



2024 CAADP-XP4 Joint Portfolio Review and Planning

2024 CAADP-XP4 Joint Portfolio Review and Planning Meeting

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Reference Sub-Activity

<i>FARA/CAADP-XP4/A5.1.3</i>

CAADP Ex-Pillar 4 Africa Regional and Sub-regional Organizations for Agricultural Research and Innovation (CAADP-XP4)



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1. Introduction

The 2024 CAADP-XP4 Joint Portfolio Review and Planning Meeting, organized by CORAF and held in Saly, Senegal, brought together key stakeholders to assess the progress of the CAADP-XP4 program and to strategically plan for the final year of implementation. Representatives from AFAAS, FARA, CORAF, ASARECA, and CCARDESA gathered to review milestones, identify pending tasks, and discuss new emerging priorities. The focus was on sustainability, agroecology, digitalization, and ensuring that the CAADP-XP4 program's legacy continues post-closure. This report provides a detailed review of the discussions, key decisions, and agreements made during the meeting, with a strong emphasis on the strategic rationale for requesting a one-year no-cost extension.

2. Implementation Plan During the Extension

The meeting had five clear objectives that structured the discussions over the three days:

- 3.1- Review of Project Progress: Assessing the milestones achieved under the CAADP-XP4 program and identifying any tasks that remain incomplete.
- 3.2- Justification for a No-Cost Extension: Reaching consensus on the need for a one-year extension to allow the consortium to complete key activities and integrate new, emerging topics.
- 3.3- Strategic Planning for the Final Year: Including emerging issues such as agroecology, digitalization, and soil management into the final work plan.
- 3.4- Closure Preparations: Developing a framework for the final technical and financial reports, as well as ensuring alignment with the European Commission (EC) audit.
- 3.5- Sustaining Project Gains Post-Closure: Formulating a strategy to ensure that the achievements of the CAADP-XP4 program are sustained beyond the project's closure through partnerships, especially with One-CGIAR.

3. Key Achievements and Discussions

The meeting began with opening remarks by IFAD and the Technical Chair, followed by presentations on the project's progress, the rationale for the no-cost extension, and strategic planning for the final year of the project. The Chair emphasized the importance of consolidating the project's achievements and defining clear priorities for the final year to ensure that resources are used efficiently and effectively.

3.A) Review of Project Progress

The meeting opened with an extensive review of the project's progress. The participants acknowledged that the CAADP-XP4 program had made significant strides in strengthening institutional capacity across African agricultural research, extension, and innovation organizations. A few major accomplishments include:

- ❖ **Capacity Strengthening (OUTPUT 1):** The program successfully built the capacity of regional and sub-regional agricultural research organizations. These organizations

are now better equipped to contribute to regional and continental policy debates, supporting the African Union and fostering collaboration across borders.

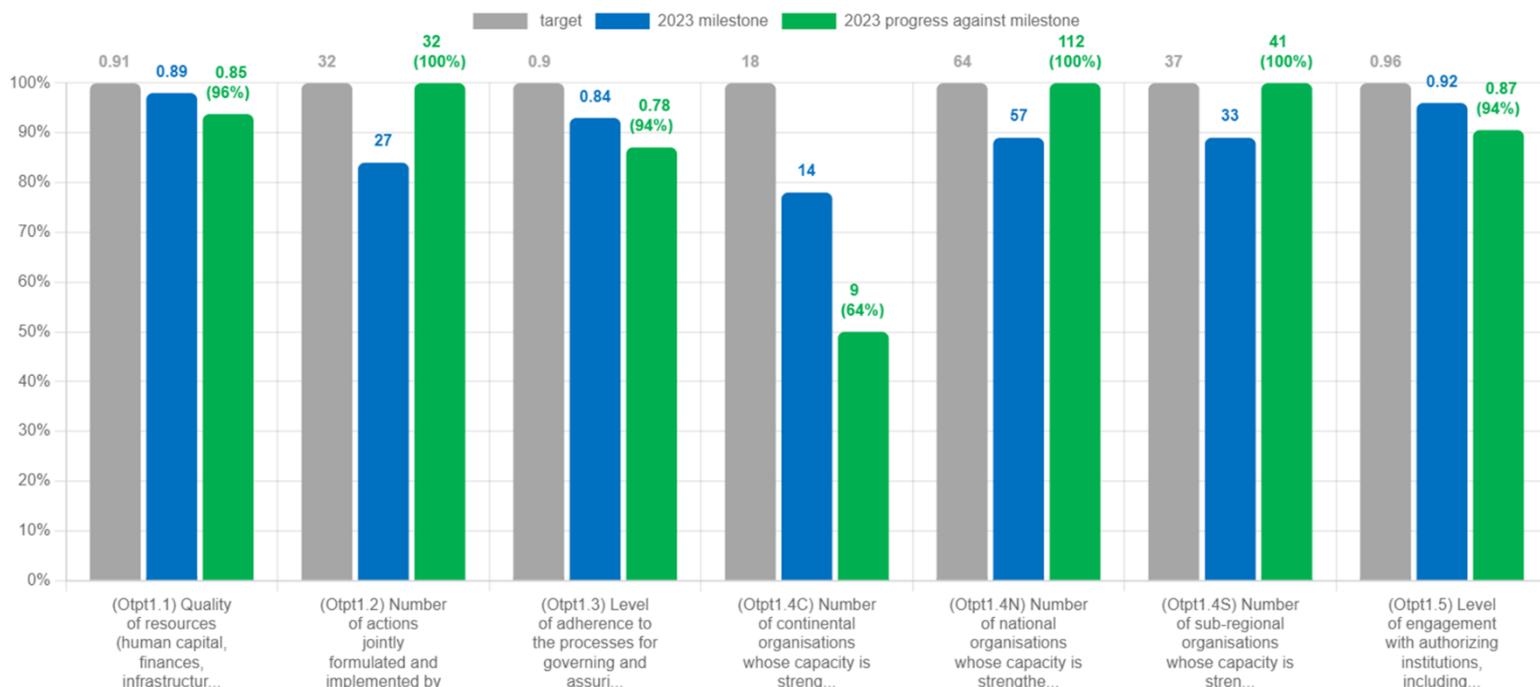
01 Progress Overview on Strengthening Capacity (OUTPUT 1)

