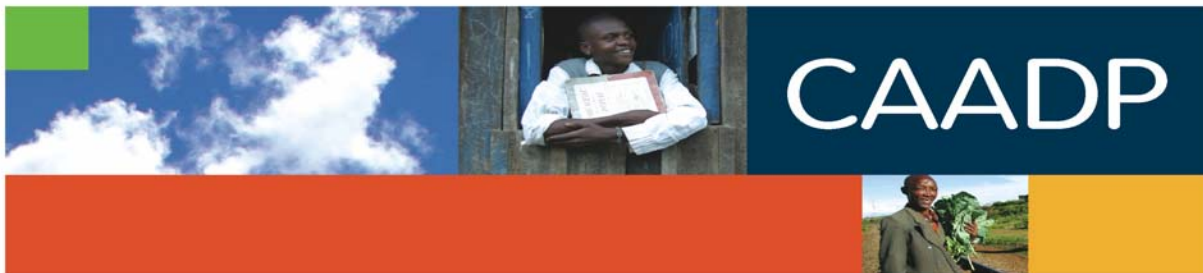


CAADP

**The Agriculture unit and the food security declarations of the African Union:
a progress report on key crops and initiatives.**

**PARTNERSHIPS
IN SUPPORT
OF CAADP**





BRIEFING NOTES (2/09)

NEPAD's Agriculture Unit and food security declarations of the African Union: a progress report.

This report is primarily based on the contributions and work of Dr. Maria Wanzala, Mr. Martin Bwalya, Dr. Sloans Chimatiro and Mr. Komla Bissi of the Agriculture Unit at NEPAD

1.0 Introduction

This brief is prepared as a 'Report' that highlights that progress that has been made by the Agriculture Unit of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) in terms of implementing some of the main agricultural and food security decisions of the African Union (AU). The Report is structured and written in such a way that prioritises the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) as the entry point for assessing the AU approach to agriculture in Africa. This is based on the consideration that CAADP's 4 Pillars are inextricably linked to the key declarations of the AU on agriculture in Africa.

Based on the aforementioned, the focus of this report is on the following issues:

1. The (recent and selected) agriculture and food security decisions / declarations of the AU
2. An update on the Declaration of the Africa Union on Climate Change and Development in Africa
3. An update on the Abuja Declaration on Fertilizers for an African Green Revolution and the ongoing measures to boost fertilizer production in Africa
4. An update on the Promotion of the strategies and actions in the Plan for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development in Africa
5. An update on the Cassava and Rice Initiatives and the moves / strategies towards attraction of requisite investment into the two initiatives.

The next section highlights the enactment / endorsement of these key decisions by the AU.

2.0 The Agriculture and Food Security related Decisions of the African Union Summit

Over the past few years, the AU Heads of State and Government have deliberated and made policy and strategy decisions on a number of agriculture and food security issues. The main ones include:

AU Decision and Declaration

- i. Decision and Declaration of the Africa Union on Climate Change and Development in Africa (January 2007)
- ii. Resolution of the Abuja Food Security Summit (December 2006)
- iii. Abuja Declaration on Fertilizers for an African Green Revolution (June 2006)
- iv. NEPAD – Fish for All Summit decision (August 2005)
- v. Decision on the Implementation of the Green Wall for the Sahara Initiative (July 2005)



NEPAD Initiatives

- vi. NEPAD Pan African Cassava Initiative (NPACI) with implementation being led by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)
- vii. Rice Initiative: West Africa Rice Development Association (WARDA)

Implementation of these decisions is being undertaken with a number of institutions taking leadership in liaison with the AU Commission and the NEPAD Secretariat – particularly through the Agriculture Unit.

In the next four sections – this Report goes on to provide a detailed breakdown of the progress that has been made in implementing these declarations.

3.0 Decision and Declaration of the Africa Union on Climate Change and Development in Africa (January 2007)

Discussing the issue of climate change, the January 2007 AU Summit expressed grave concern on the vulnerability of Africa's socio-economic and productive systems to the adverse effects of climate change. The Summit endorsed the "Climate Information for Development Needs: An Action Plan for Africa – Report and Implementation Strategy".

At NEPAD, the Environment Unit with the support of the Agriculture Unit provides the leadership in the implementation of on this AU Decision and Declaration. In collaboration with the AUC, AfDB and the ECA a number of programmes and activities have been accomplished. In addition, a high profile committee of eminent persons working to raise active awareness on climate change and options for mitigation and adaptation in Africa has also been set-up.

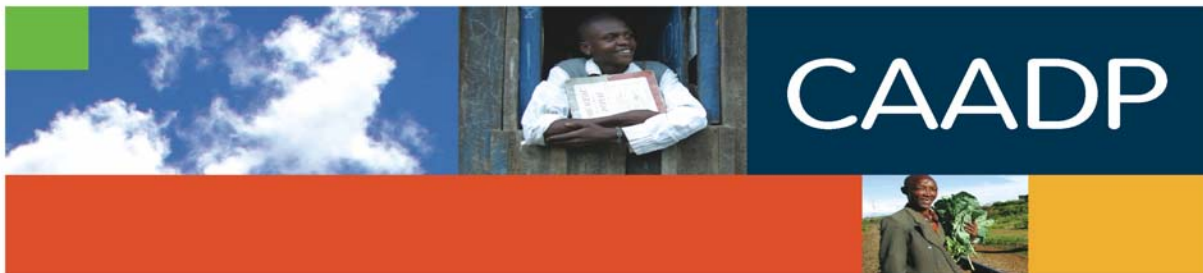
NEPAD-CAADP supports these initiatives mainly through down-stream programmes aimed at enhancing actual development, financing and implementation of programmes on climate change mitigation and/or adaptation in various agricultural and environmental programmes.

