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ATLAS

Agricultural Transitions Lab
for African Solutions

Executive Summary

The imperative and urgency to transition to sustainable and thriving African agri-food systems is well recognized, but the transition will be complex and disruptive, leading to the current limited alignment on the optimal path forward

- Differing agendas and priorities in charting the paths, including between the Global North (focus on longer-term climate action) and Global South (focus on near-term economic growth and food security), hinder effective investment and equitable transitions
- Although objectives will converge in the long run, the transition should not bear on the nearest and acute need of African countries

This disconnection in global priorities contributes to Africa's critically underfunded agri-food systems, despite their crucial role in achieving the combined goals of economic prosperity, food & nutrition security and sustainability

- Investments are lagging across public, private & philanthropic sector with a funding gap of at least \$200Bn/year
- This underinvestment exacerbates Africa's severe challenges such as key social issues (~60% of African population lives on wages below \$2/day), climate change (20% yield drop risk) and food insecurity (60% prevalence of food insecurity)

In June 2024, ATLAS will be launched by the Paris Peace Forum and its partners, hosted at UM6P, as a permanent North-South policy dialogue platform enabling African food system transformation, with 2 key missions:

- Advocate for substantial **increases in investments** from all sectors to transform African food systems
- Drive **efficient investment** by building consensus on a common definitions, investment priorities (inc. innovation, infra, policy etc.)

By 2030, ATLAS aims to double the share of investments into agriculture and quadruple the number of participants from leading organizations, contributing to drive economic prosperity, address climate impacts, ensure food & nutrition security

To achieve these targets, ATLAS' activities will focus on 3 core activities:

- **Advocacy:** convene multistakeholder dialogues to boost investment and align priorities
- **Knowledge:** become the leading reference on tracking investment into African food systems
- **Spotlight:** select initiatives in line with ATLAS vision, elevating them on the global stage as best-in-class examples

“

The current level of finance to agrifood systems is **insufficient** and **inefficient**

–
FAO Chief Economist,
Maximo Torero
2023

Agriculture is one of the highest-return investment to achieve SDGs, addressing 13 of the 17 SDGs



70% of African population is directly dependent on agriculture with >60% of the population living below \$2/day



More than 1 in 5 people (21%) in Sub-Saharan Africa are undernourished



High stunting rate (32%) and low intake of endorsed healthy diet and increased risk of NCDs



50% of employed woman work as farmers



Agriculture consumes ~80% of Africa's water resources with risk of runoff leading to pollution of water bodies



Agriculture accounts for about 15% of total GDP



60-70% traditional storage methods being used in Africa with <5% of land that uses irrigation infrastructure



On average, 80% of African farmers are smallholders with limited means to escape poverty trap



Avg. yield (64%) is below the global average with 21% of food lost along the supply chain in Sub-Saharan Africa vs. 13% globally



African agriculture contributes to 14% of GHG emission (mitigation potential of ~200MT CO₂e /yr) and is expected to be worst hit by climate change



Africa contains approximately 16-17% of the world's forests that are at risk of deforestation, driven by food demand



By 2050, if no action is taken, about 86 million climate migrants are expected from Sub-Saharan Africa alone



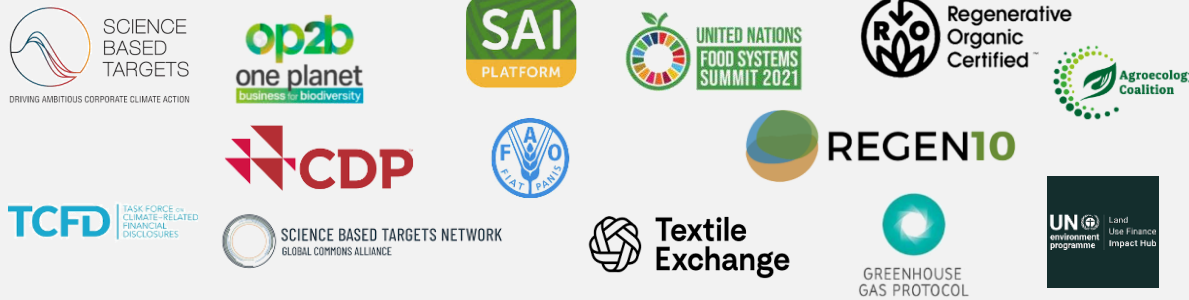
Limited multi-stakeholder collaboration on key issues such as public funding with ~\$200b annual finance gap across Africa

Despite the urgency to transform food systems, there is limited alignment on the path forward...

