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# FAO Regional Conference for Africa

## TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION

Tunis, Tunisia, 24-28 March 2014

### STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN THE AFRICA REGION AND CAADP IMPLEMENTATION WITH A SPECIFIC FOCUS ON SMALL HOLDER FARMERS AND FAMILY FARMING

#### Table of Contents

- I. Introduction
- II. The status and trends of agriculture, food and nutrition in Africa
- III. Where have we been - The sustaining CAADP momentum review and strategy
- IV. Providing the enabling environment for investment by the domestic private sector, including smallholder farmers and family farming
- V. Investing in a home-grown science, technology and learning agenda that is responsive to the needs and goals of smallholder farmers and family farming
- VI. Effective CAADP contributions to building systemic capacity for results-oriented action and implementation
- VII. FAO role in supporting CAADP implementation
- VIII. Recommendations

#### Executive summary

The African Union declared 2014 as their Year of Agriculture and Food Security, marking the 10th anniversary of Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Programme (CAADP). Furthermore, the 66<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly declared 2014 as the “International Year of Family Farming” (IYFF). This paper takes stock of Africa’s achievements over the last decade and prospects for the future, including the strategic review of CAADP commissioned by the African union (AU) and the the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) (2012), culminating in the Sustaining CAADP Momentum (SCM) document and Results Framework. Four priority areas of action needed to accelerate transformation and development are discussed: i) identifying and agreeing on an African-led policy coherence, coordination and implementation agenda; ii) providing the enabling environment for investment by the domestic private sector, including smallholder and family farmers; iii) investing in a home-grown science, technology and learning agenda that is responsive to the needs and goals of smallholder farmers; and, iv) determining how CAADP can more effectively contribute to building systemic capacity for results-oriented action and implementation. The main recommendations stemming from above are presented specifically with regard to the State of Food Security and Agriculture in the Region, CAADP implementation, smallholder farmers and family farming.

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**Matters to be brought to the attention of the Regional Conference**

The Conference is suggested to dialogue and focus on three priority areas of action needed to accelerate transformation and development:

- i. Providing the enabling environment for investment by the domestic private sector, including smallholder and family farmers;
- ii. Investing in a home-grown science, technology and learning agenda that is responsive to the needs and goals of farmers especially smallholder farmers and family farmers; and,
- iii. Determining how CAADP can more effectively contribute to building systemic capacity for results-oriented action and implementation.

The Conference will also endorse the main following recommendations with respect to the State of Food Security and Agriculture in the Region, CAADP implementation and smallholder farmers and family farming.

*State of Food Security and Agriculture in the Region*

- iv. African governments should effectively integrate nutrition goals and nutrition-sensitive agriculture investments into agriculture sector plans.

*CAADP implementation*

- v. African leaders should re-commit to making increased public investments in agriculture in respect of the Maputo agreements and to investing an increasing share of their fiscal revenues from the natural resource sector in broad-based agricultural growth and development.

*Smallholder farmers and family farming*

- vi. African leaders should intensify their efforts to address the binding constraints to improved productivity, incomes and food security of smallholder farms and family farmers, including support to farmer organizations and cooperatives to achieve scale, finance instruments and targeted social protection programmes and risk management instruments to increase resilience.
- vii. Governments need to promote inclusivity and effective joint engagement of state and non-state actors at regional, national and local levels to foster accountability, transparency, performance, and competitiveness of the agri-food system and commodity value chains.

## **State of Food and Agriculture in the Africa region and CAADP implementation with a specific focus on small holder farmers and family farming**