The main initiatives include:

- i. The NEPAD-COMESA-WWF African Working Group on *Climate, Agriculture, Forests, Land Use and Livelihoods* formally launched during the Rwanda CAADP implementation Meeting in Kigali in March 2007.

The Working Group was set-up with the objective of providing a continental platform linking scientific knowledge, policy and political interest and grassroots adaptations and promotion of Sustainable Land and Water Management practices. The platform, functioning as an inclusive knowledge sharing forum will stimulate and facilitate:

- a) Bringing to the attention of the "public" in general and specifically policy / decision makers - issues / information (in a user friendly format) that can enable them to actively appreciate the role / linkages of climate change to food security and poverty alleviation



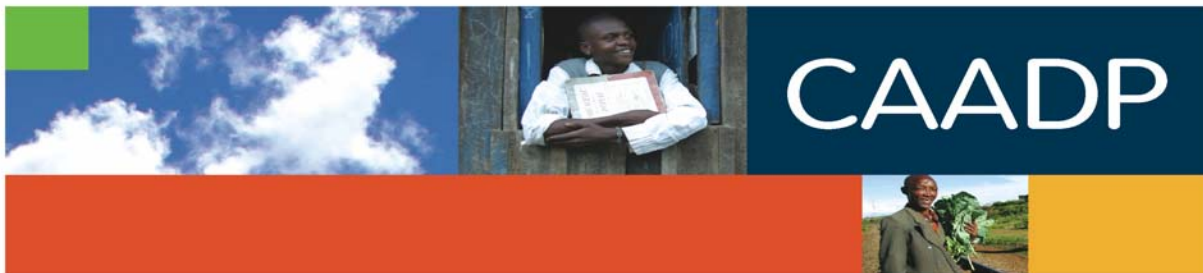
- b) Help NEPAD define and focus its roles and responsibilities in supporting the mainstreaming of the Climate Change Agenda in Africa's development policies, strategies and programmes
- c) Contribute to the debate / dialogue on the issues and modalities for strengthening Africa's standing (coherence and critical mass) and participation in dialogue at global level on issues of managing / responding to climate change
- d) Focus on practical and feasible modalities for galvanizing political / policy active interest and commitment to addressing climate change as an issue that is integral to Africa's development agenda (including policies and strategies to address food security and poverty alleviation)
- e) How to rally resources available at the global / international level into grounded interventions that address global environmental benefits while at the same time providing for the communities' immediate needs in food security and income generation

The Working Group is already galvanising and directly contributing to:

- The development and deployment of an advanced knowledge base for measuring and monitoring carbon sequestration and related benefits for sustainable land management practices
- The development and deployment of a "toolbox" of best practices for sustainable agriculture and land management and related livelihood strategies
- Identification of the institutional and policy innovations and reforms necessary to create an enabling environment for sustainable agriculture and land management and improved livelihoods in Africa
- An effort to increase interest in sustainable agriculture and land management projects and rural participation in global carbon markets
- Development of demonstration projects in different landscapes and ecosystems to promote the development of an ever-enlarging number of field projects by a very wide range of public and private sector project developers
- A major capacity- and institution-building and strengthening effort to empower communities, local institutions, project developers, and national government service agencies vis-à-vis the important initiatives on climate change.

The following investment programmes have been developed or are under development in relation to the work of this Working Group:

- a) The COMESA-EAC-SADC Initiative on Carbon Trade
- b) The Regional Project to scale up adoption of Conservation Agriculture Practices – NEPAD, FAO, SADC and Norwegian Government



The next section reviews the progress concerning the implementation of the Abuja Declaration on Fertilisers.

4.0 Update on the Abuja Declaration on Fertilizers for an African Green Revolution and the ongoing measures to boost fertilizer production in Africa

(a) PROGRESS AT COUNTRY LEVEL

Note that – with the exception of fertilizer consumption, this report is based on responses from 23 countries in 2008.

Fertilizer Consumption: The problem of fertilizer use in Africa continues to be one of under-use rather than over-use. Of the 33 countries for which data is available, only four surpass the 50kg per hectare target set by the Abuja Declaration. Two countries, Mauritius (217 kg/ha) and Egypt (572 kg/ha) consume over 100 kg of nutrients per hectare.

Policy and Regulatory Environment: The Abuja Declaration calls for harmonization of policies and regulations, immediate elimination of taxes and tariffs on fertilizers, and the development of capacity for quality control. Countries have made good progress with regards to the legal and regulatory framework:

- 67% have a formal fertilizer legislation in place;
- 80% do not have price controls;
- 70% do not restrict the types of fertilizers that can enter the country thus allowing importers to import fertilizers according to the agronomic needs of their farmers;
- 50% of the countries conduct fertilizer inspections for quality control at the point of sale
- 65% of countries do not have tariffs on fertilizers
- 75% do not have taxes on fertilizers.

However, there is still room for improvement.

- Although 65% of responding countries have fertilizer legislation, implementation is still weak as evidenced by the fact that only 50% of respondents carry out inspections for quality control
- There is also a need to sensitize countries that still retain taxes and tariffs on their fertilizers to eliminate them in accordance with the Abuja Declaration as they pose an obstacle to regional integration and trade.

