



HABARI

April 2022 Newsletter



@NEPAD_Agency



AUDA-NEPAD



/NEPAD.PAGE

Impact of Russia-Ukraine Conflict - An Opportunity to Build Resilient and Inclusive Food Systems in Africa

Opinion Editorial by H.E. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, AUC Commissioner, Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (ARBE) and H.E. Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer, AUDA-NEPAD



While Africa is yet to fully recover from the socio-economic repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine conflict poses another major threat to the global economy with many African countries being directly affected.

Just within a few weeks, global wheat, sunflower, and oil crude prices have soared to unprecedented levels. Africa is heavily reliant on food imports from both countries, and the Continent is already experiencing price shocks and disruptions in the supply chain of these commodities. The conflict will likely impact food security in Africa. Both through availability and pricing in some food crops, particularly wheat and sunflower, as well as socio-economic recovery and growth, triggered by rising uncertainties in global financial markets and supply chain systems.

Over the past decade, the Continent has seen growing demand for cereal crops, including wheat and sunflower, which has been mainly supported by imports than local production. Africa's wheat imports increased by 68 percent between 2007 to 2019, surging to 47 million tonnes.

Russia and Ukraine, both often referred to as the world's breadbasket, are major players in the export of wheat and sunflower to Africa. North Africa (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia),

Nigeria in West Africa, Ethiopia and Sudan in East Africa, and South Africa account for 80 percent of wheat imports. Wheat consumption in Africa is projected to reach 76.5 million tonnes by 2025, of which 48.3 million tonnes or 63.4 percent is projected to be imported outside of the Continent.

The sanctions imposed on Russia by Western countries will further exacerbate commercial flows between Russia and Africa due to the closure of vital port operations in the Black Sea. Russia is one of the world's biggest exporters of fertilisers. Concerns are growing that a worldwide shortage of fertiliser will lead to rising food prices, with knock-on effects for agricultural production and food security. Russia is also the world's third-largest oil producer behind the United States and Saudi Arabia. The disruption of oil prices on the world market is expected to lead to an increase in fuel prices and higher costs of food production.

Some regions, including the Horn of Africa and Sahel region, are at greater risk of food insecurity due to country-specific shocks, climate change, export restrictions, and stockpiling, especially if rising fertiliser and other energy-intensive input costs will negatively impact the next agricultural season as a result of the ongoing conflict.

A silver lining for the continent to reduce reliance on food imports

While the socio-economic ramifications are already substantial and the situation remains highly unpredictable, Africa must also see the current geopolitical crisis as an opportunity to reduce its reliance on food imports from outside the Continent. African countries need to take advantage of their 60 percent global share of arable land to grow more food for domestic consumption and export to the global market. This would lower the number of people facing food and nutrition insecurity caused by external shocks.

Africa's Common Position on Food Systems

In 2021, the African Union Commission (AUC) and African Union Development Agency-NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD) worked with African countries to create a common African position ahead of the Food Systems Summit in line with the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The African Common Position is a synthesis and unified view on how to transform Africa's food systems over the next decade, primarily on resilience in the face of growing vulnerability and shocks. It is anchored in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme



H.E. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko

(CAADP) and Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth.

Rapid expansion in agricultural and food productivity and production has been identified as one of the game-changing solutions. To prevent future disruptions in the supply chain for wheat and sunflower across Africa, countries that produce these cereals need to increase their capacity to produce and supply to other countries through intra-African trade. And those that do not should consider incorporating specific food crops into their agriculture value chain. This will reduce the reliance on wheat and grain imports from Russia and Ukraine and, most importantly, promote intra-African trade and grow Africa's agribusiness sectors.

African Continental Free Trade Area a lever and driver for intra-regional agri-food markets

Another lever in transforming Africa's food systems is the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) which came into effect on 1 January 2021. African countries must take advantage of the world's largest free trade area. The trade treaty is expected to offer US\$2.5 trillion in combined GDP and agribusiness will significantly contribute to this growth. The AfCFTA will increase production and value addition as well as ensure adequate quality infrastructure and food safety standards to supply and grow local and regional agri-food markets.

The oil and gas factor

To avoid future food price shocks caused by rising oil and gas prices on the global market, African countries must improve their oil and gas production and exploration capability to fill any gaps that may occur as a result of supply chain disruption among the major global

producers. African countries that produce fuel and gas such as Algeria, Angola, Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Libya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan, and Tanzania should explore boosting production and filling the gas and oil gap within the continent and beyond to alleviate fuel price shocks, which could contribute to lower food costs. In addition, African governments should invest in or attract greater international investment in oil and gas exploration, particularly in countries where subterranean oil reserves are believed to exist but have yet to be explored.

