



# Integrating Land Rights into National Agricultural Investment Plans

## NELGA KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE - NEX

Emmanuel Sulle, Wilbard Mkama & Rebecca Pointer

19 October 2023



# Introduction

- Agriculture is the largest GDP contributor and main source of food security in most African countries
- Smallholders' ability to address household food security and income needs is dependent on their access to land, and secure and fair access to use and own land rights ...(Snyder et al., 2020)
- For pastoralists access to land impacts on access to grazing and water for their livestock, as well as their access to other natural resources
- African Member States have work to do in terms of integrating access to land and governance into NAIPs, and measuring their success in doing so

# Objectives

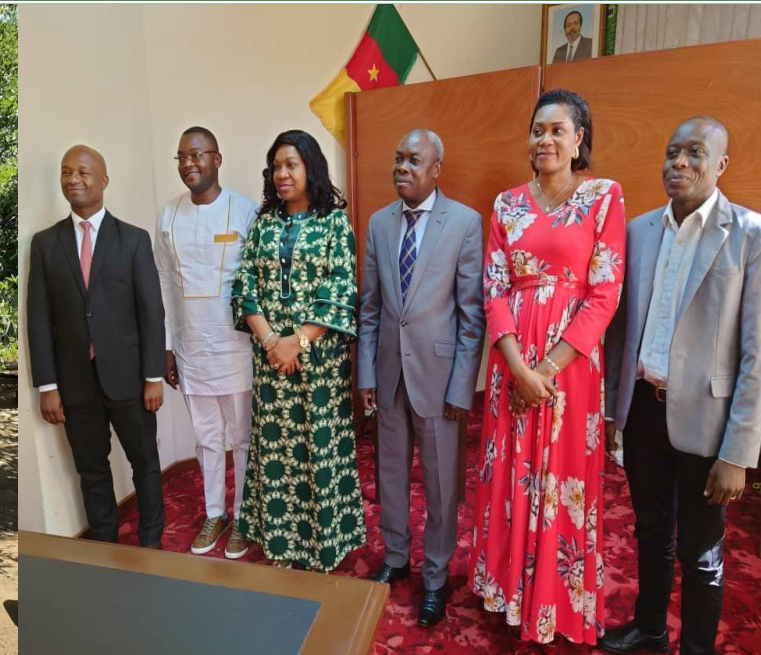
Supporting the AUC in conducting an evidence-based, gender-sensitive and inclusive study on the integration of land governance into National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs)

Provide suggestions on how NAIPs can better align to the Malabo Declaration, CAADP framework, the UN Food Systems Summit, as well as the AU Agenda on Land

# Methodology

## Secondary data – Review of:

- Country NAIPs
- CAADP reports
- Performance Biannual Reviews (BR)
- Countries land tenure security reports
- Primary data – interviews and FGDs



# National Agriculture Investment Plans

- Currently, many countries have many gaps in developing NAIPs:
  - insufficient management techniques and technical skills to design
  - poor understanding of national planning processes
  - lack of clarity on the roles of stakeholders
  - low grasp that CAADP needs to be internally driven and is not separate from national processes

So, it is critical to integrate responsible land policy measures to ensure secure and fair access to land into  
NAIPs