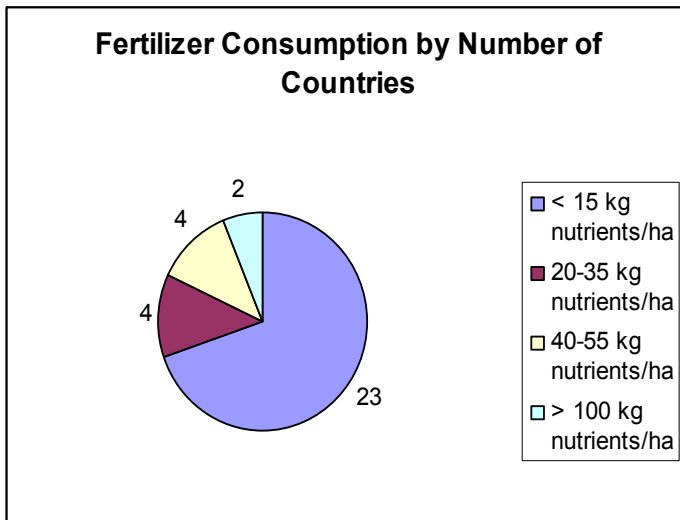
Development of Agro-dealer Networks – Number of agrodealers per country remains low, indicating that farmers still have difficulty gaining access to fertilizers and other farm inputs:

- Fifty percent of the responding countries had less than 10 agrodealers countrywide
- Only 25% had more than 10,000 agro-dealers.
- 75% reported that their farmers still travel more than 10km to purchase fertilizers (the ideal distance is no more than 2-5 km)
- 71% of respondents reported that less than 50% of their farmers used chemical fertilizers.

However, countries have introduced initiatives to develop their agrodealer networks, in collaboration with development partners. Specifically:



- AGRA has launched agrodealer network development projects in 8 countries (Malawi, Tanzania, Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Uganda, and Zambia) in collaboration with IFDC, International Fertilizer Development Center, Citizen’s Network for Foreign Affairs (CNFA), Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE), and AT Uganda. The total amount invested in the eight countries is approximately \$27.5 million. The objective is to strengthen the local private sector in providing farmers with access to higher quality seeds, cheaper fertilizers, and greater access to farm and small business credit and loans



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- AGRA has launched an initiative in Kenya to establish a loan facility of US\$50 million in partnership with Equity Bank Limited and IFAD. The initiative accelerates access to affordable financing for 2.5 million farmers and 15,000 agricultural value chain members such as rural input shops, fertilizers and seed

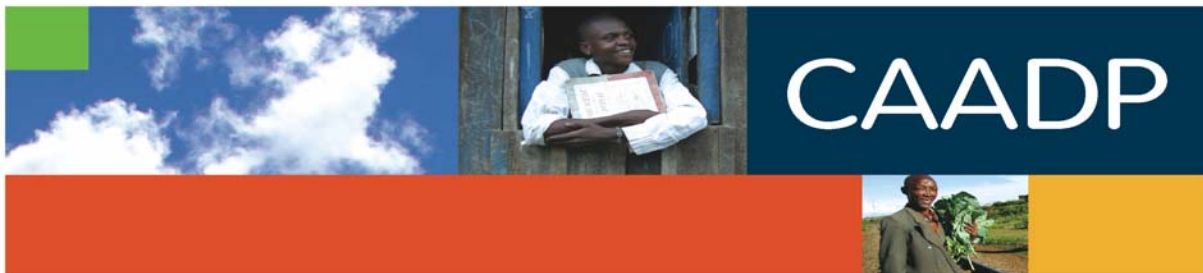
wholesalers and importers, grain traders and food processors.

Targeted Fertilizer Subsidies 78% of the respondents (19 countries) have a fertilizer subsidy. These are: Tanzania, Swaziland, Seychelles, Botswana, Burundi, Lesotho, Namibia, Togo, Angola, Rwanda, Uganda, Madagascar, Cameroon, Mali, Cote d'Ivoire, Malawi, Ethiopia, Egypt, Nigeria. However, only two respondents (Angola and Tanzania) had targeted subsidies in that they used an input voucher scheme to implement their subsidy programs.

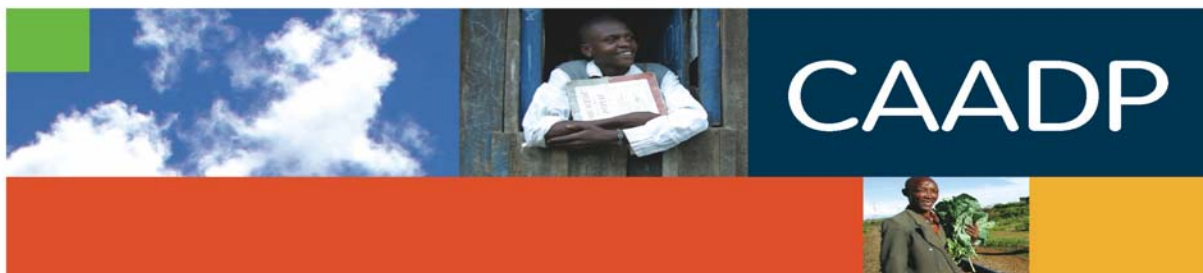
Fertilizer production and inter- and intra-regional trade: Inter and Intra-regional trade - There is some inter-regional and intra-regional trade in fertilizers in Africa but data on quantities is not available. For example, Tanzania and Kenya import fertilizers from manufacturers in Tunisia and Morocco in North Africa, and Malawi, Zambia and Mozambique import fertilizers from South Africa. Nevertheless, the majority of fertilizers produced in Africa are exported, and the majority of fertilizer consumed is imported.