### **I. Introduction**

1. The year 2014 is the African Union’s Year of Agriculture and Food Security. The decision to select 2014 for this distinction comes on the backdrop of two important developments: i) sustained growth of Africa’s economies; and ii) the need to refresh CAADP towards greater results and impact. It is opportune, therefore, to join the growing momentum to assess the lessons learned by African governments, AUC and NEPAD, and Africa’s development partners from the past decade of experience and identify opportunities in the future. This paper takes stock of Africa’s achievements over the last decade and prospects for the future, including the strategic review of CAADP commissioned by AU/NEPAD (2012), culminating in the Sustaining CAADP Momentum (SCM) document and Results Framework.
2. This event dovetails with another major landmark, the decision of the 66<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly to declare 2014 as the “International Year of Family Farming” (IYFF). The General Assembly invited FAO to facilitate its implementation in cooperation with governments, the United Nations system and relevant non-governmental and civil society organizations. The overall aim of the IYFF is “to promote international awareness and support country-owned plans aimed at strengthening the contribution of family farming and smallholders in eradicating hunger and reducing rural poverty leading to sustainable development of rural areas and food security”. The campaign for the IYFF was promoted by the World Rural Forum (WRF) in collaboration with major regional networks of family farmers’ organizations in Africa, Asia and Latin America and supported by the 37<sup>th</sup> FAO Conference at the behest of the Philippines. The 2014 International Year of Family Farming (IYFF) aims to raise the profile of family farming and smallholder farming<sup>1</sup> by focusing world attention on its significant role in eradicating hunger and poverty, providing food security and nutrition, improving livelihoods, managing natural resources, protecting the environment, and achieving sustainable development, in particular in rural areas.
3. The Africa “Regional Dialogue on Family Farming: Working Towards a Strategic Approach to Promote Food Security and Nutrition,” was organized by FAO jointly with the International Cooperative Alliance, the World Farmers Organization and the World Rural Forum. The Regional Dialogue provided a unique space for stakeholders and countries to share views and experiences on the role, challenges and way forward with regard to family farming in Africa. The contribution of family farmers to economic, environmental and social sustainability, and to eradicating rural poverty and food insecurity, was highlighted. In addition, it was noted that family farming in Africa is impressively resilient, having survived many economic and social changes, but there remain significant challenges. Dialogue participants acknowledged Africa’s great diversity and prescribed no continent-wide standard measures for success, calling instead for strong commitment to family farms and adoption of principles to be adapted to each country’s specific circumstances for a productive and efficient family farming sector of the future.

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<sup>1</sup> While recognizing the great diversity in types of smallholder or family farms in Africa in terms of assets, size, access to productive resources and level of intensification, for the purposes of this paper, the two terms are used interchangeably to refer to this large and varied group of smaller-scale farmers.

4. Together, the AU Year of Agriculture and Food Security and the International Year of Family Farming are well placed to reaffirm and reposition family farming at the centre of agricultural, environmental and social policies in national Government agendas.

5. Since 1999, Africa has recorded sustained increases in economic growth accompanied by improved governance and human development indicators. In 2014, the majority of the top ten fastest growing countries in the world are situated in Africa and the International Monetary Funds (IMF) estimate that economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa will be 6.1% in 2014. Despite this progress, Africa remains the world's most food insecure continent, with relatively low levels of agricultural productivity, low rural incomes, and high rates of malnutrition. The question to discuss therefore is, "how African leaders can build on this progress in recommitting to enhanced investment in and implementation of their CAADP programmes at country, regional and continental levels, in order to trigger a continent-wide transformation in the capacity of countries to deliver sustained and broad-based agricultural growth and development."

6. This paper advocates for African leaders to dialogue and focus on three priority areas of action needed to accelerate transformation and broad-based development that benefits smallholders and family farms:

- i. Providing the enabling environment for investment by the domestic private sector, including smallholder and family farmers;
- ii. Investing in a home-grown science, technology and learning agenda that is responsive to the needs and goals of farmers, especially smallholder and family farmers; and,
- iii. Determining how CAADP can more effectively contribute to building systemic capacity for results-oriented action and implementation.

