



# STRATEGIC PLAN 2026 — 2030

*Walking with the Farmer*



## A Defining Moment for Africa's Agrifood Systems

Since 1986, the Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA) has worked alongside governments, research institutions, and farming communities to strengthen agricultural extension systems and improve smallholder farmers' productivity and livelihoods across Africa. Through its "Walking with the Farmer" approach, SAA has built trusted, locally grounded partnerships that connect farmers to knowledge, technologies, and markets.

In response to evolving challenges—including climate change, land degradation, market constraints, and shifting demographics—SAA has expanded its approach to integrate climate-resilient and

regenerative agriculture, nutrition-sensitive production, market-oriented extension and advisory services, and digital extension tools.

Building on four decades of experience across multiple African countries, SAA's 2026–2030 Strategic Plan positions the organization to deepen impact by strengthening resilient, inclusive, and market-driven agrifood systems. The strategy focuses on scaling proven extension models, integrating climate-resilient and nutrition-sensitive approaches, strengthening partnerships across the value chain, and empowering farmers and local institutions to drive sustainable transformation.



# Our Impact

## 2021 – 2025 Results at a Glance



**90% Average yield increase**  
**40–80% adoption of RA practices**



**2,000,000+ Farmers reached** via demonstrations, extension, and digital advisory platforms.

**50% Average improvement in dietary diversity** through biofortified crop adoption and nutrition training.



**74,000 Metric tons of produce** aggregated and marketed.



**20% Average reduction in postharvest losses**, boosting marketable surplus.



**40–60% Income gains**



# Strategic Direction



### Mission:

To empower farmers through innovative and inclusive extension, capacity building, and partnerships to drive agricultural transformation and advance food, nutrition, and income security across Africa.



### Vision:

Resilient, sustainable, and market-driven agrifood systems across Africa, with smallholder farmers at the center.

## Theory of Change



### Development Challenge (Problem Context)

- Climate change, droughts, floods, land degradation, soil fertility loss
- Weak agricultural extension and advisory systems
- Limited access to inputs, finance, mechanization, climate information
- Poor market access and high postharvest losses
- Food and nutrition insecurity
- Exclusion of women, youth, and underserved groups
- Weak institutional coordination and scaling of innovations

## Strategic Pathways of Impact



### 1. Climate-Resilient & Sustainable Agrifood Systems

Regenerative and climate-smart packages by context; improved varieties; soil & water management; climate information; mechanization; digitally enabled advisory services.



### 2. Inclusive Markets & Agribusiness Development

Stronger producer organizations; structured markets; postharvest quality; inclusive finance; digital tools; value addition and aggregation; jobs; meaningful women and youth participation.



### 3. Safe, Adequate & Nutritious Food Systems

Nutrition-sensitive diversification; food safety and loss reduction; postharvest technologies; behaviour change; growth of nutritious food enterprises.

### Key Enablers

- Farmer-centred extension & experiential learning
- Capacity building & institutional strengthening
- Digitalization & climate information systems
- Mechanization & appropriate technologies
- Policy advocacy & systems engagement
- Strategic partnerships
- Inclusion of women, youth & persons with disabilities
- Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning (MEL) & adaptive management

### Expected Outcomes (2026-2030)

- Increased adoption of climate-smart and regenerative agriculture
- Improved productivity, soil health & resilience
- Increased farmer incomes & financial inclusion
- Reduced postharvest losses & improved food quality
- Improved dietary diversity & food safety
- Stronger extension systems & institutional capacity
- Increased participation of women & youth in agribusiness
- Stronger farmer organizations & market systems

### Long-Term Impact

- Resilient, sustainable and market driven agrifood systems
- Improved food, nutrition & income security
- Inclusive rural economic growth
- Stronger climate resilience
- Sustainable natural resource management
- Stronger national agricultural systems
- Farmer-led agricultural transformation across Africa

### Conditions for Success

- Extension systems remain responsive
- Policies & partnerships remain supportive
- Technologies & climate information are accessible
- Farmers access services, markets & finance equitably
- Institutional coordination remains strong
- Continuous learning & investment are sustained

## Strategic Focus Areas (2026–2030)

SAA's strategy is anchored in three interconnected focus areas that drive transformation across Africa's agrifood systems.



### STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA 1: Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agrifood Systems

#### KEY RESULT AREA

- Climate-Smart and Regenerative Agriculture Scaled for Farm and Household Resilience
- Soil Health, Water Use Efficiency, and Circular Bioeconomy Improved for Sustainable Production
- Household and Community Resilience to Climate and External Shocks Strengthened
- Climate-Resilient Varieties, Integrated Management Practices, and Inclusive Technology Adoption Scaled
- Climate Information, Early Warning, and Risk Management Integrated into Last-Mile Advisory Systems
- Institutional Capacity, Inclusion, Partnerships, and Evidence Systems Enhanced for Sustainable Agriculture



### STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA 2: Inclusive Markets and Agribusiness Development

#### KEY RESULT AREA

- Structured Market Participation Expanded
- Value Addition and Postharvest Efficiency Improved
- Inclusive Finance and Risk Mitigation Expanded
- Business Capability and Agri-SME Competitiveness Strengthened
- Producer Organizations Strengthened
- Enabling Policy Environment Enhanced



### STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA 3: Safe, Adequate & Nutritious Food Systems

#### KEY RESULT AREA

- Nutrition-Sensitive Food Production Systems Scaled
- Household Diet Diversity and Nutrition Outcomes Improved
- Postharvest and Nutrient Loss Reduced
- Food Safety Compliance Strengthened
- Inclusive Nutritious Food Enterprises Expanded
- Enabling Policies, Systems Strengthening, and Multi-Sectoral Integration Enhanced

#### Cross-Cutting Enablers

Capacity Building,  
Extension Systems, and  
Farmer Learning

Policy Advocacy  
and Systems  
Engagement

Appropriate  
Technologies and  
Management  
Practices

Inclusion



# Delivery, Enablers & Positioning



## Partnerships

SAA works through key partnership areas that include:

- Governments and policy institutions
- Extension and implementation partners
- Technical and research institutions
- Private sector and markets
- Financing and development partners



## Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL)

Strengthening data systems, learning, and evidence-based decision-making to guide performance and adaptation.



