



COMMUNIQUE OF THE SEVENTH COMPREHENSIVE AFRICA AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME PARTNERSHIP PLATFORM (CAADP PP) MEETING

March 23 - 25, 2011

Yaoundé, Cameroon

INTRODUCTION

1. The 7th Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Partnership Platform (PP) Meeting jointly organised by the African Union Commission (AUC), the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NEPAD Agency) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and hosted by the Government of the Republic of Cameroon took place at the Hilton Hotel, in Yaoundé, Cameroon, from 23 to 25 March 2011.
2. The 7th CAADP PP was organised under the theme: “Mutual Accountability in the formulation and implementation of country CAADP investment plans”.
3. The 7th CAADP PP was attended by over 260 participants with at least 21 countries, 29 development partner organisations and Governments, national, regional¹ and continental² farmers’ organisations, local and international civil society organisations represented. The Commissioner of the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture of the AUC, H.E. Tumusiime Rhoda Peace and NEPAD Agency Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki led the AUC and NEPAD Agency delegations respectively. The Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) were represented by senior staff of their agriculture department.
4. Honorable Victor Mengot, Minister of Special Duties in The Presidency, Government of the Republic of Cameroon officiated at the opening of the Meeting. Prior to the official opening statement, Ms. Sonja Palm from GIZ on behalf of the Development Partners; H.E. Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, NEPAD Agency CEO; H.E. Tumusiime Rhoda Peace, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, AUC, gave opening remarks reflecting on the Meeting’s theme and purpose.

MEETING PROGRAMME AND STRUCTURE

¹ 4 regional farmers organization were represented: Union of Maghrebians Farmers (UMAGRI); East African Farmer Federation (EAFF); Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU); Sub regional Platform of Farmers Organisation in Central Africa (PROPAC).

² The newly established Pan-African Farmers’ Organisation (PAFO).



5. The CAADP PP was arranged in two parts, the **“Sharing-Learning Meeting”** which ran from March 23rd to 24th, followed by the **“Business Meeting”** on March 25th.
6. The ‘Sharing-Learning Meeting’ was driven by the exchange of ideas, country experiences and on the ground cases that were presented by representatives from the countries. Key issues that were highlighted included: successes and challenges across the various aspects and stages of the country CAADP implementation processes; the strengthening of programme implementation and results at national level; enhancing the participation and ownership of the CAADP agenda by national stakeholders and establishing mechanisms for transparent dialogue and mutual review of performance among internal and external stakeholders. As such, the ‘Sharing-Learning’ session received reports on the progress and status on CAADP implementation from non-state actors, countries, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and AUC/NEPAD Agency, and shared experiences and drew lessons on CAADP implementation.
7. The Business Meeting reviewed the 2011 CAADP implementation support priorities as well as key CAADP reports including those from the CAADP ReSAKSS Steering Committee and the CAADP Multi-Donor Trust Fund Partnership Committee (MDTF PC). The meeting also took decisions on major issues to strengthen the coordination and management of CAADP implementation support and agreed on specific actions – as highlighted below – that the key stakeholders are expected to implement and report on at the next PP meeting.

SUMMARY OF KEY MESSAGES

8. The opening statement and remarks: highlighted the genesis of CAADP and the importance of living up to the vision defining CAADP as a transformational development model based on agriculture; underlined the fact that agriculture continues to form a cornerstone of African economies and the critical role it plays in impacting on poverty and hunger; emphasised the need to focus on programme implementation and results; underscored the need for providing capacity support to countries and RECs to advance programme implementation at country level; reiterated the importance of enhancing local ownership and responsibility including the imperatives of mobilizing domestic resources; and called for establishing mechanisms for transparency and effective coordination among all actors on the CAADP agenda.
9. The statements in the opening session further highlighted the supportive role that can be played by pan-African organisations and development partners in anchoring CAADP firmly at the country level. The statements underlined the important role development partners play in supporting the broader CAADP agenda under African political and professional leadership. The statements also noted the impetus provided by CAADP in realising the vision of a food secure Africa and the launch of the African Food and Nutrition Security Day to raise public awareness and strengthen partnership around the food security thrust of CAADP.



