



## DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

# COMESA, AUC and NEPAD Agency Joint Information Sharing & Knowledge Management Training on CAADP, with a focus on Nutrition Security & Trade

*14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> November 2016, Nairobi, Kenya*

### 1. Background and Rationale

The AUC, NEPAD Agency and the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA) Secretariat will hold a 3-day Information and knowledge management Training workshop, with a focus on nutrition security and trade. The training, slated for November 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya, will be held within the framework of, and in support of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) framework.

Africa is carrying a triple burden of malnutrition<sup>1</sup> – under-nutrition, over-nutrition and micro-nutrient deficiencies often referred to as hidden hunger. According to the most recent data and estimates, 58 million children in Africa are stunted; 164 million children and women of reproductive age are anaemic; and 220 million are calorie deficient; 10.3 million children overweight and 8% of all adults are obese. Adult obesity is on the rise in all 54 African countries as is Adult diabetes – high blood sugar (Africa Nutrition Scorecard 2015 [www.nepad.org](http://www.nepad.org) ).

In the COMESA region, while progress has been made, there are still serious stunting levels ( $\geq 30\%$ ) in twelve countries, out of which seven are at alarming levels ( $\geq 40\%$ ). All countries in the region show an increase in adult obesity levels during the period 2010 – 2014. According to WHO classification<sup>2</sup> only 2 countries have anaemia prevalence levels that can be classified as mild (5.0-19.9%) with the remaining in the moderate (20.0-39.9%) category and one classified as severe ( $\geq 40\%$ ).

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<sup>1</sup> Malnutrition is defined as nutritional disorder in all its forms and includes both undernutrition and over-nutrition. It relates to imbalances in energy, and specific macro and micronutrients- as well as in dietary patterns. Conventionally, the emphasis has been in relation to inadequacy, but it also applies to both excess and imbalanced intakes. Malnutrition occurs when the intake of essential macro- and micronutrients does not meet or exceeds the metabolic demands for those nutrients (CFS2012/39/4 [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org) ).

<sup>2</sup> Proposed classification of public health significance of anaemia in populations on the basis of prevalence estimated from blood levels of haemoglobin or haematocrit [www.who.org](http://www.who.org)



Trade, as well as industrialization policies and related instruments that have an impact on the nutrition situation in Africa, considering, for example, that Africa spends approximately \$35.4 billion annually on food imports<sup>3</sup>. A study<sup>4</sup> on the implications of trade laws and policies for food security, diversity and nutrition, showed a dramatic change in the food environment with increased access to processed foods and soft drinks within SADC<sup>5</sup>, facilitated by growing intra- and extra-regional trade and investment.

The Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods commits to end hunger in Africa by 2025. It also commits to boost intra-African trade in agricultural commodities and to harness markets and trade opportunities, locally, regionally and internationally. The Declaration also acknowledges the progress made in the last decade of CAADP implementation and notes the need for translating Africa's agricultural development goals into tangible results. Inexplicably, harnessing, (re)-packaging and sharing knowledge from the data and information generated over the last decade of CAADP's implementation occupies a central position in the new era of Africa's agriculture and food & nutrition security agenda.

## **2. Training Workshop Overview**

It is against this backdrop that COMESA Secretariat with the Technical and Financial Support from AUC and NEPAD has organised a three (3) day Training workshop on Information Sharing and Knowledge management for COMESA Member States, specifically focusing on promoting the harnessing, product-development and sharing of knowledge on salient matters pertaining to agriculture development and trading of Agricultural products within the framework of CAADP. Particular attention will be devoted to producing knowledge products that underscore the synergies between; and harmonisation of, trade policies and nutrition security among the COMESA Member States.

The Training will focus at strengthening the capacities of COMESA Member States in developing knowledge products from data, statistics and information on various development fronts. This will be anchored on discussions on how the trade sector can contribute to improving the nutrition situation in Africa. Implicitly, the discussions will raise awareness

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<sup>3</sup> Study by AfDB

<sup>4</sup> Regional trade and the nutrition transition. Global Health Action 2015, 8: 28338  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.3402/gha.v8.28338>

<sup>5</sup> About 40% of SADC Member States have a dual membership with COMESA



about the link between trade, food security and nutrition<sup>6</sup>, provide requisite evidence for advocating for nutrition considerations in regional and national trade policies and laws, and propose a set of multi-sectoral actions that are necessary to address the triple burden of malnutrition in Africa.

As an integral component of the training workshop, mechanisms for knowledge-sharing within and between COMESA Member States will be discussed with a view to promoting best practices for enhanced agriculture-related industrialization and intra-Africa trade, as well as bolstering nutrition security within the COMESA region.

### **3. Training Workshop Objectives:**

The workshop will purpose to achieve the following objectives:

- Strategize on how improve intra COMESA trade in agricultural products through enhanced value chains and address the challenges and bottlenecks that hinder value addition.
- Strengthen the conceptual value of knowledge management in agriculture development, and the interlinkages between food and nutrition security and agriculture value-chain development;
- Produce a range of knowledge products such as policy briefs for the member states infographics, fact-sheets and “how-tos” on agriculture and food and nutrition security-related areas;
- Strengthen participants’ capacities in harnessing data, statistics and information sharing, as well as enhance their abilities in translating data into knowledge; and
- Build capacities of participants to access and utilize the NEPAD Agency Knowledge Management Portal, including the Food and Nutrition Security Platform.

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<sup>6</sup> See FAO Discussion paper 2015: Linking Trade and Food and Nutrition Security in Indian Ocean Commission Member States



#### **4. Expected Outcomes**

The workshop is expected to achieve the following outcomes:

- Participants will agree on the common roadmap and accompanying follow-up actions at both national and regional levels to strengthen knowledge management in CAADP implementation in the COMESA region;
- A draft “blue print” of interlinkages between food and nutrition security and agriculture value-chain will be developed;
- Enhanced competencies among participants in harnessing, knowledge co-creation and sharing;
- A range of knowledge products, including at least: 2 policy briefs; 1 infographic; 2 fact-sheets; and 1 “how-to” on agriculture and food and nutrition security-related areas
- A set of actions to ensure optimal information sharing on agriculture, food and nutrition security in the COMESA region – including establishing a regional Community of Practice (CoP).

#### **5. Proposed Participants**

The Training workshop will target trade experts, agriculture value-chain experts and FNS experts from government ministries, the academia, centres of excellence, and from the civil society. Participants are expected to have a significant experience in agriculture value-chain development, trade and / or the promotion of FNS initiatives in their respective countries.

Each of the countries from the COMESA region are requested each to send two (2) representatives; one expert in trade matters and another expert from the Food and Nutrition Security domain.

#### **6. The Training organization**

The training is jointly organized by the COMESA Secretariat, the AUC and the NEPAD Agency. A Steering Committee largely constituted of the COMESA Secretariat, the AUC and the NEPAD Agency will be responsible for providing oversight in the preparation and actual delivery of the training for quality assurance. The COMESA Secretariat division of trade and the international cooperation unit, in collaboration with NEPAD Agency will handle all the logistical requirements.

#### **7. Proposed Dates and Location**

- Proposed Dates: **14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> November 2016**
- Proposed location: **Nairobi, Kenya.**