

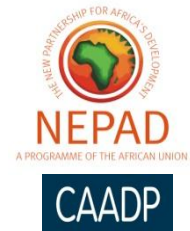
**COMMUNIQUE OF THE 8th COMPREHENSIVE AFRICA AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
PARTNERSHIP PLATFORM (CAADP PP) MEETING
MAY 3 - 4, 2012
Nairobi, Kenya.**

INTRODUCTION

1. The 8th Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Partnership Platform (PP) Meeting convened by the African Union Commission (AUC) and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NEPAD Agency) and hosted by the East African Community took place at the Hilton Hotel, in Nairobi, Kenya from 3 to 4 May 2012
2. The 8th CAADP PP was organized under the theme: “Accelerating Implementation for Results and Impact”.
3. The 8th CAADP PP was attended by over 270 participants. This included senior government officials from 22 AU Member States; representatives of national, regional¹ and continental² farmers’ organisations; delegates from a range of African academic, research, capacity building and advocacy institutions; international agricultural research centres; international non-government organizations engaged with agricultural development in Africa; private sector institutions; African youth organisations; media institutions; and representatives of bilateral and multilateral development partners as well as international private foundations
4. The Commissioner of the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture of the AUC, H.E. Tumusiime Rhoda Peace, and Director of Programmes Implementation Directorate, Ms. Estherine Fotabong led the delegations from the AUC and the NEPAD Agency, respectively. The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC), The Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Intergovernmental Agency for Development (IGAD), and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) were represented by senior staff of their agriculture/CAADP coordination departments.
5. Mr. Jean Claude Nsengiyumve, Deputy Secretary General of East African Community (EAC), on behalf of the EAC officiated at the opening of the Meeting. Others speaking in the opening session were Mr. Jeff Hill on behalf of the CAADP Development Partners Task Team; Ms. Elizabeth Atangana, President of Pan-African Farmers Organisation (PAFO); and H.E. Tumusiime Rhoda Peace, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, at AUC. Upon the request of

¹ Four regional farmers’ organizations 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 This refers to the Pan-African Farmers’ Organisation (PAFO).

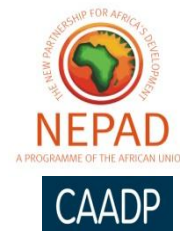


Ms. Atangana, the Meeting observed a minute of silence in memory of the late President of Malawi, Prof. Bingu wa Mutharika.

6. The 'Formal Opening Session' was concluded by a keynote presentation delivered by Ms. Estherine Fotabong, on behalf of the Chief Executive Officer of the NEPAD Agency, which – together with the Statements read earlier - set the scene and provided the scope for meeting discussions.
7. A Press Conference involving AUC Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, EAC's Deputy Secretary General, Head of Programme Directorate at the NEPAD Agency, the President of PAFO, CAADP Coordinator at COMESA, and Representative of the CAADP Development Partners Task Team and print and electronic media from six African countries as well as the UK was organised at the end of the Formal Opening Session. The Press Conference deliberated on progress on CAADP implementation, financing CAADP-based investment plans, knowledge management concerning CAADP processes and impact, as well as the role CAADP has been playing in helping address the food security challenges affecting the Horn of Africa and the Sahel Region.