2022 African Union Year of Nutrition

The AU declared 2022 the Year of Nutrition with the main objective to strengthen resilience in food and nutrition security. The AU CAADP biennial review report of 2019 revealed that Africa is not on track to meet its goal of ending hunger by 2025, noting a deterioration in food and nutrition security on the continent since the inaugural report in 2017. Increasing food production and expanding Africa's food basket will serve both nutrition and resilience objectives. In this regard, there must be intentional investments toward increased productivity and production of traditional and indigenous crops. This also requires a systems approach by integrating nutrition into resilient and strong health systems and social protection systems.

Climate resilience in Africa's food systems

African food systems continue to face several challenges, including extreme weather events and climate change; limited adoption of yield-increasing technologies; dependency on rain-fed agriculture and low levels of irrigation; and most recently, the spread of fall armyworm in parts of the continent. More than 38 million more people are at risk of hunger and poverty in Africa due to climate change. Climate-resilient technologies present major opportunities for the Continent to increase African food production and productivity while building resilience and reducing poverty and hunger.

Digital and biotechnologies and the transformation of food systems



H.E. Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki

While the Continent has made significant progress in the adoption and use of information and communication technologies for large-scale food producers, the benefits of digital innovations have not been fully leapfrogged by small-scale producers, processors, and retailers to access extension services, markets, and financial services.

Increasing the competitiveness of African agriculture also includes the adoption of biotechnology, including improved seed varieties, and requires robust food production policy frameworks. Biotechnology is expected to accelerate growth, create wealth, and feed an African population expected to reach 2.2 billion people by 2050.

Regional solutions are a prerequisite to addressing structural weaknesses and vulnerabilities, including poverty and inequality

The Russia-Ukraine conflict has once more exposed the urgent need for policy and investment choices to sustain and build viable, resilient, and inclusive food systems on the Continent. The African Common Position on Food Systems provides pathways for Africa to increase home-grown agri-food production and ensure inclusive access to sustainable and nutritious food sources, while addressing structural weaknesses and vulnerabilities, including poverty and inequality. The successful transformation of African food systems will largely depend on the willingness of African countries to realise continental and regional solutions to build and sustain greater resilience in the face of external shocks. 2022 is Africa's Year to action food and nutrition development goals.

End of Tenure Message from Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, CEO, African Union Development Agency-NEPAD

It has been a great opportunity, a unique privilege and distinct honour to serve the African Union (AU) as the Chief Executive Officer of the NEPAD entity.

Building capable, effective and resilient pan-African institutions to anchor and deliver on the continent's development agenda is a significant component of the African Union system. The birth of NEPAD in 2001 was the first concrete manifestation of the will of African States to regain leadership on the continent's development issues. NEPAD was the first international institution to take a truly African perspective and represented a paradigm shift in development thinking and practice. This rejuvenation of Pan-Africanism was coupled with a pragmatic approach to Africans looking inwards for home-grown solutions and championing regional integration. To drive this new and holistic development agenda inspired by the core principles of African ownership and leadership, AU Member States and organs as well as the Regional Economic Communities were the frontline actors. They were supported by development partners to ensure that the continent's marginalisation came to an end and for Africa to claim its rightful place in the global scene. This contributed to promoting a more diversified, smarter and intelligent partnership-base for the AU system.

One of the greatest achievements of NEPAD is that it has put Africa on the global agenda and has galvanised international support for the continent's development agenda. An impressive accomplishment of NEPAD has been the strengthening of partnerships with the rest of the world. For example, NEPAD engaged the G20, G8, OECD, FOCAC, TICAD and the UN system on a new development cooperation and aid architecture and by strengthening a common African Voice. This played a catalytic role and served as the pacesetter in promoting a new notion and practice of African partnerships for development, inspired by the key principles and shared values of equity, mutual respect, accountability and responsiveness. The NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee played a critical role in championing and accelerating Africa's development agenda by providing political leadership and strategic guidance.

The implementation of NEPAD over a period of two decades resulted in concrete positive development results in several areas. NEPAD spearheaded the design, development and implementation of continental development frameworks at regional and national levels, including the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Plan and Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa with significant impact on socio-economic growth and regional integration.

The transformation of NEPAD into the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) in 2019 was a critical milestone and reaffirmation by African countries to accelerate regional integration and strengthen impact and operational efficiency of the African Union.

