



Ending Hunger in Africa

At the 1996 World Food Summit (WFS), leaders from 186 countries pledged to reduce the number of hungry people in the world by half no later than 2015. This was reinforced by the first Millennium Development Goal (MDG-1) that specifically sets out to reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger by 2015.

MEETING HUNGER TARGETS

The progress made in meeting these targets has been mixed. For the first time in several decades, the share of undernourished people in the Africa declined significantly: from 35 percent in 1990–92 to 32 percent in 2001–03. But the number of undernourished people during the same year increased from 169 million to 206 million. Reaching the WFS target will require a reduction to 85 million by 2015.

Political Commitment

There is a clear political commitment in Africa to speed progress towards meeting the MDG and WFS targets through enhanced agricultural growth. This is underscored by Head of African States' endorsement of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) in 2003 in Maputo, Mozambique. NEPAD was established by African nations to collectively place the continent on a path of sustainable growth and development. The Maputo Declaration committed each Government to raising the share of its national budget allocated to agriculture and rural development to 10 percent within five years.

Transforming African Agriculture

In pulling Africa out of the current agricultural stagnation and food crisis, the CAADP envisioned a targeted investment of about US\$251 billion in four key pillars that are expected to make the most rapid impact in the transformation of African agriculture:

- expansion of the area under sustainable land management and reliable water control systems (US\$67 billion);
- improvement of rural infrastructures and trade-related capacities for improved market access (US\$129 billion);
- enhancement of food supplies and reduction of hunger (US\$50.5 billion); and
- development of agricultural research, technological dissemination and adoption (US\$4.6 billion).

Although the international community at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg in 2002 embodied NEPAD and pledged its support to the implementation of its vision, financial support to implementation of CAADP has not been as forthcoming as expected. The CAADP was prepared by FAO in collaboration with the NEPAD Secretariat

THE ROLE OF FAO

The FAO Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) and the National Programmes for Food Security (NPFS) have been formally adopted by African Ministers for Agriculture as a NEPAD programme. They have made a substantial contribution to the implementation of

Sustainability Issues are Vital for Transforming African Agriculture

FAO also prepared a companion document on the forestry, fisheries, and livestock sectors which was endorsed by the NEPAD Secretariat and the FAO Regional Conference for Africa in 2004. Increasing and protecting the productivity of Africa's agricultural, forestry, fisheries, livestock and other natural resource-based activities are basic to sustainable economic growth in Africa because:

- land degradation is reducing agricultural GDP by 5 percent per annum;
- dependency on rainfed agriculture is making farmers vulnerable to drought;
- high investment costs of improved agricultural technologies (fertilizers, improved seed, irrigation schemes, etc.) are more productive and profitable when used in combination with good agricultural and natural resources management practices;
- well-managed agricultural, livestock, fisheries, forest and water resources contribute to improving productivity, broadening livelihoods, diversifying income and reducing poverty.

the CAADP agenda. The SPFS has been implemented since 1994 in 44 African countries with the objective of demonstrating the feasibility of improving yields, incomes and the household welfare of small-scale farming families. The initial focus was on improved water control, sustainable intensification of crop production and diversification into small livestock, aquaculture and horticulture, but other activities including natural resources management were added later in response to local needs.

Building on experience

Based on experience with the SPFS, the National Programmes for Food Security (NPFS) were introduced by FAO as an instrument that could help countries to accelerate progress toward meeting the WFS and MDG targets. The objective is to reach millions rather than thousands of people, through programmes that are tailored to country-specific needs and priorities. These programmes help governments replicate successful experiences on a national scale, while also encouraging investment in rural infrastructure, off-farm income generating opportunities, urban agriculture and safety nets.

Mobilizing support

NPFS are nationally owned programmes designed and implemented by countries themselves. FAO's main roles are advocacy, technical support, monitoring and reporting, also promotion of partnerships for the mobilization of resources including technical expertise under its South-South Cooperation (SSC) initiative. Currently NPFS projects are operating in 10 countries (Algeria, Chad, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Tanzania) with a total budget of US\$1.92 billion, of which, US\$725 million has already been committed. In spirit of NEPAD, national contributions to these projects have been substantial. NPFS projects are currently being formulated in 20 other African countries. By end of 2007 a total of 1241 SSC expert and technicians were fielded in African countries.

FAO through the Investment Centre has also contributed in assisting African countries and international financing institutions in mobilizing external, public and private investments in support of agriculture and rural development.

ENSURING FOOD SECURITY AND ARRESTING ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION IN AFRICA

FAO will continue to engage in multilateral and bilateral agencies in support of the CAADP. It will also continue to provide technical support to the United Nations Conventions to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) which is a major threat to food security and environmental sustainability in Africa by:

- assisting the NEPAD Secretariat in organizing country-level consultative meetings that involve resident bilateral and multilateral partners, as well as regional and international financial institutions, to mobilize resources for CAADP implementation;
- assisting the NEPAD Secretariat and the AU in advocacy work to promote the CAADP agenda by preparing the necessary background documentation;
- continuing to play its role as the convener of the UN Cluster on Agriculture and Rural Development, and ensuring coordinated UN support to the CAADP agenda;
- supporting the UNCCD process and assist African countries to identify, assess and restore degraded lands;
- providing locally appropriate and flexible technical interventions and policies to reverse the depletion of natural resources and increase productivity through national driven FAO field projects and programmes.



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