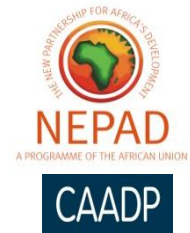
MEETING PROGRAMME AND STRUCTURE

8. As other CAADP Partnership Platform Meeting, the 8th CAADP Partnership Platform Meeting was organized around the core purpose to stimulate and facilitate sharing experiences and lessons with CAADP implementation from stakeholders and practitioners with a focus on national level activities. The Meeting also sought to review and input on the priorities, broad strategies and action areas for advancing CAADP implementation in 2012 and beyond.
9. Accordingly, the Meeting adopted an approach that promotes participation, as a means to harnessing the knowledge and experience of all delegates.
10. The plenary sessions also served as accountability platforms on progress with CAADP implementation at all levels as well as to communicate important decisions and activities that relate to knowledge support to CAADP, advances with the development of a CAADP long-term strategy, and progress and thoughts on financing for the CAADP process. The breakout sessions, on the other hand, were organised to hasten learning from CAADP implementation at the country-level in a reflective and interactive manner. The breakout groups were organized four inter-related sub-themes; namely: leadership, ownership and accountability; investment financing for agriculture; policy reform and institutional transformation; and emerging thematic trends and themes.

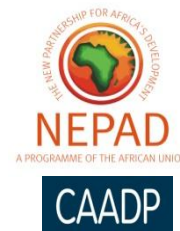


SUMMARY OF KEY MESSAGES

11. The statements and keynote remarks in the Opening Session highlighted the growing calls for accelerated implementation of CAADP with focus on results and impact. The statements acknowledged the significant progress made in advancing the CAADP agenda and called for concerted actions to rapidly translate investment plans into effective action and results. The statements and keynote remarks highlighted the importance of sustaining the CAADP momentum within the context of the overarching NEPAD transformation agenda and emphasised the need for improving the policy, regulatory and legislative environment as countries and RECs get more focus on implementation. The statements also affirmed the role of RECs as building blocks for Africa's regional integration and underlined the significance of increased collaboration among RECs to enable CAADP contribute to the regional integration agenda. The statements further underlined the critical importance of tracking and evaluating progress with a view to informing accelerated CAADP implementation, achieve broad-based agricultural development, and contribute towards enhanced food and nutrition security.
12. The statements also appreciated the space given to national, regional and continental farmer's organisations and platforms as key actors and investors in African agriculture and emphasized the importance of focusing on smallholder family-based farming operations. In this regard, the statements underlined the need to focus on the youth, women and marginalised groups so that they all benefit from the progressively increasing attention being given to the development of African agriculture through CAADP. The keynote remarks, in particular, underlined the fact that for Africa food security is tantamount to national security, and advocated for a policy stance that is anchored in use of a combination of technology transfer and affirmative action policies to curtail Africa's heavy dependence on the international food market and humanitarian support systems.
13. The statements in the opening session further highlighted CAADP's recognition as a brand name for strategic engagement on agriculture and food security; reassured continued donor support to CAADP; highlighted the importance of ensuring quality of investment plans; and called for a strong and coherent system to achieve effective partnerships.
14. The statements acknowledged the significant role, which the CAADP Multi-Donor Trust Fund and other bilateral and multilateral sources of funding played with respect to enabling African institutions to deliver on their respective CAADP mandates. The statements further underlined the need for expanding CAADP process financing in line with the greater effort expected of CAADP to address emerging issues and themes.
15. The statements called for increased international financial support to the implementation of CAADP-aligned agriculture and food security investment plans.



