Tracking Financial Flows to Food Systems (3FS) Community of Practice – Expert Group
Terms of Reference (ToR)

1. Background and Rationale

AKADEMIYA2063, in collaboration with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), seeks to establish a Community of Practice (CoP) comprising experts and practitioners in the application of the Tracking Financial Flows to Food Systems (3FS) methodology.

The 3FS methodology, recently developed and piloted in several African countries, provides a systematic framework for identifying, classifying, and tracking public expenditures and development financing directed toward five components of food systems: Agricultural Development and Value Chains; Infrastructure for Food Systems; Nutrition and Health; Social Assistance; Climate Change and Natural Resources.

To promote the wider adoption, effective implementation, and scaling up of the 3FS methodology, the collaborating partners propose establishing two complementary groups within the CoP:

1. **Expert Group:** A network of technical experts with advanced knowledge of economic modelling and members of the AGRODEP Modeling Consortium.
2. **Practitioners Group:** A network of professionals and institutions directly involved in implementing the 3FS methodology at country level who have previous experience in 3FS methodlogy development and implmentaiton.

These two groups will work in a complementary manner to strengthen national capacities, promote methodological consistency, and support the institutionalization and sustainable application of the 3FS methodology across African countries.

These Terms of Reference document define the objectives, scope of work, membership criteria, responsibilities, and expected benefits of participation in the **Expert Group.**

2. Objectives of the Expert Group

The overall objective of the Expert Group is to establish a pool of qualified experts capable of providing technical, analytical, and methodological support for the effective implementation, institutionalization, and scaling up of the 3FS methodology across African countries.

The specific objectives are to:

- Strengthen technical capacity for the application of the 3FS methodology.
- Facilitate technical and methodological support to countries implementing 3FS.
- Promote methodological consistency, quality, and continuous improvement in 3FS applications.
- Foster knowledge exchange and collaboration among experts and practitioners.
- Support evidence-based decision-making on food systems financing and investment.

3. Scope of Work and Responsibilities

Members of the Expert Group will contribute to the following areas, depending on their expertise, availability, and the needs of participating countries.

3.1. Methodological guidance and technical assistance

- Provide technical guidance on the application of the 3FS methodology, including expenditure identification, tagging, classification, and analysis.
- Support national teams in accessing, organizing, processing, and analyzing public expenditure and development financing data.
- Provide methodological backstopping and troubleshooting throughout the implementation process.
- Support the development and adaptation of analytical tools, templates, and guidelines for country-level applications.

3.2. Quality assurance and technical review

- Review country-level 3FS assessments to ensure methodological consistency, analytical rigor, and data quality.
- Provide technical feedback on expenditure classification, analytical results, and interpretation of findings.
- Contribute to the refinement and harmonization of methodological standards across implementing countries.

3.3. Capacity development and mentoring

- Serve as resource persons and trainers for workshops, webinars, masterclasses, and other capacity-building activities.
- Mentor national analysts and practitioners involved in 3FS implementation.
- Contribute to the development of training materials, technical manuals, case studies, and other learning resources.
- Facilitate the transfer of technical knowledge and skills to national institutions to support sustainable implementation.

3.4. Methodological improvement and innovation

- Identify methodological gaps and implementation challenges based on country experiences.
- Contribute to the continuous refinement of the 3FS methodology and associated analytical tools.
- Support the development of complementary approaches for tracking private sector investment in food systems.
- Explore opportunities to improve data management, analytical efficiency, and digital applications supporting 3FS implementation.

3.5. Knowledge generation and policy engagement

- Undertake or contribute to analytical studies on food systems financing, including cross-country comparisons, financing gaps, and investment priorities.
- Support the preparation of technical reports, policy briefs, and knowledge products.
- Contribute to policy dialogues and technical discussions on the implications of 3FS findings.
- Support national institutions in translating analytical findings into actionable recommendations for food systems financing and investment planning.

3.6. Community engagement and peer learning

- Actively participate in Expert Group meetings, technical discussions, and knowledge-sharing activities.
- Share relevant expertise, research findings, methodological innovations, and country experiences.
- Collaborate with members of the Practitioners Group to address emerging technical needs.
- Contribute to thematic technical working groups and joint learning activities organized through the CoP.

4. Benefits and Opportunities for Members

Participation in the Expert Group will provide members with opportunities to:

1. **Professional development:** Access specialized training, methodological updates, and continuous learning opportunities related to 3FS and food systems financing.
2. **Professional networking:** Connect and collaborate with researchers, policymakers, development partners, and practitioners working on food systems financing across Africa and beyond.
3. **Technical engagement opportunities:** Be considered for assignments as trainers, resource persons, technical advisers, reviewers, or consultants supporting 3FS implementation.
4. **Research and knowledge generation:** Participate in collaborative studies, comparative analyses, methodological development, and joint publications.
5. **Policy engagement and visibility:** Contribute technical expertise to national and regional policy discussions on food systems financing and investment priorities.
6. **Access to knowledge resources:** Benefit from shared analytical tools, technical materials, country experiences, and other resources generated through the CoP.

Membership does not automatically guarantee paid assignments or financial compensation. Any consultancy or technical assistance engagement will be subject to specific needs, applicable selection procedures, and available resources.

5. Operational Arrangements and Participation

The Expert Group will function as a collaborative technical network supported by the CoP Secretariat: AKADEMIYA2063.

Its activities will include regular virtual interactions, technical working group meetings, webinars, peer-learning sessions, and periodic in-person convenings where resources permit. By June 2027, the group will have organized an induction meeting, a training session to build members' understanding of the 3FS methodology, and a launch event to formally establish the expert group. Although these initial activities will be completed by June 2027, the group will remain active beyond this date, continuing to engage, collaborate, and provide technical support to interested countries.

Participation will generally be voluntary and based on members' interests, expertise, and availability. However, specific technical assistance assignments may be undertaken through separate contractual or institutional arrangements.

Members will be encouraged to contribute actively to the Group's work, share knowledge and experiences, and uphold professional standards of analytical rigor, collaboration, confidentiality, and impartiality.

6. Application

AGRODEP members with relevant expertise are invited to complete the 3FS Expert Group Application Form and submit it, along your CV, to Mrs. Nancy Massala at nmassala@akademiya2063.org, copying Dr. Seraphin Niyonsenga (sniyonsenga@akademiya2063.org) and Dr. Getaw Tadesse (gtadesse@akademiya2063.org), by **Friday, November 20, 2026**.