Not exhaustive



Multiple frameworks for sustainable agriculture exist, with no clear consensus...



Limited specific focus on Africa-specific context & priorities



...Leading to different investment priorities from DFIs, and development Organizations



Global North and South agenda are not aligned

Consequences

Fragmentation & misallocation of investment

towards non-priority areas and into multiple priorities etc....

Disproportionate impacts

... at the expenses of most vulnerable (e.g. small holder producers, etc.), directly impacted by shift in funding and policies



...with limited consensus on 3 key questions



What definition of sustainable production is relevant for Africa?

- How to increase productivity while balancing economic prosperity with sustainability goals ?
- What target for sustainable use of resources (e.g., fertilizer, water)?



How to prioritize investments to drive productivity, food security and sustainability?

- Which **stages of the value chain** (upstream, midstream, downstream)?
- What **production systems** (small holders, larger scale, etc.) to balance economic development (e.g., large-scale production and mechanisation) with socio-economic considerations (small holder income, job creation)?
- What **commodities** to balance food security considerations (e.g., locally adapted, indigenous crops) vs. export and value add potential (e.g., main grains etc.) ?



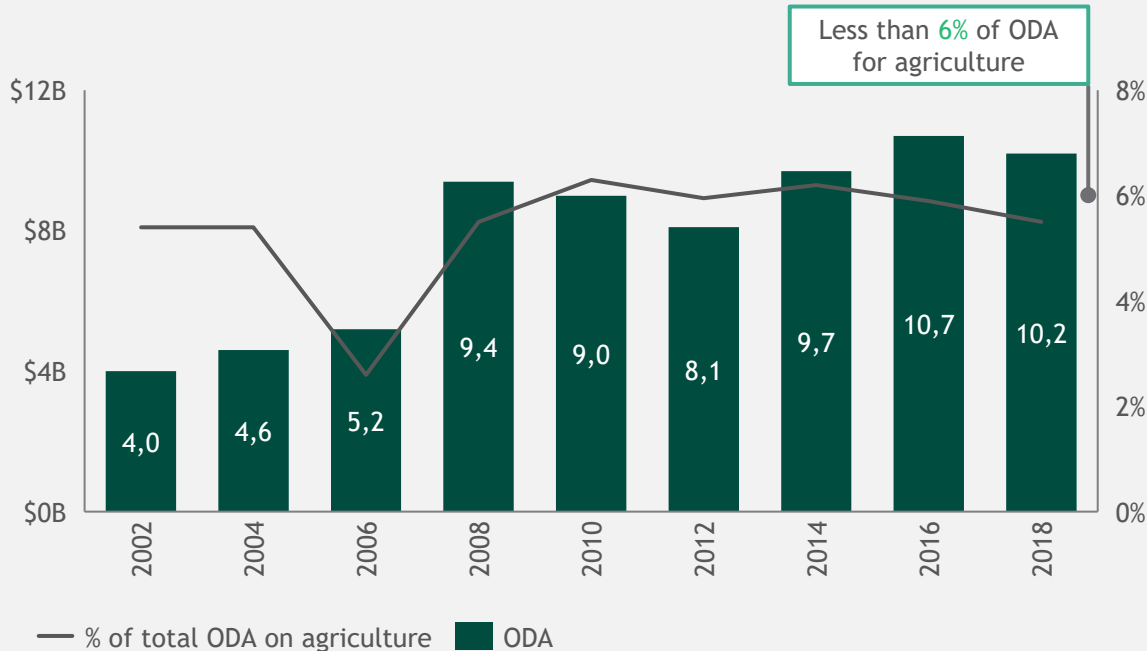
What enablers are critical for the transition?

- What **innovations** are the most impactful for African agri food systems?
- What **infrastructure** investments are needed to enable the transition?
- What **policy changes** are needed?
- How can improved **North-South relations** support the transition (e.g., improved agricultural and trade policies)?

The misalignment contributes to underfunding in African food systems...