Fertilizer production using local resources in Africa - The following private sector initiatives for fertilizer production have been initiated in Africa since June 2006:

- i. Nigeria:
 - i. The ammonia/urea plant in Nigeria, National Fertilizer Company of Nigeria, Ltd. (NAFCON), which is the largest in Sub-Saharan Africa, was privatized in 2006. The new owner renamed the facilities the Notore (Genesis) Ammonia/Urea Complex. Once renovations were completed, and ammonia production was scheduled to begin in April 2008 and urea production in September 2008. In Year 1, the plant will produce 1,500 mtpd. Within 5 years, the company plans to build two more plants and produce 6,500 mtpd of urea (2.5 million mtpy)
 - ii. A Nigerian entrepreneur plans to establish a phosphate production plant in Togo, using domestic phosphate rock that is commercially mined. The complex will produce single

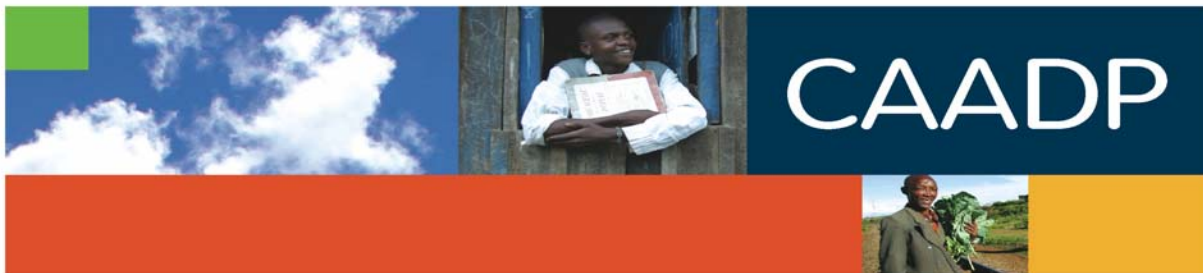


- iii. superphosphate and aluminum sulfate for water purification. Most of the products will be exported to Nigeria, but some will be marketed domestically.
- ii. Kenya - A private company, Athi River Mining Co has decided to produce specialty compound fertilizers to meet growing demand for crop specific products in East Africa
- iii. Malawi - In Malawi the Taiwanese government is building a fertilizer granulation plant. Production was slated to commence December/January 2007
- iv. Algeria - Sofert Algeria plans to build a nitrogen fertilizer complex in northwest Algeria. The complex will comprise an ammonia and granular urea plant with a 1.2 million mtpy capacity. A second ammonia plant with capacity for 800,000 mtpy ammonia is planned. It will be located in Arzew, the industrial zone, which is near port facilities. The plant is scheduled to start production during the second half of 2010. The project is on track to be Algeria's largest fertilizer producer and geared to be a major exporter on the Mediterranean
- v. Ethiopia/Indian Partnership - The Ethiopian government has reportedly approved a mineral development license that would allow an Indian company, Sainik Aryan Group, to build a US \$500 million potash mine in the Afar Regional State. The area reportedly contains a 160 million mt of potash deposit.
- vi. Mozambique
 - i. The Mozambique Fertilizer Company (MFC), which manufactures and bags fertilizers, began operations in mid-2007 in Manica Province. It has just commenced its blending operations, and it intends to blend demand-based grades as per farmer need. The newly established blending plant has a capacity to blend 10 mtph and is currently blending NPK 12:12:12
 - ii. Former President Joachim Chissano of Mozambique is negotiating with Asian investors to establish a urea/ammonia complex using natural gas in Mozambique. Technical assistance for the plant is from a Brazilian consortium.
- vii. Senegal - An agreement has been reached for a consortium led by the Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative (IFFCO) to take over the Industries Chimiques du Senegal (ICS). Under the agreement, the IFFCO consortium will invest \$100 million in equity and an additional \$100 million over the next 3 years in ICS. The IFFCO consortium will take control of ICS, but 15% of the capital of the company will be allocated to the Government of Senegal free of charge. The IFFCO consortium will also give a \$500,000 equity stake to the Indian government, which will sit on the ICS board. This is expected to enable the substantial repair and replacement works and hence raise phosphoric acid output to the initial capacity of 660,000 mtpy.



(b) Table 1: Progress in NEPAD co-ordinated and supported activities at the regional level

REC	Activities and Progress
COMESA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Regional Customs Union to be established in December 2008 / early 2009. Plans are underway to zero rate all external tariffs on fertilizers under this initiative.</i> ▪ <i>Plans are underway to establish regional one-stop border posts to expedite goods clearance. At least two (Zimbabwe/Zambia and Uganda/Kenya) should be operational by the end of 2008. COMESA has put in place a fast-track clearance system for fertilizers.</i> ▪ <i>Plans are underway for the formation of a Fertilizer Association of Africa which will pave way for the harmonization of fertilizer regulations and standards.</i> ▪ <i>Collaboration with the EAC, SADC and the IOC for the design and submission of a bid for regional agricultural projects to the European Commission Food Facility. The submission included a section on fertilizer markets development. (In response to the high food prices, the European Community Food Facility has earmarked up to € 1 billion to be spent on increasing food production within the next 18 months. The facility specifically emphasises increasing the use of fertilisers and improved seeds to increase food production).</i> ▪ <i>A number of COMESA member countries have embarked on individual fertilizer subsidy schemes. These include Kenya, Zambia, Malawi and Zimbabwe.</i>
EAC and COMESA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Signing of an MOU with IFDC to implement a program dedicated to the promotion of trade in quality agricultural inputs in the region (Strengthening Trade at the Regional Level in Agricultural Inputs in Africa or STAR)</i>
ECCAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Received technical assistance from NEPAD and IFDC to develop a concept note for the establishment of a legal and regulatory framework for fertilizers for the region. The concept note has been finalized and is awaiting final approval by the Executive Secretary of ECCAS before submission to AGRA for funding.</i>
ECOWAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Preparation of a Common External Tariff for fertilizers that includes a proposed zero rate for the 15 ECOWAS member states.</i> ▪ <i>Collaboration with the IFDC Marketing Inputs Regionally (MIR) project to prepare draft bills and regulations for four countries to develop a conducive policy and regulatory environment for regional procurement and distribution.</i>
SADC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Collaboration with NEPAD and IFDC to commission a feasibility study to assess the viability of existing plants and the production potential of fertilizer raw material resources in the region.</i>
IGAD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Submission of a concept note proposing a one-year study to develop a regional fertilizer policy to the AfDB. The AfDB has indicated that it will consider this request upon the establishment of the AFFM. In the meantime, IGAD is conducting background fertilizer studies in member states with technical assistance from FAO.</i> ▪ <i>In August 2008 IGAD along with the other RECs in the Eastern and Southern Africa region, developed a bid for funding of regional agricultural projects to the EC Food Facility. A number of proposals were made on fertiliser market development.</i>



