AgInvest Africa Web Portal: A tool for mapping and tracking agricultural interventions in Africa

Purpose of AgInvest Africa

The purpose of the tool is to document agriculture and food security interventions by governments, development partners and other stakeholders so as to provide easily accessible information that could be used in planning and programming, M&E, facilitating partnerships, informing advocacy and influencing policy. This effort is being undertaken within the broader context of continental and global commitments and agreements including:

1. The Mutual Accountability Framework under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

2. The implementation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and its implications for donor activity and coordination.

3. Sharing of information in line with the International Aid Transparency Initiative (AITI).

The tool has been developed by the Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System for Eastern and Central Africa (ReSAKSS-ECA) in collaboration with various partners with financial support from the United States for International Development (USAID) regional mission for Eastern Africa. The portal currently contains information for national interventions in: Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. Other regional ReSAKSS nodes are beginning to implement the activity; hence country coverage across Africa will expand.

Currently, this work is inclined towards development projects. The portal does not focus on research or humanitarian projects, as other initiatives are documenting them. A few research projects are captured, particularly those dealing with action research.

Project information documented in AgInvest Africa

Currently we collate the following variables for each intervention:
- Name of the intervention
- Geographical location (to district level)
- Objectives
- Funding agency (or agencies)
- Implementing agency (or agencies)
- Cost of the intervention (as budgeted)
- Duration of the intervention (start date and end date)
- Beneficiaries of the interventions
- Sources of information

In some cases there are data gaps, but there are constant efforts to forge partnerships to fill the gaps.

AgInvest Africa

- A web portal tracking and mapping agricultural interventions (projects and programmes) in Africa
- A contribution to monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of agriculture sector interventions
- A one-stop source of information on agricultural investments by various funders and implementing agencies
- A tool to inform planning and decision making in areas of collaboration and synergies among agriculture sector actors
- A tool contributing to efforts on alignment, harmonization and mutual accountability in the agriculture sector

www.aginvestafrica.org
Rationale for documentation of agricultural interventions

Initiatives to document and map agricultural projects and programmes have been increasing in the recent past. However, most of the existing information is funding agency, implementer or country-specific. It is relatively easy to obtain information on interventions by a particular funding agency or documentation of interventions within a country. Minimal work has been done to bring together information from different sources for easy access and use. Through this work ReSAKSS aims to contribute to filling this gap. The AgInvest portal collates information from multiple sources and countries into one database and facilitates continuous updating by the stakeholders.

By tracking and mapping investments, ReSAKSS is contributing to CAADP mutual accountability and the Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness by providing information on who is investing in agriculture and where:

- Serving as a tool to identify investment gaps
- Guiding decisions about where to direct resources
- Providing information that could facilitate partnerships in agriculture and food security interventions (support collaboration and synergies among the actors)
- Contributing to mutual accountability by providing information on how pledges by different agriculture stakeholders translate into actions
- Informing advocacy and influencing policy
- Supporting alignment of intervention so as to avoid duplication of efforts

Sources of information for AgInvest Africa portal

Since the work focuses on documenting information on agricultural projects and programmes, the most direct source of information is from the funders and implementers of the interventions. However, because contacting the diverse implementers and funders of the interventions could be a daunting task, the initial phases of developing the tool used information collated from secondary sources available in the public domain. These include project documents such as project inception reports, project work plans, periodic progress reports, end of project reports, evaluation reports and other related documents in electronic form and hard copies. In addition, other key sources of information have been websites that document projects and programmes developed by various organizations.

Where possible, information was also gathered through consultations with project managers and/ or their partners and government officials in relevant government ministries.

ReSAKSS is inviting agricultural stakeholders to fill information gaps in the database and partner with ReSAKSS to sustain the efforts of mapping and tracking investments at regional and national levels. The AgInvest Africa portal is designed such that allows users can upload information onto the portal to fill the gaps. This process is, however, moderated to ensure credibility of the sources of information.
Navigation menus/Tabs available on the portal

The following menus/tabs are available on the AgInvest Africa portal:

1. **Home**: Contains information about the AgInvest Africa web portal.

2. **About**: Provides some more information about the portal.

3. **Regional Interventions**: This page documents regional level interventions (projects and programmes).

4. **National Interventions**: This page documents interventions that take place within one country.

5. **Initiatives & Organizations**: This page lists (in alphabetical order) initiatives that play various roles in implementing agriculture and food security interventions in Africa. Included in the list of initiatives are: government institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), farmer organizations, private sector, civil society organizations, international organizations, regional economic communities (RECs) and other actors involved in implementing interventions in agriculture. In addition to listing of initiatives, this page provides web links to the websites of the initiatives and organizations.

6. **Funding Sources**: This page lists (in alphabetical order) the funders of the projects documented in the AgInvest Africa portal.

7. **Downloadable Searches**: Under the search tab, users of the portal can easily access and retrieve information on interventions included in the AgInvest database by using user search criteria. Data can then be exported to MS Excel if required.

8. **The Map Page**: This is a representation of all projects in the filtering page in Google map presentation. The maps are based on the districts in which these projects are taking place. The portal shows all districts in the database and clicking on a specific district loads all projects in the district regardless of the donor. This loads a grid with the district name, project name, donor name, start year, end year and a view link.

Searching for information on the portal

Currently, there are three ways of performing a search on the AgInvest Africa web portal:

1. **Browsing entire list**: Using the navigation buttons to the bottom of the page and looking through the list, you can search information by sorting and scrolling through the records.

2. By **Typing on Search field**: This is provided on the top right hand corner of the page and searches for the given words you enter in the search field from the project titles and the objectives. If the criterion is met, then the record is listed. For example, we type *Eritrea* and it lists all records with that word. With this, you can search for a specific project by typing the project title.

3. **Advanced search**: Here you can search for specific details from several fields of your choice, group the search by country and finally define the fields you want to see in the query report. From here, you may filter information according to criteria of your choice.
About ReSAKSS

Established in 2006, ReSAKSS supports evidence and outcome-based planning and implementation of agriculture-sector policies and strategies in Africa. In particular, ReSAKSS offers high-quality analyses and knowledge products to improve policy making, track progress, and facilitate policy dialogue, benchmarking, review and mutual learning processes of the CAADP implementation agenda. The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) facilitates the overall work of ReSAKSS working in partnership with the African Union Commission (AUC), the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), and leading regional economic communities (RECs). At the regional level, ReSAKSS is supported by Africa-based CGIAR centres: the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) in Kenya, the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) in South Africa, and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in Nigeria.

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