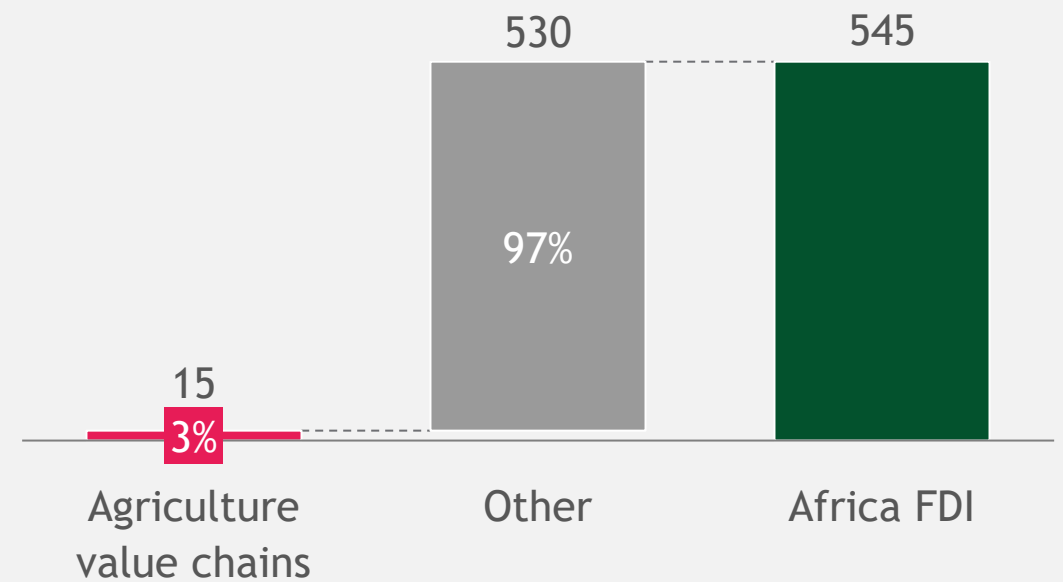
Development funding

% ODA for agriculture value chains in Africa per year (% and B\$ bn)



Private funding

% of FDI injected in agriculture value chains in Africa from 2019 to 2023 (USD Billion)

