



The **Transforming Agriculture** digest



Members of the Gboto Zévé ZAAP — a Planned Agricultural Development Zone supported by ATA Togo

Agriculture Transformation in Practice

17th-19th June 2025, Lomé Togo

“Real Transformation is when a system can govern itself sustainably” Jeffery Ried, World Food Programme.

That was the spirit that grounded the Agricultural Transformation in Practice learning event held from 17th to 19th June in Lomé, Togo, where leaders from across Africa came together to reflect, learn, and share on what it takes to drive sustainable transformation in agriculture.

Organized in partnership with the World Food Programme’s TASC programme, the event brought together country-level Agricultural Transformation Offices (ATOs), technical partners, and delivery experts — including strong participation from the African Agricultural Transformation Initiative (AATI).

AATI’s Contribution: Enabling Peer Learning, Sharing Evidence

AATI supported the event as both a knowledge partner and peer learning facilitator. In addition to sharing reflections from its work in Sierra Leone and Tanzania, AATI consultants; Bristle Pine presented insights from a comparative study of Agricultural Transformation Offices in Africa.

The study covered five countries and highlighted key success factors for institutional effectiveness, including:

- High-level political sponsorship combined with government ownership
- Strategic institutional anchoring
- Clear mandates and flagship projects
- Strong analytics capabilities
- Demand-driven stakeholder coordination and multi-partner resource pooling
- Problem-solving orientation with adaptive sequencing
- Capacity building within government ministries and ATx team

These insights helped frame the learning exchange and offered participants a set of common ingredients that can help institutionalize and sustain transformation.



A Field Visit to Gboto Zévé ZAAP



One of Gboto Zévé ZAAP irrigation projects

Transformation in Action: A Field Visit to Gboto Zévé

One of the most powerful moments came from the field. Participants visited the Gboto Zévé ZAAP — a Planned Agricultural Development Zone supported by ATA Togo — where 211 farmers (including 78 women) are working under a contract farming model.

Since 2021 yields have nearly doubled, from 800 kg to 1.6 tonnes of maize per acre. During the 2024/2025 Ag season, the cooperative generated about \$120,000 in income and managed to lease 315 hectares of government land. Through ATA Togo's support and with strategic delivery guidance from WFP's TASC, this community is a living example of what transformation looks like at the last mile.

Farmers like Alipui Akouvi shared how the initiative has allowed her to feed her family, pay rent, and put all six of her children through school.

Why This Matters

While transformation models differ by country, the event underscored one thing clearly: real change happens when systems are built to deliver — not just on paper, but in people's lives. This requires setting in place delivery systems that can monitor, track results, and adapt in real time. It means building institutional capacity- not just for implementation but for ownership, leadership, and long term sustainability.

AATI's presence reinforced the importance of cross-country learning, evidence sharing, and delivery support that is both adaptive and locally owned.

Looking Ahead

As AATI continues to support the transition of ATOs into more permanent institutional homes, moments like these are critical — for reflection, resetting, and reaffirming what works.

This event created a platform for peer exchange where countries could move from theory to practice, grounded in experiences that are locally led and contextually relevant - a signal that African-led transformation is not only possible, but already happening.



Celebrating the Milestone of ATO Tanzania's Transition to AGRA



In collaboration with the Government of Tanzania, the African Agricultural Transformation Initiative (AATI) identified the essential ingredients to enable the government to achieve its agricultural transformation—ultimately reducing poverty, enhancing food security, and strengthening climate resilience. So far, AATI has supported the design of the Agricultural Transformation Master Plan (AMP), the establishment of the Agriculture Transformation Office (ATO), the institution of a governance and accountability framework for AMP implementation, and the foundation for the effective delivery of flagships and priority commodities.

So far, AATI has:

- Supported the design of the Agricultural Transformation Master Plan (AMP)
- Led the establishment of the Agriculture Transformation Office (ATO)
- co-designed a governance and accountability framework for AMP implementation
- Supported delivery planning for flagships and priority commodities
- Provided targeted technical assistance for operationalizing the ATO
- Helped develop a robust Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) framework to enable evidence-based decision-making and track progress.

1st May, 2025 | Nairobi

AATI's support to the Government of Tanzania in agricultural transformation has been structured through a phased approach, designed to strengthen the execution capabilities of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, ultimately fostering a culture of delivery.

This phased approach consists of two stages: inception and implementation. The inception phase focused on providing technical support for designing the AMP, establishing necessary institutional structures and systems, and developing implementation plans. The implementation phase is dedicated to the effective execution of AMP flagships and priority commodities.

As part of this process, ATO-Tanzania is now transitioning into its next phase, aligning more closely with national structures to ensure long-term sustainability. While the implementation phase will be driven primarily by the ministries, the ATO will continue to provide technical support and delivery expertise.

This transition is not just an operational shift but a strategic move to institutionalize a delivery culture, enhance sustainability, and align with Tanzania's national priorities. To further strengthen this transition, ATO-Tanzania will now be hosted by AGRA, an African-led institution committed to scaling agricultural innovations that improve smallholder farmers' incomes, livelihoods, and food security.

The transition of ATO-Tanzania from the AATI to AGRA follows the plan for the transition of the Initiative in line with the Partners' earlier ambition to have the Initiative hosted by an African Organization after an initial hosting in IFAD. Consequently, the Initiative will transition to AGRA on 1 January 2026. While efforts are ongoing to ensure a seamless transition, at the request of the Executive Director, the Steering Committee has approved the ATO Tanzania to AGRA as at 1 May 2025.

At its new home within AGRA, ATO-Tanzania will leverage AGRA's expertise to coordinate flagship programs, engage stakeholders, and track progress. Together with the Government of Tanzania, AGRA and the ATO will continue supporting farmers, strengthening agricultural systems, and fostering inclusive markets.

AATI remains committed to supporting governments in driving inclusive and sustainable agricultural transformation by enabling local delivery mechanisms that enhance the implementation of strategic initiatives. The Initiative is proud to support this journey and remains dedicated to collaborating with the Government of Tanzania to achieve meaningful, lasting impact.



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