



NEPAD NEWS

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Why Africa must speak with one voice

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Dr Ibrahim Mayaki CEO, NEPAD Agency

Globalisation is a reality that has been defined in numerous ways and across different time frames. Whether we date it to the first venture of Homo Sapiens out of Africa 100, 000 years ago or to the technologically driven acceleration of world transactions from the 1980s, globalisation is an essential element in the history of mankind.

For African countries, global interdependence should start locally by strengthening regional economic integration. These are the key factors that are likely to inhibit the rapid and sustained growth of many individual African countries: the small size of the typical African economy, the fact that many of them are landlocked, with poorly developed infrastructure services, insufficient economic and social stability. Countries that cannot compete regionally are unlikely to compete globally. One way of integrating Africa into globalisation trends is through regional integrations.

Our regional economic integration represents our most ambitious political innovation since the wave of decolonisation that started in the late 1950s. An example is our decision to integrate three regional economic communities into a single Tripartite Free Trade Agreement (TFTA) covering 26 countries with 620 million people and supporting a \$1.5 trillion economy. The successful negotiation of the TFTA inspired Africans to embark on talks to agree on a Continental Free Trade Area by 2017. If the TFTA were a country its trade volume would comprise the 13th largest economy in the world. Here is a clear example of how the geographical scale of the continent is only matched by its economic prospects arising from regional integration.

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Africa's model of regional integration focuses on strengthening regional trade integration without threatening the sovereignty of member states

- Dr Ibrahim Mayaki

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Taking this vision further will depend largely on the extent to which our continent is able to invest in adequate energy, transportation, and telecommunications infrastructure. Africa's regional integration must take into account its vast land mass. One can fit the United States, Western Europe, India, China and Britain into Africa.

The case of the aviation industry in Africa, with its associated logistical services, demonstrates how implementing regional interdependence policies can foster global competitiveness.

This land mass includes vast deserts, mountains, forests, and other geological formations that curb transportation possibilities. The case of the aviation industry in Africa, with its associated logistical services, demonstrates how implementing regional interdependence policies can foster global competitiveness.

While the European Union seeks to deepen a centralised governance structure, Africa's model of regional integration focuses on strengthening regional trade integration without threatening the sovereignty of member states.

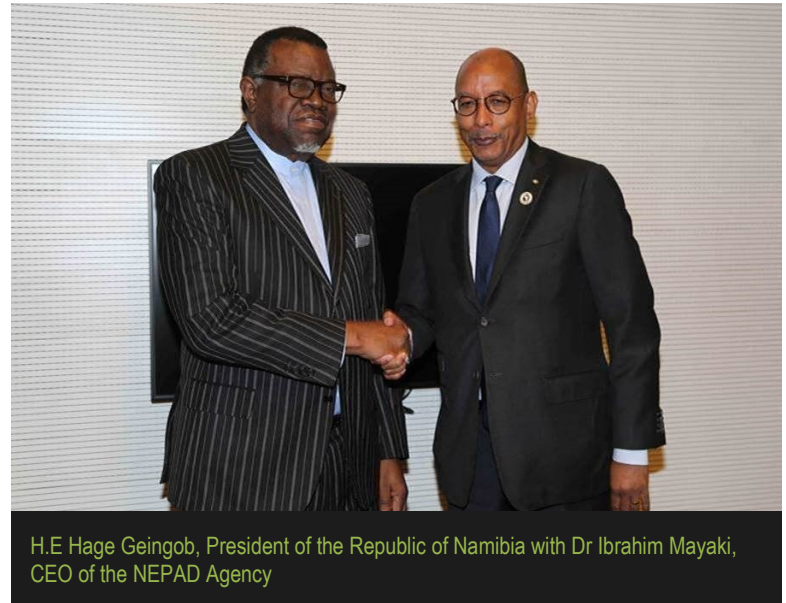
This approach is aligned with the emerging trends in globalisation, whereby local identities and global networks are strengthened concomitantly as part of a win-win formula. This regionalisation, rather than being opposite to globalisation, is precisely what enables our impactful participation in globalisation.

The project of redefining Africa on the global scene is ours to build by leveraging on the accelerated pace of globalisation and our own model of regional integration.

While we redefine our footing on the global scene, though, let us not lose sight of the distinctness of our people and our drive to find effective approaches to solve problems particular to the continent. It is the marrying of these two prerogatives that makes Africa powerful when it speaks with one voice.

Fast tracking infrastructure development with Namibia

Addis Ababa – During the 28th Ordinary Summit of the African Union, held in January 2017 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, the NEPAD Agency CEO, held a bilateral meeting with the President of Namibia, H.E Dr Hage Geingob. The meeting focussed on the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative (PICI) and the important role that the Republic of Namibia will play as an international logistics hub for the SADC region.