# Case studies

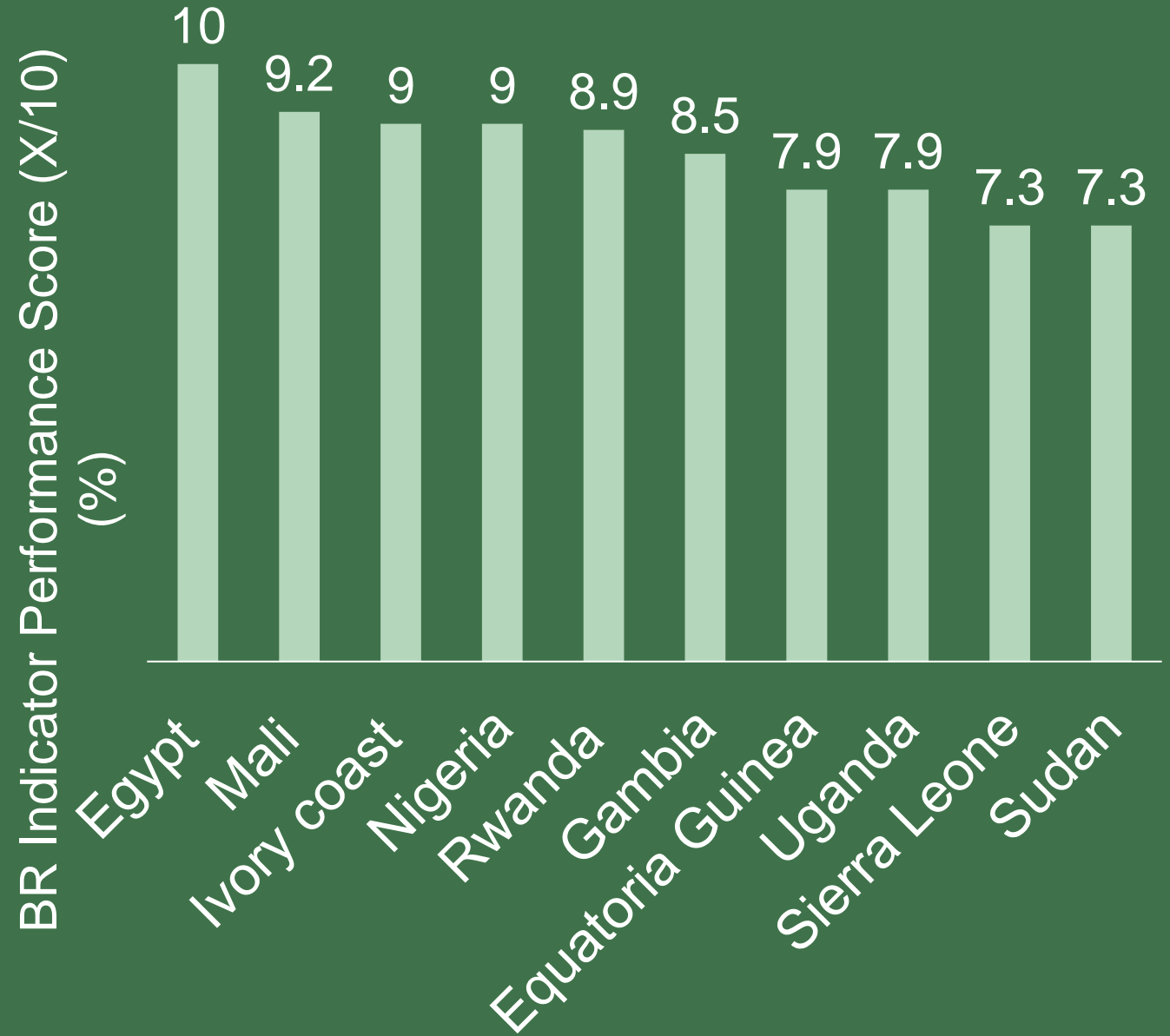
## Six countries case studies - at least one case study in each region:

Cameroon (Central Africa)	Not much land coverage in NAIPII development
Namibia (Southern Africa)	Developing a National Spatial Data Infrastructure
Zambia (Southern)	Developing its NAIPII – contested now
Ethiopia (Horn of Africa)	Huge agric. budget, NAIPs focuses on food & land
Tanzania (East Africa)	Reviewed & formulating new land policy and NAIPII
Ghana (West Africa)	Contradictions in policies and law and 3 <sup>rd</sup> NAIP
Egypt (North Africa)	Achieved 10.0 score for households with secure land rights