## **II. The status and trends of agriculture, food and nutrition in Africa**

7. During the decade of 2000-10, Africa's annual total GDP grew on average by 4.8%, compared to 2.1% in the previous decade (1990-99) (IFPRI). The agricultural sector's annual GDP growth rates were 3.2% and 3.0% respectively for these last two decades. Agricultural successes have been achieved in a number of major areas<sup>2</sup> that include: intensifying staple food production; improved varieties of banana in eastern and central Africa; high-yielding varieties of maize in east and southern Africa; productivity gains in cassava; diversifying out of major crops (e.g., dairy production in Kenya, Botswana has developed a modern beef exporting industry); productivity gains in cotton production in Burkina Faso and Mali; and, tea and floriculture in East Africa (Haggblade and Hazell, 2010 and FAO, 2013).

8. The issues and evidence emerging from literature<sup>3</sup> converge with the improved status of hunger and malnutrition in Africa over the past decades. In spite of these improvements, absolute levels of hunger and undernourishment remain "worrying" in sub-Saharan Africa. From the period 2007-8, the global hunger situation has been improving though at a slower pace (IFPRI, 2013). High fluctuations in food supply have also been observed in Africa

<sup>2</sup> This section leans heavily on two recent compilation of agricultural success stories in Africa: (i) Haggblade, Steven and Peter B. R. Hazell. 2010. *And* (ii) Spielman, David, J., and Rajul Pandya-Lorch. 2009.

<sup>3</sup> The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) Global Hunger Index (GHI); The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Statistical Yearbooks on World food and agriculture; The FAO Statistical Yearbook on Africa food and agriculture; The FAO, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and World Food Programme (WFP) State of Food Security in the world reports; and The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s Human Development Reports.

(FAO, 2013). Further, poverty rates in Africa declined marginally from 56% in 1990 to 49% in 2010, leaving 388 million in extreme poverty (more than 50% and 239 million Africans chronically undernourished) (FAO, 2012). By 2012, Africa had made the least progress in reducing poverty across all regions; according to the 2012 United Nations Millennium Development Goals Report, Africa is 41% “off” MDG 1 versus 25% in South Asia and 6.1% in Latin America. The 2013 Global Hunger Index score in sub-Saharan Africa was 23% lower in 2013 than in the 1990s, compared to a 34% lower level in South Asia, and 28% lower level in the Near East and North Africa (IFPRI, 2013).

9. According to the UNDP Human Development Report (HDR) 2010, sub-Saharan Africa had the highest incidence of multidimensional poverty, with considerable variation across the 37 African countries in the sample, ranging from a low of 3% in South Africa to a high prevalence of 93% in Niger. In addition, according to the 2013 HDR, sub-Saharan Africa has the highest level of inequality in health, while South Asia is the most inequitable in education.

10. According to FAO, trends in per capita food production have been generally positive over recent decades and across most regions. On average, agricultural production in Africa has increased slightly less than 1% per year, compared with about 2% in developing countries overall. While Africa experienced high instability in food price levels, per capita food production was more stable over time and variability was relatively low compared to other regions, such as Asia or Latin America (FAO, 2013).

### **III. Where have we been - The sustaining CAADP momentum review and strategy**

11. In the last ten years, CAADP has become a point of reference and framework for work in the agriculture and food sector in Africa. So far, over 40 countries have engaged in the CAADP process, 40 have signed CAADP compacts, approximately 28 have formulated detailed investment plans and 20 countries have organized business meetings to mobilize the resources. Regionally, ECOWAS and ECCAS have signed CAADP compacts and developed regional investment plans. IGAD has also signed CAADP compact, while COMESA and SADC are currently drafting compacts. The immediate challenge consists of building on national and regional Compacts and Investment Plans to initiate transformative policy and regulatory reform, catalytic public investment and an implementation agenda that will encourage increased domestic investments by farmers, private investors and greater participation of all stakeholders. Public sector commitments need to move beyond simple quantitative increases to focus on “quality” investments.

