



# Experiences of inter-regional partnerships, south-south co-operations and triangular collaboration

Africa Regional Consultation

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Creating One African Market



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# AfCFTA State of Play

## Signatures and Ratifications



The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement has established one of the largest free markets across 55 African countries. It is meant to increase low intra-Africa trade to high flow of trade among State Parties.

- 54 of 55 African countries have signed the AfCFTA Agreement. State of Eritrea – the only remainder
- 43 African countries have ratified the Agreement Establishing the AfCFTA
- 43 African countries are State Parties to the AfCFTA Agreement by virtue of their ratifications and deposit of the instruments of ratification

# Building sustainable Partnerships on Production



1. Most African countries continue to rely on agriculture as the backbone of their economies but the continent has turned into a major net food importer with import bill standing currently at a value of \$81 billion in 2019 and expected to rise to USD110 billion by 2025
2. The 2020 Africa Regional Overview of Food Security Security and nutrition report indicates that nearly three-quarters of Africans cannot afford a healthy diet.
3. Persistent food insecurity in Africa presents a challenge towards achieving the zero hunger for all as expressed in the Sustainable Development Goals
4. Addressing the bottlenecks around the agriculture sector require urgent focus on strengthening partnerships at various levels. The African Union has successfully worked with CABI, FAO, USDA, EMBRAPA etc. to enhance crop production, notably in the management of Fall Armyworm
5. The AU worked with CABI to produce the Strategy for Managing Invasive Species in Africa (2021–2030) that has been approved for implementation by the AU policy organs.

# Building sustainable Partnerships and collaboration on Trade

1. Agriculture and agro-processing account for ~\$50bn of imports annually and the combined sector ranks high for economic growth, employment and inclusivity. Within agro-processing several sub-groups have higher value of imports, including staples, processed foods, oils, and sugar, but **production** and **trade** is not fully harnessed due to low price competitiveness, low yields and fragmented production.
2. The AfCFTA Secretariat has developed a private sector engagement strategy identifying four initial priority value chains including agro-processing to address poor competitiveness of Africa producers due to lack of harmonized standards and regulations across the continent.
3. The AfCFTA Secretariat Private sector engagement strategy provides an opportunity to partner with relevant technical institutions and has already signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with African Organization for Standardization (ARSO) to provide a framework of cooperation to strengthen intra-Africa trade





# THANK YOU

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