H.E Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia with Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO of the NEPAD Agency

The role of the Champions in the PICI is to bring visibility, unblock bottlenecks, co-ordinate resource mobilisation and ensure project implementation. It presents the opportunity for African Heads of State and Government to be actively involved in the development and implementation of projects.

President Geingob emphasised the imperative of job creation in Namibia, which makes the promotion of PICI ever more important. He invited the NEPAD Agency to visit Namibia in order to consolidate projects and fast track infrastructure development.

Accepting the invitation, Dr Mayaki illuminated the fact that Namibia has always been a strong supporter of NEPAD. The CEO further stated that it is the duty of the NEPAD Agency to facilitate the connection of countries through industrialisation and to assist countries in the prioritisation of transport and trade corridors.

The meeting between Dr Mayaki and President Geingob follows a PICI Technical Task Team workshop that the NEPAD Agency hosted in January 2017. The workshop, which took place in South Africa, formally endorsed and adopted the proposed projects to be championed by the President of Namibia.



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Solar energy irradiation in Africa is among the highest in the world, reaching more than 2000kW/m²/year, wind speed can reach as high as 20 m/s and even more in some coastal parts in Africa, biomass resources are enormous, hydro power potential alone is more than 100,000.MW which exceeds all that Africa needs from energy for years to come.

The 9th Africa Energy Indaba: Increasing regional energy trade and integration

Johannesburg - Current trends indicate a positive outlook for African infrastructure, particularly for the power sector. The rapid growth of energy demand, accompanied by a growing middle class on the continent has pushed individual countries and regional economic communities to act strategically, and step-up regional planning and integration.

The Africa Energy Indaba, of which the NEPAD Agency is a strategic partner, received future energy plans and project reports from across the continent when it commenced on February 21 at the Sandton Convention Centre, in Johannesburg, South Africa. Global and national energy stakeholders converged to deliberate on various issues affecting the energy sector during the two-day long event.

The NEPAD Agency CEO, Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, highlighted the importance of establishing the regional plans amidst a number of regulatory, technical, institutional, financial and other challenges that are holding back the much-needed investments in the energy sector.

“Our regional economic integration represents our most ambitious political innovation since the wave of decolonisation that started in the late 1950s. An example is our decision to integrate three regional economic communities into a single Tripartite Free Trade Agreement (TFTA) covering 26 countries with 620 million people and supporting a \$1.5 trillion economy,” Dr Mayaki stated.

The successful negotiation of the TFTA inspired Africans to embark on talks to agree on a Continental Free Trade Area by 2017. If the TFTA were a country its trade volume would comprise the 13th largest economy in the world, a clear example of how the geographical scale of the continent is only matched by its economic prospects arising from regional integration.

According to the 2011-2040 Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) Energy Outlook forecast, the PIDA Priority Action Program (PIDA-PAP), if implemented, will boost the energy trade within and between the power pools. This will have a positive impact on:

- The cost of the kWh due to economies of scale, (implementation of big projects serving many countries);
- Energy mix (countries with dominant hydro potentials supplying those with dominant thermal (gas and coal) potentials);
- Increased access to modern energy services, which in turn will trigger increased access to clean water and improved health care system.

In his opening remarks at the ministerial panel dialogue on *Securing the Energy Future for Africa*, Dr Mayaki reiterated that, “Experience on the African continent in the realm of energy infrastructure has shown clearly that the optimal solutions for national challenges are regional solutions.”

At the NEPAD Agency’s event on *Africa priority renewable energy projects for development and investment*, seven countries presented their renewable energy projects ranging from hydro power, solar energy, biogas, and windtricity. Many African governments place a high priority on improving electricity access and significant positive action is already underway.

Moreover, solar energy irradiation in Africa is among the highest in the world, reaching more than 2000kW/m²/year, wind speed can reach as high as 20 m/s and even more in some coastal parts in Africa, biomass resources are enormous, hydro power potential alone is more than 100,000.MW which exceeds all that Africa needs from energy for years to come.

The Africa Energy Indaba is the only African energy event organised for and by Africans in Africa. NEPAD Agency and its strategic partners have continually ensured that the event remains a platform for Africa to plot its future energy pathway, in addition to remaining the continent’s premier energy event.

African Union CAADP Business Plan

Strategic background

For the first time in more than 13 years, a consolidated business plan has been developed to help drive the transformation agenda of the **African Union CAADP Business Plan for Implementation of the Malabo Declaration for Accelerated Agricultural Transformation in Africa (2017–2020)**, jointly prepared by an African Union Commission's Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (AUC/DREA) and NEPAD Agency's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) team.

