

NEPAD Agriculture Unit Quarterly report for the periods April – June 2009 and July – September 2009

Introduction

This report is prepared as a brief on the Agriculture Unit for the months of April to June 2009 and July to September 2009. The report attempts to provide an overview of the Unit's main strategic functions and activities for the past quarter.

In 2009, the general focus of the Agriculture Unit has for the most part been around the following selected activities:

- Support to Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and countries on accelerating country level implementation of the CAADP Round Tables
- Resource mobilization in support of regional and national CAADP Implementation for instance as in the shape of the 'CAADP Multi-Donor Trust Fund'
- CAADP Pillar activities and key Agriculture Unit initiatives
- CAADP Day and the African Union Summit on 'Investing in Agriculture for Economic Growth and Food Security'

- Information and Communications Support.

1.0 CAADP Implementation: what is happening?

Countries are continuously adapting the CAADP Agenda into their agriculture and rural development strategies and programmes. Togo, Burundi, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Benin, Mali, Niger and Liberia have signed their CAADP Compacts in the last two quarters. Rwanda was the first country to sign up in 2007. Ghana, Nigeria, Gambia, Cote d'Ivoire, Malawi, Uganda, Swaziland, Kenya and Zambia have also advanced with the Country Roundtables and are expected to sign their compacts in 2009.

In Zimbabwe, NEPAD is in the process of exploring support for CAADP implementation. An initial preparatory and planning mission has already been held. The focus is now on developing appropriate responses to the food security challenges facing Zimbabwe. Some potential responses include better access to seeds and fertilizers and food emergency



supplies.

It is expected that concrete investment priorities for all of the countries that have kick-started the CAADP process will be defined for support from the international development community who are actively involved in the CAADP Roundtable process.

2.0 The CAADP Multi-Donor Trust Fund and resource mobilisation for CAADP

Agreement has been reached with partners on issues of financing and the implementation of CAADP. It is in this regard that a CAADP Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) has been set-up. The Fund with an initial commitment of US\$50 million was launched in 2008. This will provide a window of opportunity to serve as a comprehensive financing mechanism needed to develop and complement CAADP related investments.

To date, financing from the fund has gone towards the support of CAADP Pillar institutions and RECs – including the Conference of West and Central African Ministers of Agriculture (Pillar 2), the University of Zambia (Pillar 1), the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal (Pillar 3), CILLS, COMESA and SADC.

The framework that has guided the set-up of the MDTF is being explored for the purposes of setting-up a NEPAD Trust Fund.

3.0 Progress with regard to CAADP Pillar activities and key Agriculture Unit / CAADP initiatives

The International Development Community has continued to pay attention to supporting investments around land and water management (CAADP Pillar 1- SLM) through the GEF – a grant to the amount of US \$ 150 million. In 2008, the Norwegian Government

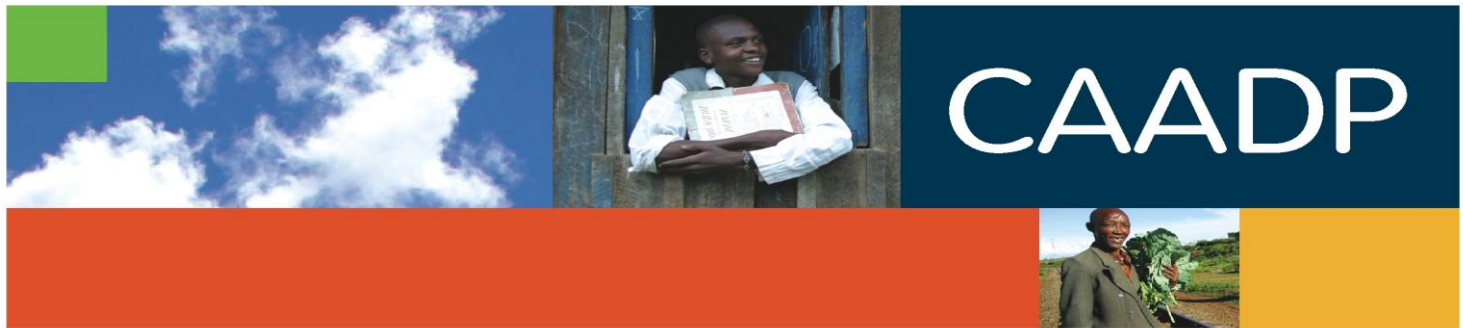
also committed the sum of US \$ 4 million as a response to the high food prices, but with a special focus on conservation agriculture. The joint NEPAD-FAO programme (2008-09) is focused on scaling-up the adoption of conservation agriculture in Southern Africa – reaching out to over 23,700 rural households. It is in this regard that countries such as Lesotho, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zimbabwe farming households are not only being trained, but they are also the recipients of improved seed varieties and appropriate technologies such as the job planter and planting basin methods. Women and children are key targets within the programme. In 2009-2010, the programme will be extended to Eastern Africa.