(i) Establishment of the AFFM by the AfDB - The African Fertilizer Development Financing Mechanism (AFFM) have already mobilized over USD 35.2 million in pledges by the government of Nigeria, the Gates Foundation, AGRA and IFAD among others. On December 4, 2007, the Board of Directors of the AfDB endorsed the legal instrument and framework document for the establishment of the AFFM and on March 15, 2008 the Bank's Board of Governors approved them. The AfDB is now working on the necessary steps to operationalize the fertilizer facility which include developing its operational strategy, rules of procedures including procedures for accessing funds, and the activities to be financed.

(c)The Way Forward

1. The AU and NEPAD are organizing a Fertilizer Review Meeting to be held in April 2009 to provide the countries and RECs with an opportunity to discuss their initiatives vis-à-vis the Abuja Declaration on Fertilizers, identify the reasons for weak implementation, and develop strategies to accelerate implementation.
2. As soon as the AFFM has been established, is functional, the AU and NEPAD should collaborate with the AfDB to organize and undertake joint missions to the countries and international donors to remind the countries of their pledge to support the AFFM and mobilize technical and financial support from international donors.
3. 78% or 19 of the responding countries have fertilizer subsidies. This is not surprising given the high food prices coupled by the fact that fertilizer prices have increased by over 200% since the beginning of 2007. African governments are compelled to implement measures to assist farmers. However, the nature and administration of these subsidies varies considerably and if they not implemented carefully in a market-friendly manner, they may end up doing more harm than good in the long run. There is an urgent need to commission a comprehensive study on the different types of fertilizer subsidies in Africa and how they are administered so they can be rationalized and harmonized to facilitate private sector development and regional market integration, rather than undermine these processes. A proposal for the same is will be developed first quarter of 2009.

Up next is a review of key development concerning the plan for Fisheries.

5.0 Promotion of the strategies and actions in the Plan for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development in Africa (the 2005 Fish Summit)

Partnership and coalition building to link resources with agriculture investment programmes

(a) Partnership with FAO

1. Through the Africa Strategy for Fisheries: NEPAD Agriculture has worked with FAO to facilitate the formulation of the FAO's African Fisheries Strategy, which is based on the NEPAD Action Plan for the Development of African Fisheries & Aquaculture. The programme aims at enhancing:
 - I. Optimal socio-economic benefits from aquatic resources;
 - II. Responsible and sustainable aquatic production;
 - III. Efficient and effective governance systems; and
 - IV. Efficient and effective knowledge and outreach systems



It will be funded by SIDA to the tune of US\$12 million

2. Aquaculture Network for Africa (ANAF): NEPAD Agriculture has supported a number of African countries to establish the Aquaculture Network for Africa (ANAF), with the assistance from FAO and GTZ. In line with the NEPAD Action Plan, ANAF will aim at:
 - Establishing a regional network of aquaculture policy practitioners, supported by other leading government planning sectors, to accelerate the development of aquaculture strategies and their integration into wider economic strategies at national level;
 - Encourage private-public partnerships in support of research, training and technology development;
 - Support regional networks of aquaculture service providers, including the private sector, researchers, universities and extensionists, to scale-up local and national successes;
 - Support the development of practical market information mechanisms; and
 - Establish aquaculture industry association (including small and medium-scale enterprises) to facilitate coordination, and market development.

 3. In support of the NEPAD Secretariat, FAO's Department of Fisheries & Aquaculture agreed to a proposal to provide technical support through a Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP). A draft for proposal for the TCP has been produced and will be submitted to FAO soon. The title of the project is "Improved Aquaculture Information Systems: Assistance to NEPAD in Implementing the Aquaculture Action Plan". The programme will aim strengthening the capacity of NEPAD to improve flow and exchange of fish farming information, by establishing the Aquaculture Network for Africa (ANAF). The project will help NEPAD to post experts to the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (an organ of the East African Community), as well as in the Ministries of Fisheries in the Gambia, Ghana and Mali. The project is for 24 months with funding of approximately US\$500,000.

 4. Committee on Fisheries, Sub-Committee on Aquaculture: NEPAD has provided support to African member states at the FAO's 4th Session of the Committee on Fisheries' Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, which was held in Chile from 6 to 10 October. The following is the summary of the outcomes of the meeting:
 - This is the first meeting of the 4 held so far since 2002, that the Sub-Committee has held a special event on African Aquaculture Development. And this is attributed to the advocacy which AU/NEPAD has played. The bulk of FAO's attention has tended to go to Asia, hence Asia's massive development in aquaculture
 - FAO has fully aligned its African programmes in Aquaculture (referred as Special Programme for Aquaculture Development in African - SPADA) with the NEPAD Action Plan
 - SPADA has been endorsed as the framework for FAO's Aquaculture Development in Africa; and development partners have been requested to align their Africa's programmes accordingly; and
 - NEPAD has agreed with the AUC (i) to ensure that African Ministers of Fisheries are fully prepared to present a unified voice at COFI; and (ii) to fully engage FAO (and other partners) to ensure optimal investments into the African aquaculture development.
- b) Partnership with DBSA on aquaculture private sector financing**



NEPAD and DBSA have agreed to collaborate on financing of private sector investments in fish farming in Africa, as part of the NEPAD Action Plan. DBSA will undertake:

- To support NEPAD's stakeholders in coming up with investments that can realize development impacts as well as on financial returns;
- To catalyze investment and promote private sector development;
- To support and promote human resource and institutional capacity development; and
- To assist with the development of strategies to mitigate the risks, and capacity constraints of the private and public sectors.