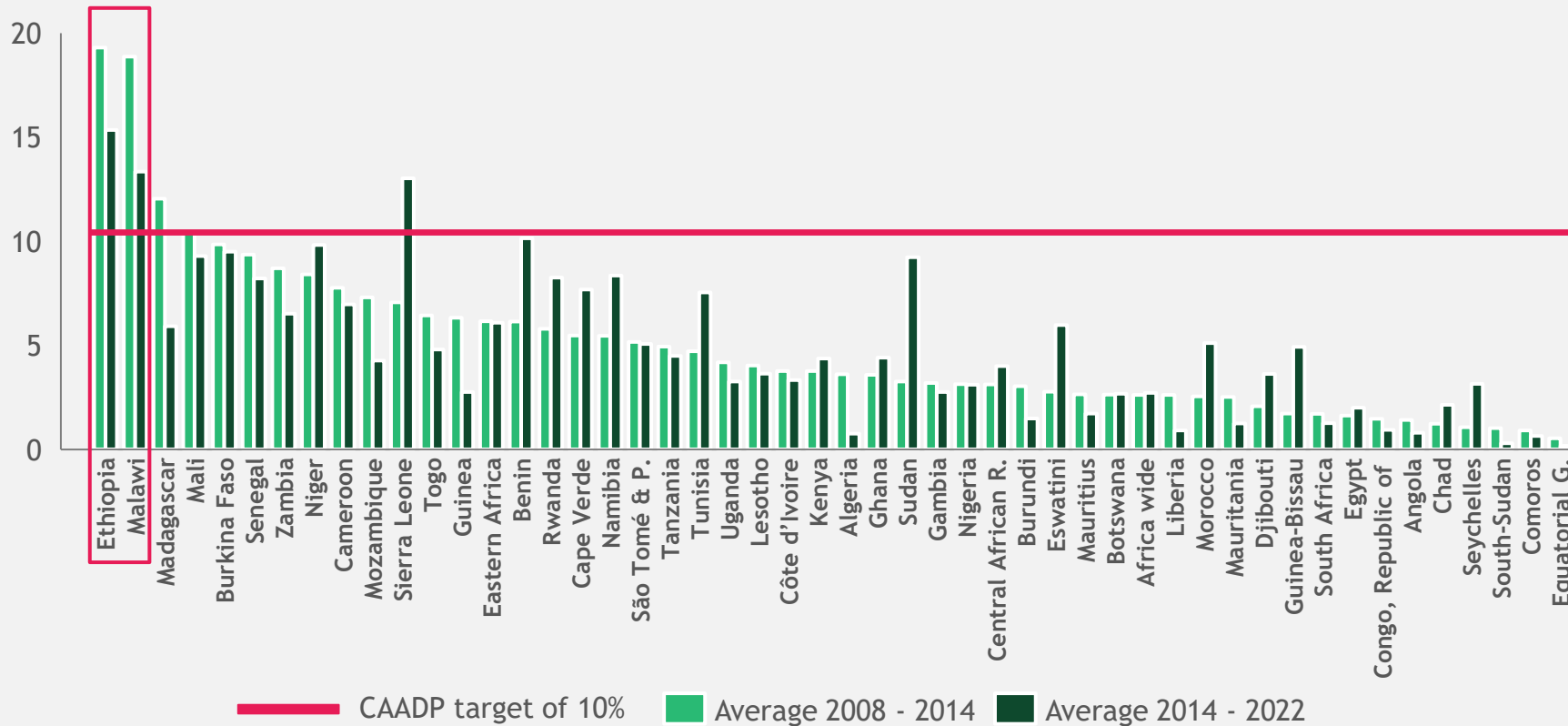


*“The AGRF calls on global leaders to **mobilize investment of \$200B** per year into adaptive food systems across Africa. We urge member states to address this and food systems transformation this November at COP27 in Sharm-el-Sheikh” - AGRF Declaration 2022*

...and only a few countries achieved the CAADP target for public expenditure

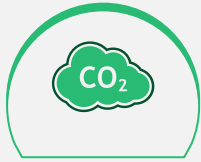
Public funding

Share of government agriculture expenditure in total government expenditure, percent, 2008-2022, by country



Only 2 countries consistently met the CAADP 10% budget target during the period from 2008 to 2022, out of 55 states

At the same time, African food systems are facing severe challenges



Climate change

Africa is **disproportionally impacted** by climate change

- **8-22%** decrease in staple crops yields over the next ~20 years
- **2/3** of arable land could be lost to desertification by 2030
- Up to **105 million** of **internal climate migrants** by 2050



Food insecurity

There is a **growing number** of food insecure people

- **61%** of the population facing moderate/severe food insecurity (vs **30%** worldwide)
- **23M** million people facing food insecurity in the horn of Africa due to water stress



Economic development

A large proportion of Africans live below poverty line in unequal countries

- **~61%** of African population lives on wages below \$2/ day
- **22%** of youth (>25) are unemployed
- Highly inequality in some countries (e.g. South Africa, Gini index of 0.67) ¹

1. These statistics are for Africa

Source: [United Nations](#); [World Bank](#); [AfDB](#); [State of Climate in Africa](#); [International Livestock Research Institute](#); [World Economic Forum](#); [IMF](#); [European Parliament Research Service](#)

2 core objectives for ATLAS...



Sufficient investments

Advocate for significant increase in investments to transform of Africa's food systems

“To unleash the full potential of agriculture in Africa, we need to scale up investment (...) for African farmers.”

- AfDB President, Akinwumi Adesina



Efficient investments

Drive consensus on critical priorities to shift Africa's food systems

“Building consensus (...) for agricultural transformation in Africa is as important as the investments themselves”

- AGRA President, Agnes Kalibata

... to achieve 3 goals



Drive economic development





Manage climate change impacts



Increase food and nutrition security

By 2030, ATLAS will aim to double investment flows and mobilize 100 partners

	Targets	2024	2030
 Increase investment	Increase public spending % average public spending from CAADP countries into agricultural value chains	5%	10%
	Increase philanthropic spending % average ODA spending in Africa agricultural value chains	5%	10%
	Increase in private spending % average FDI spending in Africa agricultural value chains	3%	6%
 Drive consensus on priorities	Increase signatories # signatories of call to action ¹	25	100
	Initiatives labelled by ATLAS # initiatives labelled	-	60

A vertical dotted line with diamond markers separates the 2024 and 2030 columns. Yellow circles with text are placed on this line: 'x2' between the first and second rows, 'x4' between the second and third rows, and '10/y' between the third and fourth rows.

1. Signatories to include leading governments, businesses, institutions and organizations across the value chain, research centers, financiers, donors and governments

To achieve its goals, ATLAS will focus on 3 core activities...



1 Advocacy

Organize key convening events across the year to advocate for increased investment and shared priorities

- Convene **annual high-level ATLAS Roundtable** with signatories and leading organizations as key advocacy moment during
- Participate into **leading events** to continue advocacy activities e.g., WB Meetings, COP (CBD/Climate/UNCCD), UNFSS, AGRF, etc.



