



**THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY
(GPAFS):
A PERSPECTIVE FROM NEPAD/CAADP AND THE POTENTIAL WAY
FORWARD**

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HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON FOOD SECURITY FOR ALL

26TH – 27TH JANUARY 2009

MADRID, SPAIN

1. INTRODUCTION

The Global Partnership for Agriculture and Food Security (GPAFS) is focused on providing a response to the High Food Prices and more broadly towards the sustenance of food security and Agriculture.

The view from AU/NEPAD on the GPAFS is that we welcome this initiative and we are very positive about what it attempts to do.

In fact, it is in against this backdrop of optimism concerning the GPAFS that we would also like to make the following suggestions concerning the role and value addition of CAADP to the GPAFS.

Broadly, the suggestions here are framed around the following considerations. Firstly, that CAADP is placed at the centre of the GPAFS initiative (particularly within the context of Africa). Secondly, that AU/NEPAD through CAADP be involved in the GPAFS soft launch in Spain at the end of January 2009.

These suggestions are not simply based on some attempt to locate and position CAADP as the entry point for Agricultural issues in Africa (important as this might be), but rather on the view that CAADP does indeed provide – especially at the continental level – the most prudent approach and avenue for sustaining long-term food security in Africa.

To put it another way, the suggestion here is that the GPAFS could support African defined processes under the CAADP Agenda.

Purpose and aims

It is in this regard that this brief attempts to:

- (i) to provide an update on CAADP Implementation and related key developments such as the CAADP Multi-Donor Trust Fund
- (ii) highlight the AU/NEPAD reflections on the GPAFS
- (iii) motivate for and in-turn to illustrate how we see GPAFS supporting CAADP through some already existing initiatives, networks, processes, programmes and projects of CAADP
- (iv) show how CAADP working with African Governments, RECs, CSOs, Partners and its lead pillar institutions can facilitate the enhancement of Agriculture growth and food security in Africa through the support of the GPAFS

2.0 AN UPDATE ON CAADP IMPLEMENTATION AND RELATED KEY DEVELOPMENTS

In terms of the progress on the CAADP Roundtable processes we are pleased to note that in the past year NEPAD jointly with the RECs engaged several countries in their attempts to implement CAADP. The following countries have completed their analytical work: Ghana, Malawi, Zambia, Niger, Uganda, Senegal, Senegal and Benin. These countries are now waiting on their Governments to endorse their COMPACTS and to identify dates for signing of the COMPACTS. The past year has also seen the development of a CAADP Implementation Guide that has been developed to help facilitate and fast-track the roll-out of CAADP especially at the national level.

In relation to the aforementioned it is also pertinent to note that the AU/NEPAD have agreed to review the future of CAADP including defining the future of African Agriculture – e.g. new CAADP targets – and the nature of engagements with some of the new Partners coming onto the African landscape. These new partners include China, Brazil, India and notable Global institutions (e.g. the Gates Foundation, AGRA) as well as Global private sector players in African Agriculture (e.g. YARA).

The past year has also witnessed the set-up of the CAADP Multi-Donor Trust Fund which has been established at the World Bank through the support of some of the partners that are here today. The Trust Fund has set-up a steering Committee whose composition includes the AU, an REC representative (COMESA), a Lead Pillar institution (the Coordinating Conference of Ministers of Agriculture in Central and West Africa), the USAID and the World Bank.

In addition, there has been progress with regard to the CAADP Partnership Platform which was established to review on a regular basis the progress on the implementation of CAADP. The CAADP PP is expected to serve as a basis for a harmonized action in support of Agriculture in Africa – the platform is coordinated by the NEPAD Secretariat with the support of the Global Platform on Rural Development (GPRD).

To date, three CAADP PP meetings have so far been convened and it is becoming evident that the Platform has maintained the global focus of Agriculture on Africa including the highlighting of CAADP at the G8 summits. We would therefore hope that the next G8 meeting in Italy will highlight CAADP as an entry point for Agriculture and food security in Africa.

2. CAADP AND THE GPAFS: PROCESSES, ENTRY POINTS AND WAYS FORWARD

Some of the already identified CAADP entry processes and indeed the potential areas that can be used by the GPAFS to engage on CAADP include the networks, points and processes that are listed below.

1. Defining and Understanding the (GPAFS) value to Africa

1.1 Prime value to Africa is foreseen (required) in the following areas:

a) Resource Mobilisation

Results areas:

- Increased volumes in investment financing to the Agriculture sector in Africa
- Improved quality in investment financing (best returns on investment, highest impact on food security, value in capacity development/adaptation-transformation in systems and organisational dynamics, systems and capacities for evidence based planning etc...)
- Base to attract/leverage private sector investment financing to the Agriculture sector including clear and evidence based system to argue for increased country public expenditure and allocation in the agriculture sector
- Transparency, accountability and learning values and principles based on **peer engagements and review/s**.

Keynote on peer reviews

Consensus is emerging (in Africa and beyond) on the need for regular in-depth and analytical reviews of the performance of the Agriculture sector in Africa at the REC and continental levels. While such reviews do tend to take place – unfortunately they are not evidence based. Therefore, it is critical that the GPAFS should explore how it might support and develop regional and national capacities to undertake in-depth analytical work that will inform major challenges and constraints to enhancing agriculture performance and food security.

b) Knowledge and Information support

Results areas:

- The analytical underpinning of activities, work and reviews in the Agricultural sector so that they can more specifically be linked to regional, continental and global dynamics, emerging trends and other externalities (**think about early warning systems; also refer to keynote below**)

- Build and nurture local (i.e. African/within Africa) information and knowledge power bases. That is – communities of and/or a pool of experts with functions:
 - (i) That are closely linked to those of a think tank
 - (ii) That develop analytical skills and competencies
 - (iii) That can develop backstopping support in negotiating bilateral and multilateral deals (*very crucial*).