A number of countries, including Malawi, Lesotho and Uganda have presented their requirements.

c) Partnership with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern and Africa (COMESA)

NEPAD has assisted COMESA its member states to prepare a Regional Fisheries Strategy which is linked to the CAADP and the NEPAD Action Plan. The following are the highlights:

- i. NEPAD will support COMESA to finalize the Regional Fisheries Strategy by end of November, in order for COMESA to call for a regional review meeting on 15th December 2008;
- ii. NEPAD will assist COMESA to follow-up the pledge from the Government of Egypt to provide US\$500,000 towards Technical Support for aquaculture, which will assist member states fast-track the aquaculture component of the Strategy.

d) Partnership with DFID

International Partnership for African Fisheries Governance and Trade: This programme has been prepared by DFID in order to assist African countries, through NEPAD to implement elements of the NEPAD Action Plan for the Development of African Fisheries & Aquaculture. The Abuja Declaration (NEPAD, Nigeria 2005) underscores African political commitment toward optimising the contribution of fisheries towards agricultural development as well as economic growth. The Action Plan notes the serious policy challenge of creating an institutional / governance environment to promote conservation and wealth generation by the fisheries sector.

The next section of the report looks at the implementation of the Green Wall for the Sahara Initiative.

6.0 Decision on the Implementation of the Green Wall for the Sahara Initiative

In July 2005, the 5th Ordinary Summit of the AU passed a decision on an initiative for the establishment of a “Green Wall for the Sahara”. The objective of the initiative is to deter the advance of the Sahara desert south-wards and to improve the livelihoods of the inhabitants of the sahelo-sahara zone.

Furthermore, the ‘Green Wall Initiative’ is expected to strengthen the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Africa. Although there was no policy decision on the proposal, the Heads of State supported it and requested the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC) to facilitate its formulation and implementation.



Through the NEPAD-TerrAfrica Initiative, NEPAD has facilitated engagement and collaboration with the 'Green Wall' for the Sahara partners led by the AUC and CEN-SAD. NEPAD-TerrAfrica has facilitated expert input and comments on the 'Green Wall Initiative' Concept Paper and on the Review Proposal being undertaken with support from the European Commission.

In the last quarter of 2008, NEPAD-TerrAfrica held two meetings with the 'Green Wall Initiative' partners with agreement on a joint work program for 2009 to enhance the integration of the NEPAD-TerrAfrica SLM programmes in West Africa and intended activities of the 'Green Wall Initiative'.

A joint stakeholder planning workshop is planned for early 2009.

7.0 Update on the Cassava and Rice Initiatives and the related strategies towards attraction of requisite investment into the two initiatives

(a) THE NEPAD PAN AFRICAN SPECIAL INITIATIVES ON CASSAVA

The NEPAD Pan African Cassava Initiative (NPACI) - which is a strategic institutional arrangement that is aimed at linking national agricultural research and extension systems to regional initiatives on cassava in order to ensure food security and income generation in Africa – is gaining momentum. This initiative is intended to enhance the food security agenda at the national level including moving towards increased commercialization of cassava – including the processing of cassava into starch and also for other related industrial by-products.

Experiences from the Ghana and Nigeria Presidential initiatives (PIs) on cassava generated great excitement, creating new hopes and greater expectations among relevant stakeholders. Also highlighted in the two counties' initiatives were lessons for scaling up production of cassava.

Recognising the potential of cassava as an economic crop with clear value in meeting food security needs in sub-Saharan Africa, African leaders made a call, through NEPAD, to accord priority to cassava in the regional agricultural development strategies. This led to the creation of the NEPAD Pan African Cassava Initiative (NPACI).

To elaborate, the NPACI was launched to tap cassava's potential on food security and income generation. The initiative is tasked with developing transformation strategy that focuses on developing market research and development; technology generation for development and, competitive and sustainable production. The Initiative is implemented at national levels with technical backstopping by SARRNET for Southern Africa; EARNET for East Africa; and other development agencies such as IFAD in West and Central Africa.

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) implements NPACI while initial funding for its coordination office has been provided by the W K Kellogg Foundation (US\$599,800) and IITA for a period of three years starting in November 2006.

The project aims at contributing towards sustainable economic growth, characterised by reduced poverty, improved food security, higher incomes and more quality jobs, through promoting a more commercialised cassava sector in Southern Africa.

The main objectives of NPACI are to:

- ii. Accelerate, through national initiatives, efforts to attain food and income security for rural and urban households at national and regional levels



- iii. Stimulate private sector development to enhance value addition and market growth
- iv. Foster the emergence of strong producer, processor, and agro industrial associations that will benefit all players in the commodity chain
- v. Conduct research to develop technologies that meet specific needs (i.e., improving productivity and profitability of cassava to meet market demand)

In addition to the above objectives, NPACI also seeks to:

1. Promote cassava (social marketing) as both food and an industrial raw material
2. Enhance delivery of technology, extension, inputs, collective marketing and flow of problems of farmers to research and policy makers
3. Expand and sustain competitive cassava production, value addition and utilisation to enhance household food security and income

In Malawi NPACI, through SARRNET, has been training farmers on improved production and processing techniques, marketing and commercial utilisation of cassava products. In order to enhance value added processing of cassava, the project has facilitated the establishment of starch factories where graters and other processing equipments are installed and farmers trained on how to use them and control the quality of produce.