As we mark two decades of NEPAD, it is clear to me that the vision and values of NEPAD remain as relevant today and as they were twenty years ago. The journey of NEPAD is an embodiment of the continent's development pathway.

I am proud and inspired by the way AUDA-NEPAD has risen to the COVID-19 pandemic challenge with agility, resilience and commitment. We have made continuous improvements as a fully-fledged development agency and, most importantly, for the African men and women we serve. 2021 was a remarkable year. We expanded our footprint in all AU Member States and moved with speed and scale to respond to the COVID-19 health crisis quickly and efficiently with programmes and resources redirected to deal with the emergency to save lives. We also dealt with the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 regionally, nationally and on a community level to save livelihoods. Our signature solutions are aimed at responding to the effects of the pandemic and focused on three priority areas, namely Health, Food as well as Economic Growth and Jobs.

As my tenure as CEO of AUDA-NEPAD is coming to an end, I am optimistic that the future of Africa is surely promising. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all success in your endeavours. Remember that 'The Africa We Want' to see relies heavily on our joint efforts to move forward our common development agenda.



Investment in Early Childhood Nutrition

Early childhood development and nutrition are intrinsically connected. Good nutrition in a child's early years can increase their cognitive development and ability to learn for years to come. The health and development of many young children in Africa is, however, compromised by malnutrition, leading to the urgency to step up efforts to reverse this. This was the sentiment at the just-ended Regional Economic Community (RECS) Consultation on 'Investment in Early Childhood Nutrition to Advance to Social, Economic and Human Capital Development in the Continent.'

The African Union Development Agency-NEPAD, the African Union Commission, the Africa Early Childhood Network and other stakeholders working on human capital and early childhood development convened a two-day consultative dialogue for RECs on the Year of Nutrition.

The consultative dialogue provided a platform to exchange and share experiences and good practices for eliminating malnutrition in all its forms. It aimed to support the efforts of African countries through the investments in early childhood development among the RECs and key partners at regional and national levels.

Ms Bibi Giyose, AUDA-NEPAD's Senior Advisor, Food and Nutrition Security opened the meeting and stated that, "Nutrition is the bedrock of all that we are and aspire to be. We have Agenda 2063 and the Malabo Declaration to guide us. We should therefore, by 2025, be moving the needle on early childhood nutrition."

Early childhood is a critical stage in human life where investments in a child's health and nutrition play a significant role, particularly in developing the child's brain, forming a solid foundation for future life. The first 1,000 days of life (from conception to the child's second birthday) lay the foundation for optimum health, growth and neurodevelopment. However, in Africa and many other countries globally, poverty, malnutrition, poor health, conflict, drought, and other challenges deprive children of this important human right. This lost potential affects the social economic and human capital development, impacting African communities' health, wealth, and economic prosperity.

To address these challenges, children and their caregivers need a range of inputs and support during this critical stage of development, including good health care and adequate nutrition, a stimulating and safe environment, and emotional support and care. These elements together are known as nurturing care and their evidence base informed the World Health Organization (WHO) and partners in the development of the Nurturing Care Framework for Early Childhood Development, which emphasizes the importance of the first 1,000 days of life as a sensitive period of development, and the central role of parents and caregivers in providing nurturing care.

Dr. Lynette Okengo, the Founder and Executive Director of the Africa Early Childhood Network highlighted the role that early childhood development play in breaking the intergenerational



cycle of poverty and poor developmental outcomes. She further reiterated the critical importance of collaboration and co-ordination across sectors and stakeholder groups; building upon existing systems and mechanisms to ensure the early years are reflected and prioritised in policies, plans and programmes across the region.

The African Union and AUDA-NEPAD-led Cost of Hunger in Africa Study (COHA), underscores the need to increase investment in nutrition because African countries are losing around 1.9 to 16.5 percent of their Gross Domestic Products as a result of child undernutrition.

The African Union endorsed 2022 as the year of nutrition under the theme "Strengthening Resilience in Nutrition and Food Security on African Continent: Strengthening Agri-Food Systems, Health and Social Protection Systems for Acceleration of Human, Social and Economic Capital Development."

The African Development Bank, through the African Leaders for Nutrition is committed to promote high level political leadership to ensure that African Union member states increase investment in nutrition to reverse the negative impacts of malnutrition. The African Leaders for Nutrition has also prioritised support to the African Union Year of Nutrition in the following areas.

