network (ABAN)
- African Union Development Agency (AUDA – NEPAD)
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
- ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID)
- European Investment Bank (EIB)
- Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
- German Sparkassenstiftung for International Cooperation
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- KfW Development Bank
- Making Finance Work for Africa (MFW4A)
- Partners for Change Ambassadors
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- UN World Food Programme (WFP)