The driving vision and frameworks for the Business Plan refer to the Agenda 2063 and the Malabo Declaration for 2025. Agenda 2063 is a shared strategic framework for inclusive growth and sustainable development and a global strategy to optimise the use of Africa's resources for the benefit of all Africans. Agenda 2063 has seven aspirations; of which one (Aspiration#1) has the greatest relevance for the CAADP Business Plan: *"A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development."* Linked to these seven aspirations are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

Agenda 2063 has seven aspirations; of which one (Aspiration#1) has the greatest relevance for the CAADP Business Plan:

"A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development."

This broad vision of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs are further complemented by the Malabo Declaration, which outlines an updated framework of seven core commitments to help accelerate Africa's agricultural transformation. The Malabo Declaration of 2014 brought in new dimensions from its predecessor, the Maputo Declaration on agriculture with respect to focus, scope, content and delivery of CAADP. It significantly expanded the CAADP agenda in terms of thematic coverage and mutual accountability requirements.

While reaffirming the principles, values and targets set at Maputo, the Malabo Declaration added ambitious commitments. The new changes introduced in the second phase are that while CAADP continues to focus on agriculture, the second phase needs to take into account areas in related sectors that are required for agricultural growth to happen such as infrastructure, trade, energy, rural development and ICT. The national agricultural investment plan (NAIP) still remains the main vehicle for achieving the Malabo targets, but the NAIP can no longer be regarded as the only vehicle for achieving these targets as it has to depend on other frameworks for it to deliver.



The African Union Commission's Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, in collaboration with the NEPAD Agency hosted the CAADP Partners' Business Meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, November 2016

Purpose of the Business Plan

The main purpose of the AU-CAADP Business Plan (2017-2020) is to provide a clear, concise, and agreed upon "framing document" for guiding implementation and delivery of the commitments outlined in the Malabo Declaration.

Together with other key information and consultations, the Business Plan will also be used to help mobilise and align development partner and other CAADP constituencies' support in the priority result areas that contribute to the achievement of the Malabo commitments. The Business Plan was prepared by an AU team, in consultation with a range of stakeholders, including AUC-DREA, NEPAD Agency, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and development partners.

Strategic drivers for agricultural transformation

The Business Plan for CAADP-Malabo implementation emanates from key CAADP documents which highlight four strategic drivers or key thematic priorities which have been identified as important to guide CAADP implementation and sustain the Malabo commitments towards accelerated agricultural transformation.

They are: Commercialisation and modernisation of smallholder agriculture by intensification of market-linked production; Expanding and linking domestic markets to regional markets in order to ensure market stability and reduce dependence on global food markets; Increasing resilience through coping and adaptation measures including the promotion of risk mitigation and shock reduction measures especially those that improve the functioning of markets; and Improving the management of natural resources and permit increased participation of local communities.

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Programmatic approach to support the Malabo result areas

The 7 CAADP-Malabo Result Areas (MRAs), with their corresponding programmes and subprogrammes, are the CORE drivers of the Business Plan. Based on these 7 MRAs, the plan outlines 7 corresponding programmes and their supporting 36 subprogrammes.

Using a results framework methodology, each programme is underpinned by a strong results chain with clear and coherent objectives, impacts and outcomes, and supporting subprogrammes. Each subprogramme will generate strategic and prioritised outputs, comprising three common products/services which will be contextualised to support member state requirements: Strategic frameworks/tools/good practices; capacity development modules and their delivery; and demand-driven implementation assistance. In addition, there will be a fourth service of shared learning from implementation experience at the three levels.

Delivery Model

The approach of the delivery model involves working closely with and supporting key stakeholders, especially the RECs. The focus is on implementation and results, as opposed to planning and processes. A central feature of the BP is the introduction/application of a programmatic approach and an innovative delivery model of the four types of services to be provided by the AU entities; including:

- (a) Enhancing mechanisms for internal and external engagement and coordination,
- (b) Drawing on the expertise of Technical Networks, and