Through this consultative dialogue, priority actionable solutions to combat malnutrition in Africa were proposed alongside the investment in the early years of the African Child. A joint roadmap for the implementation of achievable actions and activities was developed.

Funding those with the Greatest Need

By Estherine Lisinge-Fotabong, Director of Programme Innovation and Planning, AUDA-NEPAD

Global development finance has been thrown into disarray – first by the pandemic and now the war in Ukraine. Ramping up finance flows to LDCs in the short term might appear unrealistic, but it is more essential than ever if we're to avoid even greater catastrophes ahead



The saying “it never rains, but it pours” is appropriate to describe the current difficulties that confront the global economy, especially the developing world. We have seen the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has so far claimed over six million lives and plunged many countries into recession. In Africa, gross domestic product (GDP) contracted by 2.1% in 2020, marking the continent’s first recession in over half a century. In 2021, an estimated 39 million Africans slipped into extreme poverty, with women disproportionately affected. As countries emerge from the ravaging impacts of the pandemic, the situation has been compounded by the current adverse impact of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. The war has sent global prices of gasoline and basic foodstuffs like wheat spiralling out of the reach of many poor people.

The combined effect of coronavirus and the war in Ukraine is the eroding of the hard-won gains that many African

countries have made in poverty reduction over the last two decades, where economies on the average grew by 5.1% annually. According to AfDB, the average debt-to-GDP ratio in Africa is expected to increase significantly to over 70 percent, from 60 percent in 2019.

Least developed countries (LDCs), particularly those in Africa, should be supported through every means possible to avoid another “lost decade,” like the 1980s where GDP growth averaged 1% or lower. Funding those with the greatest need in Africa should therefore be of utmost importance in the face of domestic COVID recovery responses in the developed world and an increasing focus on the Ukraine crisis. However, there is every likelihood that the resources that have traditionally been made available to developing countries will be reduced.

The global response to the pandemic reaffirmed the need for countries

both in the Global North and South to work together, reflecting nations’ interconnectedness in an increasingly globalized environment. However, vaccine nationalism brought to the fore the chasm between Africa and its more developed partners. The rhetoric from western capitals was in most cases to refer to vaccines as global public goods, resources to be made available to all. Yet, in reality, the developed world adopted a “my country first” approach to vaccine allocation and utilization. This had a profound impact on many African countries.

The impact of vaccine nationalism is that the race to attaining Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 on good health and well-being has been sidetracked. To avert such a repeat occurrence in the future, the African Union has stepped up the focus on vaccine manufacturing. Twelve facilities expected to produce a wide range of COVID-19 vaccines are

either in operation or in the pipeline across six African countries: Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Rwanda, Senegal, and South Africa.

Funding climate action

Africa is a continent that is also fighting a major battle against climate change and biodiversity loss. Most African economies and communities are dependent on environmental and natural resources for their livelihoods, and these are being negatively affected by climate change. Africa will not be able to finance the scale of the investments needed to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss on its own. The scale of the challenge facing Africa calls for a dramatic step up in international efforts and global cooperation.

Yet, as we have witnessed, the processes for achieving global consensus for funding climate action has been painstakingly slow. Developed countries who have historical responsibility for warming the planet have failed to meet their climate finance pledges. It is generally agreed, and was acknowledged at COP26 in Glasgow in 2021, that the existing target to provide USD 100 billion of climate finance a year by 2020, in line with the outcomes of the Copenhagen Climate Summit of 2009, has been missed.

The key question is: how does Africa achieve the climate action goal (SDG 13) if the funding is not available to those who are most affected but who have played little or no role in the climate crisis?

With Africa's share of global population projected to increase from 17.5% currently to 40% by 2100, the path that the continent chooses or is forced to adopt will have significant impact on the planet's future sustainability, especially given that Africa's energy use will grow rapidly to meet its development needs. The 2020 report by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World*, showed that the pandemic has exacerbated the difficulties in accessing food, with moderate to severe food insecurity in several African countries.

Stemming outflows

Africa has massive potential as a global economic driver, a leader for digital innovation, and an exemplar for climate-resilient infrastructure. The African Continental Free Trade Area offers massive opportunities for development and trade access to a population of 1.3 billion people (expected to rise to 2.5 billion by 2050). Africa is ready for investment, and provides strong business opportunities. However, many countries on the continent are short-changed by the challenges of losing billions each year in illegal movements of money. The UN Conference on Trade and Development estimates these illicit financial flows to run at some 3.7% of GDP, equivalent to USD 88.6 billion per year as at 2020. This is equivalent to the flows of official development assistance (ODA) and foreign direct investments (FDI) into Africa combined. The United Nations estimates a funding gap of USD 200 billion per year needs to be filled if African countries are to meet the SDG targets by 2030. That's equal to the amounts of illicit financial flows and improved tax collections combined.