CAADXP4 (all partners)

OTPTA1 | Strengthened Capacity of African region

2023

2023 CAADXP4 (all partners) M&E Results ...[Overall Progress: 92%]



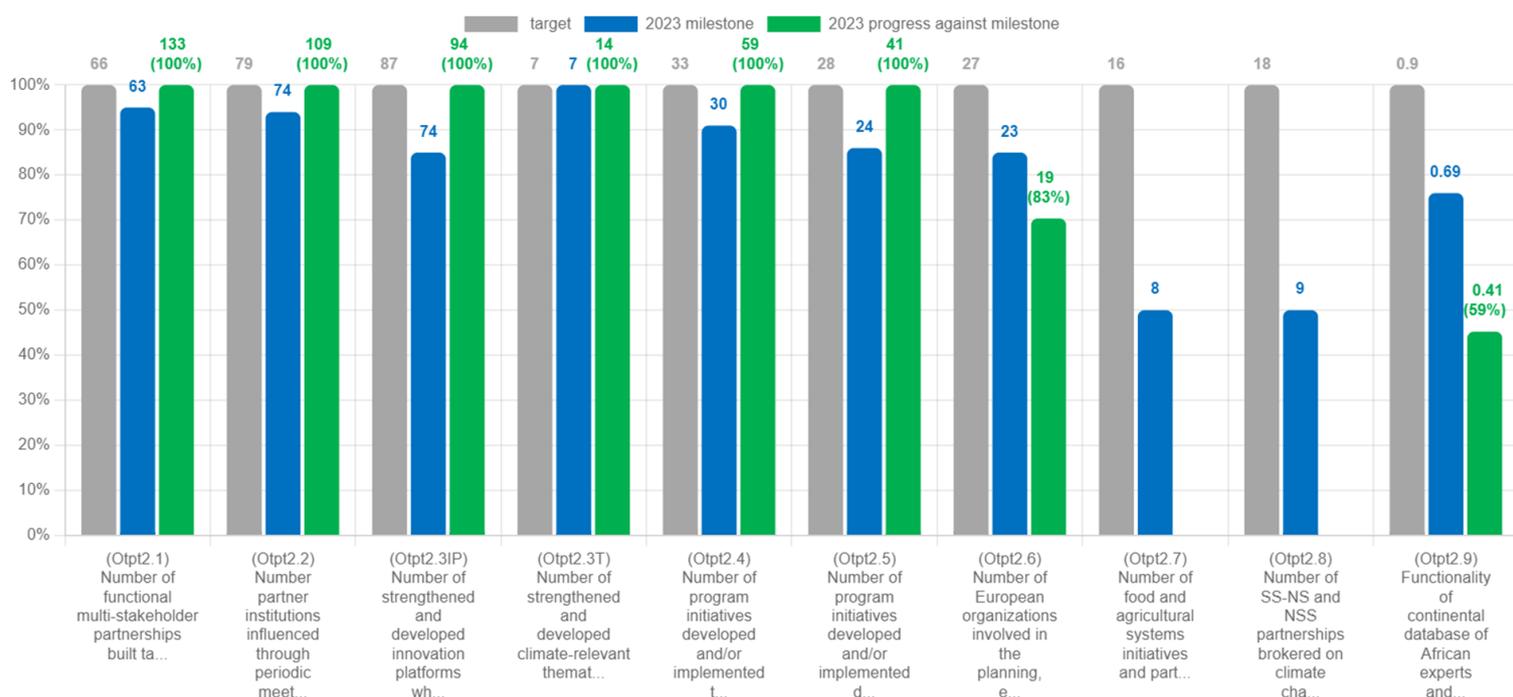
02 Progress Overview on Multi-stakeholder partnerships (OUTPUT 2)

CAADXP4 (all partners)

OTPTA2 | Enhanced partnerships among the multi

2023

2023 CAADXP4 (all partners) M&E Results ...[Overall Progress: 74%]



- ❖ **Partnership Building (OUTPUT 2):** The CAADP-XP4 program has forged strong partnerships between key stakeholders, including policymakers, the private sector, educational institutions, and agricultural research bodies. These partnerships are essential to driving agricultural innovation and policy reforms across Africa.

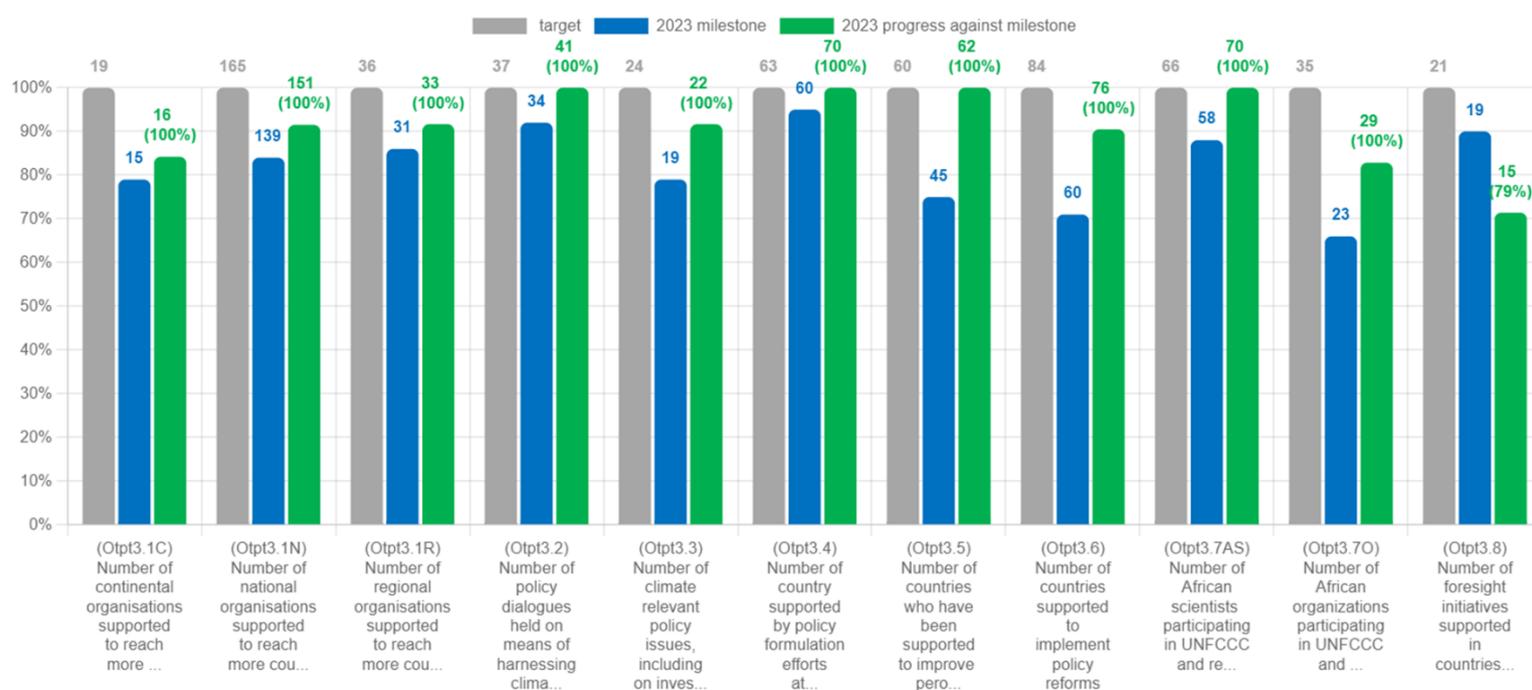
03 Progress Overview on Policy Support (OUTPUT 3)

