

ANNEX 2: Record of the outcomes of the side meetings

SIDE MEETING 1: Linking Local Agriculture, Nutrition and Education: Improving Food Security through School Feeding

This event focussed on the NEPAD's flagship programme on Home Grown School Feeding (HGSF) under CAADP Pillar III. The purpose of the side meeting was to share lessons and discuss HGSF as a viable agricultural development initiative that boost local agricultural production and create ready markets for smallholder farmers while improving food security, nutrition and education objectives for school pupils and farm households.

HGSF has been identified by the Millennium Hunger Task Force as a quick win in the fight against poverty and hunger. In 2003, African governments included locally-sourced school feeding programs in Pillar III of CAADP. That same year, NEPAD, together with the World Food Programme and the Millennium Hunger Task Force, launched a pilot Home-Grown School Feeding and Health Programme designed to link school feeding to agricultural development through the purchase and use of locally and domestically produced food.

HGSF provides an innovative model in addressing food insecurity, agricultural development and educational attainment simultaneously. The benefits are multi-sectoral, but so too is the approach. HGSF will not work without vested interest from agriculture, health and education. It provides a platform for collaboration and stimulates cross-sectoral partnerships. Low income countries transitioning toward sustainable, government-funded implementation of school feeding programs provide the perfect opportunity to strengthen links between school feeding, agriculture and community development.

It was noted with satisfaction that the programme has largely attained the much desired results and quick impact, especially in the form of increased school enrolment, improved school child nutrition and education, raising local food grower's income levels, community willingness and ready government buy-in, among others. It was also learned that the number of schools embracing the programme are on the rise and school enrolment and performance has been steadily increasing.

The HGSF Side Event meeting further noted the commendable collaborative effort amongst the Ministries of Health, Education and Agriculture in Kenya's programme, which has resulted in impressive statistics on key programme outcomes and best practices such as diet fortification and guided programme management at the school level.

The side event recommended the following:

1. Countries already implementing or planning to implement school feeding programmes are encouraged to incorporate HGSF into current national food and nutrition security frameworks. The AUC, NPCA, RECs, PCD and development partners are accordingly mandated to coordinate and provide leadership, support and facilitation to the process.
2. National Governments should commit resources for the HGSF programmes in close collaboration with the private sector to encourage ownership and ensure sustainability. The private sector especially the small holder farmers must be supported and given the appropriate farming technologies, education and other inputs to produce better and process the commodities along the value chain for quality, acceptability and easier marketing.
3. Given its quick impact value, countries should prioritise HGSF activities for accelerating the attainment of first Millennium Development Goal by 2015 and contributing towards countries' visions.

SIDE MEETING 2: Contribution of the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD) for the Implementation of CAADP

1. The meeting noted the continued commitment and support of the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD) in support of the CAADP process at the country level mainly through operationalizing concrete investment on the ground
2. The meeting called on the AUC and NPCA to engage with participating member states to ensure further alignment and coherence of the National Rice Development Strategies (NRDS) of participating countries with their National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plans
3. The meeting urged the CARD Initiative, with support of AUC and NPCA, to work with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to ensure that the related national priorities are included in the regional investment options that are being considered
4. Noting the progressive interest of the private sector to support the CAADP investments, the meeting requested AUC and NPCA to work to ensure alignment of the NRDS priorities with the private sector interests that are emerging at the country level.

SIDE MEETING 3: The Agricultural Science agenda for Africa and Tertiary Education

The meeting:

1. recognized the progress made in integrating capacity development, and in particular tertiary agricultural education and training into the CAADP agenda through the Tertiary Education for Agriculture Mechanism (TEAM)-Africa.
2. Recognized the need for a science agenda around which all actors engaged in the generation, delivery and application of agricultural knowledge should align in order to enhance the collective impact of investments in research and development.
3. Called on AUC, NPCA, RECs and country focal teams to support the establishment of inter-ministerial and other institutional arrangements aimed at ensuring that Agricultural Education is adequately integrated into agricultural investment plans and programmes
4. Called on FARA, AUC and NPCA to ensure African ownership of the agricultural science agenda and to design the development, form and dissemination of this agenda in a way, which guarantees that it will serve its intended purpose

SIDE MEETING 4: African Fertilizer and Agri-business Partnership (AFAP)

1. The Partnership Platform welcomed the establishment of the AFAP as a mechanism of strengthening fertilizer and other input markets.
2. The meeting recognized the important role AFAP could play in CAADP implementation through supporting linkages between the private sector and smallholder farmers in the agricultural value chain.
3. The meeting also recognised the potentials that AFAP have in advancing the AU Abuja decisions on a broad range of issues concerning the development of fertiliser markets to achieve the CAADP growth agenda.