Millions of people, particularly the poor and vulnerable, have been pushed into poverty. Yet more are on the edge of falling into the poverty bracket. This is likely to increase both the legal and illegal migration of young people from Africa to other parts of the world. This in turn will lead to a shortage of skilled workers across the continent, including engineers, artisans, physicians, and other professionals who are critical for national development.

Aligning finance with need

COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine have added extreme pressure to an already precarious African public finance situation with an accelerated build-up of government debt across the region. With so many demands on the limited fiscal space of many African governments, this is an opportune moment to reflect on development cooperation and financing and ask the difficult question: "How will the funding needs of the LDCs be met?"

Strengthened domestic resource

mobilization, ODA, blended finance, debt relief and restructuring, and promotion of financial investment, are all instruments offered as solutions to the challenge of financing for development. All have pros and cons. Developed countries have largely failed to provide 0.7% of their gross national income in aid to developing countries. But is leveraging development finance to mobilize private capital flows through blended finance the answer? What is certain is that all the above must be in the funding mix for LDCs, as public and private finance are guided by different interests and principles.

Overall, developed countries must step up on their ODA commitments. Private sector investors do not typically fund the social programs and essential services for which the inequalities exposed by the pandemic have showed there is dire need (for example, community vaccination programs). African countries must create strong alignments between national planning, budgeting, and revenue collection capacity. Nations also need budgets that operationally link national development plans to investments and impacts on the ground. Finally, irrespective of the source of funding, there needs to be greater coherence, coordination, and accountability of actors, and – most importantly – alignment with the development objectives of the LDCs.

Source: [SDG Action](#)

Investment in Science, Technology, and Innovation critical for Africa's agricultural development

STI still lags, undermining Africa's prospects for harnessing technologies for sustainable development.



African governments, policy makers, and regional economic communities have been urged to enhance strong political will to further integrate Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) in Africa for sustainable economic growth and agricultural transformation. It was revealed that if the continent is to address socio-economic challenges facing the majority of the Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries, there is an urgent need for African Governments to increase funding for STI to transform agricultural development in Africa.

These calls were made by experts during the Second Africa-wide Science, Technology, and Innovation High Level Conference, organised by AATF in collaboration with the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD) and the Government of Rwanda in April 2022.

The high level conference meeting, graced by Continent's decision makers and influencers, leaders from governments, businesses, civil society, international organisations, researchers, academia, and the youth, recommended that African governments create an enabling policy environment to harness the benefits accruing from modern agricultural innovations such biotechnology, gene-editing and other emerging technologies in order to transform the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in African countries. Dr. Canisius Kanangire, the Executive Director of AATF, noted that agriculture sector is rapidly expanding in Africa to embrace a wide range of concepts to effectively meet the increase in demand for food and nutrition security. Paramount to this process, he added, is the need to integrate and explore STI to drive agricultural productivity for prosperity among farmers in Africa.

“Creating an enabling environment for technology and innovation is an essential requirement in enabling African countries to address constraints that impede agricultural, environment and health development,” said Dr. Kanangire.

He observed that investing in new farming technology for Africa—from better seeds to digital tools to machinery—is best opportunity for transforming African agriculture into an engine of economic growth that will have benefits far beyond the farm sector.

“Most Africans are smallholder farmers, and agriculture is their best opportunity to secure a more promising future. But millions remain impoverished because, unlike farmers in other parts of the world, they lack consistent access to targeted, affordable agriculture innovations that would allow them to prosper, he added. Hon. Geraldine Mukeshimana, Minister



of Agriculture and Animal Resources, Government of Rwanda, pointed out that scaling up STI in agriculture is key in building sustainable and resilient food systems.

She noted that it is a paradox that Africa is not a food powerhouse yet about 60 per cent of arable land is found in Africa. This, according to her, is caused by the insufficient use of technological innovations to increase productivity, eliminate post-harvest losses, and add value to agricultural produce.

She called for effective implementation of the Science, Technology, and Innovation for Africa (STISA-2024) Strategy that was adopted by the African Union in 2014. “This strategy requires sustained investment in research and development (R&D) as well as getting the new technologies and innovations into the hands of stakeholders in key sectors of our economies including agriculture,” she said.