CAADPXP4 (all partners)

OTPTA3 | Strengthened national policies, regional

2023

2023 CAADPXP4 (all partners) M&E Results ...[Overall Progress: 98%]



- ❖ **Policy Support (OUTPUT 3):** The CAADP-XP4 program enhanced policy support frameworks across participating countries, resulting in improved coordination of national agricultural policies. This progress will have long-term impacts on food security and agricultural development across Africa.
- ❖ **Knowledge Management (OUTPUT 4):** One of the key outputs of the program was the development of digital platforms and tools for managing agricultural knowledge. This is crucial for scaling up innovations, improving agricultural advisory services, and building a foundation for more effective agricultural extension systems.
- ❖ **Monitoring and Evaluation (OUTPUT 5):** The development of a robust Monitoring and Evaluation system (M&E), referred to as the CAADP-XP4 MEL, has improved the efficiency of reporting on program outputs and outcomes. This system will continue to be critical as the project enters its final phase.

Despite these successes, the participants recognized that a few tasks remain incomplete. These include the end-line survey, which is critical for evaluating the overall impact of the program, and final reporting tasks, which require more time for completion.

04

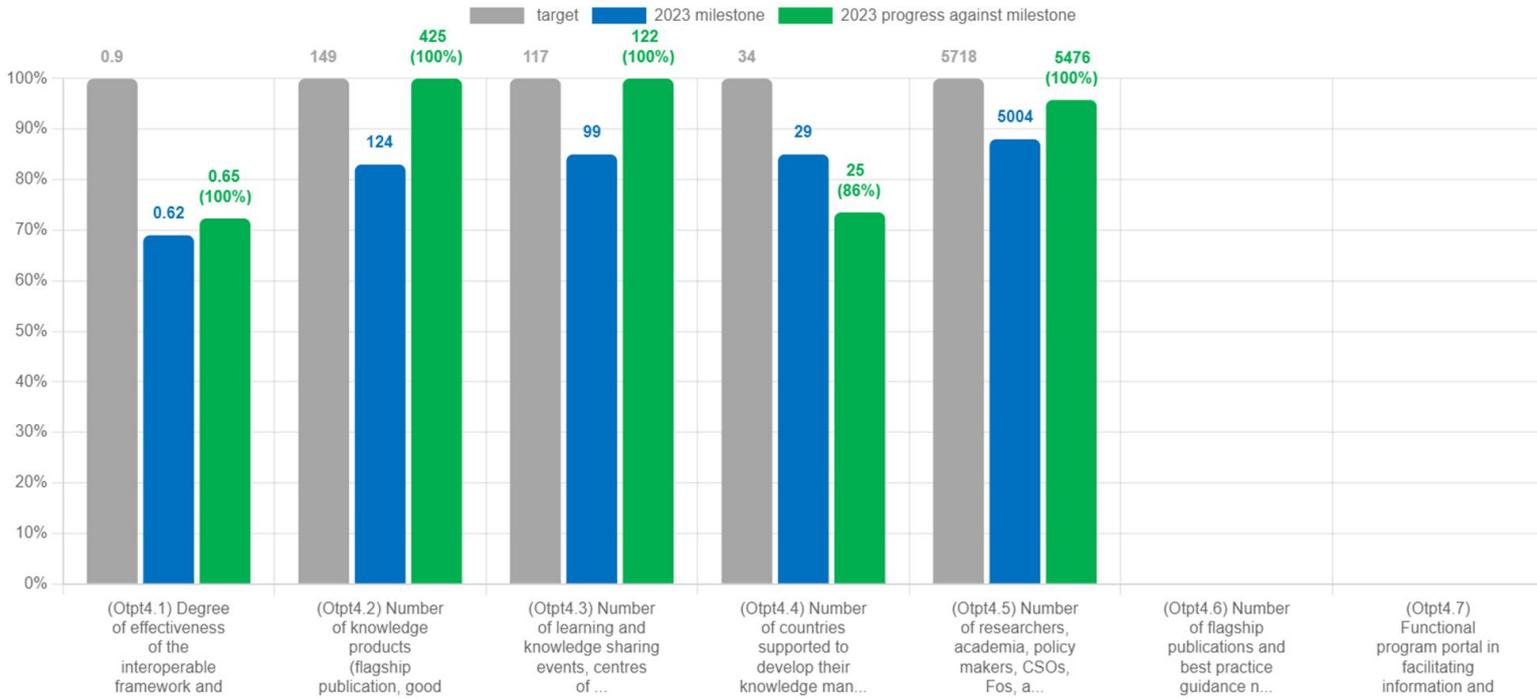
Progress Overview on Knowledge Management & Communication (OUTPUT 4)

