



GCARD

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Breakout session C1.3 North-South and South-South Collaborative Actions – Speaker Brief

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Context – the problems being addressed

The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) is a continent-wide framework aimed at facilitating agricultural growth and progress toward poverty reduction and food and nutrition security in Africa. It seeks to promote policies and partnerships and to raise investments in Africa's agricultural sector in order to achieve better development outcomes. Research, extension and education constitute one of CAADP's four pillars of investment.

CAADP was launched by African leaders in 2003 with a target of attaining and maintaining six percent agricultural growth rate. To this end African leaders resolved to increasing public investments in agriculture to 10 percent of national budgets. After several years of stagnation CAADP picked momentum in 2009. To date over 30 countries have signed CAADP compacts specifying policy and investment priorities and commitments guided by sound analysis. Over 20 of these countries have developed comprehensive agricultural sector investment plans.

CAADP started picking up momentum at the time when the most recent reforms in the CGIAR were beginning to take shape. These reforms were designed to among other objectives improve the efficiency, relevance, impact and accountability of CGIAR centres. Another feature of these reforms is to make the CGIAR more inclusive, working in partnership with other research actors, civil society and the private sector.

With the CGIAR continuing to devote a large share (nearly half) of its programming and investments to Africa, the overall success of its reforms is linked to how well the objectives of its reform are achieved in Africa. At the same time, CAADP stands to substantially benefit from better coordination and alignment with the CGIAR.

In spite of the latent important mutual benefits flowing from their stronger coordination and alignment, CAADP and the CGIAR have remained largely disconnected. In order to overcome this shortcoming three principal actors in CAADP and the CGIAR, namely: (i) the relevant CAADP institutions (Africa union commission, NEPAD agency, FARA and sub-regional research organisations (ASARECA, CORAF/WECARD and CCARDESA)); (ii) the CGIAR consortium, and (iii) funders that support both CAADP institutions and the CGIAR; launched the CAADP-CGIAR alignment initiative.

Current activities presented and discussed in the Session

The CAADP-CGIAR alignment initiative was launched in Dublin in June 2011 and for this reason it is also known as the Dublin Process. Its objective is to deepen alignment and collaboration between Africa's agricultural research, extension and education programmes and the programmes of the CGIAR Consortium along with other important partners, to facilitate agricultural transformation across the African continent.

The initiative is overseen by a steering committee comprising members from the three partner groups (CAAP, the CGIAR consortium and development partners). Its current activities are organised around the following five work streams.

1. Formulation of an African-owned and led Science Agenda for African Agriculture to serve as an organizing framework for Africa's agricultural science and technology programmes (research, extension and education) with those of the CGIAR and other partners. The science agenda will identify where advances in Science and Technology in African agriculture are needed and feasible. It will also identify investments (including scientific infrastructure, human capital and institutional capacity) that will be needed to make scientific advances possible. Its formulation will draw on forward thinking approaches.
2. Supporting countries and regional institutions in the development of programmes to implement the commitments and priorities that have been presented in their respective National Agriculture Investment Plans developed through the CAADP process.
3. Development of mapping tools and other analytical resources to facilitate programmatic alignment between CAADP and CGIAR research programmes at every level across Africa.
4. Systematization of joint priority setting and programming between CGIAR and CAADP institutions – for example, CAADP institutions will contribute to the development of Intermediate Development Outcomes (IDOs) for each of the CGIAR Research Programmes (CRPs)
5. Designing, developing and implementing actions to deliver on the G8 call for Technology Innovation Platforms to supporting the scaling out of innovations.

Intended outcomes

- Improved efficiency and relevance of agricultural research for development in Africa resulting from improved coordination, alignment and synergy between the work undertaken by CAADP institutions and by the CGIAR.
- Improved capacities of African agricultural research, extension and education stakeholders especially in the design, implementation and monitoring of national agricultural research, extension and education programmes
- Enhanced adoption of productivity enhancing policies and technologies thereby accelerating the transformation process in Africa sought by CAADP and the CGIAR

Commitments to collective actions in 2012-2014 (national, regional or international)

i. With existing resources

- Develop a Science Agenda for African Agriculture and pursue alignment around that agenda by CAADP, CGIAR and other partners to increase the quality of investments in agricultural research, extension and education as well as the scale and stability of these investments;
- Develop tools and analytical resources for facilitating programmatic alignment of

research, extension and education;

- Joint priority setting between CAADP institutions and the CGIAR.

ii. With additional support

- Under the G8's new initiative on food security and nutrition support the development of Technology Platforms for scaling out the innovations required to achieve sustainable yield improvement in priority value chains of pilot countries;
- Scale out the use of tools and analytical resources for facilitating programmatic alignment of research, extension and education;
- Support countries in the design of their investment plans and in the design of programmes for implementing these plans.

iii. With specific large scale programme investment

- Mainstream the collective actions proposed above to be undertaken with additional support in many more countries.