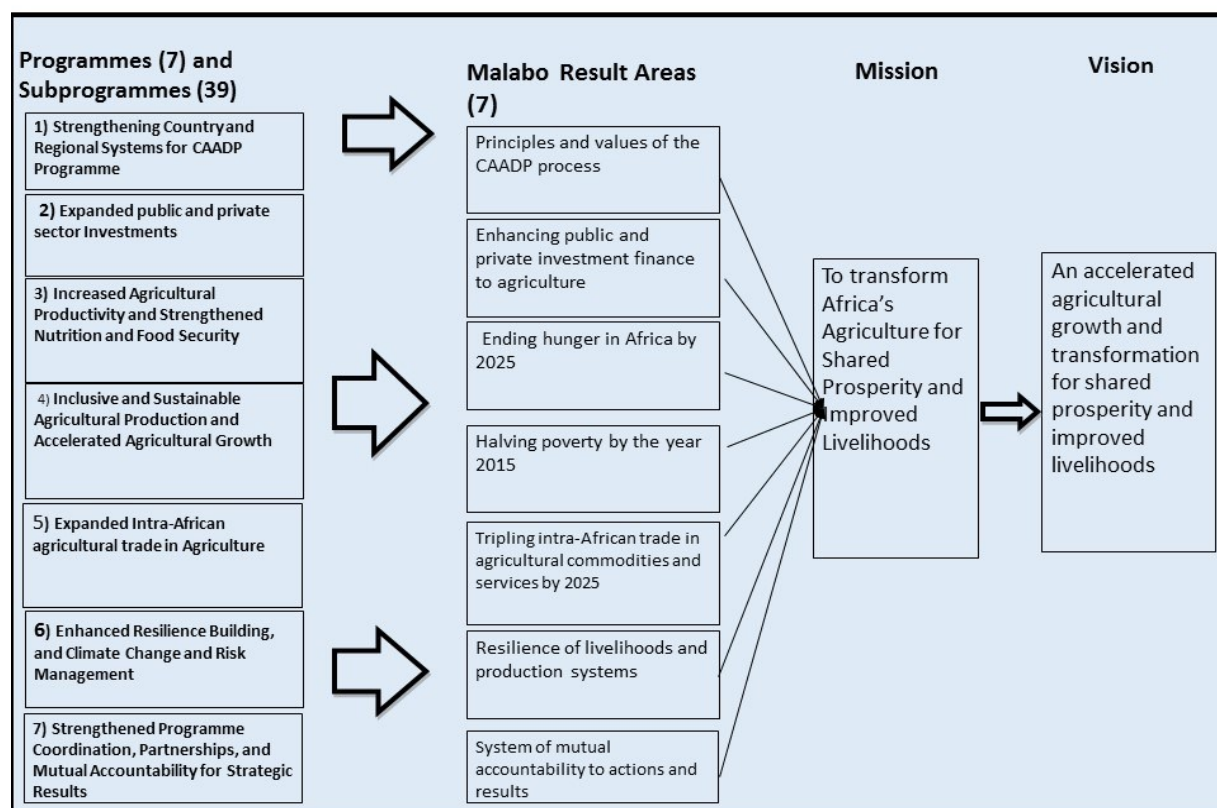
(c) Technical partners to support member state delivery of the Malabo commitments. This delivery model also will be supported by,

(d) Enhanced accountability mechanisms, M&E and reporting systems, including biennial reports. The member states will have the main responsibility for delivery of the Malabo commitments.

Other important areas in the operational plan include:

1. Technical Human Resources and Accountability Mechanisms
2. Funding Requirements/Priorities to deliver efficiently and effectively on the CAADP–Malabo commitments during the period 2017-2020 totalling approximately US \$81.7 Million (or about US\$20.5 M per year)
3. The development of a Financing Strategy to address an approximately a financing gap of about 50% that will build on existing ones and pursue innovative mechanisms from domestic/Africa and external sources.
4. The much needed *Strategic Partnerships and Communications* at four levels - global, continental, regional and country - supported by enhanced communications.
5. The needed implementation strategy, arrangements and mechanisms to be at the core of the implementation strategy, using the Results Framework and its supporting operational plan as a roadmap for guiding implementation and activating an improved delivery model to carry out the strategic activities.
6. The main risks associated with the Business Plan are also analysed. Six of them are ranked as priority risks and their mitigating actions are also outlined.

African Union Business Plan
for implementation of the CAADP- Malabo Commitments (2017-2020)





As of January, 2017, 132 countries out of the 197 parties that signed the Paris Agreement have ratified it, with 31 of those ratifying it being African countries

Implications of the Paris Agreement on Africa

In December 2015, the outcome of the 21st meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP 21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Paris resulted in the Paris Agreement – an agreement which provides a pathway to limit global temperature rise to well below two degrees Celsius (2^o C). United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki Moon described the agreement as “historic” and one that “promises to set the world on a new path to a low emissions, climate-resilient future.”

The Paris Agreement

In comparison to the Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Agreement reflects a mixed approach that combines bottom-up flexibility to achieve broad participation, with top-down rules to promote accountability and ambition in climate change mitigation and adaptation. Unlike the Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Agreement places some level of responsibility on developing countries by promoting shared responsibility for tackling global climate change.

To achieve this target, parties to the Paris Agreement submitted Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs), indicating individual countries’ unique plans to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change. Commendably, all African countries, with the exception of Libya, submitted their INDCs before the COP21 meeting. Countries’ contributions included unconditional and quantifiable emission reduction targets that are achievable with international support. The agreement requires all countries to take action, while recognising their unique situations and circumstances.