CAADPXP4 (all partners)

OTPTA4 | Knowledge Management for advocacy a

2023

2023 CAADPXP4 (all partners) M&E Results ...[Overall Progress: 97%]



05

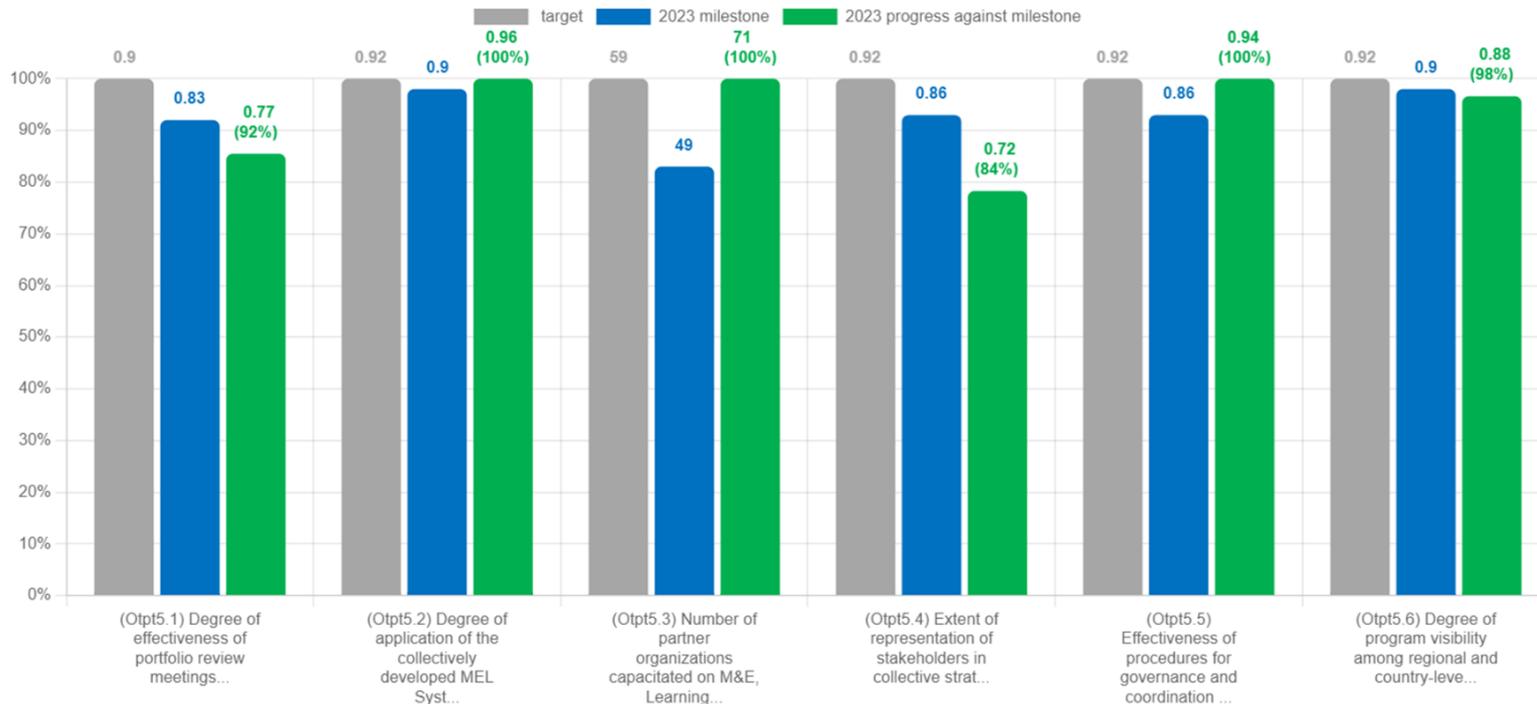
Progress Overview on Effective planning, coordination and MEL (OUTPUT 5)

CAADPXP4 (all partners)

OTPTA5 | Planning, Coordination, Monitoring, Eval

2023

2023 CAADPXP4 (all partners) M&E Results ...[Overall Progress: 96%]



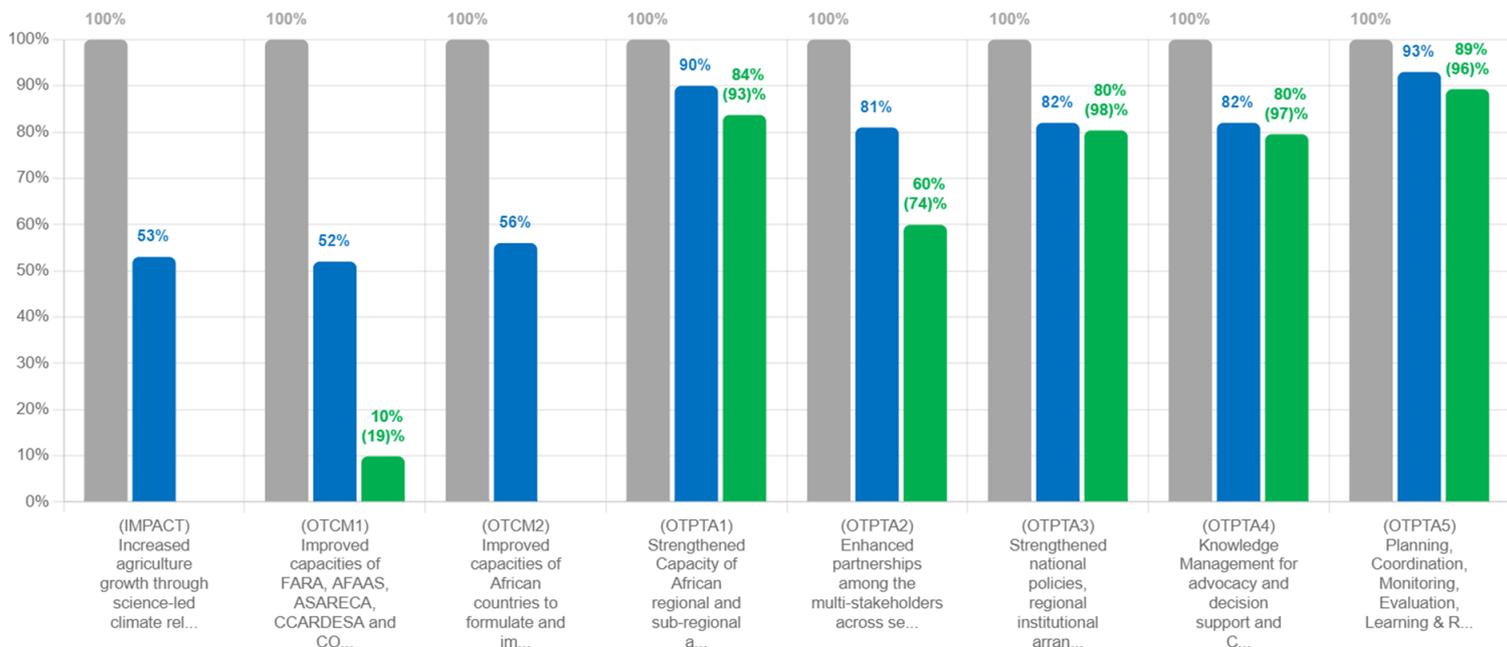
CAADXP4 (all partners)