12. The Sustaining CAADP Momentum strategic review carried out in 2012/13 concluded that CAADP has contributed to placing agriculture back on the political and policy agenda, and mobilizing a great range of stakeholders around a common agenda. CAADP has served as a departure point for engaging domestic and international private investors; CAADP is firmly branded as an African idea and has massive political currency. The shortcomings of CAADP in the first decade can be summed up in the following: too much focus on the issue of public financing and on supply side issues with insufficient attention on making markets work; weak inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral coordination; CAADP confined itself to investment plans and created a financial dependency to which only donors could respond; African financial institutions (African Development Bank (AfDB), regional development banks, and private investors) were marginally involved and farmer organizations have not been systematically engaged in the planning process. Moreover, CAADP did not place much

emphasis in the first decade on identifying specific policy reforms to promote domestic private sector investment or to create institutional capacities to deliver the needed services. The end of the first decade also saw an upsurge in the multiplicity of initiatives resulting in a growing “mixed bag” of Foreign Direct Investments initiatives under the CAADP rubric.

13. The African Union Summit in January 2013 endorsed the Sustaining CAADP Momentum strategy, which agreed to focus on a number of time-bound results to be achieved in the next 5 to 10 years and for which the results framework is based on i) agricultural transformation, capacity and enabling environment and ii) productivity, production and wealth creation.

14. The general targets over the next decade are to increase yields of cereal staples by 50% from the current average range of 1 to 2 tons/ha to a range of 2 to 3 tons/ha. Overall, the CAADP target of 6% annual growth in agricultural production is still valid. If such growth is inclusive, it should catalyse double digit overall economic growth similar to Asian “Tiger” countries at similar stages of development. The CAADP target of allocating at least 10% of the national budget to the agriculture sector is equally valid and critical to improved performance in the next decade. The emphasis, however, will be on making “quality” investments combined with transformative policy and regulatory reforms that trigger higher levels of private sector investment in agriculture.

#### **IV. Providing the enabling environment for investment by the domestic private sector, including smallholder farmers and family farming**

15. Recent research findings on the emerging “quiet revolution” in African agri-food systems<sup>4</sup> underscore the significant opportunities for accelerating smallholder-driven agriculture and agri-business development in Africa. They provide some of the most convincing evidence showing that the smallholder family farm is the basis for transforming and commercializing African agriculture. In essence, five “interlinked transformations” in the agri-food system are rapidly occurring in Africa, albeit at different paces in different regions and countries: (i) urbanization; (ii) diet change; (iii) agri-food system transformation (in wholesale, processing, and retail systems); (iv) changes in rural labor markets; and (5) intensification of farm technology (the agricultural transformation).

16. These transformations are taking place in the context of rapid urbanization in sub-Saharan Africa which has caught up and is growing faster than the rest of the developing world. In the aggregate, urban Africa now represents roughly 40% of the population and consumes approximately 50% of the total food, including 60% of the total marketed food. This evolution means that the rural-urban food supply chain went from an interesting but marginal story in the 1980s to a major fundamental food security theme by 2010. While urbanization previously took place in a context of stagnant economies, since 1998, it has been paired with robust economic growth. The combination of these two dynamics has introduced a game-changer to African development.

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<sup>4</sup> Reardon, T., et al., (2013). The Emerging “Quiet Revolution” in African Agrifood Systems. Brief for “Harnessing Innovation for African Agriculture and Food Systems: Meeting Challenges and Designing for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century; Nov. 25/26 2013, African Union Conf. Center, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

17. In this context, African policymakers have a major new opportunity to leverage and catalyse the enormous potential for broad-based growth and development. This situation implies that food and nutrition security in Africa is now equally in the hands of farmers as it is in the hands of a growing and massive “invisible middle” group of intermediaries (farmers, truckers and wholesalers, warehouse and cold store operators, and processors) who make these five transformations possible and dynamic. This “invisible middle” is the real African ‘private sector’ that controls 50-60% of the entire African food market, in contrast to the global export market representing approximately 5-10% of marketed food supply. This evolution is a signal to policymakers to see the urban market as at least as much an opportunity as the export market and one which is more accessible to small family farms and firms (FAO, 2013b).