As of January, 2017, 132 countries out of the 197 parties that signed the Paris Agreement have ratified it, with 31 of those ratifying it being African countries.

The Paris Agreement and African Agriculture

African Agriculture is and will be the mainstay of the economic growth and transformation of the continent as it employs about 65 percent of Africa’s labour force and accounts for more than one-third of the continent’s GDP, according to African Union and World Bank statistics. Africa’s vulnerability to climate change is largely linked to its high dependence on an agricultural sector that is dominated by rain fed systems.

This makes it particularly vulnerable to changes in precipitation patterns. Climate change is expected to impact crop production in Africa through changes in temperature and the quantity and temporal distribution of water supply. The IPCC predicts that rising temperatures and unpredictable rain patterns will make it harder for farmers to grow certain key crops like wheat, rice and maize. While many of the projected effects of climate change on agriculture are negative, it is possible that productivity could increase in some areas due to more favourable climatic conditions.

An analysis by the CGIAR Research Programme on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) shows that agriculture is discussed in 80 percent of the INDCs submitted by nearly 190 countries. This portrays the importance that countries attach to the agricultural sector and its influence on the climate debate. Agriculture will continue to feature prominently in upcoming discussions of the UNFCCC.

The Subsidiary Body for Science and Technological Advice (SBSTA), an auxiliary body of the UNFCCC, has provided a platform for agriculture to be discussed during its meetings. SBSTA needs to ensure there are clear standards for comparing and assessing the agricultural components of national CSA strategies. The INDCs provide a platform for Africa to showcase how innovative measures can boost food production in a changing climate. In this regard, Africa must aim to increase productivity and sustainable production systems to achieve food self-sufficiency.

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Despite the ground breaking success of the Paris Agreement, the lack of attention given to agriculture has proven a cause for concern for many African countries considering the catalytic role agriculture plays in the socio-economic development of the continent.

For Africa to be able to address the issues pertaining to agriculture and climate change, it is imperative to promote initiatives geared at improving adaptation, increasing food productivity and reducing green-house gas emissions from the sector. The African Union and the continent's negotiating bodies in the global climate change discussions have emphasised that adaptation to climate change remains a priority for the continent. For rain-fed farming systems, as in many parts of sub-Saharan Africa, one of the most important priorities is expanded access to irrigation, especially small-scale irrigation.

The SBSTA also needs to ensure there are clear standards for comparing and assessing the agricultural components of national Climate change and Agriculture strategies. At the continental level, Goal 6 of the Malabo Declaration of 2014 on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods provides a vision for an African led response to the impact of climate change on the agriculture sector.

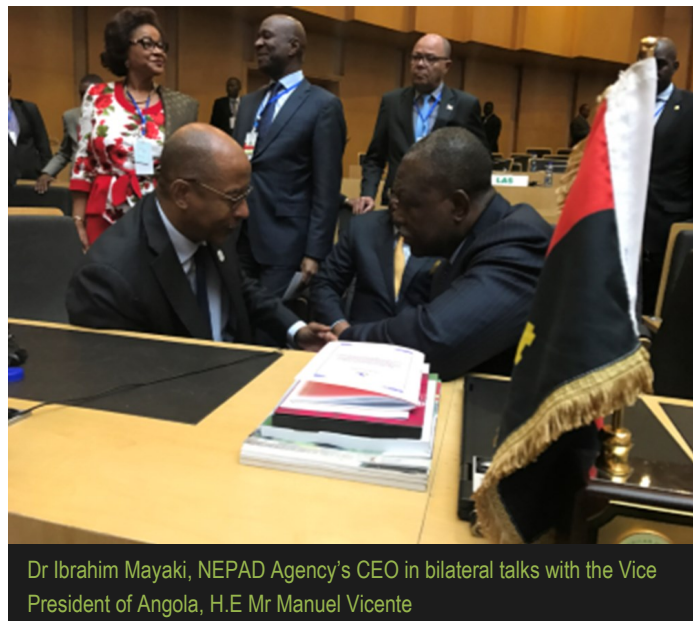
The Malabo Declaration has envisioned that by the year 2025, at least 30 percent of African farms, pastoral and fisher households will be resilient to climate and weather related risks. National Agriculture Investment Plans which have been developed out of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) processes also need to mainstream climate change considerations. More significantly, a number of programmes and initiatives are galvanising a catalytic effort to bring coordination and coherence to Africa's efforts to combat the effects of climate change on its agriculture sector. These include initiatives such as the NEPAD Climate Change and Agriculture Programme - driven by the NEPAD Agency with the overall aim of meeting the African Union's vision of supporting 25 million farming households to practice Climate Smart Agriculture by 2025.