--- All results ---

2023

2023 CAADXP4 (all partners) M&E Results ...[Overall Progress: 68%]

■ target ■ 2023 milestone ■ 2023 progress against milestone



3.B) Justification for a No-Cost Extension

One of the most important discussions during the meeting centered on the justification for a one-year no-cost extension. The participants reached a consensus that an extension was necessary for several reasons:

- ❖ **Pending Tasks:** The end-line survey, a key element for measuring the program's overall impact, cannot be completed within the current timeline. The survey is critical for evaluating the effectiveness of the program and capturing important data on outcomes achieved at the national, regional, and continental levels.
- ❖ **Emerging Issues:** New issues have emerged since the inception of the program, including the increasing importance of agroecology, digitalization, and the post-Malabo framework. These topics are now central to Africa's agricultural development strategy, and the consortium needs more time to fully integrate these priorities into its work.
- ❖ **Continental Initiatives:** Several continental initiatives have gained momentum, such as the Soil Initiative for Africa (SIA), the Common African Agro-Parks (CAAPs), and the Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan (AFSH-AP). These initiatives are critical to shaping Africa's agricultural future, and the CAADP-XP4 consortium must continue to support their implementation.
- ❖ **Financial Considerations:** The program has not exhausted its budget, and resources are still available to complete the pending tasks and align the project with emerging

priorities. The remaining funds can be effectively reallocated to ensure the program's success during the extended period.

The justification for the extension was strategically grounded in the need to consolidate ongoing activities and align them with key continental priorities. The participants emphasized that the extension was not just about finishing incomplete tasks but also about ensuring that the project remains relevant in the context of emerging agricultural issues in Africa.

3.C) Strategic Planning for the Final Year

The participants dedicated a significant portion of the meeting to planning the activities for the final year of the project. Emerging issues such as agroecology and digitalization were identified as key priorities that must be integrated into the work plan. The final-year strategy will focus on the following areas:

- ❖ **Agroecology:** The agroecology transition has become a major focus area for Africa's agricultural development. The participants agreed that the CAADP-XP4 program must continue to support agroecology initiatives, particularly in the context of climate change adaptation.
- ❖ **Digitalization:** Digital technologies are transforming the agricultural sector, and the CAADP-XP4 program will prioritize the development of digital platforms to support extension services, knowledge dissemination, and agricultural innovation.
- ❖ **Soil Health and Fertilizers:** Soil health remains a key issue in Africa, and the consortium will continue to work on initiatives like the AFSH-AP to ensure that sustainable soil management practices are adopted across the continent.
- ❖ **Post-Malabo Framework:** The post-Malabo commitments are expected to be inaugurated next year, representing a significant shift in Africa's agricultural development strategy. The participants emphasized the need to align the CAADP-XP4 program with the new framework to ensure that the program remains relevant and impactful.

The final-year strategy also includes plans to prepare for the closure of the program, including the submission of final technical and financial reports, preparation for the EC audit, and the development of an exit strategy to ensure the long-term sustainability of the program's achievements.

3.D) Sustaining Project Gains Post-Closure

A key objective of the meeting was to develop a strategy for sustaining the achievements of the CAADP-XP4 program post-closure. The participants emphasized that partnerships will be critical to ensuring that the program's outcomes continue to have an impact beyond the project's lifecycle. Several key partnerships were discussed, including:

- ❖ **One-CGIAR:** The consortium will strengthen its collaboration with One-CGIAR, leveraging their resources and expertise to continue advancing agricultural research, innovation, and extension across Africa.
- ❖ **Private Sector Engagement:** Engaging the private sector will be essential for sustaining the program's innovations. The consortium will work closely with private

sector actors to ensure that the agricultural technologies and innovations developed under the program are adopted and scaled up.

- ❖ **Regional Economic Communities (RECs):** The participants discussed the importance of engaging with RECs to ensure that the CAADP-XP4 program's outcomes are integrated into regional agricultural policies and programs.

In addition to partnerships, the consortium will focus on resource mobilization as a key strategy for sustaining the program's achievements. The participants identified several avenues for mobilizing resources, including:

- ❖ **Solicited and Unsolicited Proposals:** The consortium will prepare both solicited and unsolicited proposals to secure funding for future initiatives.
- ❖ **Donor Roundtables:** The participants discussed organizing donor roundtables to engage with key donors and present the consortium's vision for the future of agricultural research and innovation in Africa.
- ❖ **Membership Fees:** The consortium will explore the possibility of mobilizing resources through membership fees from its member institutions and national governments.