18. It is an important challenge for policymakers to further promote the rural-urban food supply chains that are developing rapidly to meet urban demand. The post farm gate segments of the supply chain - the midstream segment (processing and wholesale/transport) and downstream component (retail and food stalls) - together form 50-70% of food costs to urban Africans. This fact implies that these actors are equally important as farmers to national food security. Numerous and interesting examples of this dynamic growth and evolution in African agri-food systems can be found throughout the continent including: millers-cum-retailers of teff in Addis Ababa markets; the millet supply chain in Senegal with the rise in branded, packaged millet and millet-cum-dairy products for the Dakar market and for export; the chicken supply chain in urban Nigeria, Mozambique and many other African countries, giving rise to a wide range of local and regional poultry companies; the rapid rise of dairy processing companies, linked to small farmers, in Kenya and Zambia (Reardon *et al*, 2013).

19. These small/medium agri-food companies are arguably the “invisible middle” in the African food debate. As they have been long thought to be missing, together with a lack of African, grass-roots investments in the agri-food system, countries have often and too quickly turned again to parastatals or to multinationals for investment in and coordination of key value chains. These rapidly emerging supply chains urgently need major attention to resolve the hard and soft infrastructural bottlenecks that they face, such as rural wholesale markets, industrial-strength electricity grids, surfaced roads and ports. Market information, agricultural statistics and warehouse receipt systems are critical public goods to the effective functioning and participation in inclusive agri-food systems.

20. In order to compete successfully with imports in their own growing domestic and regional agribusiness markets, African farmers and agribusinesses will need to improve value chain efficiency at all levels. About 95% of the African food market (in value terms) is domestic (local and regional); exports and imports constitute the rest. But over time the global export market will also grow in response to this opportunity.

21. It will be important to help a broader set of smallholder farmers to gain access to inputs, affordable credit, rural services and extension information that allows them to take advantage of this growing market. Innovative social protection and risk management programmes may also be required to address the particular constraints of low asset, resource-poor, smallholder farmers. There will also be need for a number of diverse types of coordination including farmer cooperatives or organizations to achieve scale, clusters of small/medium food supply chain firms with training and market assistance to maximize efficiency and innovation, and coordination of the actions of agriculture ministries with commerce, energy, finance and infrastructure ministries to bring about integrated solutions to the bottlenecks holding up this emerging dynamic transformation (FAO, 2013b).

## **V. Investing in a home-grown science, technology and learning agenda that is responsive to the needs and goals of smallholder farmers and family farming**

22. Notable contributions to scientific and technology breakthroughs on the continent that improve smallholder and family farms productivity and livelihoods include: new varieties of banana in the eastern and central Africa; high-yielding varieties of maize in east and southern Africa; productivity gains in cassava; diversifying out of major crops (e.g. dairy and horticulture in Kenya); a booming modern beef exporting industry in Botswana; cotton in West Africa; and, tea and floriculture in East Africa in (Haggblade and Hazell, 2010; FAO, 2011b). Although AU leaders made a pledge in 2006 to allocate 10% of agricultural GDP to agricultural research and development (R&D), most countries have failed to meet this commitment. According to World Bank and The Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (ReSAKSS) analysis, eight out of 30 countries achieved the 1% target in 2011 (2012). The AU recently called for a Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa (SAAA or S3A) as a home-grown and holistic solution to the poorly-funded national agriculture research, education and extension systems. Africa needs to accelerate technical change and productivity growth to meet its food security and development requirements as well as to ascend to its position as the world's future bread-basket.

23. The world's population is growing to a point where by 2040 Africa will most likely be the only continent with sufficient land and water to expand food production to feed the world. The challenge is compounded by the fact that people world-wide are increasingly conscious of what they eat, and are looking for healthier, safer and more nutritious foods. In addition, the imperative of protecting the environment also means that increasing production has to be achieved on less land, water, chemicals, waste, and greenhouse gases for sustainability. As all these factors increase the cost of producing food, it is in this context that the African Union has called for the Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa, namely so that "*by 2030 Africa ensures its food and nutrition security; becomes a recognised global scientific player in agriculture and food systems and the world's bread-basket*".