Africa has not been able to adequately access all major funding opportunities related to climate change - primarily as a result of capacity restraints. The Green Climate Fund, which has identified climate-resilient agriculture as one of its five investment priorities, presents a great opportunity for Africa to access climate funds. It is therefore imperative for Africa to fully develop its capacity in terms of project preparation and fund absorption.

Source: Policy brief written by Mrs Estherine Fotabong, Director, Programme Implementation and Coordination, NEPAD Agency and Kwame Ababio, Programme Officer, Climate Change, NEPAD Agency

Agriculture critical in transforming Angola's economy

Addis Ababa – There is no longer doubt that developing agriculture is vital to the growth and development of Africa. Improving agriculture and the subsequent economic growth it brings will not only guarantee food and nutrition security, but also greater political stability, as well as prospects and prosperity for the continent and its population.



Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, NEPAD Agency's CEO in bilateral talks with the Vice President of Angola, H.E Mr Manuel Vicente

On January 31, on the margins of the 28th African Union Summit held in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa, the NEPAD Agency CEO, Dr Ibrahim Mayaki and the Vice President of Angola, H.E Mr Manuel Vicente, held bilateral talks.

Vice President Vicente led the Angolan delegation to the AU Summit on behalf of President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos.

The discussions revolved on the role the NEPAD Agency can play in promoting agriculture's critical position in the transformation of the Angolan economy.

In concluding the talks, the Vice President pledged to personally manage the issue upon his return, as agriculture is a strategic sector of the Angolan economy.

The country has experienced rapid growth in the last decade, mainly boosted by the exploitation of its vast natural resources. Currently, Angola is ranked as the third largest economy south of the Sahara in Africa. Agriculture is therefore projected to hold an indispensable role in growing the country's exports and generating foreign currency earnings.



We must impart the necessary skills to our youths to make them more assertive and build their appreciation of *'The African We Want.'*

Realisation of Agenda 2063 will be witnessed by the youths of today

Insight from Prof Aggrey Ambali, NEPAD Agency Head of Industrialisation, Science, Technology and Innovation (ISTI)

NEPAD Agency Head of Industrialisation, Science, Technology and Innovation, Prof Aggrey Ambali says now is the time for Africa to invest in its youths to bring about a paradigm shift that can increase domestic participation in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI). Prof Ambali believes this resonates well with the 2017 African Union theme: *Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youths*, adopted at the AU Summit in January 2017 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

“We must invest and develop the capacity and competence of the African youths to improve the application of Science, Technology and Innovation in Africa”, Prof Ambali asserts.

Africa has to develop its STI and this begins with youths. According to Prof Ambali, Africa has to take this approach and invest in its youths to build a generation of entrepreneurs and not job seekers. Science, Technology and Innovation are key drivers of economic growth and development, and it is the youth that can sustain these drivers. This is in tandem with the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy (STISA-2024) which provides a framework that supports the building of a solid foundation for African youths.

Youths must take advantage of the space provided by different programmes implemented by the NEPAD Agency to build their confidence and get involved in programme delivery systems. NEPAD Agency is implementing several programmes that directly benefit youths because it is the youths of today who shall witness the realisation of the full vision and aspirations of the AU Agenda 2063.

Youths are the biggest beneficiaries of the programmes implemented by NEPAD and there is no doubt they represent the organisation's biggest clientele.

The biggest asset we can give our youths is education and knowledge. Hence, it is for this reason that ISTI implements programmes in education and training for the African youth, as well as capacity and skills development. ISTI focuses not only on tertiary education at University level in fields such as



Prof Aggrey Ambali, NEPAD Agency Head of Industrialisation, Science, Technology and Innovation

engineering, but also at all levels including technician level.

Africa boasts of an increasing population of youths and there is a growing need to improve the health of these youths so they

can effectively contribute to development and efficient service delivery. ISTI has health programmes that improve African youth's access to medical technologies and services, as well as improve public health through efficient technologies and innovation in public service delivery.

Prof Ambali makes an appeal to Africa to impart the necessary skills to our youths to make them more assertive and build their appreciation of *'the African We Want.'* Youths are no longer on the periphery of the African development agenda, they play a huge role that has to be nurtured through sustained investments to harness the demographic dividends.



Our ability to feed 9.5 billion human beings in 2050 in the face of climate change will notably depend on our ability to protect living soils

Agriculture can provide solutions to climate disruptions

Agricultural soils management in Africa is challenged with several constraints compounded by global climatic changes. Effective soils management cannot be achieved without taking into consideration the indispensable role of soil carbon and the need to preserve soils. Soil organic carbon is the main indicator of soil quality and fertility - two key aspects of food security.