16. The statements further highlighted the need for AU Member States with CAADP-based investment plans to meet their funding commitments, and urged the importance of broadening agricultural development financing, including strengthening role of public-private partnership (PPP) in financing country investment plans. The speakers also welcomed the promising start that the Grow Africa Initiative has made in brokering private investment to Africa's agriculture.
17. The opening statements also reminded participants of the challenges and opportunities as CAADP transitions to accelerated implementation. In this respect, considerable attention was given to the challenges facing African agriculture as these relate to the drought situation especially in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel Region as well as the various factors accentuating instability in these regions. The statements further emphasised the relevance of the CAADP framework to addressing widespread and enduring vulnerability and malnutrition in these regions and other areas of the Continent. To this end, countries were urged to enhance the integration of nutrition interventions, safety nets, and risk mitigation measures into their CAADP-based investment plans to boost the resilience and productivity of the rural agricultural production system.
18. The statements and keynote remarks also put emphasis on a range of emerging issues that are of direct relevance to Africa's pursuit of a food- and nutrition-secure Continent. The statements made particular mention of large-scale land and water acquisition; the increased demand for non-food uses of agricultural products; climate change associated challenges; rise and volatility in food and energy prices, among others
19. The Meeting appreciated the importance of strong political and technical leadership at national and sub-national levels for effective delivery of the CAADP agenda. The Statements noted as positive developments the use of inclusive platforms for coordination, dialogue and mutual accountability at national and sub-national levels in ensuring mutually beneficial and sustained citizen participation on the CAADP agenda. The meeting reaffirmed the importance of effective communication among all stakeholder categories as a pre-condition for ensuring ownership, securing commitment and promoting effective coordination of the CAADP agenda.
20. The Meeting applauded AUC and NPCA for leading the process of defining the long-term vision, focus areas, and priorities of CAADP, and encouraged the two organisations to disseminate the outcomes of the long-term vision document for a wider buy-in.
21. The Meeting noted that agricultural productivity growth in Africa, and particularly in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), has steadily been increasing since the mid-1980s. The Meeting also learnt that raising productivity, particularly labour productivity, faces challenges of population growth and growing pressure on land availability.
22. The Meeting took note of the limited capacities in agricultural research in Africa, largely due to the limited investment accorded to it.



IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS: SUCCESSES, CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNT

CAADP milestones and support to country processes

23. The meeting took note of the Report on Progress against 7th PP Priorities that highlighted progress on the extent to which commitments and targets have been met so far. The report showed progress on advancing CAADP implementation through the provision of expert support; building capacity of country teams to implement the CAADP agenda; advancing on the mutual accountability agenda by piloting the mutual accountability framework; addressing cross-cutting issues by improving the capacity to integrate, for instance, climate change and nutrition into investment plans and elevating CAADP's profile in the G20 and G8 fora
24. The meeting applauded the significant progress that countries have made with 30 countries having signed compacts; 23 countries having investment plans ready and having undertaken reviews; and 19 countries having held business meetings. The meeting, however, recognised that these represent a modest increase over that reported during the 7th PP Meeting.
25. The meeting took note of progress made in mobilising the private sector, making specific reference to CAADP's partnership with the World Economic Forum to engage with the private sector at the international, regional and national levels through Grow Africa Initiative; the development of investment-ready blueprints in 7 "first wave" countries and the identification of ways to access agricultural finance under the guidance of Making Finance Work for Africa and the Association of Micro Finance Institutions in Africa
26. The Participants commended progress made with regard to capacity development by strengthening country team's ability to champion the causes of CAADP as well as to undertake programme and project design in the context of CAADP-aligned agricultural and food security investment plans.
27. The meeting noted the important role that expert support has played with respect to the formulation processes of country and regional compacts and investment plans and in the independent technical reviews.
28. The meeting took cognisance of progress made on the Country CAADP Implementation Roadmap as part of the post-compact stage including strengthening country-level M&E systems, piloting mutual accountability architecture, and establishment and operationalisation of Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Systems (SAKSS).
29. The meeting acknowledged the increased coordination of Non-State Actors (NSAs) through their Platform, and appreciated the potentials this has with respect enabling NSAs develop

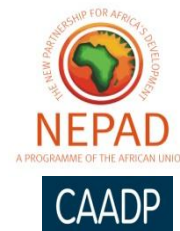


common positions related to CAADP. The meeting also noted that better organised support to NSAs is needed at country level to build capacity, raise awareness and generate additional resources to facilitate their full participation.