Each of these starch factories has the potential to generate about US\$ 7,000 per annum when operating at full capacity and also to provide employment to farmers and a market for the cassava grown by farmer groups.

Furthermore, in Malawi commercial value added processing of cassava has been a tremendous success resulting in improved livelihoods and income for the rural poor. With leverage funds from USAID, NPACI, through SARRNET, farmers are now trained to produce cassava flour for use in bakeries. In addition, the Mafayo-Kalima Investment in Kuluma in Kasungu District has succeeded in adding value to cassava by processing fermented and non-fermented cassava flour for household and confectionery use.

In Mozambique, with leverage funds from USAID SA, NPACI, through SARRNET, has been facilitating cassava production initiatives for food and cash in Angonia. Last year farmers were organised into groups for producing cassava and trained in production technologies as well as provided with clean cassava planting material for more than 1000 farmers. In 2008, these activities will be strengthened and scaled up.

In addition, small scale bakers in Mozambique will soon be millionaires as they have been trained in wheat flour substitution for cassava flour to produce different bakery products where each small scale processor has the potential to generate more than US\$2400 per month. These small scale factories also serve as output markets for producer where farmers selling their cassava to the processor would earn additional income of US\$1230 per hectare.

NPACI through the Southern Africa Root Crops Research Network (SARRNET) also facilitates the dissemination and use of cassava technologies that raise productivity by working with NARS in W.K Kellogg Foundation (WKKF) supported countries (Malawi, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe) and other SADC countries, in research on germplasm evaluation and selection, including improved agronomic practices. This breeding programme operates where several cassava germplasm lines have been introduced and are being introduced into the region to address specific end uses (food, vitamin A deficiency, feed and starch) and also to address specific pest and disease problems (Cassava germplasm is screened for yield, pest and disease tolerance and specific end uses e.g., starch and flour). Introductions are made from IITA and best varieties selected and released for use in a particular country. This programme has led to increases in



cassava yields from an average of 10Mt per hectare to from 15Mt to 18MT per hectare in most of the countries where the interventions take place.

In Zimbabwe, NPACI through SARRNET, is providing technical and financial backstopping to scale up and out cassava research for development in collaboration with the Development Technology Centre of the University of Zimbabwe (DTC) and PLAN international. About 200 cassava clones from IITA Nigeria in the form of tissue cultured plantlets have been introduced and these have been multiplied for evaluation in 2007/08 at University of Zimbabwe farm, Kadoma and Chiredzi Research Stations. These are undergoing a screening process to identify elite clones for promotion.

(b) NERICA - THE NEW RICE FOR AFRICA

In response to the growing demand for rice, the West Africa Rice Development Association (WARDA) and its partners in 1994 released the new rice for Africa (NERICA) varieties by crossing Africa's species (*oryza glaberrima*) with Asian species (*o.sativa*). NERICA varieties have rugged adoption to the local environment of their African parent, combined with the high yield potential of their Asian parent. The result of this combination is tough, locally adapted rice best suited to upland or dry land environments, which account for about 70 percent of Africa's rice farms (about 45% of the total rice production area).

NERICA contributed to a 6% increase in the continent's rice output during 2007, according to a recent report from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The good news must be viewed against a worrisome backdrop of rapidly expanding rice consumption in Africa. The region imports 40 percent of its rice supplies, accounting for a third of the rice traded in global markets. In 2006, when prices were much lower, Africa's rice imports cost US\$2 billion. Because of this extreme dependence on imported rice, soaring prices, while posing hardship for people across the developing world, hit African rice consumers especially hard, provoking food riots in several of the region's major rice-importing countries.

Though Africa's rice production still lags behind demand, the increase represents an important advance, demonstrating the region's potential for rice improvement. NEPAD has selected NERICA as one of the crops with great potential in advancing the continent's economic and food security objectives. Under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP), a number of development partners have responded to the NERICA success by developing and supporting NERICA based projects in Africa. The NERICA initiative has enjoyed the support of UNDP, JICA and other partners keen to champion a truly home-grown solution.

Twelve years after a grain of African rice was first crossed with its Asian counterpart, NERICA, or New Rice for Africa, continues to yield success. As of 2005, some 18 varieties of the hybrid rice species have been made available to rice producers across sub-Saharan Africa.

(i) Progress in scaling up NERICA production: WARDA's innovative partnership model, especially with the national programmes of West Africa arranged through the Rice Research and Development Network for West and Central Africa (ROCARIZ), has recently led to another breakthrough: the development of a new generation of NERICA varieties adapted to lowland rice ecologies. Given their high potential, the lowland NERICAs are expected to make an even bigger impact than the upland NERICA varieties have to date. A breeding program has been initiated,



focusing on crossing specific varieties of African rice known for their resistance to lowland stresses with appropriate Asian rice varieties.

NERICA varieties are already planted on more than 200,000 hectares of land in several African countries. Over the last three years, they have been disseminated through farmer participatory schemes as part of the US\$35 million, five-year NERICA Project, managed by WARDA, with support from the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Japanese government and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The project has helped spread improved rice varieties in about 30 African countries, focusing particularly on seven – Benin, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. In addition, the project has trained 1,225 technicians and taught 6,500 farmers -- more than half of them women -- to produce high-quality seed.

In 2007, Guinea achieved a record harvest of 1.4 million tons -- five percent more than in the previous year and the country's largest rice harvest ever -- mainly because of massive government support for NERICA dissemination. Domestic rice production now covers about 70 percent of the country's consumption.

The government of Nigeria announced that its rice imports had declined from two million tons in 2003-2004 to less than one million in 2005-2006. Officials in Uganda reported that the country had reduced rice imports from 60,000 tons in 2005 to 35,000 in 2007, saving roughly \$30 million.