3.E) Financial Considerations

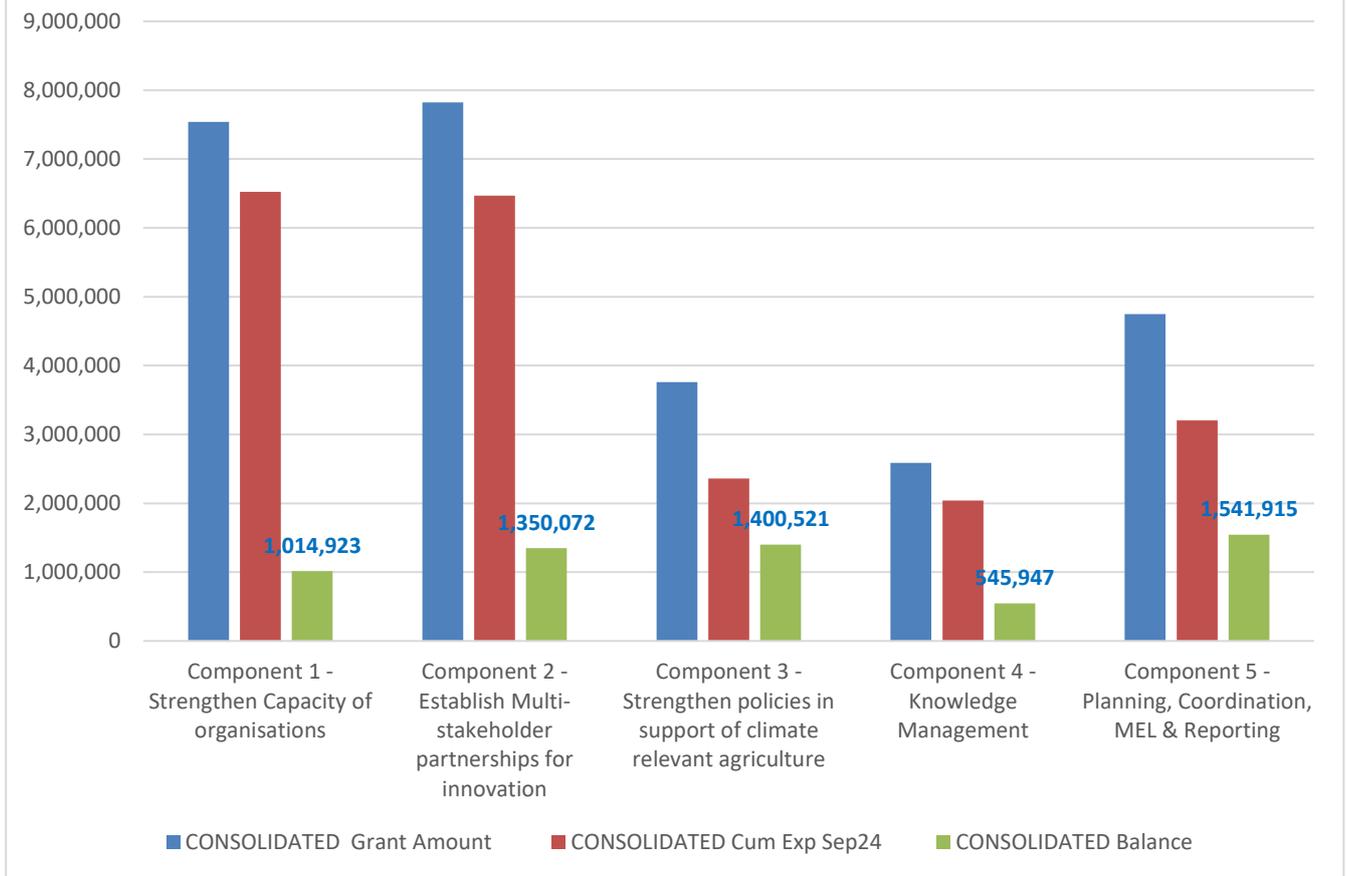
The financial health of the CAADP-XP4 program was another critical topic of discussion. The participants acknowledged that the program still had a significant amount of unspent funds, which could be reallocated to support the program during the extended period. However, it was also noted that some budget categories, such as salaries and training, were nearly depleted, necessitating a careful review of the remaining budget to ensure that funds are allocated efficiently.

The bar graphs below illustrate the grant amounts, the cumulative expenditures as of September 2024, and the remaining balances across various budget categories for the CAADP-XP4 consortium. Salaries and allowances have the highest grant allocation and expenditure, with a small remaining balance. Significant balances remain in categories like travel and allowances, goods and services, and training, indicating underutilization of these funds. This suggests that reallocating resources to underfunded or critical areas may be necessary to optimize budget use during the extension period.

