

1

CHAPTER

Background

Under the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), African Heads of State and Government have adopted an overall vision of Africa's development to eradicate poverty, achieve food security and build the foundations of sustainable economic development on the continent. The vision for agriculture is that the continent should, by 2015:

- attain food security in terms of both availability and affordability and ensuring access of the poor to adequate food and nutrition;
- improve the productivity of agriculture to attain an average annual growth rate of 6.0 percent, with particular attention to small farmers and women;
- develop dynamic agricultural markets between nations and regions;
- have effected the integration of farmers into the market economy, including better access to markets, with Africa to become a net exporter of agricultural products;
- achieve a more equitable distribution of wealth;
- become a strategic player in agricultural science and technology development; and
- practice environmentally sound production methods, and develop a culture of sustainable management of the natural resource base.

NEPAD's programme for agriculture, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), promotes interventions that best respond to the widely

recognised crisis situation of Africa's agriculture: (i) extending the area under sustainable land management and reliable water control systems; (ii) improving rural infrastructure and trade-related capacities for improved market access; and (iii) increasing food supply and reducing hunger; and (iv) agricultural research, technology dissemination and adoption.

In June 2002, African Ministers of Agriculture specifically *"requested that subsectors of fisheries, livestock and forestry be given adequate attention in the NEPAD efforts"* in their meeting at FAO Headquarters in Rome. This request was reiterated during the June 2003 meeting of African Union Ministers of Agriculture, held in Maputo, Mozambique. The NEPAD Steering Committee subsequently requested FAO to assist in preparing these elements for inclusion. Action was taken to prepare three separate documents on the livestock, forestry and fisheries subsectors, and later to assemble them into a Companion Document to the CAADP.

The preparation of the Companion Document has been based on the initial drafts of the livestock, forestry and fisheries subsector papers. Revision of these papers benefited from comments received from African experts (individuals and institutions), the Africa Forestry and Wildlife Commission meeting (Accra, 16–21 February 2004), the FAO Regional Conference for Africa (Johannesburg, 1–5 March 2004), the NEPAD Steering Committee and other fora and gatherings.



Irrigation systems in Tanzania, G. Femke.



Agriculture associated with duck husbandry, FAO.