Rice imports are draining more than US\$ 1.5 billion from foreign exchange earning in sub-Saharan Africa. Projections from the Africa Rice Centre show that a 20% increase in NERICA planting in sub-Saharan countries could result in 5% reduction in rice import bill. WARDA is exploring a range of partnership models to accelerate NERICA dissemination.

(ii) Scaling up production of NERICA in Africa: The results of the NERICA Projects were presented and discussed during the fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) in Yokohama, Japan, where world leaders and development experts met in late May 2008 to consider the continent's most pressing development issues, including the current food price crisis. One concrete outcome was the Coalition for Africa Rice Development, which seeks to double sub-Saharan Africa's rice production within a decade

Another initiative aimed at achieving rapid growth in Africa's rice production was launched by WARDA jointly with four major development agencies after the FAO World Food Summit held in early June 2008. Its central aim is to greatly increase the supply of improved seed available for sowing in 2009. For this purpose, the project will improve dissemination of seed and fertilizer and of improved crop management practices, operating within the framework of the FAO Soaring Food Prices Initiative on the basis of action plans developed for 11 countries.

(iii) Challenges to scaling up NERICA production: Beyond the need for additional investment in production systems there are problems that farmers face in adopting the new varieties. One is the availability of seed, and another is accessibility of fertilisers, which NERICA varieties require to meet its maximum potential. NERICA varieties have been tested in 31 sub-Saharan African countries, and roughly 200,000 hectares are under upland production.

It is convincing that if investment in the future rice include extra investment in irrigation systems it is convincing that rice production in Africa will surpass that of Asia and will also be cheaper and affordable to vulnerable Africa population.



(c) NEPAD's plans to strengthen engagement with lead agencies to speed up/expand implementation of the AU decisions and the Rice and Cassava Initiatives

The following is planned for the 2009 Work Programme on facilitating implementation of Flagship programme within the CAADP pillars. Additional to supporting actual long term growth agenda, the initiatives are expected to directly support Governments in addressing some of the critical emerging issues including the current food prices, efforts to respond to climate change, etc...

The Flagship programmes also highlight specific initiatives and related NEPAD coordination in the implementation of the priorities and commitments of the African Union through the Heads of State and Government.

- Sustainable Land and Water Management (CAADP Pillar 1) Flagship Programmes

Additional two large programmes on scaling up of sustainable land management include:

- i. The GEF supported Strategic Investment Programme within the NEPAD-TerrAfrica Initiative which has mobilized US \$ 150 million + just under US 1 Billion to support some 48 projects in 30 countries – 2008 to 2010 and
- ii. the US \$ 4 million Norwegian Government funded joint NEPAD-FAO programme (2008-09) to scale up adoption of conservation agriculture in four countries, namely Lesotho, Swaziland, Mozambique and Malawi and expected to reach over 23,000 households

the following are planned for 2009:

Expansion of the Conservation Agriculture programme to East Africa targeting support to expand farming applying conservation agriculture practices by at least 50,000 farm households by 2012. This is being pursued as a joint NEPAD-TerrAfrica initiative with funding support expected from the Danish and Norwegian Governments. This Programme comes within the context of efforts to address the high food prices at the same time embracing climate change mitigation and adaptation measure by adoption of sustainable land management practices. The Programme is expected to involve Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda.

Expansion of the Forestry and Community Forest Programme in West and Central Africa. This is under a collaboration agreement expected to be finalized involving the AUC, NEPAD and Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) with a number of development partners.

The Programme links efforts on food security and poverty alleviation to the global carbon fund initiatives. The CAADP Pillar 2 lead agenda, i.e. the Conference for Ministers of Agriculture in West and Central Africa (CMA/WCA) will be a strategic partner in these initiatives on aspect of entrepreneurship development, investment financing and private sector engagement.

- Strategic Review and Planning Meetings on the AU/NEPAD Initiatives

Strategic Review and Planning Meetings planned with the Cassava, Rice and Fish-Aquaculture lead implementing institutions. These are separate meeting scheduled for first quarter of 2009. The Meetings will:

- review strategic and technical progress in implementation of the initiatives objectives and related actual
- assess measure and interests to expand/scale up implementation of the various Programmes addressing implementation of activities under these Initiatives



- Identify clear areas and modalities for collaboration with the NEPAD Secretariat in pursuit of the CAADP agenda objectives
- Define practical aspects that NEPAD should provide direct support especially in policy and institutions transformation and in resource mobilization
- Agree on a joint 2009 work programme on implementation support to the programmes of the Initiatives

This brief is prepared as a 'Report' that highlights that progress that has been made by the Agriculture Unit of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) in terms of implementing some of the main agricultural and food security decisions of the African Union (AU). The Report is structured and written in such a way that prioritises the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) as the entry point for assessing the AU approach to agriculture in Africa. This is based on the consideration that CAADP's 4 Pillars are inextricably linked to the key declarations of the AU on agriculture in Africa.

8.0 Conclusion

This brief has been prepared as a 'Report' that attempts to highlight the progress that has been made by the Agriculture Unit – through its partners and RECs – NEPAD in terms of implementing some of the main agricultural and food security decisions of the AU. Evidently, there are some successes and there are also some challenges as is indicated with regard to the efforts concerning NERICA. This Report highlights quite a few activities that are being planned for 2009 in terms of these key AU decisions on agriculture and food security. The challenge is in implementing these activities and following-up on them to see to it that more progress is achieved in boosting agriculture and food security in Africa. It is also apparent that an ongoing and almost inherent challenge concerning these initiatives is to do with informing not only the Heads of State but more pertinently the farmers and agricultural practitioners in Africa about the relevance and opportunities that are offered by these declarations.

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