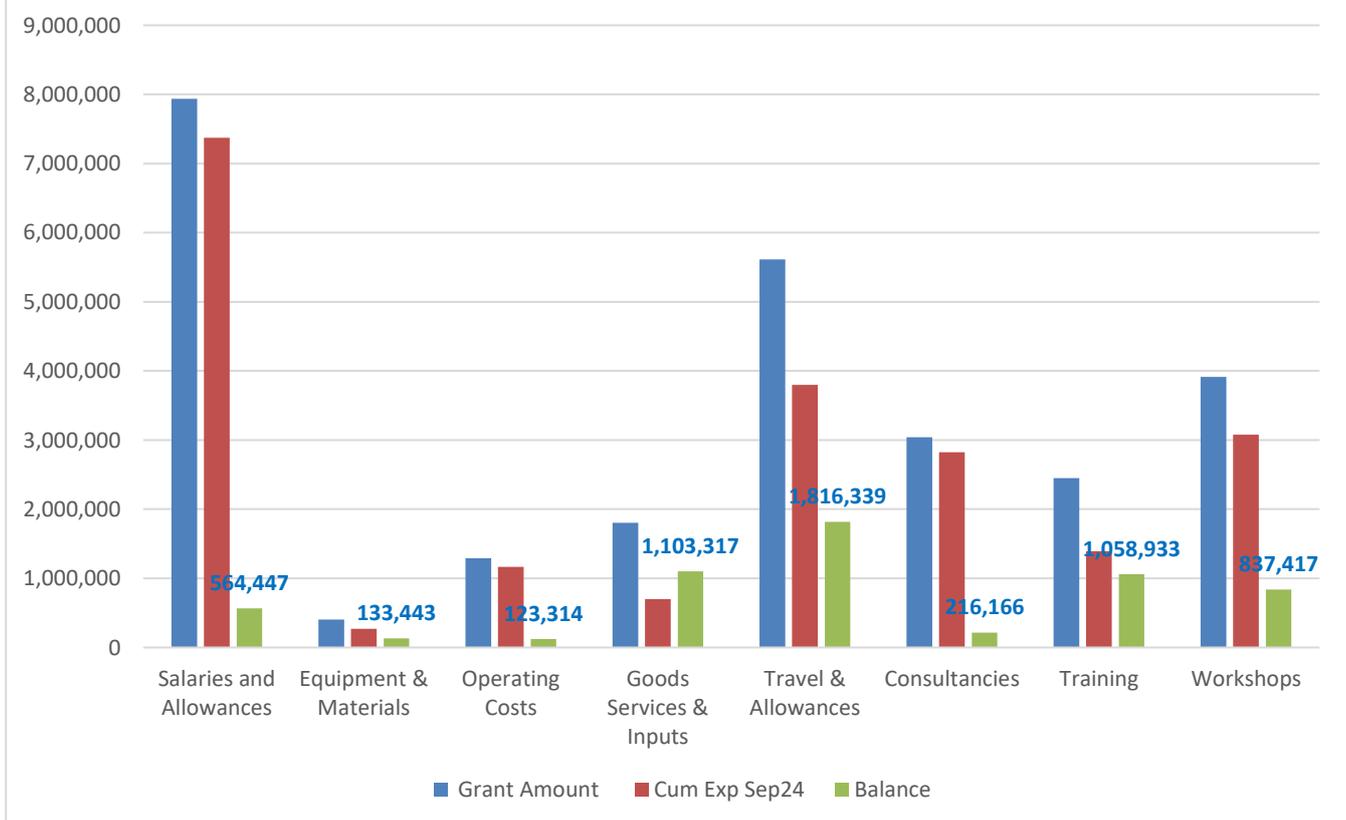
Given the project's focus on capacity strengthening for consortium members, a proposal was made to ensure a balanced reallocation of underutilized funds from goods and services and training. These resources would be redirected as much as possible to support staff retention, ensuring the project is completed effectively and its outputs are consolidated for maximum impact.

The finance team was tasked with providing a detailed report on the remaining budget and preparing a reallocation plan that would allow the program to complete the remaining activities within the extended period.

Balance of Budget by Component for the Consortium



Balance of Budget by Category for the Consortium



4. Meeting Recommendations

The 2024 CAADP-XP4 Joint Portfolio Review and Planning Meeting concluded with a set of actionable recommendations aimed at ensuring the successful completion of the program's objectives and the long-term sustainability of its outcomes. These recommendations reflect the discussions and consensus reached by the participants on key issues such as program extension, resource allocation, and strategic partnerships.

R1- Approval and Implementation of the No-Cost Extension

- R1.1- The participants unanimously recommended the approval of the one-year no-cost extension to allow the consortium sufficient time to complete pending activities and integrate emerging priorities such as agroecology, digitalization, and post-Malabo commitments.
- R1.2- The consortium should submit a comprehensive justification for the extension, emphasizing how the additional time will ensure alignment with continental initiatives and maximize the program's impact.
- R1.3- TC members are requested to follow up on discussions for operationalizing the No-Cost Extension (NCE) request. The approval of the narratives and proposed actions from the TWG will then be submitted to the Executive Directors for final approval and joint submission to IFAD.

R2- Reallocation of Remaining Budget

- R2.1- The finance team was tasked with preparing a detailed budget reallocation plan to optimize the use of remaining funds during the extension period.
- R2.2- Reallocation of existing budgets should be carefully planned considering the possibility of cross-institution reallocation to address the implementation of final-year joint activities.
- R2.3- Particular attention should be given to staff retention, completion of the end-line survey, and ensuring that key activities for agroecology, soil health, and digitalization are fully funded.

R3- Enhancement of Strategic Partnerships

- R3.1- Foster stronger partnerships between the CAADP-XP4 consortium, One-CGIAR, and other critical stakeholders. This will ensure the continuity of project outcomes post-closure, especially through joint efforts in agroecology and resource mobilization.
- R3.2- Formalize governance frameworks and agreements to support sustained collaboration.
- R3.3- The consortium is recommended to formalize the working arrangements established under the CAADP-XP4 by institutionalizing the roles of the Technical Working Groups (TWGs) at the Senior Officers level, the Technical Committee (TC) at the Directors of Research and Innovation or equivalent level, and the Advisory Committee (AC) at the Executive Directors level. This structure will support long-term collaboration and provide a competitive advantage for future projects and initiatives.

R4- Resource Mobilization and Sustainability Strategy

- R4.1- The consortium should develop a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy, including solicited and unsolicited proposals, donor engagement, and resource mobilization from member states and private sector actors.
- R4.2- New funding avenues, such as membership fees from national governments, AU Member States, and regional economic organizations, should also be explored to support post-CAADP-XP4 initiatives.
- R4.3- The resource mobilization strategy should focus on joint fundraising efforts with consortium partners and engagement with private sector entities.
- R4.4- The consortium should explore potential partnerships with donors through roundtable discussions and proposal submissions that align with emerging agricultural priorities in Africa.

R5- Preparation for the End-Line Survey and Final Reporting

- R5.1- The consortium should prioritize the preparation of the end-line survey to evaluate the overall impact of the CAADP-XP4 program. This survey will provide crucial data on program outcomes and help shape the final technical and financial reports.
- R5.2- Participants recommended the creation of a structured timeline for final reporting, ensuring that all necessary reports and documentation are submitted in time for the European Commission audit.
- R5.3- The M&E team should work closely with the finance and knowledge management teams to consolidate data and outcomes into comprehensive knowledge products that can be used to showcase the success and impact of the program.

R6- Visibility and Communication of Results

- R6.1- To enhance the visibility of the program's achievements, participants recommended developing tangible knowledge products, such as policy briefs, case studies, and digital resources, that can be easily disseminated to external stakeholders.
- R6.2- The consortium should prioritize communication with donors, the African Union, and other key partners to ensure that the program's impact is well understood and recognized.