She stated that the Government of Rwanda’s Vision is to leverage the transformative capabilities of STI and R&D output to become a globally

competitive knowledge-based economy and to address modern social-economic challenges.

According to Mr Martin Bwalya, the acting Director of Knowledge Management and Programme Evaluation at AUDA-NEPAD, there is need to adopt sustainable agriculture technologies that cover the entire spectrum of farming systems.

“Farmers must adopt the appropriate technology and management practices in the specific agro-ecological environment within the appropriate policy framework for them to be implemented,” he pointed out, adding that all farming systems have the potential to be locally sustainable including intensive conventional farming to organic farming.

He explained that agriculture is becoming more integrated into the global food chain and market, while environmental, food safety and quality, and animal welfare regulations all have an increasing impact on the industry.

“It faces new challenges in meeting rising food demand, remaining internationally competitive, and producing high-quality

agricultural products. Simultaneously, it must achieve sustainability goals in the context of ongoing agricultural policy reform, increased trade liberalization, and the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements agreed to by relevant ministers in AU member states,” he noted.

In conclusion, the experts stated that STI should be viewed as an enabler for development, with the most important criteria for measuring its impact and effectiveness in Africa must be based on carefully selected, context-specific development indicators that value and incorporate the number of jobs generated, poverty reduction metrics, reductions in inequality and the social interactions. Deliberate is needed to sustain continental wide conversations on STI for the sustainable economic, cultural, and social development of the African continental.

Creating an Ideal Occupational Health Centre (OHC) Blueprint - Kujenga Workshop



The African Union Development Agency-NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD), in partnership with Tshiamiso Trust, the Department of Health South Africa; Medical Bureau of Occupational Diseases (MBOD) and the Compensation Commissioner of Occupational Diseases (CCOD), convened the Kujenga Workshop on 28 March – 01 April 2022 in Cape Town, South Africa.

Three institutions came together, AUDA-NEPAD, Tshiamiso Trust, MBOD/CCOD, with support from the World Bank and the Global Fund, to present a united front in the fight against TB and occupational diseases in the SADC region towards realising national, regional, and international targets.

The opening ceremony of the five-day workshop held in Cape Town South Africa was attended by the Honourable Deputy Minister of the Department of Health of the Republic of South Africa, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo who delivered the keynote speech. The Deputy Minister outlined the importance of prioritising the health of African workers, as well as how the creation of an Occupational Health Centre Blueprint would play a pivotal role in correcting the imbalances of the past.

The workshop which is appropriately named ‘Kujenga,’ meaning ‘building, to construct, to build’ in Swahili, brought together experts and stakeholders to work in creating a blueprint that will contribute to sustainable, innovative, comprehensive and harmonised occupational health services, which can be implemented and mobilised as a fully-fledged sustainable OHC in various African Union Member States.

Tshiamiso Trust CEO, Mr Daniel Kotton stated that every effort has been taken at the workshop to make sure concrete and detailed plans are put in place to ensure occupational health services are more accessible to the most vulnerable.

AUDA-NEPAD Principal Policy Specialist, Ms Chimwemwe Chamdimba concluded by saying that the workshop was successful in defining an ideal blueprint structure that will be used in strengthening partnerships. She reiterated the importance of countries being at the forefront and taking ownership of the intervention to ensure sustainability.

“The sustainability of any developments in the region, including occupational safety and health, occupational health service centers, or tuberculosis investments, can only be realised when there is comprehensive and sound strategic direction, OSH policies, and guidelines, which employees, government, and employers can implement,” said Ms Chamdimba

BR3: Africa Records Mixed Progress but Off-track on 2025 CAADP Goals

By Adam Alqali & Muhammad Usman,
Agenda 2063 Media Network

The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) is one of the frameworks under the African Union's Agenda 2063 supporting countries to boost agricultural investment and productivity to end hunger and poverty towards economic growth and development.

The CAADP framework is a major outcome of the Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa, proclaimed at the 2nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union, in July 2003, at Maputo, Mozambique. The most prominent aspect of the Declaration was African heads of state's commitment to allocate at least 10% of their national budgets to agriculture towards achieving agricultural growth rates of 6% per annum.

In June 2014, at the 23rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the AU in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, the heads of state adopted the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods. The highpoint of the Declaration was African leaders' recommitment to CAADP principles towards the realization of the vision of improved livelihoods and ending hunger by 2025.