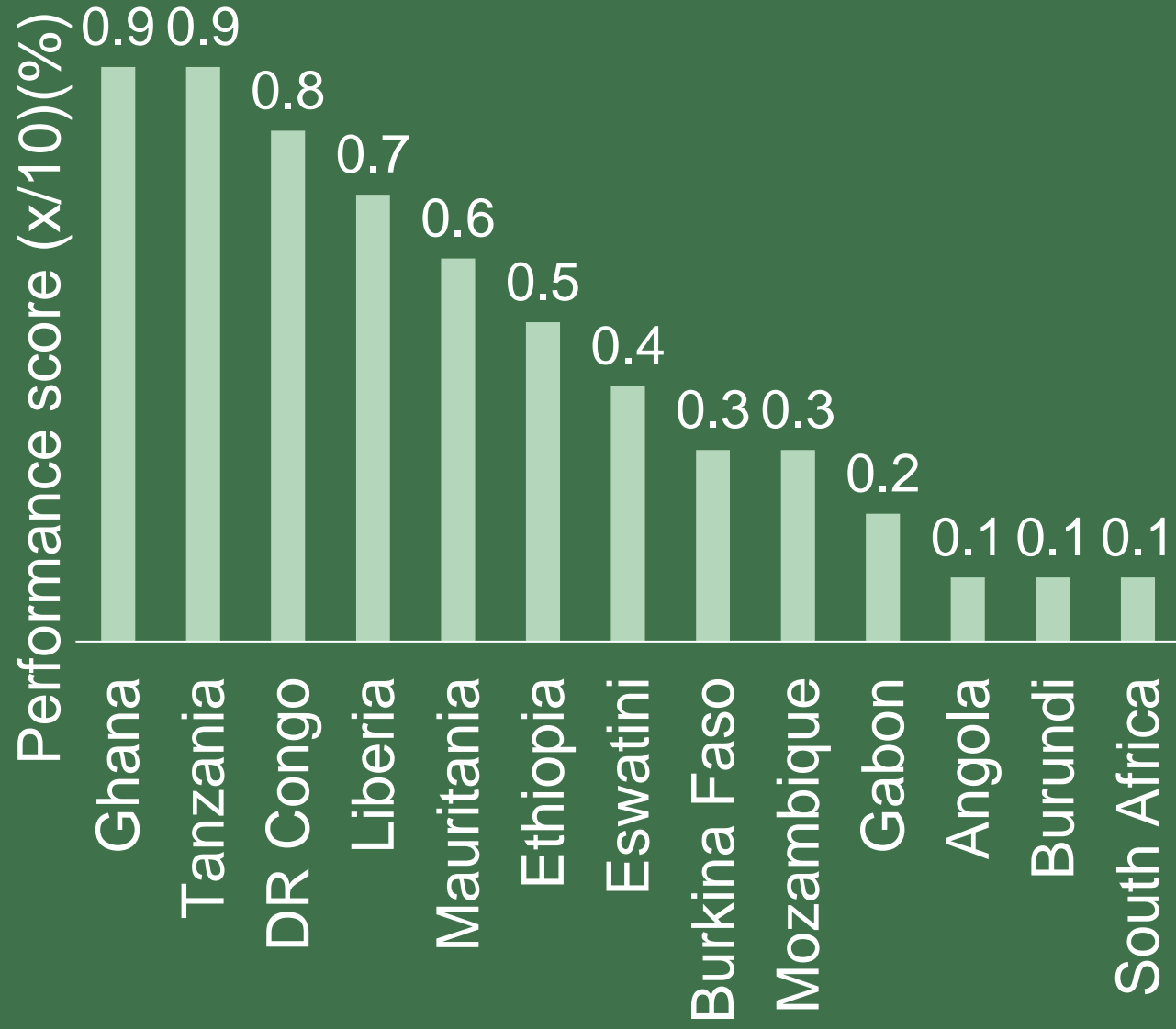
# Key findings

- Progress on land tenure/ownership in the 2021 Biennial Review
  - Land access – by 2016, countries were to ensure 33% of agricultural households have secure land tenure, but only 15 countries achieved this (AUDA-NEPAD, 2021)
  - By 2018, 10% of households were meant to have secure tenure; no member states achieved this, but Mali achieved 9.52% and Côte d'Ivoire achieved 9.46%
  - For the 2020 review, which stayed at the level of 10% of households, only Egypt achieved the target;
  - However, Gambia (from 5.25 to 8.5), Nigeria (7.75 to 9) & Sudan (2.95 to 7.3) reported an improved score
  - More than 50% of agricultural households in member states did not have secure tenure
  - Many member states have not been providing data on land tenure and data does not disaggregate the extent to which women hold secure tenure/own land