10. A keynote presentation titled “Taking CAADP to the Next Level” by Mme. Estherine Fotabong, Director for Programme Coordination and Implementation at the NEPAD Agency, underscored the need for results-oriented efforts in the implementation of National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plans (NAFSIPs). In this regard, a call was made to strengthen capacities of local institutions to take more responsibility and ownership in developing and implementing agriculture programmes. Furthermore, CAADP stakeholders were called upon to promote measures that enhance sustainable financing for implementing agriculture programmes – including leveraging private sector financing and triggering the flow of domestic resources.
11. The meeting noted the significant support RECs and continental organisations, including AUC and the NEPAD Agency, have provided to countries in moving CAADP from merely being a process of mobilization of key stakeholders in evidence-based agricultural planning to one that created the necessary conditions for generating the required investment finance.
12. The meeting appreciated the critical role CAADP can play in promoting AU’s regional integration agenda. In this respect, the meeting reiterated the added value of national actions in the advancement of regional integration and underlined the need for ensuring complementarities between regional compacts and national priorities.
13. Participants at the meeting noted the progress made with regard to post-compact processes, making specific reference to the efforts made in developing national agriculture and food security investment plans, deployment of external experts for country technical reviews, and organisation of ‘CAADP Business Meetings’.
14. The meeting took cognizance of the substantial resources being mobilized domestically to implement CAADP investment plans. The meeting also noted the positive patterns in public allocations and expenditures in the agriculture sector, and further called for the need to leverage other mechanisms to ensure sustainable financing of the sector – with thrust on mobilizing private sector and other domestic resources.
15. The Meeting reaffirmed that Regional Economic Communities (RECs) are pivotal stakeholders in the CAADP process as they provide regional leadership, technical and financial support to in-country CAADP processes. In this regard, the meeting recognised the uneven progress with CAADP across the continent, and the need for providing purpose-tailored capacity building support to RECs to help them articulate better the value addition of CAADP to existing national agricultural strategy formulation processes.
16. The meeting took note of the second Comprehensive CAADP M&E report that highlighted progress on the extent to which commitments to, and targets on CAADP have been met so far. The report showed progress on the roundtable processes, trends in public national budget allocations to the agriculture sector and in agricultural GDP growth rates, and emerging positive progress towards halving poverty and hunger rates by 2015. The meeting endorsed the



2010 CAADP Continental M & E Report but took note of the negative effects caused by poor data quality on M&E products.

17. Participants welcomed the new emphasis placed on establishing country Strategic Analysis Knowledge Support Systems (SAKSS) and called for expedience in operationalising the SAKSS at country level.
18. The meeting recognized the critical role that the CAADP PP could play in advancing mutual accountability. The meeting, however, noted that considerations need to be given to enhancing effective and informed participation of key stakeholders and improving the organisation and management especially of the 'Business Session' segment of the Platform.
19. The meeting noted that non-state actors (NSAs) are critical players in CAADP implementation, the involvement of which at all stages of CAADP is indispensable to the realization of CAADP targets and results. In particular, the meeting recognised that the engagement of NSAs is critical for articulating issues of wider significance for delivering on the broad-based development agenda of CAADP. However, the meeting noted the challenges NSAs face with regard to their informed participation as equal partners in the CAADP process.
20. The meeting took note of the progress countries have made in establishing and/or strengthening context-specific multi-stakeholder Country Teams in support of CAADP with well-defined terms of reference. The meeting noted the growing effort towards enhancing the visibility of women in CAADP Country Teams. The meeting further noted the important roles these structures play as change agents in facilitating and leading analytical work and providing a forum for enhancing the interface between the technical and the political dimensions in CAADP implementation.
21. The meeting underscored the timeliness of investing in agricultural innovation systems in general and in fostering agricultural research for development in particular. To this end, countries are urged to allocate sufficient proportions of the government budgets to agricultural research, extension and advisory services that are commensurate with the task of raising agricultural productivity – so as to meet the CAADP targets of hunger reduction and poverty alleviation.
22. The meeting noted the necessity of supporting African capacity building institutions, including national agricultural colleges and universities, in order to entrench capacity development within national structures and processes that are mandated to build capacity for CAADP implementation.
23. The meeting noted the substantial increase in Development Partners' support to agriculture and rural development programmes as a follow up to their commitments to CAADP-aligned



investment plans. Still, Development Partners were urged to work towards ensuring adequate, timely and predictable financing to country-led investment plans.