The amount of organic carbon in soil forms the balance between inputs and outputs of the soil. In essence, increasing organic matter in soil increases the amount of carbon in soil, with the result being various soil health benefits. Soil carbon plays a key role in the carbon cycle, and it is for this reason that it has a critical role in global climate models, and is the focus of climate change and land use discourse.

In mid-March 2015, at the 3rd Global Science Conference on Climate-Smart Agriculture, Mr Stéphane Le Foll, the French Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry launched an international programme on soil restoration and carbon sequestration, called "4 pour 1000" (or 4 per 1000 in English – meaning a "4%" annual growth rate of the soil carbon stock would make it possible to stop the present increase in atmospheric CO₂).

Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO of the NEPAD Agency, was elected President of this initiative during the first meeting of the consortium in Marrakech, Morocco in November, 2016.

It is against this backdrop that a meeting for the Initiative was organised between the President, Dr Mayaki and the vice President Mr Le Foll, on February 13, 2017 to discuss the action plan for the year. The aim of the 4 per 1000 initiative is to demonstrate that agriculture, and agricultural soils in particular, can play a crucial role where food security and climate change are concerned. In recognition of the NEPAD Agency's efforts in this arena, Dr Mayaki was decorated with the "Commandeur de l'Ordre du Mérite Agricole" by Mr Le Foll at the end of the meeting in Paris, France.

The 4 per 1000 initiative helps to demonstrate the possibilities and value of agriculture as part of the solution in responding to climate change, with win-win results, for agriculture productivity, on one the one hand, and resiliency in natural ecosystems as well as adaptation and mitigation to weather extremes on the other. This has a direct impact on food security and livelihoods, especially for millions of populations, including women and children that still depend directly on farming for their livelihoods.

Our ability to feed 9.5 billion human beings in 2050 in the face of climate change will notably depend on our ability to protect living soils. There is a strong correlation between agricultural production and soil health, for which the principal indicator is its organic matter content. Productive, stable soils are directly conducive to farms' resilience in the face of climate change.

The premise of the 4 per 1,000 initiative is formed on the basis that agriculture can provide practical solutions to the challenge of climate disruption, while also meeting challenges posed by food security through the use of farming methods that match local conditions.

For more information on 4 pour 1000, visit:
<http://4p1000.org/>

Zambia's armyworm outbreak: Is Climate Change to blame?

Pemba - Surrender Hamufuba of Mwanamambo village in Pemba district, Zambia, recalls how he battled Armyworms in 2012. Fast-forward to 2016 and it is a similar story - another pest infestation on an even larger scale.

"I am not sure why, but there could be more to the increased frequency of these pest attacks, maybe weather changes," speculates the 48-year-old farmer, who seems quite knowledgeable about climate smart agricultural fundamentals.

Out of the five hectares he planted, Hamufuba estimates the damage to be up to 1ha. In Pemba alone, at least 5,000 smallholders have reported some stalk borer damage in varying proportions.

Apart from the damage caused by stalk borers, the Armyworm invasion has caused larger damage across the country. According to Minister of Agriculture Dora Siliya, at least 124,000 hectares of maize have been invaded, representing just under 10 percent of the 1.4 hectares of maize planted this farming season.

National Coordinator of the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) Patrick Kangwa said the pests were under control as government bought and delivered 87,000 litres of pesticides for spraying in the affected farmers' fields.

While farmers are being supported in every way possible to safeguard their crops in the short term, the long-term concern is the frequency — and unpredictability — of these devastating pests.

Donald Zulu, a lecturer and researcher at the Copperbelt University, says climate change may complicate the pattern of infestations.

"Outbreaks of Armyworms are highly dependent on the seasonal patterns of wind and rainfall. With global warming, the weather pattern in Africa will continue to change, which could mean more or fewer Armyworm outbreaks," says Zulu, prescribing long-term integrated approaches built around "robust, country-wide surveillance and early warning systems" considering the devastating nature and feeding pattern of Armyworms.

Armyworms are serious migratory crop pests that feed on young maize plants, and also attack other cereal crops such as wheat, rice, sorghum, millet and most grass pastures, affecting both crop and livestock production. They feed with such devastating speed that by the time they are discovered, notable damage would already have been caused. Stalk borers on the other hand, have the habit of boring into stalks, affecting plant growth.

There are several types of armyworms, among them the African Armyworm, which occurs in Africa. While the 2012 attack was the African Armyworm, this year's outbreak is different.



Surrender Hamufuba inspecting maize plants in his field. Credit: Friday Phiri/IPS

"This particular pest is the Fall Armyworm, and not the African Armyworm," says Dr. Eliot Zitsanza, chief scientist at the International Red Locust Control Organisation for Central and Southern Africa (IRCO-CSA). "

The Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) fifth assessment report confirms this strong linkage between warming and increased pest and disease. In highlighting the major risk posed by climate change to agriculture — reduction in crop productivity associated with heat and drought stress — the report cites increased pest and disease damage and flood impacts on food system infrastructure as key indicators.

