

Roundtable on CAADP Implementation

Roundtable participants

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Moderator: David Phiri, TCSP

Chair : Mrs. Semedo, Assistant Director General, FAO Regional Office for Africa

Objectives: The objectives of the Ministerial roundtable on CAADP included to:

- share experiences on CAADP implementation;
- identify what governments could do individually and collaboratively;
- identify what coordination arrangements may be employed; and
- propose the role that FAO could play in enhancing the implementation of CAADP

The Facilitator employed a question and answer approach as follows:

Question 1: What is your country experience with CAADP; the motivations for engagement; challenges; successes and drivers?

Challenges

In responding to this question, the Panelist indicated that CAADP has been generally embraced but is not meant to replace the national plan but to enrich the national agricultural strategy. CAADP has been assumed to be a template for all countries but it needs to be modified according to country context. The focus on SSF and household income is not adequately captured in CAADP. Furthermore, farmers are a highly diverse group with different aspirations and CAADP does not adequately capture all their needs. It assumes that agricultural commercialization will lead to social transformation but this is not automatic.

Successes

CAADP has managed to engage and build the capacity of youth, women and SSF. It can be used to increase production of both basic foods and exports and also brings in supporting infrastructure development.

CAADP has stimulated the growth and development of the agricultural sector by providing a rallying point and platform for investment and lobbying support to agriculture from governments and donors.

Some countries have managed to fast-track the CAADP process and made considerable progress in a short space of time so those who are lagging behind shouldn't be unduly concerned; it is possible to catch up.

Drivers

Political will, leadership and good will from the Head of State are critical as well as commitment from the Ministry of Agriculture.

Partnership with FAO and other development agencies.

National experts to create ownership and take the process forward.

Bringing on board multiple stakeholders as well as various sectoral Ministries.

Partnerships are a very important element, both internally and externally.

Question 2: What is the value-added of CAADP?

Eight key issues:

1. Presents the ability to translate political will and commitment expressed at the Maputo Declaration into action.
2. Promotes inclusive participation of all stakeholders in setting agricultural priorities, and investment planning and promotes stocktaking of what exist, what works and does not work as well results-based M&E.
3. Improves coordination and harmonization of support that countries receive from donors and alignment with national priorities.
4. Unlocks the potential of inter-regional trade by harmonization of cross-border regulations and regional cooperation and integration.
5. Creates a rallying point for partnerships in terms of resource mobilization.
6. Provides a basic common language for governments and donors on agricultural development in Africa.
7. The four CAADP Pillars give clear guidelines on priority actions and align government and donor priorities i.e. they provide a roadmap.
8. The four CAADP Pillars create inter-linkages in the value chain and create links from the farm to the table.

Question 3: Some say that CAADP is too slow. How can we accelerate CAADP investment plans in order that it could be of use to small holders, women and youth?

CAADP gained visibility much later than its inception. It was more or less a closed shop from 2003 and didn't enter the development agenda until 2008, where it became better known in Aquila following the global food crisis. In the last four years it has moved much more rapidly.

International programmes are seen as a source of funding and it took time for countries to realize that CAADP is not a funding mechanism but a roadmap. Similarly, it took time for development partners to realize that this was the roadmap chosen by Africa.

Accelerating implementation is linked to resource mobilization. Most countries despite the goodwill, don't have adequate resources. There is a need to identify innovative financing mechanisms to support CAADP. This could include giving the same tax incentives to local private sectors in agriculture as was being offered to foreign investors.

The global food crisis has refocused attention to agriculture and given greater focus on CAADP and related initiatives such as the GAFSP. However, the requirement for an intermediary institution to act as a supervisory agency between GAFSP and the government creates additional bureaucracy and slows the approval and implementation process.

The Compact development has been participative but when it comes to the investment plan, it seems to become a government owned initiative. If CAADP becomes a closed shop, other partners become discouraged. The local private sector needs to be included and encouraged to invest; the same incentives should be provided to them as those to the external private sector.

Several experts and champions have emerged who can facilitate the knowledge and expertise for CAADP implementation.

It is important to highlight success stories and flagship programmes. Also necessary to adopt a new approach in order to attract the private sector and producer organizations; a conducive policy environment, institutional reforms and capacity strengthening of POs. South-South Cooperation needs to be maximized and many lessons can be learnt from the BRICs.

The general discussion that ensued highlighted the fact that while some countries were late in engaging in CAADP implementation, many of these have started work and organized round tables and prepared multi-year programmes of implementation.