



African Union



NEPAD Planning and
Coordinating Agency (NPCA)

Draft Discussion Notes

Meeting: Discussion to explore for concrete mechanisms to integrate and address issue of “Youth and Employment in African Agriculture through CAADP implementation

Date: 10th November 2010

Participants: Martin Bwalya (NPCA) and Ms. Judica Amri-Lawson (ILO)

1. **Meeting Background and Purpose:** Linked to discussions in the UN Agriculture and Rural Development Cluster Meeting and also within the context of AUC-NPCA-ILO collaboration, the meeting underlined that:

- Youth and employment is one critical area agriculture should make decisive impact. It's a great opportunity for Africa, which, if however, not harnessed into productivity economic activity could turn into adverse consequences our countries' socio-economic drive
- The national CAADP implementation process and the investment agriculture investment plans present an important instrument and opportunity to practically and concretely integrate objective and evidence-based mechanisms and programmes to address “youth and employment
- There is already emerging prime motivation and attention to this issue of “youth and employment” in Africa. This was the main theme for the recent Ministers' of Finance Meeting (2010; Lilongwe, Malawi); it is also the central theme for the July 2011 AU Summit; therefore an environment to “drive” actual implementation at country level

2. **Action and points and way forward:** The meeting identified three entry points for joint action with the national Agriculture, food and nutrition security Investment Plans as the central “organizing instrument”. The three entry points are:

- i. Expert support to countries to identify, prioritise and develop related/appropriate investment programmes (bankable). Agreed in this regard to identify 3-5 countries (based on extent to which the countries have highlighted/articulated “youth and employment” in the Agriculture Investment Plan and for these countries:
 - Facilitate expert support (through ILO country/regional offices and/or the Geneva Office) to help the country (a) define concrete programme issues on “youth and Employment” (b) support design of bankable programmes and jointly broker financing

Action:

- a) ILO to share information on their work activities and coverage in Africa (what activities in which countries) including tools being used (ILO has developed a toolkit on mainstreaming Employment and Decent Work)
 - b) NPCA to share country status on CAADP implementation and ready country Agriculture Investment Plans
 - c) On the basis of the above two information sets, interact to determine the 3-5 countries and develop an engage plan in liaison with the AUC, RECs and countries (through the Permanent Secretaries)
- ii. Orientation for Experts support development of Investment Plans: This is within the context of contributing to building systemic capacity on integrated consideration for “youth and employment” issues in the formulation and review of the country Agriculture investment Plans. Initially agreed to address this aspect by:
- Organising a “youth and employment” session as part of the orientation seminar planned for the AUC-NPCA mobilized technical review experts. This is meant to ensure the various experts supporting CAADP implementation (from stocktaking, through to independent technical review of Investment plans) are able to consider and reflect “youth and employment” issues
- Action:**
- a) NPCA will provide for ILO input the concept note for the Experts’ orientation Seminar
 - b) ILO will plan to develop and facilitate the session on this aspect
 - c) ILO will review the CAADP implementation guidelines and especially the post-compact guidelines and the Experts support/technical review ToR to advise on broader considerations on mainstreaming “youth and employment in agriculture” with CAADP implementation as the instrument
- iii. Awareness raising on CAADP for the concerned ILO Directors: ILO has a fairly wide physical presence in Africa through number of both countries specific and regional offices, which are operating under the Directors. The Directors have regular joint meetings. The meeting agreed to explore for a session in one of such meetings to interact with the Directors on What is CAADP; Why CAADP and how CAADP could be a vehicle to advance specific ILO agriculture related programmes
- Action:**
- a) Mme Amri-Lawson to investigate and advise AUC-NPCA on feasibility and when this could be done

General: Agreed that NPCA and ILO (through the External Relations & Partnerships, Regional Office for Africa) will continue to engage and in liaison with the AUC and RECs bring:

- on board other state and non-state/CSO organizations with “Youth and Employment in African Agriculture” initiatives/interests to collectively continue to explore for concrete options and mechanisms to support mainstreaming/integration of “youth and employment” in agriculture development programmes
- raise awareness on the “youth and employment” issues in Africa including link to socio-economic growth – within the agriculture context
- consolidating body of information, knowledge and best practices to support related analysis and decision making

- consider specific (agriculture based) input/contributions to the 2011 July AU summit including possibility to organize an information session on “youth and employment” at the CAADP PP