30. The meeting applauded AUC and the NEPAD Agency for elevating CAADP's position at the G20 through, among others, the recognition of CAADP's work in the Action Plan of the G20 Ministers of Agriculture, participation at the G20 Conference on Agriculture Research, and through G20 support for a Regional Food Reserve in West Africa. Participants also noted that this year's G8 meeting will have agriculture, food and nutrition security as one of the focus areas and therefore will offer another opportunity to showcase the work of CAADP.
31. The meeting reaffirmed the essential role played by RECs in providing support to country level processes and addressing cross-border issues. In this regard, the meeting took note of the significant progress made by all RECs in developing their regional compacts and in providing support to country processes. The Meeting acknowledged IGAD's leadership role in coordinating efforts to address the crisis in the Horn of Africa and to plan for long-term food security by using CAADP as the main framework. The meeting recognised EAC's Food and Nutrition Security Action Plan, which is being pursued in line with CAADP principles. The meeting also took note of progress made by SADC in developing the Regional Agricultural Policy, which will be the regional CAADP compact. The meeting also welcomed COMESA's effort to finalise its regional compact. It was noted that as ECOWAS was already implementing its regional compact would provide some lessons to other RECs.
32. The meeting took note of the priorities identified for 2012-2013 which included improving the quality of investment plans; supporting the policy review and formulation under CAADP; supporting the institutional reform agenda for enhanced capacity to deliver results under CAADP; strengthening African ownership and leadership of the CAADP agenda; improving operational excellence through establishment of a range of Joint Action Groups; improving the regional dimension of CAADP; and continuing to look for ways to ensure that the CAADP process is effectively financed. (See Annex 1 for details.)
33. The meeting took cognisance of the substantial resources being mobilised 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 mobilising private sector and other domestic resources.

Process financing for CAADP: Focus on the MDTF

34. The meeting recognised the effort being exerted to support eligible institutions through the establishment of Child Trust Funds.
35. The meeting underlined the importance of optimising the utilisation of MDTF resources



36. The meeting also noted the need for extending the current phase of the MDTF as most of the beneficiary institutions are just getting started and will need time to consolidate their activities and most importantly realize the value in terms of capacity strengthening and alignment.

Knowledge, Information and Skills Support System under CAADP

37. The meeting received a detailed account of the outcome and recommendations of the “CAADP Pillar consultancy”, which had been underway over several months. The recommendation outlines a proposal for a demand-based knowledge, information, and analytical support system, which is also expected to expand the scope in available expertise and allow nurturing of systemic relationships especially between country-level knowledge-research institutions and the policy and programme design processes and institutions in agriculture.
38. In this respect, the meeting took note of the emphasis that the proposed system places on national level actors as the primary suppliers of knowledge and expert support and urged that the new system takes into account, is built on, and is integral to existing country-level knowledge support institutions and systems. The Meeting called for rapid operationalization of the new system and welcomed the plan to have the Regional Economic Communities and those that had been previously involved as Pillar Lead Institutions adequately informed about the new systems and related implications.

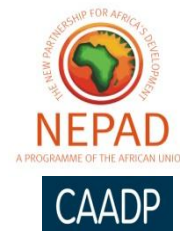
CAADP's long-term strategy

39. The meeting took note of the efforts that AUC and NPCA made in undertaking the task of defining a long-term strategy in pursuit of the CAADP vision. It further valued the opportunity provided to key stakeholders in deliberating on the initial thoughts around the CAADP long-term strategy.

AGREED ACTIONS:

Trends on African Agriculture

40. The Meeting, noting the pivotal role of agric R&D in raising productivity and the low levels of investments in agric R&D systems at country level, called for collaborative relationships with regional agricultural Research and Development initiatives to fill the country-level gaps in agric R&D in the short-term, and in the longer-term facilitate strengthening agric R&D systems especially among small economies.
41. The Meeting, while lauding African centers of excellence initiatives for their role in agric R&D, recommended that complementary policies and extension systems are put in place to enhance and

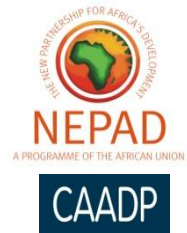


maximize the technology spillovers from the centers of excellence to different parts of the continent.