24. Africa also needs to adopt measures that promote a sustainable, climate-resilient agriculture, pastoralism and livestock production for smallholder producers and family farmers. Land degradation, including declining soil fertility, threatens African agriculture; approximately 6 million hectares of productive land are lost each year. Rapid population growth exacerbates the challenge and the continent is also becoming more vulnerable to extreme weather events. Across many African countries, sustainability and climate smart-agriculture have yet to be fully integrated into national agriculture plans. Sustainable intensification of agriculture requires a holistic land use and food system framework and farmers need better access to information, policies, and services. Drought-tolerant crops, agroforestry, rainwater harvesting, integrated soil fertility management, and conservation agriculture should also be applied where appropriate (FAO, 2011a).

## **VI. Effective CAADP contributions to building systemic capacity for results-oriented action and implementation**

25. Despite the lack of support and market opportunities, smallholders farmers are producing at least 80% of all food consumed in Africa's food markets. With supportive, stable policies and greater 'voice' in policy processes, smallholders farmers have a proven track record of responding to policy and market opportunities. Capacities are mostly needed to analyse and formulate policies, strategies and programmes, to systematically implement them, and

subsequently to review, distil lessons and iteratively revise them for improved performance and tangible impact. Regularly-updated agricultural statistics and empirically-based policy analysis contribute to evidence-influenced decision-making needed for effective public expenditure and policies to achieve greater impact. CAADP provides an opportunity to support implementation efforts at country, regional and continental levels to improve performance and positive impact in the smallholder sector.

26. At country level, CAADP National Agriculture Investment Plans (NAIPs) need grounding in contemporary national level priorities and policies with strong political commitment to energize actors who can translate them into action and positive results. This requires engaging the domestic private sector who conducts business with smallholder farmers as well as the more formal agri-business entities. Developing and applying mechanisms that promote responsible investment in agriculture, such as the Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment (PRAI), help to hold actors accountable for achieving national sector goals. Second, diverse Government Ministries, in collaboration with private sector and non-state actors need to craft a priority set of transformative policy and regulatory reforms that can be affected with minimal financial outlay. Both these activities are vital in jump-starting local initiatives and guiding public investment to address impediments to mobilising domestic finance, as well as opportunities for improving profitability of small family farms. They are also critical to the inclusion of smallholder farmers and entrepreneurs in this dynamic transformation process in African agri-food systems.

27. At regional level, capacity strengthening is vital for Regional Economic Communities who support agriculture and the CAADP process at national levels. Enhanced capacity is particularly important in promoting solidarity on common challenges and opportunities, sharing of information, facilities and resources. Capacity to consistently and predictably implement regional trade and integration agreements is a priority. Since African governments are increasingly learning from each other's success and failures, increased use of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) has potential pay-off on issues of public policy, investment, and institutional capacity.

28. At continental level, the AUC and NEPAD Agency need to continue to building institutional, policy and leadership capacity of African countries by strengthening the implementation of the following activities: i) strengthening and aligning capacity on agriculture public expenditure reviews and joint sector reviews; ii) tracking the implementation of the Maputo Declaration of July 2003 on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa and strengthening African capacity for monitoring and assessing implementation; iii) strengthening nutrition-sensitive agricultural investment within NAIPs and country CAADP implementation processes aimed at eradicating hunger and malnutrition with special consideration for most vulnerable groups; iv) promoting Climate-Smart Agriculture; supporting countries and NAIPs integrate the Land Policy Initiative of the AU; v) increase the special integrated focus and mainstreaming issues on gender and youth.

## **VII. FAO role in supporting CAADP implementation**

29. With a view toward enhancing FAO contributions to the implementation of CAADP programmes at country, regional and continental levels, FAO undertook two important activities in 2013 that would serve to solidify FAO strengthening and aligning capacity on CAADP activities in the coming biennium. First, from 29 June to 1 July 2013, FAO collaborated with the African Union Commission and Lula Institute to host a high level meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, "Toward African Renaissance: Renewed Partnership for

Unified Approach to End Hunger in Africa by 2025 within the CAADP Framework". This renewed and strengthened partnership aims to intensify efforts and bring the collective strength of all stakeholders to bear on the on-going work of Governments and their development partners to end hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in Africa.