R7- Focus on Gender and Cross-Cutting Issues

- R7.1- There was a strong emphasis on ensuring that gender and other cross-cutting themes, such as climate-smart agriculture, continue to be integrated into the final outputs of the program. The consortium should ensure that gender-responsive indicators are included in the final Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework.
- R7.2- Participants recommended developing specific initiatives that address gender and youth inclusion in the post-Malabo agenda, particularly in areas such as agroecology and sustainable agriculture.

R8- Exit Strategy and Post-Project Sustainability

R8.1- The meeting strongly recommended the development of a clear exit strategy that will guide the transition from project implementation to sustainability. This strategy should include a framework for sustaining partnerships, resource mobilization, and continued support for agricultural research and innovation in Africa.

R8.2- Each consortium member organization should prepare specific plans for sustaining the gains of the CAADP-XP4 program beyond the project’s official closure, ensuring that the outcomes are embedded in national, regional, and continental agricultural policies.

5. Immediate actions on the way forward

The table below outlines the immediate actions based on the outcomes of the 2024 CAADP-XP4 Joint Portfolio Review and Planning Meeting. These actions focus on finalizing pending tasks, aligning with continental priorities, enhancing partnerships, and ensuring the program’s sustainability through strategic resource mobilization and effective coordination across consortium members.

Immediate Actions	Description	Responsible	Deadline
1. Submit Justification for No-Cost Extension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit a comprehensive justification for the one-year no-cost extension, emphasizing the need to complete pending tasks and align with emerging continental initiatives such as agroecology and post-Malabo commitments. 	CAADP-XP4 Consortium	End of October 2024
2. Reallocate Remaining Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The finance team must prepare a detailed budget reallocation plan to ensure that available resources are allocated effectively, focusing on project implementation, knowledge management, and capacity building. 	Finance Team	Mid-November 2024
3. Strengthen Key Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formalize strategic partnerships with One-CGIAR, RECs, and the private sector, focusing on scaling agricultural innovations and knowledge-sharing platforms. Engage with the private sector to support the commercialization of innovations developed under the CAADP-XP4 program. 	Consortium Leads (One-CGIAR, RECs)	Ongoing
4. Develop Resource Mobilization Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy, including both solicited and unsolicited proposals, donor engagement, and member state contributions. Proceed with the 3 proposals tabled by the M&E TWGs and provide support to 	Resource Mobilization Team	End of December 2024

	<p>develop the full proposals of the proposals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage more proposals from other TWGs. 		
5. Prepare for End-Line Survey and Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritize the preparation and execution of the end-line survey. Develop a structured timeline for final reporting, ensuring all necessary documentation is ready for submission to the European Commission audit. 	M&E Team, Knowledge Management Team	End of May 2025
6. Enhance Program Visibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and disseminate knowledge products, such as policy briefs, case studies, and reports, to ensure the program's visibility among external stakeholders like donors, the African Union, and key partners. 	Knowledge Management Team	Ongoing
7. Integrate Gender and Cross-Cutting Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that gender-responsive indicators are integrated into the final Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) framework. Develop gender and youth inclusion initiatives aligned with the post-Malabo agenda, particularly in agroecology and sustainable agriculture. 	Gender and M&E Teams	Ongoing
8. Formulate Exit Strategy for Post-Project Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement a clear exit strategy that ensures the sustainability of project achievements and partnerships post-closure. Each consortium member should prepare specific sustainability plans that embed CAADP-XP4 outcomes into national and regional policies. 	All Consortium Members	End of December 2024

6. Assessment of the Meeting objectives

The table below outlines the evaluation of the meeting's objectives, providing an assessment of discussions made, as well as the decisions and the outcomes to ensure project completion and sustainability.

Objective	Description	Assessment	Outcome
i) Review and agree on the requirements and justification for the proposed one-year no-cost extension	Discuss the rationale for extending the project by one year, including delays and emerging needs.	The need for a no-cost extension was strongly justified based on pending tasks and the incorporation of new initiatives.	Consensus reached on the strategic need for the extension, ensuring more time to finalize tasks and integrate new priorities.

<p>ii) Finalize the joint program to be executed before the project's closure, incorporating agroecology and digitalization</p>	<p>Plan the final-year activities, ensuring key areas like agroecology, digitalization, and soil management are included in the work plan.</p>	<p>Emerging issues such as agroecology and digitalization were successfully integrated into the final-year joint program.</p>	<p>The final work plan was agreed upon, incorporating both original and new priority areas to ensure the project's relevance to current needs.</p>
<p>iii) Prepare for project closure, including final reports and EC audit</p>	<p>Ensure readiness for project closure, including drafting the structure for final technical and financial reports and planning for the European Commission (EC) audit.</p>	<p>Closure plans were discussed in detail, with a focus on final reporting requirements and the preparation for the EC audit.</p>	<p>A structured approach for project closure was outlined, including timelines for report submission and audit preparation.</p>
<p>iv) Develop a collective strategy for sustaining and advancing project gains, focusing on resource mobilization and partnerships</p>	<p>Formulate a plan to sustain the achievements post-project, leveraging partnerships (e.g., One-CGIAR) and focusing on resource mobilization for future initiatives.</p>	<p>There was a strong emphasis on developing partnerships and diversified funding to sustain project outcomes after closure.</p>	<p>A forward-looking sustainability strategy was developed, emphasizing resource mobilization and strengthening partnerships with key stakeholders like One-CGIAR.</p>

7. Conclusion

The 2024 CAADP-XP4 Joint Portfolio Review and Planning Meeting marked a pivotal moment in the program's final year, emphasizing the importance of completing pending activities and aligning with emerging continental priorities such as agroecology, digitalization, and the post-Malabo framework. The approval of a one-year no-cost extension is crucial to ensuring the successful delivery of outcomes and maximizing the impact of the CAADP-XP4 program. The consortium reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening strategic partnerships, particularly with One-CGIAR, and formalizing working relationships to sustain the program's gains post-closure. Additionally, the focus on resource mobilization, capacity-building, and knowledge management will ensure that the achievements of the program are maintained and expanded upon. With a clear roadmap and commitment from all stakeholders, the consortium is well-positioned to continue contributing to Africa's agricultural transformation through research, innovation, and collaboration.

ANNEX: Report of the Justification on the No-Cost Extension and Joint Workplan