24. The meeting noted the important advocacy roles being played by Development Partners especially at headquarters levels and requested that such an engagement is pursued in a planned and institutionalized manner at regional and country level. The meeting further noted the need to synchronise the efforts of Development Partners on these issues with those of African institutions.
25. The meeting noted the engagement of Development Partners with regard to strengthening communication and collaboration between headquarter level, regional and country offices as well as between agencies dealing with a range of agriculture-related initiatives such as climate change and nutrition security. The meeting also underlined that the efforts of development partners be intensified to ensure that 'unity of purpose' defines development partners' engagement with CAADP.
26. The meeting noted that agriculture is the main employer of the youth and women in Africa. Harnessing the energies of these segments of the society requires concerted efforts aimed at guaranteeing access to land and financial resources, among others. The meeting further noted that decent rural employment considerations focusing on women and the youth are central for effective CAADP implementation.
27. The meeting noted the importance of advancing sanitary and phyto-sanitary (SPS) matters within CAADP to enhance food security and market access. In this context, the meeting underscored the need to address Aflatoxin control and other SPS challenges in a holistic and integrated manner across the entire value chain, and across the various partners involved.
28. The meeting encouraged countries to put in place sound food security policies and programme choices to ensure that farmers benefit from prevailing higher prices, vulnerable groups are protected and price volatility is managed. The relevance of evidence-based analysis to inform policy options was further more stressed.

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

29. The meeting noted the progress made by ECOWAS where all the 15 member states have signed their compacts and developed investment plans; 12 member states have held business meetings and substantial resources have been mobilised to support implementation of plans and programmes at country and REC level. The meeting also appreciated the significant role COMESA played in rolling out CAADP especially in countries characterised by overlapping REC membership. Furthermore, the meeting recognised COMESA's efforts towards formulating a regional compact. In addition, the meeting noted the steps being taken in organizing roundtable processes in ECCAS and the progress being made by SADC to mainstream CAADP.



30. The meeting applauded the commitment of AU Member States to CAADP implementation as demonstrated by the growing number of countries that are making considerable progress on the CAADP roundtable processes. In particular, the meeting noted the significant strides that have been made to entrench CAADP across the continent as evidenced from the 25 countries that signed CAADP compacts, the 21 countries that formulated their respective NAFSIPs, the organisation of external review of investment plans in 19 countries and the Business Meetings held in 13 countries. Besides, the meeting noted that 5 out of 8 countries that went through global competitive processes in order to obtain CAADP-aligned Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP) funding were from Africa.
31. The meeting appreciated the efforts of the AUC and the NEPAD Agency in developing tripartite work programmes with RECs with a view to supporting CAADP country road maps as instruments for aligning the support of Development Partners to CAADP implementation at country level. The meeting further noted that the work programmes are to be pursued in line with the respective mandates of the continental and regional organisations. The meeting, whilst underlining the need for the AUC and the NEPAD Agency to ensure procurement of sufficient capacity to translate the proposals into actions, endorsed the priority areas as presented by the AUC and the NEPAD Agency and the proposed working modalities for joint action as articulated by Development Partners.
32. The meeting took note of the deployment of a consultancy that looks into the nature of demand for expert support at the country and REC levels with a view to identifying options for defining the knowledge support architecture under CAADP. The meeting was also informed about a proposal to put in place an 'Expert Service Agency' as a facility for administering expert support in the interim, that is to say, until more sustainable solutions for knowledge support are identified, institutionalized and made operational.
33. The activities of CAADP NSA Coordination Task Team were welcomed by the meeting, particularly the development of the NSA Guidelines. The meeting called for the systematic and targeted dissemination of the Guidelines to decision makers, CSOs, the domestic business sector, and pan African organisations supporting CAADP.
34. The meeting noted the significance of the CAADP Africa Forum as a platform for sharing and learning and to foster upscaling of best practices in agriculture. The meeting further appreciated the leadership roles being played especially by national and regional farmers' organisations in managing the CAADP Africa Forum.
35. The Development Partners were applauded for their valuable support especially in COMESA and ECOWAS towards the strengthening of CAADP Country Teams. The meeting underlined the importance of treating this not as a one-off support but as support that needs institutional entrenchment within competent African institutions.