## Resource Mobilization

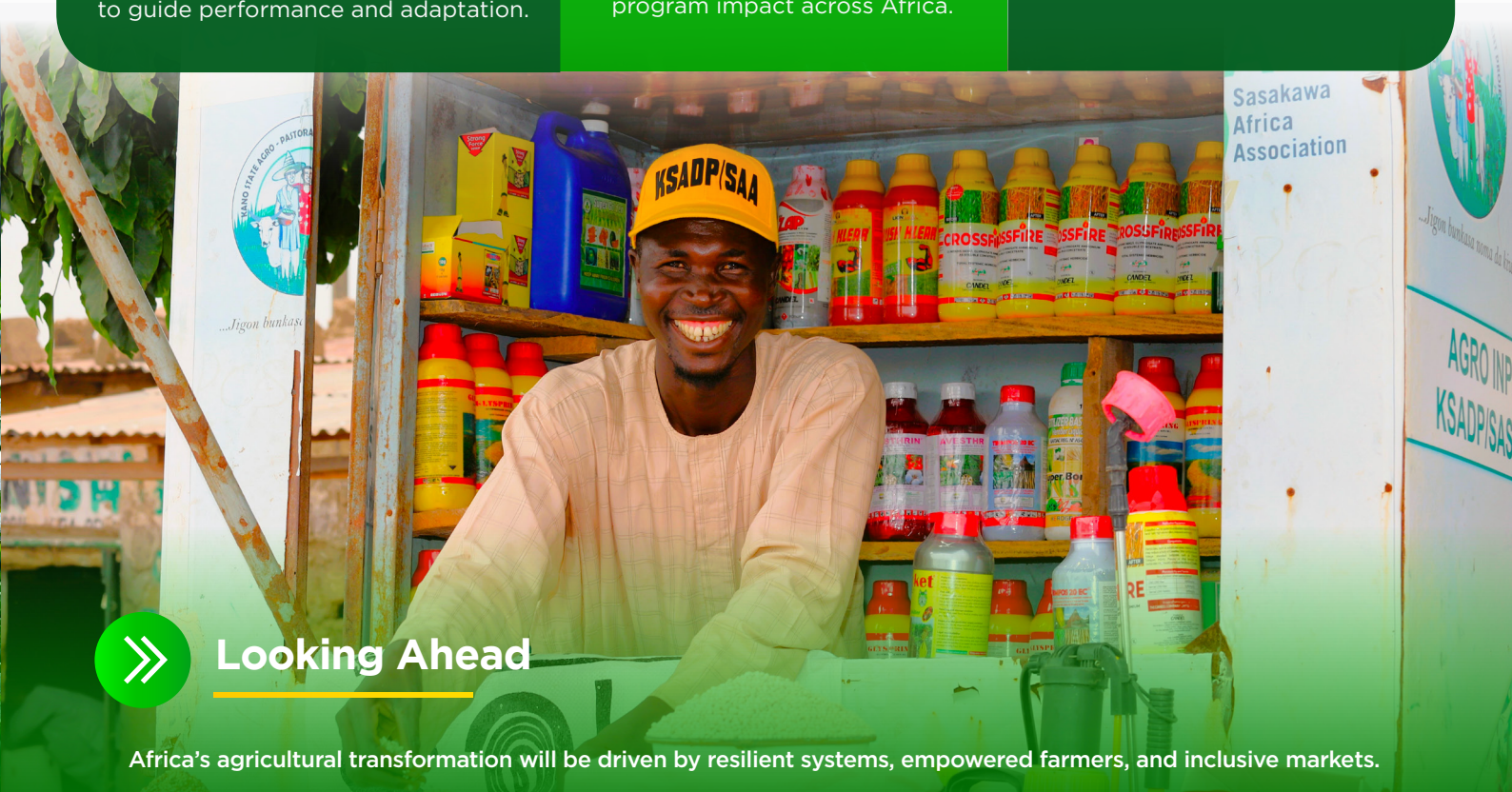
The Nippon Foundation will remain SAA's anchor partner and core strategic supporter. At the same time, SAA will diversify its funding portfolio by strengthening engagement with both traditional and non-traditional partners, including private sector actors, philanthropic foundations, climate financing mechanisms, impact investors, development partners, and technology companies. This diversified partnership approach will enhance SAA's financial sustainability, innovation capacity, and long-term program impact across Africa.



## Communication

SAA's communication approach shifts from visibility to influence:

- Position SAA as a credible, evidence-driven voice
- Strengthen stakeholder dialogue and farmer representation
- Enhance branding and thought leadership
- Expand digital communication and knowledge systems.



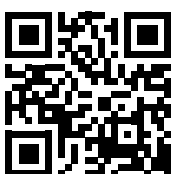
## Looking Ahead

Africa's agricultural transformation will be driven by resilient systems, empowered farmers, and inclusive markets.

SAA's 2026–2030 Strategic Direction is more than a plan—it is a commitment to:

- ➔ Continue walking with farmers, building on four decades of trust and partnership
- ➔ Scale proven, evidence-based solutions that deliver impact at both farm and systems levels
- ➔ Strengthen institutions, markets, and policies to ensure sustainable and lasting change
- ➔ Promote inclusion by prioritizing women, youth, and vulnerable populations across agrifood systems

Together with partners, SAA is advancing a future where Africa's agrifood systems are resilient, nutrition-sensitive, market-driven, and capable of delivering sustainable livelihoods and improved well-being for all.



Visit the SAA website

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Sasakawa Africa Association



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