Implementation of the Abuja Declaration on Fertilizers for an African Green Revolution

NEPAD has continued to collaborate with the African Development Bank, UN-Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Union Commission (AUC) on Monitoring and evaluating country and regional level progress in the implementation of the 12 resolutions of the Abuja Declaration on Fertilizers.

Last year, the board of governors of the AfDB approved the establishment of the African Fertilizer Financing Mechanism (AFFM) to finance the Abuja Declaration to accelerate fertilizer use in Africa. Discussions are ongoing between the AfDB and the Government of Nigeria to persuade Nigeria to honor its pledge of USD 10 million as a take-off grant to the Fund.

The AU Summit in Libya declared that the implementation of the AFFM be fast-tracked by making contributions to bridge the US\$ 2.35 million gap for the immediate operationalisation of the AFFM. However, to-date, the AFFM is yet to be declared effective because funding remains a constraint to



program implementation. To be effective, the Funds should receive the legally required minimum contribution of US\$ 10 million. The contributions to the Fund currently stand at US\$ 7.65 million.

The AFFM requires \$10 million in order to become operational. To date, \$7.5 million has been contributed by the AfDB. This is in spite of pledges of over \$35 million by countries and external donors. Therefore, the AFFM has been unable to reach the threshold amount required for it to become operational.

Partnership with the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) – NEPAD is in discussions with AGRA to have a Memorandum of Understanding with a view to pushing for the alignment of their respective activities vis-à-vis agricultural development in Africa to those of NEPAD. Key areas of joint interest include trade and markets access, agro-dealer development and seed production. The expectation is that the MOU will be signed by the end of the third quarter of 2009.

Fisheries contributing towards food security – The recently established Partnership for Africa's Fisheries (PAF) has identified and selected four partners to prepare and submit proposals for the various Policy Working Groups. They have all submitted proposals on (i) Fisheries governance; (ii) Fisheries trade; (iii) stop illegal fishing; and (iv) Policy Think Tank. The work of the Working Groups will start as soon as the PAF Steering Committee convenes in September 2009.

Through the working groups, a critical mass of African experts will be developed in governance, trade, monitoring, control and surveillance, as well as policy think tank. In relation to the work under the 'policy think tank' group a concept note has been

prepared for an internship programme for young Africans and female interns to be deployed at the REC and national levels with a view to increasing awareness about the PAF agenda to young people within the sector.

In the period under review, NEPAD Agriculture has also kick-started efforts that are aimed at assisting national governments in the development of their fisheries programmes. For instance, in Sierra Leone and Ghana where work in this regard has also included sensitization and actual technical assistance.

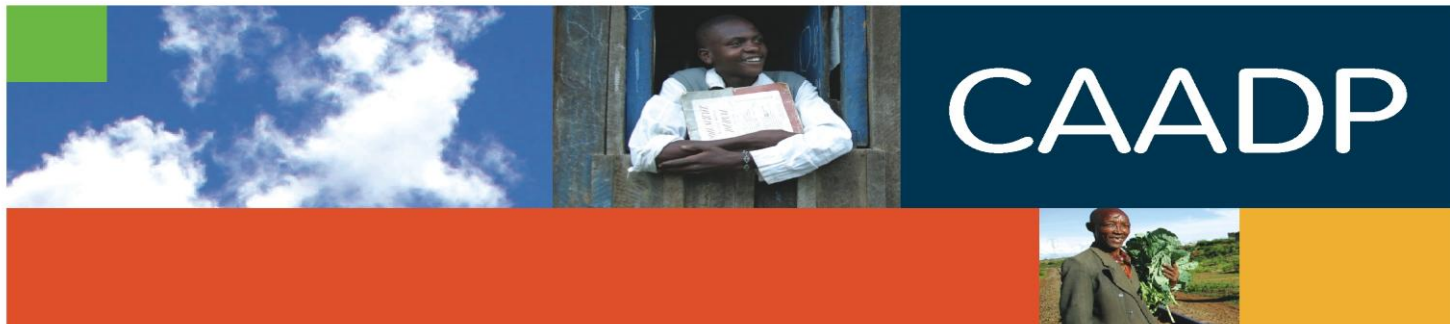
With regard to the upcoming Fisheries Ministers Conference note that the African Union Commission (AUC) and NEPAD will convene a technical meeting in Addis Ababa from 1st to 2nd September 2009, to prepare for the various technical papers for this first ever African Fisheries Ministers meeting.