Keynote on Strengthening African Network Centers of Excellence

A regional (and by extension global) network of experts would provide science-based analysis that could more specifically enable them to highlighting future needs and risks. The network could be built on existing groups of experts across international organizations, national research institutions and pertinently the private sector. It could be mobilised at the request of the partners to help synthesize existing research and analysis and explore the pros and cons of innovative new proposals on specific themes that require global (political) attention. The network could also draw the attention of policy makers to relevant issues for global/regional food security. The network could be utilised to help strengthen evidence-based policy analysis in countries.

A number of centres of excellence have already been (and more are in the process of being defined/included) been established as being party to a network of institutions that are capable of carrying out analytical work that has real practical and positive implications with regard to improving the welfare of people in Africa. Some of these centres of excellence are linked to the four CAADP Pillars – land and water management, market access and international development, food security and hunger and research technology and adoption.

Others might evolve as a direct response to emerging challenges in African Agriculture such as bio-fuel, bio-technology and aquaculture.

The role of these centres of excellence is to take on the role of doing intellectual thinking and practical knowledge production (including new context-relevant innovations and technologies) that can be used to enhance food productivity. The current centres identified by AU/NEPAD are: The University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, University of Zambia, CILLS, Sokoine, Makerere University and Bunda College.

c) Partnerships

Results areas:

- Business partnerships especially those involving the private sector/private financing;
- Technical and knowledge-information management partnerships (e.g. South-South or South-North cooperation arrangements) – with a focus on food security and Agriculture
- Strengthening the role of the CAADP Partnership Platform as an entry point for mutual accountability, review, responsibility and coordination in the implementation of CAADP. From the African perspective this also includes continued prioritisation of Agriculture at the global level.

1.2 The Guiding Principles of the GPAFS in CAADP

The guiding principles of the GPAFS could in our view be framed around some of the following CAADP-oriented themes:

- (i) Embrace for all purposes and intent Africa's vision and development principles as defined in the NEPAD Agenda in general and the CAADP Framework, in particular
- (ii) Continued high level policy attention to global food security taking into account the CAADP Framework for Action as a point of reference
- (iii) The GPAFS should be based on existing African institutions whilst tying on the related role of supporting systemic organisational and capacity development in these institutions
- (iv) Openness, inclusiveness and a participatory approach that allows for the involvement of all relevant stakeholders i.e. governments, international and multilateral organizations, universities and research institutes, non-governmental organizations, farmers organisations, civil society, the private sector and foundations
- (v) Coherence that calls for the strengthening, streamlining and thinking through activities (no replication and duplication) among international, regional and national policies and strategies
- (vi) Effectiveness in terms of supporting principles that can nurture aid effectiveness including the alignment towards already established

national, regional and global policy frameworks such as CAADP on the one hand and, say, the Paris Declaration principles, values and targets on the other

- (vii) Flexibility in terms of effectively addressing the multifaceted issue/s of food security (including timeliness)
- (viii) Accountability – through regular monitoring, evaluation and general reviews on progress
- (ix) An approach that is results-oriented. This will also promote evidence-based policy making and country-led strategies that are fully integrated into national policy and budgetary processes. The knock-on-effect here is sustained local ownership of all these processes through results that are focused on identified activities
- (x) Transforming ‘aid’ into ‘investment financing’

1.3 Africa’s own role and responsibilities in the Partnership

The above principles and all considerations need to be put in place to enable Africa to participate as a partner (and not just a passive beneficiary)

2. **Operational and Governance Arrangements**

- d) The HLTF could initially provide a Secretariat to support the GPAFS and should ensure the involvement of key stakeholders
- e) African based focal point (Secretariat) - linked and within the framework of NEPAD (CAADP) (**very crucial**)
 - Technical responsibilities in relation to the functions of the relevant CAADP Pillar Lead Institution
 - Primary delivery/implementation mechanism within the context of the functions and responsibilities of the
 - (a) Regional Economic Communities and
 - (b) Country CAADP Roundtable Processes

3. **Presence and engagement at the January 2009 Spain Conference**

Roadmap issues:

- Commission preparation of Africa’s Report and Strategic Paper for the Spain Conference
- High Level Meeting on the GPAFS in Madrid, Spain – January 2009
- High Level CAADP Review Meeting in Senegal (February 2009) and the CAADP PP Meeting (Ghana, South Africa, Ethiopia?)
- Presentation of the outcomes of the Madrid Conference to the Ministers of Agriculture in April 2009 and also at the AU Summit on Agriculture in Madagascar in July 2009
- Engage organizations for Africa especially in terms of getting them to input on the orientation of the conference in reflecting Africa’s unique needs and features relevant for consideration in the Partnership
- Develop specially targeted advocacy/awareness materials and identify ways of communicating on the GPAFS for the various global audiences
- Mobilising and ensuring informed representation
 - (a) Senior Government representation / briefing notes
 - (b) Regional Economic Community and CAADP Pillar lead institutions including the RESAKKS nodes
 - (c) Farmers Organisations (ROPPA, EAFF etc)
 - (d) NEPAD Secretariat and the African Union Commission

At the Conference Issues to bear in mind include:

- Key note Presentations and presenters
- Advocacy materials
- Bilateral negotiations and issues to be pursued with relevant players/partners