



NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency  
Agence de Planification et de Coordination du NEPAD

March 2011

# CAADP

## SUCCESS STORIES 5: HARNESSING AFRICAN EXPERTISE



Removing male buds from maize.

## A framework for harnessing African expertise

Over the years, expatriate consultants and academics have played a large part in agricultural policy analysis and strategic investment planning in Africa. As a result, opportunities for Africans to gain valuable experience have been lost.

One of CAADP's core principles is to build African ownership of agricultural development. This means Africans taking a stronger role in preparing development projects and policies, and making more use of African expertise. The pillar lead institutions and CAADP's Pool of Experts – set up to support policy development and planning – are key ways to achieve this.

### Pillars expand opportunities

Realising CAADP's objective of promoting African ownership of

agricultural development requires more opportunities for African scientists, economists and others to exchange experience and build professional contacts.

As a first step CAADP appointed institutions to develop and lead its four pillars. The lead institutions ensure broad consultation, engage regional and national bodies and help countries draw on the tools and guidance the frameworks offer.

The lead organisations also, either independently or through their

CAADP – the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme – is the framework set up by the African Union's NEPAD programme to raise the amount and quality of food produced in Africa. The aim is to provide a secure supply of food for families, communities and countries and to make exports more profitable. CAADP is an Africa-led initiative, founded in 2003.

The NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency – a technical agency of the African Union – works closely with the African Union Commission, regional economic communities, national governments, civil society and the private sector to implement the CAADP Agenda.

networks of contacts, provide expert reviews and technical backstopping.

### FARA takes a lead

The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), in addition to providing links between national scientists and government officials, engages with international research institutes, farmers' organisations, the private sector and non-government bodies involved in the agricultural sector.

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### Pillar frameworks provide technical architecture for planning and peer review

The pillar frameworks serve as best practice and technical guidance for all African plans. Within these frameworks, African experts not only help develop but also peer review investment plans.

The pillar lead institutions are sources of African knowledge and expertise that countries and regional institutions can draw on to support their policy development and planning efforts.

#### **Land and water management**

University of Zambia and the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS)

#### **Market access**

Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of West and Central Africa (CMA/AOC)

#### **Food supply and hunger**

African Centre for Food Security, University of KwaZulu Natal and CILSS

#### **Agricultural research**

Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)

are critically reviewed and adhere to CAADP principles and framework guidelines.

### Donors value African voice

Donors value CAADP for providing an African voice on the continent's agricultural policy agenda. In a context where donors are committed to supporting recipients' ownership and to aligning their actions and instruments with recipients' policies and systems, CAADP is a welcome initiative.

### CAADP Pool of Experts

The CAADP Pool of Experts complements the policy-making and planning efforts of the pillar lead institutions. The Pool consists of over 50 experts in agriculture, fisheries, forestry, food security and market development, and is expanding to cover bioenergy, climate change adaptation, budgeting and financial management.

To date, teams of experts have been deployed to 15 countries to support the design and review of national agricultural investment plans.

This publication is based on the study *CAADP - Highlighting the Successes*, which was commissioned by the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency and GIZ, and implemented through the Overseas Development Institute.

The study looked at emerging successes in terms of country-level policy changes and their subsequent impact on agricultural productivity and policy inclusiveness. It was carried out in Ethiopia, Ghana and Rwanda.

Special recognition is given here to the farmers, policy makers, researchers and partners who participated in this study in the three countries. The full study is available at [www.nepad.org](http://www.nepad.org) or [www.nepad-caadp.net](http://www.nepad-caadp.net).



*Published by:*

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*Writing and design:* Scriptoria Communications, with the editorial guidance of Communications at the NEPAD Agency.

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FARA held extensive consultations with a wide range of stakeholders to develop a Framework for African Agricultural Productivity. This will guide the evolution of African agricultural research systems.

FARA teams of African experts drawn from a wide range of institutions prepare and disseminate multicountry programmes and investment proposals to improve the productivity of land and labour in crop production. FARA plays a crucial role in ensuring that these programmes and proposals



*A farmer applies fertiliser to trees in Ghana*

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