36. A summary report on the activities of the CAADP MDTF was presented and endorsed by participants at the meeting. The meeting in particular noted the improved performance of the CAADP MDTF as evidenced by the operationalisation of the newly established Child Trust Funds for COMESA, ECCAS and AUC-DREA during the second half of 2010 and the work being done to establish Child Trust Funds for the NEPAD Agency, SADC and ECOWAS. The meeting also appreciated the growing interest of development partners to contribute to the MDTF as witnessed by the new commitments expressed, for instance by the Irish Government to contribute to the MDTF as well as the EC that is considering additional contribution.
37. The meeting noted the progress made in operationalising the CAADP Mutual Accountability Framework (MAF) as a mechanism for promoting review and dialogue among the different CAADP partners. Participants at the CAADP PP recognised the existence of mutual accountability structures and processes in several African countries, which CAADP has not only added value to, but also started benefiting from. Nevertheless, the meeting underlined the need for the grounding of mutual accountability in 'domestic accountability' with a focus on government-citizenry accountability and establishment of mechanisms that channel the voices and concerns of critical players such as farmers and their organisations.

AGREED ACTIONS:

Progress on Country and regional CAADP implementation support

38. The meeting requested the AUC and the NEPAD Agency, in close consultation with RECs, to institute mechanisms that would enable countries to more effectively manage implementation of CAADP investment programmes.
39. The meeting urged the AUC and the NEPAD Agency to expedite the processes and structures that are necessary for the deployment of expert support to countries and RECs in a demand-driven and consultative manner.
40. The meeting recommended that the AUC and the NEPAD Agency provide all CAADP-related guidelines and documents in AU working languages to facilitate knowledge sharing and political buy-in of the CAADP agenda. In the same vein, the meeting also urged RECs to support translation of CAADP-related guidelines into pertinent working languages of their respective member states using their own resources.
41. The meeting urged AU Member States to live up to the Maputo commitment of 10 per cent budgetary allocation to the agricultural sector. In particular, the meeting called upon African governments to support CAADP-aligned agriculture and food security investment plans with necessary budgetary provisions to hasten implementation and realise desired changes in the livelihoods of rural farmers, pastoralists and fishermen and women of Africa.



42. The meeting recommended that the AUC and the NEPAD Agency support especially those RECs that are in the process of embracing CAADP so that they can fast track the round table activities and post-compact undertakings as envisaged in the CAADP process.
43. The meeting urged the AUC and the NEPAD Agency to work out modalities and road maps that would guide coordinated interactions among RECs and between RECs and other key stakeholders involved in regional integration issues.
44. The meeting called upon Development Partners to strengthen coordination of their support to CAADP at REC level and thereby help CAADP achieve its goal of spurring regional integration.

Strengthening country level M&E and MAF in CAADP implementation

45. The meeting urged ReSAKSS to ensure that the CAADP Comprehensive M and E system begins addressing issues related to the efficiency and effectiveness of CAADP-aligned investments in achieving the desired outcomes.
46. The AUC and the NEPAD Agency were called upon to provide advocacy and fundraising support for the establishment and operation of Country SAKSS, which are critical for improving data collection, analysis, and knowledge management to continuously inform implementation of CAADP.
47. Similarly, the meeting recommended that: (i) RECs undertake sensitisation drives about the necessity of strengthening sustainable country level M&E systems that share common CAADP indicators; and (ii) ReSAKSS, in collaboration with knowledge support institutions undertake strategic analysis and knowledge management for effective implementation of national agriculture and food security investment plans. The meeting also called upon ReSAKSS to work more closely with the AUC, the NEPAD Agency, RECs and CAADP Country Teams to facilitate the establishment / strengthening of country SAKSS.
48. The meeting called upon the NEPAD Agency to circulate the Mutual Accountability Framework (MAF) document to all CAADP stakeholders.
49. RECs were called upon to support the establishment/strengthening of platforms for country-level Mutual Accountability mechanisms. The meeting underlined that by the end of 2011 mutual accountability platforms need to be operational in all RECs engaged with the CAADP processes as well as in majority of countries internalising CAADP.



50. The meeting called upon the NEPAD Agency to constitute a Mutual Accountability technical support group to backstop RECs and countries on establishing Mutual Accountability platforms.
51. The meeting urged countries to commit to undertake annual agricultural sector reviews as part of the CAADP performance assessment, which are guided, among others, by MAF considerations. In this respect, the meeting called upon RECs to support countries in internalising and domesticating the MAF Guidelines.
52. The meeting urged the AUC and the NEPAD Agency to ensure that continental level Mutual Accountability and M&E reports are prepared well in advance of PP events and shared with relevant stakeholder groups to facilitate constituency-specific review and consultations as well as to better inform the discussions at the PP.