Similarly, in identifying key adaptation issues and prospects, the report highlights adoption of stress-tolerant crop varieties, irrigation, and enhanced weather observation systems.

Southern Province Agricultural Coordinator Max Choombe believes climate change is a precursor to pest infestations and does not rule out the linkage between the current outbreak and global warming. "Climate change also is a problem, it is a precursor for certain pest attacks and I believe the attack this season could be as a result of the extreme weather changes we have been experiencing," Choombe claims.

With a looming outbreak of Red Locusts as forecast by the IRCO-CSA, there could be more work ahead in identifying long-term solutions to the rising challenge of pests in a changing climate. Further, the entry into force of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, which places obligations on individual countries to contribute to a global transition to green growth, means that Zambian policy makers would have to double their efforts considering that agriculture is at the forefront of the country's vulnerability to climate change.

But while they do, Donald Zulu asserts that "It is generally agreed that the earth is warming. And temperature influences insect development and is the most important environmental factor that affects insect pests. Because of this, climate change is more likely to influence insects' geography distribution and affect crops."

Story submitted by Friday Phiri (first published by IPS)



© George Sanu

“It is sad to see that sometimes water and sanitation are still not top priorities for some African governments, despite overwhelming evidence that a country’s development and people’s wellbeing depends on efficient use of water,”
Dr Ibrahim Mayaki.

Why it is important to ensure access to water and sanitation for all

Dr Ibrahim Mayaki CEO, NEPAD Agency

Today, the figures are still horrific: 663 million people do not have reasonable access to safe drinking water and nearly 2.4 billion people lack access to basic sanitation services (toilets or latrines). Besides, 1,000 children die due to preventable water and sanitation-related diseases.

The impact of these figures is devastating to health and quality of life for many people, especially the poorest. However, it is sad to see that sometimes water and sanitation are still not top priorities for some African governments, despite overwhelming evidence that a country’s development and people’s wellbeing depends on efficient use of water. Therefore, it is crucial to act and to implement strong measures: let us remind that it is not only a human and social matter! It is also an economic one: for instance, people who will not have access to toilets at work and at home will have poorer health leading to absenteeism, reduced concentration, exhaustion and decreased productivity!

The best way to push water and sanitation up to the political agenda is to find an obvious way to link water to development. This is why Goal 6 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) calls for clean water and sanitation for all. That SDG has 8 major targets to reach by 2030. Among them we find a commitment to “protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.”

That commitment is not something that people (and by extent governments) should consider as redundant. Indeed, water scarcity must be considered as a top priority risk: it is at the same time a major constraint to socio-economic development of nations, a growing problem for businesses, and a threat to growth and stability on a global scale. Thus, it is far from being a minor problem!

This is the reason why it is inconceivable to act with short-term financial interest as only goal and not to look on consequences on the environment and water conservation. For instance, water is critical for successful climate change mitigation, as many efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions depend on reliable access to water resources.

Besides, if we want to think in an economic way, increasing water conservation (which means getting to the source of the problem) would reduce the need for infrastructure to be erected to get water. Let’s tackle deforestation and urbanization! It will also result to less money spent on healthcare for water pollution-related illnesses.

We have a long way to go before the water scarcity problems are solved across the globe but it is our strategic interest to act now, on our continent. Programs such as the UN’s Sustainable Development goal for sustainable management of water and sanitation or COP22 are a huge step in the direction of water conservation for all. I urge all the stakeholders to gather to get things done, now. Water is not a secondary matter: it is a social, human, and economic issue. It is crucial for our development.

Upcoming Events

- 28 Feb - 1 Mar 2017:** Launch of the 'Skills Initiative for Africa' in Nigeria, Abuja, Nigeria
- 27 - 31 Mar 2017:** Fifth Steering Committee Meeting of the NEPAD/GEF/UNEP-SIP Project & RECs Technical Meeting, Abidjan, Ivory Coast
- 06 - 10 Mar 2017:** Management and Technical Meetings of African Forest Landscape Restoration (AFR100), Bonn, Germany
- 23 - 28 Mar 2017:** 10th Joint Annual meeting of AU Specialised Technical Committee, Dakar, Senegal
- 23 - 25 May 2017:** 2nd NEPAD Regional Conference on Arts Education in Africa, Cairo, Egypt

See also: www.nepad.org/events

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Proverb

“Milk and honey have different colours, but they share the same house peacefully”

Meaning: Embracing diversity leads to unity



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