**Countries with high proportion of farm households with secure land rights**



# Least performing countries on BR reporting land tenure indicators





# Gaps

- Gaps in capacity for undertaking various land administration functions
- Gaps in understanding and appreciating customary land governance systems
- Gaps in capacity for developing and implementing land use plans
- Gaps in the CAADP Biennial Review reporting
- Gaps in capacity for monitoring and evaluation

*We encourage mother and father to give pieces of land to youth – their children. As a Chiefdom we have designed and we offer customary certificates to our people, including women, youth and disabled people. We changed from mine to ours – i.e., our children, our land, our house.*

*- Chief Chamuka, Zambia*

# Capacity Development Needs

- Democratic and Inclusive Land Governance
  - ✓ The purpose of capacity development in regard to democratic and inclusive land governance is for all stakeholders to create 'transparency, subsidiarity, inclusiveness, prior informed participation, and social acceptance by affected communities' (Sulle and Hall, 2014)
- Capacity development interventions to support and enhance
  - participatory policy development
  - technical aspects of land administration
  - land use planning and conflict resolution
  - monitoring and evaluation
  - NAIPs and AfCFTA integration

# Capacity Development Needs

- Support Members States in formulating NAIPs, implementing & evaluating them
- Research & training
  - ✓ Sustain and expand the NELGA short course on the Political Economy of Land Governance in Africa by offering such courses twice a year to allow large groups of scholars, practitioners, policy makers, members of the community, CSOs and private sector to attend
  - ✓ Establish research chairs in Land and Agrarian Studies and fund them effectively alongside other research chairs established in various universities and other training institutions

# Best practices

- The notable best practices include:
  - I. Namibia's customary and statutory land governance structures;
  - II. Ghana's Customary Land Secretariats;
  - III. Zambia's Progressive Chiefdoms
  - IV. Tanzania's Joint Village Land Use Plan (JVLUP) for Pastoralist Rangelands;
  - V. Ethiopia's Woreda Participatory Land Use Planning (WPLUP) for pastoralist and small-scale farmers;
  - VI. Cameroon Agro-Pastoral Scheme



# Recommendations

- Recognise and strengthen the diverse and dualistic land tenure systems and embrace legitimate customary land access system and their governance structures by including these systems in national policy and legislation;
- Improve and/or create democratic and inclusive structures for decision-making and resolving conflicts about land, prioritising the vulnerable and starting from community-level upwards
- Ensure all lead sector ministries that need to collaborate effectively are integrated into processes for developing secure and fair land access into NAIPs
- Catalyse African trade by investing in strategic infrastructure that connects rural and urban communities within countries *and* between member states

# Conclusions

- Member states have made some progress in terms of the implementation of various targets for both CAADP and Malabo Declaration
- The key incremental changes include the need to document the implementation of the AU specific decisions for agricultural transformation in the continent
- Member States should focus on boosting the production capabilities of smallholders in implementing and evaluating the extent to which land is integrated into NAIP
- The evidence shows that the smallholders are leading agricultural transformation and they should be the targets of the national extension and input services
- Member States need to report their progress in improving access to land for agriculture by the farming populations

# Conclusions

- Data do not show significant improvement in access to agricultural land because nearly half of agricultural households in members states do not have formal documentation to the land, they use
- Yet, there is no 'one size fit all' solution or strategy on how access to land and land ownership can be directly measured because land is affected not only by international and national politics, but also by local level politics
- The solutions proposed by external actors such as land registration with title deeds, often do not address the underlying problems in agriculture – that is the lack of direct investments in African farmers
- Instead, land titling can potentially lead to landlessness for weak and vulnerable groups
- To address these limitations
  - African Union Member States may adopt holistic land tenure systems in diverse contexts and document them instead of relying on narrow concepts of land rights in order to achieve secure and fair access to land for their farming populations

Thank you very much  
Merci Boaucoup  
Obrigado  
Aksanteni sana

FLD 903  
HA 24.S  
VAR N41  
RTN PC  
DT.PI.T.OZOM13.