42. The Meeting recommended that the feature topic for the 2012 Annual Trends and Outlook Report (ATOR) should focus on analysis of investments in agriculture. Lead Action: NPCA, AUC, RECs
43. The Meeting called upon AUC, NPCA, RECs and ReSAKSS to support countries to accelerate establishment and/or strengthening of country SAKSS. Lead Action: NPCA and ReSAKSS

CAADP milestones and country support processes

44. Whilst appreciating the efforts made in ensuring inclusiveness by all key stakeholders in the CAADP processes, the Meeting emphasized the need for continued consultations, dialogue and participation of non-state actors at national and sub-national levels on the CAADP agenda. In the same vein, the meeting urged AUC and NPCA to support the activities of NSAs in their engagement with the establishment and operationalisation of national and sub-national dialogue platforms.
45. The Meeting encouraged RECs and NSA institutions to establish a database of NSAs for purposes of improving communication and engagement of NSAs on CAADP.
46. The Meeting urged AUC and NPCA to facilitate the establishment of mechanisms for financing and incentivising NSA engagement with CAADP.
47. The AUC and NPCA were tasked with facilitating the appropriate mechanisms to foster inter-sectoral and multi-stakeholder collaboration at regional and continental level, drawing lessons from best practices such as existing thematic-focused joint action groups.
48. The Meeting urged the AUC, NPCA and RECs to foster a shared vision and understanding of CAADP among regional, national and sub-national players as a prerequisite to providing effective leadership on the CAADP agenda.
49. The Meeting called upon national Governments to strengthen inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral coordination and collaboration for effective planning and delivery of the agricultural sector.
50. The Meeting tasked the AUC, NPCA, and RECs to disseminate CAADP information in all AU official languages, with a long-term strategy of providing the information in the major local languages of AU Member States. Furthermore, the Meeting recommended adaptation of CAADP communication materials to different target audiences.



51. The AUC and NPCA were called upon to strengthen the role of the media in communicating CAADP at various levels. This would include facilitating journalists' networks to actively engage with CAADP events and attendant processes.
52. On Investment financing for agriculture, participants urged NPCA to elaborate guidelines for identification and stimulating innovative financing for agriculture within the CAADP context; to engage with Africa's financial institutions to develop appropriate financial products that meet the needs of the African agriculture community; to strengthen capacity and systems, at all levels, for tracking the 10% public sector investments. NPCA should also facilitate development of tools for assessing the effectiveness and nurturing of Public-Private-Partnerships in rallying increased investment financing into agricultural development.
53. With reference to policy alignment, the meeting called on AUC and NPCA to support member states to strengthen transparent and inclusive policy formulation processes that complement the efforts being exerted in developing evidence-based investment plans. Moreover, the Meeting urged the AUC and NPCA to give significant attention to countries that are lagging behind the CAADP roundtable processes.
54. As regards the discussions on emerging trends and issues, the meeting urged AUC and NPCA to devise mechanisms of embracing the following themes: climate change, women and youth, decent work, remunerative employment, rural-urban migration, food price volatility and instability, education and training, land governance, biotechnology, large scale agricultural land acquisition; and bio fuels. The meeting further recommended a number of measures that needed to be put in place corresponding to each of the above issues. Some of the more specific recommendations include the following: meshing traditional knowledge with scientific research to address climate change mitigation and adaptation concerns; championing women and youth participation in agriculture /agribusiness through, among others, launching a robust campaign targeting the youth about what it could mean to do agriculture; ensuring a much stronger involvement of Ministries of Education and Training in agriculture; and advocating for implementation of the AU Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa
55. Within the frame of the CAADP PP, side event meetings were held that dealt with four issues: linking local agriculture, nutrition and education; the Coalition for African Rice Development for the implementation of CAADP; Africa Fertilizer and Agri-business Partnership, and the agricultural science agenda. The main outcomes of these side meetings are reported as Annex 2 of this Communiqué.

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