

Concept Note

Direction for Food Value Chain Development in Africa
— Agricultural Development through TICAD Process —
(Side Event during the 39th FAO Conference)

1. TICAD process

Japan has co-hosted the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) with co-organizers of TICAD, namely the United Nations Office of the Special Advisor on Africa (UN-OSAA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the African Union Commission (AUC) and the World Bank (WB). TICAD was launched with the objective of promoting high-level dialogues between African leaders and development partners and fostering international partnership to support African-owned development. Since its establishment in 1993, TICAD has been held five times in Japan, and building on its unique open and multi-stakeholder character, it has grown into one of the most successful international forum for African development. At the most recent TICAD summit (TICAD V) held in Yokohama Japan in 2013, the Yokohama Action Plan 2013-2017 was adopted where goals and specific measures for agricultural development in Africa are described under the pillar “Empowering Farmers as Mainstream Economic Actors.” TICAD V fully supports African initiatives to increase agricultural production and productivity, including through the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). The First TICAD V Ministerial Meeting was held in May 2014, in Yaoundé, the Republic of Cameroon, where the Implementation Matrix of the Yokohama Action Plan was approved, along with the reporting on its steady implementation. The next summit of the TICAD, which is expected to take place in 2016 for the first time in Africa, will further pursue achieving the objectives elaborated in TICAD V and may identify and address newly-emerging issues and challenges.

2. Rationale of the side event

Background

The participants at TICAD V, including African countries and international organizations, identified the focus areas for agriculture development in Africa, which included the “farming as business” approach including purchasing within Africa, and food value chain development such as improving agricultural processing, post-harvest storage and access to markets. In doing so, they recognized the importance of paying a special attention to small farmers and women and to the promotion of private sector involvement in a manner which benefits the recipient country.

In addition, the way forward to making Africa’s economic growth and infrastructure development contribute to Africa’s agricultural development should be addressed. Construction of infrastructure such as storage facilities, energy, transportation systems within and beyond country, together with regional integration, may lead to creating a geographically-extensive regional or sub-regional market and facilitate commodity flows and trade. Urbanization and increased income accompanied with economic growth might contribute to an increase in demand for a variety of foods with higher product quality.

Taking into consideration of the Africa's priorities in TICAD V and ongoing socioeconomic changes, development of food value chains needs to result in an increased income of small farmers, women, the youth and other vulnerable populations. Such food value chain development would not only contribute to the Yokohama Declaration and the Yokohama Action Plan which supports objectives of the Malabo Declaration including ending hunger and boosting intra-African agricultural trade, but also supports the proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) focusing on ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, and reduction of food losses and waste, the FAO's Strategic Objective 4 to enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems and the Aspiration 1 of the African Union's Agenda 2063 which calls for modernization of African agriculture and agro-businesses to ensure food security, inclusive growth, sustainable development and Africa's prosperity.

Objectives of the side event

Against the background, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Africa Regional Group of Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives accredited to the Rome based UN Agencies (African Group of Permanent Representatives to FAO) are arranging a side event during the forthcoming 39th session of the FAO Conference, in consultation with other collaborating partners, to share experiences of agriculture development in African countries, in particular development of food value chains. The outcome of the panel discussion is expected to be a useful input to the on-going and future TICAD process. The side event will also create an excellent opportunity to raise awareness of agricultural development in Africa among participants attending the FAO Conference from all over the world.

3. Expected outline of the panel discussion

The panel will discuss key areas to be addressed in undertaking policy measures and activities in order to develop inclusive, sustainable and economically-viable food value chains in Africa. For this purpose, presentations on lessons learnt from the following topics may be asked to the panelists. These topics are listed for an illustrative purpose.

- Policies and practices in integrating small farmers, women, the youth and small and medium enterprises in food value chains, consequently achieving an increase in their income including through public-private partnerships (e.g. transfer of skills or technology, stimulating innovation or research and improving access to inputs and resources);
- Successful project for the development of food value chains and relevant initiatives that could be replicated;
- Successful cases of public-private partnerships and promoting private investment to develop/improve economically-viable food value chains both at the national and sub-regional levels; and
- Visions and concrete actions for development of inclusive, sustainable and economically-viable food value chains to respond to economic/social changes such as economic growth and infrastructure development.