2 Knowledge

Compile and disseminate knowledge that drive investment and alignment within agri-food systems in Africa

- Annual publication on **Africa agri-food investment barometer**
- Develop **executive publications on priority topics**, aligned with stakeholders through advocacy e.g., definition for sustainable agriculture in Africa

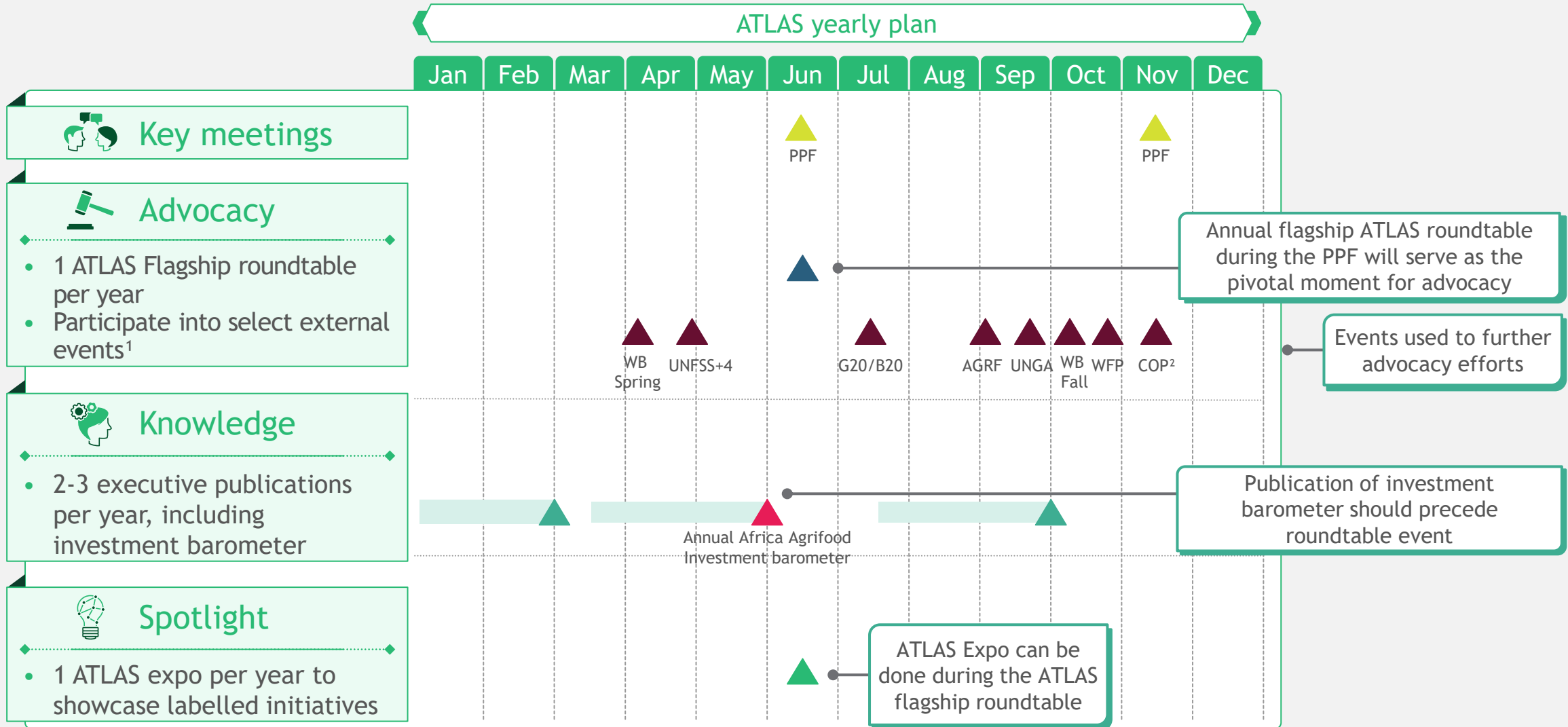


3 Spotlight

Amplify and elevate activities and initiatives that comply with the ATLAS label

- Identify activities and initiatives that qualify for the **ATLAS Label**
- Organize **annual expo** to spotlight leading initiatives, share best practices and encourage networking

... with key moments across the year



Note: 1. Event participation to be reviewed annually 2. COP CBD/Climate/UNCCD depending on where food systems is a prime topic



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