To this end, the evidence-based and peer-driven CAADP Biennial Review (BR) process was initiated based on the CAADP Results Framework 2015-2025, to achieve preselected goals and targets for the transformation of Africa's agriculture. The BR report indicates outcomes of diverse agricultural interventions on the continent, enabling countries to track and report progress achieved against the pre-agreed result areas.

Also, the BR seeks to stimulate dialogues and action within countries and Regional Economic Communities (RECs). Each edition is an outcome of collaborative efforts of AU Member States and



RECs, under the leadership of the AU Commission and the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) – as mandated by the Assembly to produce a CAADP progress report, every two years.

In this direction, the inaugural and second CAADP BR reports were adopted by the AU Assembly in January 2018 and February 2020, respectively. In February 2022, the Assembly endorsed the 3rd BR report which was eventually launched publicly in March – in line with efforts to increase awareness among stakeholders and build momentum around the CAADP agenda for improved political and financial commitments.

The BR3 comes midway into the implementation of the Malabo Declaration (2015-2025), amidst the Covid-19 pandemic's devastating effects on Africa's food systems, and in the aftermath of the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS). At UNFSS, Africa presented a common position on the pandemic's impact on the continent's food systems, recommitting to advance agricultural transformation through strengthening of CAADP and its BR process.

The CAADP framework has 4 priority areas, namely: Extending the area under sustainable land management and reliable water control systems; Improving rural infrastructure and trade-related

capacities for market access; Increasing food supply, reducing hunger, and improving responses to food emergency crises; as well as Improving agricultural research, technology dissemination and adoption.

While the BR reporting process is premised on the 7 Malabo Commitments, namely; Recommitment to the principles and values of the CAADP process; Enhancing investment finance in agriculture; Ending hunger by 2025; and halving poverty through agriculture by 2025. Others are boosting intra-African trade in agricultural commodities and services; Enhancing resilience to climate variability; as well as strengthening mutual accountability for actions and results.

Whereas 51 out of 55 states reported in the BR3 cycle, only 49 did during the BR2 cycle – just as 43 countries were reviewed in the inaugural cycle. The BR reports evaluate country-by-country performance towards achieving CAADP's goals and targets – disaggregated into 7 thematic areas and varied performance categories and indicators. In comparison, BR1 (2017) had 23 performance categories and 43 indicators, while BR2 (2019) had 24 performance categories and 47 indicators – just as BR3 (2021) had 23 performance categories and 46 indicators.

Perhaps, the most remarkable aspect of BR3 is the fact that only one country

(Rwanda) is “on track” to achieve the Malabo Commitments by 2025 – against 4 and 20 countries that were on-track in the BR2 and BR1 cycles, respectively. This is just as 41 others are “not on track” while 4 countries (Mauritius, Sahrawi, Sao Tome and Principe, and Somalia) were unable to report in this cycle.

Even as the progressive decline in numbers of on track countries across successive BR cycles is an important cause for concern, one that points to the need for African countries to rededicate themselves to the CAADP agenda, the AU believes the fact that 19 out of the 51 countries reviewed in the 3rd BR cycle were “progressing well”, “reflects the commitment by Member States to the CAADP BR process and their efforts to address the shortfalls revealed in the inaugural and 2nd BR reports.”

Based on the Africa Agriculture Transformation Scorecard (AATS), a shared-learning tool for driving progress in the continent’s agricultural transformation, minimum scores for countries to be on track have evolved from 3.96 out of 10 (BR1) to 6.66 (BR2) and 7.28 (BR3). The benchmark will continue to rise through 2025. Accordingly, Africa’s overall score under BR3 is 4.32 – against the 7.28 benchmark – barely a 7% increase in the continent’s overall scores against the previous cycle.

While Africa only achieved “mixed progress” in BR3, one cannot ignore the role of the Covid-19 pandemic on the continent’s agriculture and food security during the cycle in the rather uninspiring performance. Against the expectation of continuous performance improvement ahead of 2025, Africa’s cumulative scores across successive BR reporting cycles reveal a continent of continuous regress regarding the Malabo Commitments.

Dr Godfrey Bahiigwa, director in charge of agriculture and rural development at the AU Commission, partly blamed the slow progress between BR2 (2019) and BR3 cycles (2021), compared to between BR1 (2017) and BR2 (2019) cycles, on many factors including the Covid-19 pandemic, in response to which African countries imposed lockdowns, hindering trade in agricultural commodities.

“First, trade across the continent is largely in agricultural commodities, so when borders were closed, the volume of trade declined, which impacted negatively on many indicators such as agricultural trade, food and nutrition security and subsequently led to a decline in the consumption of the affected commodities. This consequently led to increased prices of the affected commodities,” the director told African Newspaper.

