

1. INTRODUCTION

The First CAADP Day meeting was held in Tripoli, Libya on 27 June 2009, organized by the AUC and AU-NEPAD, hosted by the Great Socialist People's Libya Arab Jamahiriya,

The meeting brought together Ministers of Agriculture from nine African countries (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zimbabwe, Zambia), development partners (European Commission, African Development Bank, JICA, DfID, and the World Bank), the United Agencies (UNIDO, WFP, FAO, and ECA), and representatives of civil society organizations, including farmers' organizations, women's groups and the private sector.

The purpose of the meeting was to showcase the CAADP at the 13th Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government which takes place from 1-3 July 2009 in Sirte, Libya.

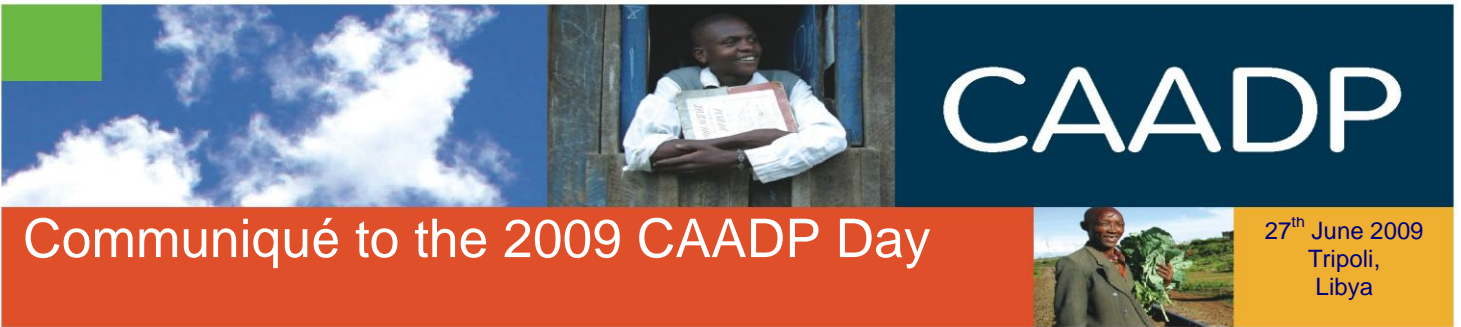
The Summit focuses on agriculture with the theme 'Investing in Agriculture for Economic Growth and Food Security with the following sub-themes:

- Climate Change: Opportunities for enhanced investments and growth of African agriculture
- Regional Agriculture trade and market systems: Issues and challenges for stimulating economic transformation and growth in Africa
- Investment Financing: Making African Agriculture a viable investment option
- Stimulating participation of the poor and disadvantaged social groups in rural economic activities.

OPENING CEREMONY

Main Messages:

The Opening Statements highlighted the importance of agriculture for Africa's socio-economic development and the relevance of the CAADP as the first and real African initiative that has been embraced by the development partners, and as a framework for increasing agricultural productivity. Significant progress has been made but challenges remain and these include: capacity to implement the CAADP; clear national financing plans; appropriate policy frameworks with timelines and a peer review mechanism involving civil society.



MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE

Main Messages:

Following a briefing from each member of the panel, they agreed that the current focus on agriculture, especially by the development partners, is due largely to the awareness created by the CAADP. They agreed on the need for strong political commitment to the CAADP, backed by good governance and accountability. They highlighted the need to develop a comprehensive and unified African response to the emerging issues of climate change and the food, fuel and financial crises. They agreed on the need to focus research and technology development on specific crops and livestock that will diversify agricultural production and increase productivity for increased food security.

With regard to financing of CAADP activities, post compact, it was agreed that governments need to commit adequate financial resources prior to seeking donors' support which will indicate commitment and ownership.

Concerning the impact of the current economic crisis on funding of agriculture, the development partners expressed their commitment to continue to support agriculture by virtue of the CAADP framework.

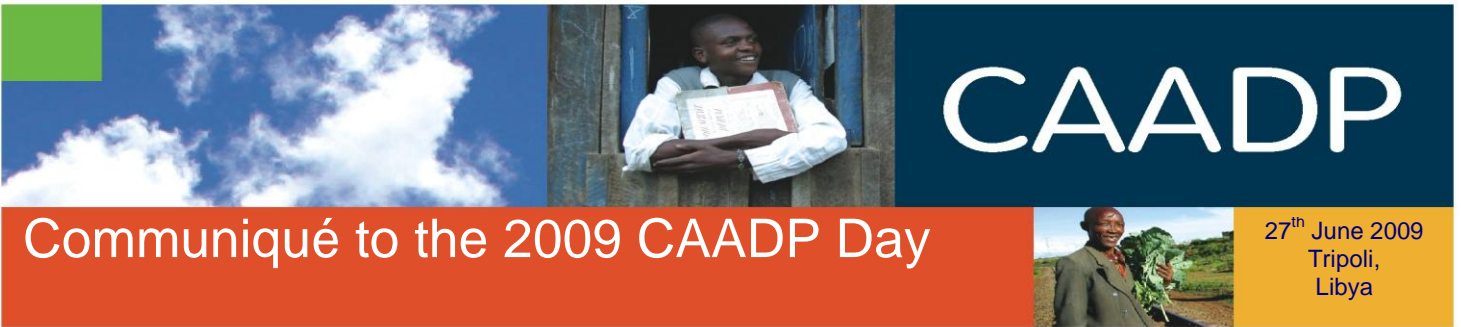
AGRICULTURE AND CAADP

Three presentations were made, focusing on initial reflections of a CAADP Review; an overview of its implementation and regional and sample case studies (COMESA and Uganda). The CAADP Review focused on its relevance, effectiveness and sustainability. The Review found the CAADP to be highly relevant with a clear long term objective. However, there is a need to develop near and medium term visions. With regard to CAADP implementation, it is agreed that the CAADP is integral to agricultural development and should involve state and non-state actors. There is a need to recommit to the CAADP targets and develop strategies to move past the compacts. In the case of regional and national implementation, it was agreed that countries need to hasten the compact processes to demonstrate that the CAADP can address the issues of climate change and agricultural productivity.

AFRICAN NON STATE ACTORS AND THE CAADP AGENDA

Farmers' organisations called for the need to strengthen farmers' organisations, women's groups and agribusiness and the need for increased support because of the catalytic role that they play in organising and promoting the interest of small holder farmers. They stressed the need to have interventions based on their capacities and ability to produce since the objective of the CAADP agenda is to increase agricultural productivity.

The African Development Bank group appreciates the CAADP initiative. They recognize its value and



challenges faced. Their interventions focus on agricultural recovery plans, increasing resources for stronger agribusinesses through strong partnerships. AfDB investments in agriculture is linked to infrastructure in the areas of water management, post harvest losses as well as support on facing financial crisis.

The meeting recognised the importance of pursuing partnership with the Arab League as part of the strategy to mobilise resources for targeted investments in the CAADP agenda. The meeting welcomed the joint Afro-Arab Ministerial meeting on agriculture and food security to be held later this year.

Pillar IV highlighted the need for increased investment in research and education to have greater ability to advise on policies, knowledge management, enabling environment through relevant policies and improving Africa's capacity to build its own capacity.

There is clearly strong support for the CAADP globally. Now we need action. The time is now for African agriculture to provide a stimulus package to the World Economy.