30. The partnership will seek to "add value" to on-going CAADP programmes and plans by harnessing sustained political commitment, identifying and filling gaps in their design and implementation, facilitating the scale-up of successful actions and creating the momentum for a much wider engagement of public and private actors at national and international levels, strengthening the role of civil society, peer learning from successful country experiences and capitalizing on new forms of innovative partnership and solidarity.

31. The Declaration of the High-Level Meeting (HLM), endorsed at the January 2014 African Union Summit, commits African Heads of State to end hunger on the continent by 2025. The HLM roadmap recommends joint actions to mainstream and operationalize the Partnership for a Renewed Unified Approach to End Hunger in Africa through CAADP, implemented primarily with own resources and with the assistance of technical and development partners.

32. Second, FAO's contribution to the partnership for a Renewed Unified Approach to End Hunger in Africa through CAADP, initiated in 2013, will become internal FAO Regional Initiative, to be implemented in the Africa region as part of FAO's Medium Term Plan 2014-17 and Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15. This Regional Initiative will establish an integrated, coordinated and demand-driven mechanism in the Africa Region to deliver FAO products and services to Member States, Regional Economic Communities and the African Union/NPCA agency, building on recent actions and responding to specific requests, priorities and needs to advance CAADP implementation. This work will include FAO contributions to the African Union's 2014 Year of Agriculture and Food Security and the United Nations 2014 International Year of Family Farming.

33. FAO has also actively continued to support African countries and RECs to implement CAADP through the preparation of compacts and related policy documents, formulation of National Investment Plans and preparation of the proposals for Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) financing. Since 2012, the countries that have either benefited from or have requested for FAO support in this connection include most of ECCAS country members, Comoros, Djibouti, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, and Zambia. Moreover two Regional Economic Communities (IGAD and SADC) are being supported in the formulation of Regional compacts and Investment plans. As of today, about 40 African countries and RECs have signed CAADP compacts, about 28 have formulated investment plans, and 25 business meetings have been organised. Fifteen countries were successful in obtaining a combined total of USD 563. 5 million from GAFSP.

## **VIII. Recommendations**

34. Based on the aforementioned discussion, the following recommendations can be suggested with respect to the State of Food Security and Agriculture in the Region, CAADP implementation and smallholder farmers and family farming.

*35. State of Food Security and Agriculture in the Region*

- i. African governments should effectively integrate nutrition goals and nutrition-sensitive agriculture investments into agriculture sector plans

*36. CAADP implementation*

- ii. African leaders should re-commit to making increased public investments in agriculture in respect of the Maputo agreements and to investing an increasing share of their fiscal revenues from the natural resource sector in broad-based agricultural growth and development.
- iii. African Governments, private sector and civil society organizations should commit to strengthening their partnership and to finding innovative solutions to the policy, institutional, financing and technology challenges to improved performance of the agri-food system.
- iv. African leaders should include deliberate measures in national agriculture investment plans to prioritize and implement proven interventions that support livelihood, employment opportunities for women and youth, reduce post-harvest loss and promote sustainable, climate-resilient agricultural sector.
- v. African governments should strive to provide timely and accurate data on public expenditure for improved accountability, prioritisation and impact.

*37. Smallholder farmers and family farming*

- vi. African leaders should intensify their efforts to address the binding constraints to improved productivity, incomes and food security of smallholder and family farmers, including support to farmer organizations and cooperatives to achieve scale, finance instruments and targeted social protection programmes and risk management instruments to increase resilience.
- vii. Governments need to promote inclusivity and effective joint engagement of state and non-state actors at regional, national and local levels to foster accountability, transparency, performance and competitiveness of the agri-food system and commodity value chains
- viii. African leaders should promote land reform and implement land rights taking into consideration the AU framework and guidelines
- ix. African governments need to regularly invest in the information systems on the agricultural sector.
- x. Public action should give priority to infrastructure investments, expenditure on catalytic public goods, transformative policy, regulatory reforms in order to increase private sector investment in agro-processing and value-addition.

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