In terms of collaboration, a recent South to South engagement includes work that is being done to design a China – UK programme on aqua-culture in Africa through PAF.

4.0 The CAADP Review and the CAADP Day

The CAADP Review Report is close to being completed. This evaluation report includes information gathered over the past six months with regard to the vision and future of CAADP. The report has identified the need for articulating more concretely the value addition of CAADP at the country-level including the facilitation of post-CAADP compact priorities.

The Review has so far noted that – CAADP has made major strides in highlighting poverty eradication and curbing hunger as



key entry points in the continental development of Africa. The Review also highlights the need for deepening country-level awareness and support for CAADP implementation particularly in the area of project preparation and to access global financing. The Review also identified the need for lead voices (influential) that can advocate and promote CAADP at the global and continental fora.

The 'CAADP DAY' which was held on June 27th 2009 at the margins of the AU Summit served as a conversation day between African Ministers of Agriculture, CSOs, farmers' organisations, business and the development partners. The event also acted as a space for showcasing CAADP and it also provided an opportunity for finalising key messages on Agriculture to be submitted to the African leaders at the Summit. Given the success of the 'CAADP Day' it was recommended by participants that the Day be held on a bi-annual basis.

The AU Summit: the 2009 AU Assembly which was held in Sirte in Libya in June was focused on the theme *Increasing Investment in Agriculture for Economic Growth and Food Security*. The Assembly endorsed a number of decisions most notably the following:

- National governments were urged to recommit to themselves to the CAADP target of allocating 10% of national budgets to agriculture. The period for this was extended to 2015 to coincide with the MDG1 of halving poverty by 2015
- The fact that climate variability and change is critical to the agricultural development agenda and that it was imperative for Africa at all levels to build productivity and resilience in agricultural systems
- For AUC-NEPAD to work with member states and relevant

knowledge centres to ensure a strong evidence-based case for soil carbon and carbon financing in Africa's perspectives and position for the forthcoming Kyoto protocol negotiations on climate change

5.0 Information and Communications support

During the period under review the following include some of the highlights in terms of communications and advocacy:

- (i) The organization of an exhibition to showcase CAADP during the CAADP Day
- (ii) Publishing of articles on key food security issues in Africa
- (iii) Media interviews and TV appearances and key CAADP events
- (iv) The production of two documentaries on CAADP Pillar 1 and a review of CAADP after five years. Both productions will soon be posted on 'You Tube' for a wider global audience
- (v) The production of information notes, policy briefs and fact-sheets
- (vi) The continued dissemination of the CAADP Annual Report
- (v) The set-up of both the TerrAfrica and CAADP Newsletters.

8.0 Conclusion: the upcoming quarter and beyond

In concluding this report it is imperative to note that in terms of looking at the year ahead, the NEPAD Secretariat is currently providing technical support to the AU Commission in the preparation of key priority papers that will be tabled at the Ministers of Fisheries Summit in March 2010, the CAADP PP in March 2010 and the AU Summits in January 2010 and June 2010.



CAADP

For more information contact:

Prof. Richard Mkandawire

Head of CAADP, NEPAD Secretariat

Email: RichardM@nepad.org Tel: +27 (0) 11 256 3600

Dr. Andrew Kanyegirire

CAADP Communications Manager

Email: AndrewK@nepad.org Tel: +27 (0)256 3600

Visit our website at: <http://www.nepad-caadp.net>

Do you have any suggestions on how we can communicate better? Please contact us to let us know.