In addition, Dr Bahiigwa said drought in Southern Africa, the Desert Locust invasion of the Horn of Africa and parts of West Africa, as well as the Covid-19-induced slowdown of economic activities and its resultant decline in GDP growth, contributed to African countries’ low performance during the 3rd BR cycle.

“Because economic activities slowed down as a result of border closures and reduced manufacturing, there were reduced customs and excise duties for governments to generate revenues. This affects member states’ ability to finance their programmes, including in the agricultural sector. Within this period, countries’ inability to allocate 10% of their national expenditures to agriculture is partly understandable,” explained Bahiigwa.

On the consistent failure of an overwhelming majority of AU states to dedicate 10% of their annual expenditures to agriculture, as enshrined in CAADP, Dr Bahiigwa said: “I cannot speak for each individual country, but having worked in government before, I will say governments do have competing needs and face different pressures which determines how they allocate resources, based on their individual priorities.

“In this regard, our argument to them as the AU is: ‘by not allocating 10% of your budgets to agriculture you are hurting your people because the outcomes are poor!’ Member States should increase their agricultural expenditure because that is the only way they can achieve better outcomes, in terms of nutrition, employment, poverty reduction, and resilience,” said Bahiigwa.

“Non-state actors will continue to foster mutual accountability in the BR process” – Okeke

Constance Okeke, project manager for Public Financing for Agriculture (PFA) at Action Aid International, said even as Africa’s non-state actors were “quite disappointed” with the fact that only one country was “on track” to achieving the Malabo Commitments during the 3rd BR cycle, the fact that 19 others were “progressing well” was a major consolation. “The major outcome is that more countries are presenting themselves to be held accountable; the fact that they are even reporting is significant progress. What exactly we are measuring, how we are measuring it and whether or not it is exactly what we want to measure is entirely another conversation. There is much more to the BR process than simply being or not being on track,” Okeke told African Newspaper.

Okeke, who described data analysis tools for the BR process as effective, decried countries’ consistent inability to provide complete data across all indicators of the reporting process. “The challenge before us in the continent is ensuring we are collecting the right data, at the right time and from the appropriate sources. You consistently find certain data missing in the BR reporting, hence the need for countries to invest in improving data collection.”

She believes transforming Africa’s agriculture goes beyond improved political commitment and public financing but also the creation of open spaces for multi-stakeholder engagement involving the civil society, media, young people and smallholder farmers. Okeke says more inclusive stakeholder engagement will foster effective utilization of the BR reports at regional, national and sub-national levels – in line with its principles of mutual accountability.

“More involvement of non-state actors in joint sector reviews and consultations will engender robust engagements and enrich data quality. We cannot overlook the fact that over 60% of all working women in Africa are in agriculture, hence redressing gender inequality is also key in the fight against hunger, poverty, and malnutrition, and promoting economic growth. We are therefore calling for more gender-disaggregated data in subsequent BR reports. [Read more](#)

This Month in Pictures



The AUDA-NEPAD, Princeton University and the African School of Economics signed an MoU on April 20th, for research & capacity development in Africa. The institutions will, among others, collaborate on knowledge capitalisation and research generation focused on education, energy, health & human capital investment-related topics.



Workshop hosted by WFP underscoring the importance of innovative partnerships toward transformative rural development & strengthening food systems that is inclusive of youth & women. The workshop was attended by, amongst others, DRC First Lady, Denise Nyakeru Tshisekedi and Ministers Christian Mwando, Minister of State in charge of Planning and François Rubota, Minister of State in charge of Rural Development with the AUDA-NEPAD, represented by Mrs Estherine Lisinge-Fotabong and Regional Director for WFP in southern Africa, Menghestab Haile



The AUDA-NEPAD represented by Prof. Aggrey Ambali and AUC Ag. Director - Health & Humanitarian Affairs Directorate, Dr. Margaret Agama paid a courtesy visit to the President of Tunisia H.E. Kais Saied and the Minister of Health H.E. Dr. Ali Mrabet at the Carthage Palace in Tunis.

Did you know?

THE EARLIEST CALENDAR SYSTEM WAS CREATED IN AFRICA

Ancient Egyptians invented one of the earliest calendar system over 5,000 years ago. This calendar used the moon's cycles and a star named Sirius to keep track of time. The Egyptian calendar had 12 months just like the one used in Mesopotamia, but they had 5 extra days in their year.

HABARI