



FOOD SAFETY DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

at the 21st Comprehensive Africa Agriculture
Development Programme Partnership Platform
(CAADP PP) and Commemoration of the 16th Africa
Day for Food and Nutrition Security (ADFNS)

2025

**Convention Centre, Kigali, Rwanda |
29 October – 31 September 2025**

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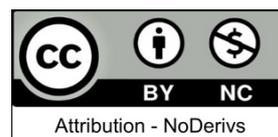
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The 21st Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme Partnership Platform (CAADP PP) and the Commemoration of the 16th Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security (ADFNS) was the first African Union conference convened post Kampala declaration. The theme for 2025 – “From Malabo to Kampala: Accelerating Just, Resilient Agrifood Systems Transformation for Nutrition and Sustainable Growth” – marked the transition into the Kampala CAADP era (2026–2035), focused on justice, inclusivity, and resilience across Africa’s agrifood systems.

The conference convened over 450 delegates including delegates from regional organisations, national governments, private sector, youth, development partners, and farmer organisations. Food safety being a critical component of food and nutrition security contributing to resilience, justice, and inclusivity was critical to the discussions.



Dr. Mark Bagabe

Rwandan Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources

“Food safety should be recognised as both a public health and trade priority; enabling African producers to fully benefit from the AfCFTA [African Continental Free Trade Area] and global markets...

Achieving this requires implementing Annex 6 of the AfCFTA agreement to remove technical barriers of trade and Annex 7 on SPS [sanitary and phytosanitary] measures to safeguard food safety as well as animal and plant health. This would ensure secure trade across our continent”.

Partnering with the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), two European Union funded projects: Food Safety for Africa (FS4Africa) and EU-AU Partnership for Resilient, Inclusive and Safe food systems for Everyone (UP-RISE) stimulated dialogue on food safety through interactions at the conference and at a side event on 29th October 2025.

AUDA-NEPAD, FS4Africa and UP-RISE hosted a side event titled, “Safe Foods for Resilient Futures: Innovations for Accelerating Just, Nutrition-Sensitive Agrifood Systems Transformation in Africa”. With the theme “Food Safety as an Accelerator of Just, Inclusive, and Resilient Agrifood Systems for Nutrition and Sustainable Growth.” The aim of the side event was to bridge the gap between food safety policy and agrifood transformation by providing actionable pathways for mainstreaming food safety in CAADP implementation. The specific objectives and outcomes of the side event are as follows:

Specific Objectives

- i.** Elevate food safety as central to accelerating just, resilient agrifood systems for nutrition and sustainable growth in Africa, in line with CAADP’s new vision.
- ii.** Present actionable innovations, policy models, and research findings from FS4Africa and UP-RISE, emphasizing informal sectors, gender equity, and youth empowerment.
- iii.** Facilitate dialogue among policymakers, researchers, and private sector actors on governance models for inclusive food safety systems, especially in the informal sector.
- iv.** Identify policy and investment priorities to accelerate food safety integration into the Kampala CAADP Strategy and Action Plan (2026–2035).
- v.** Mobilize partnerships, financing, and technical capacity for scalable food safety interventions.

Expected Outcomes

- i. Enhanced recognition of food safety as a pillar of just and resilient agrifood transformation under CAADP.
- ii. Visibility and uptake of UP-RISE and FS4Africa tools and frameworks for inclusion in policymaking, especially in informal sector settings.
- iii. Shared understanding of how evidence-based tools can strengthen governance and investment in food safety systems.
- iv. Stakeholder inputs for an AU-level policy brief on integrating food safety within the Kampala CAADP Strategy and Action Plan.
- v. Strengthened partnerships and commitment for joint implementation and scaling of inclusive food safety solutions.

Underscoring the importance of food safety in accelerating just, resilient agrifood systems transformation, FS4Africa, UP-RISE and AUDA-NEPAD emphasized that **Africa's population deserves dignity in every plate including the dignity of access to safe food**: Without safe food, human capital, trade opportunities and the dignity of the African people will be undermined. As the informal system is dominant in Africa, the need to strengthen food safety in the informal sector was stressed.

Data presented from studies conducted in Africa including via the Africa Union's programme Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa (PACA), examples from Ghana, activities from the projects **demonstrated the need to policy designs, governance models and systems of implementation that are suited to the informal sector**, including the use of technologies that are adapted to the informal sector, a need for large scale affordable testing for detection and interception of food hazards, inclusive and participatory modalities in design and implementation of policies and strategies, a need for increased awareness among players in the informal sector and development of systems, processes, licences that enable the advancement of food safety in Africa's dominant informal sector.

Dynamic engagement and interactions with over 35 in-person participants and 11 online participants including public sector representatives, academia, chefs, development partners and producers highlighted the need for food safety to be prioritized and clear action plans and implementation KPIs and financing modalities included towards the achievement of the Kampala declaration. This will enable Africa to feed itself sustainably, with dignity and to trade from a place of strength and access the market share worth billions in international markets.

The food safety team members interacted with several policy makers including those from the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), African Union, national governments, promoting food safety as a critical part of the CAADP Kampala declaration and in commemoration of the African Day for Food and Nutrition Security. The following is a call to action.

Call to Action

- **Whereas** food safety is a human right. Unsafe food is responsible for over 91 million cases of food-borne disease and 137,000 deaths annually in Africa
- **Financing** is critical to scale up innovations that integrate food safety in national action investment plans
- **Collaboration and participatory** approaches are important for context-relevant and adaptable solutions to address food safety risks
- **Multiactor and inclusive** systems are needed to catalyse action towards positive change, empowering youth, women, and all stakeholders for resilient and just agrifood systems.

Appendix

SIDE EVENT AGENDA

Time (min)	Session Title	Description / Focus	Speakers / Facilitators
0:00 – 0:10	Session 1 – Opening Session	Welcome remarks and session overview, highlighting food safety in the CAADP/ADFNS context.	Moderator: Ms. Kefilwe Moalosi (AUDA-NEPAD); Speakers: AUC-DARBE & AUDA-NEPAD representatives
0:10 – 0:40	Session 2 – Policy Session	Presentations: (1) State of Food Safety in Africa, (2) Policies and initiatives to address key food safety hazards in the informal sector in Ghana (3) Food Safety in the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan 2026–2035. Panel Discussion 1 on Policy levers for integrating food safety Q&A.	Presenters: Winta Sintayehu, Rose Omari Panelists: Rose Omari, Chiluba Mwape, Kefilwe Moalosi Moderator: Modupe Banwo
0:40 – 1:20	Session 3 – Projects Contributing to Just and Resilient Agrifood Transformation	Presentations: from FS4Africa and UP-RISE projects showcasing evidence-based tools, governance models, and innovations. Panel Discussion 2: Scaling innovations and integrating food safety into policy and investments Q&A	Presenters: FS4Africa (IITA) & UP-RISE (Ghent University, Belgium); Panelists: Titilayo Falade, Paul Kimurto, Rose Omari, Moderator: Modupe Banwo
1:20 – 1:30	Session 4 – Closing Session	Summary of key messages, next steps, and call to action for integrating food safety into CAADP implementation. Closing Remarks	Speaker: Silas Ongayi Speaker: Kefilwe Moalosi