CAADP Country Teams

53. The meeting tasked the AUC and the NEPAD Agency, in close consultation with RECs, to put in place mechanisms for strengthening capacities of CAADP Country Teams and their constituencies. In this regard, continental and regional organisations are urged to provide guidance to countries - so that CAADP-aligned investment plans and programmes pursue a holistic value chain approach that takes into account the interests of family farmers, the youth and women.
54. The meeting urged the AUC and the NEPAD Agency to provide countries with a guidelines on “how to establish a CAADP Country team” and guidance on developing the TORs for the country teams. Furthermore the two institutions and the RECs were encouraged to support the establishment of the CAADP country teams in all the countries embracing CAADP, building on existing structures at national level, such as the agriculture working group.
55. The meeting urged RECs to advise CAADP Country Teams to ensure greater representation of women and the youth in their membership.

Participation of NSAs, Farmers’ Organisations, Private Sector in CAADP implementation

56. The meeting encouraged the AUC and the NEPAD Agency to provide the necessary leadership for the establishment of ‘Joint Working Groups’ to catalyze and advance programme implementation in line with the realisation of the AUC, NEPAD Agency and REC priorities for supporting CAADP implementation in 2011. The meeting cautioned that care should be taken in the establishment of these Working Groups so that they create demonstrable value addition with respect to hastening field-level implementation of agriculture and food security programmes.



57. The meeting urged the AUC and the NEPAD Agency to support RECs in internalising the operational modalities of the proposed 'Joint Working Groups'.
58. Considering the centrality of farmers' organisations to the CAADP agenda, the meeting proposed that a resource facility be put in place to enable farmers articulate better their voices and concerns in the CAADP process.
59. The meeting noted the revised plan to hold the continental CAADP Africa Forum as a bi-annual event. In the alternate year, the CAADP Africa Forum will be organised at regional level under the leadership of each of the five regional farmer organisations, i.e. five Regional CAADP Africa Fora organized at level of ROPPA, SACUA, EAFF, PROPAC, and UMAGRI.
60. The meeting urged the AUC and the NEPAD Agency to ensure that subsequent CAADP PP meetings provide sufficient space for farmers to share their experiences and expectations in the CAADP process.

High Food Prices

61. Considering the negative impacts of high food and fuel prices on the vulnerable in Africa, and in view of the varying effects of food price volatility on African economies, the meeting called upon African governments to formulate informed policy decisions. It is in this regard that the meeting called upon the AUC and the NEPAD Agency to ensure that in discussions such as the 37th session of the Committee on World Food Security in September 2011 global decision-making is sensitive to CAADP principles and objectives.

Mainstreaming SPS

62. The meeting urged the AUC and the NEPAD Agency to oversee the establishment of a Continental SPS Working Group to mainstream SPS matters in the CAADP framework and establishment of an Africa-led Partnership for Aflatoxin Control.

The MDTF and CTFs

63. In view of the increasing number of institutions demanding support from the CAADP MDTF, the meeting endorsed MDTF Partnership Committee's decision, which tasked the NEPAD Agency, the AUC and the World Bank to formulate guidelines for MDTF eligibility for new applicants.
64. Given the need for addressing the significant and varied requests for expert support for CAADP implementation especially at country level, the meeting endorsed the MDTF Partnership Committee's decision which tasked the AUC and the NEPAD Agency, in consultation with RECs, as well as the World Bank to work out the details of the functioning of the 'Expert Service Agency' that would facilitate logistical aspects of expert deployment.



65. The meeting endorsed the decision of the MDTF Partnership Committee for RECs and Pillar institutions to consult internally and decide in time on the identity of organisations, which would represent them at the MDTF PC for the coming one year.

Organisation of future CAADP PP Meetings

66. The meeting agreed that the CAADP PP will be an annual event to be held every March. It was further agreed that the 'Business Meeting' of the CAADP PP will be held twice a year: March and October.
67. In keeping with the tradition of organizing PP meetings on a rotational basis among RECs, the meeting agreed that the next CAADP PP will be held in East Africa, in a country still to be decided. The meeting tasked the AUC and the NEPAD Agency to communicate in time the venue for the October 2011 'Business Session' as well as the main CAADP PP meeting of March 2012.

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Note: All presentations and statements of the 7th CAADP PP can be downloaded from – <http://www.nepad-caadp.net>