



Foreword

The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) is now perceived by key development practitioners, as well as African scholars, as a historic step in Africa's development.

For the first time in the history of our agrarian debate, African leaders have developed a collective framework to tackle the issues of growth, poverty reduction and food and nutrition security in a comprehensive way.

As a component of the broader NEPAD agenda, CAADP is African owned and led. It enjoys a broad consensus on objectives, targets, implementation processes and partnership principles. And it recognises the importance of establishing a clear framework to ensure consistency and coherence of efforts by all stakeholders, including international development partners.

Ending poverty and hunger will necessitate bold decisions from the highest levels of African governments. With CAADP we have the framework to make them.

Richard Mkandawire, NEPAD Agriculture Advisor

African agriculture advances: laying the groundwork in 2007

Over the past 10 years, Africa has seen rising economic growth and agricultural productivity unparalleled since the early days of independence. More recently, average rates of agricultural growth have been running at 4 to 5 per cent, and per capita food production has been rising steadily (Boxes 1 and 2). This has paralleled increasing economic growth rates and per capita incomes. This recent progress shows what is possible—given the right policies and investment climate.

Box 1. Ten years of agricultural growth in Africa

Average rate of growth in agriculture 4-5%.
Steady increase in per capita food production.

Africa's share of agricultural exports—quantity and value—exceeded the world average since 2001.

Longest period of sustained growth in per capita income since the 1960s.

Average gross domestic product growth rate 6%.

But

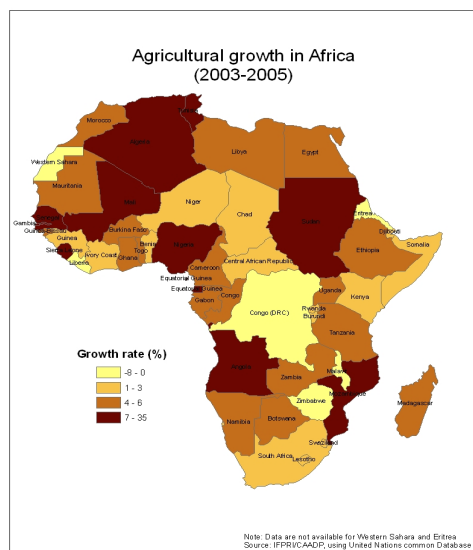
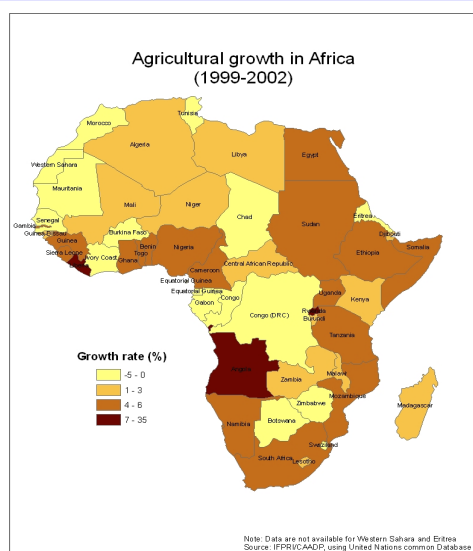
Growth rates need to be well above 6% in most countries to meet the MDG target of reducing poverty by half.

Only 11 countries have a growth rate of 6% in agriculture.

Few countries budget what is needed to bring their agricultural sector up to speed.



Box 2. Agricultural growth has spread in Africa since 2003



A collective effort to change agriculture in Africa

Emerging in this scenario of steady progress is the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)—the first collective effort by African governments to speed progress in African agriculture. This initiative is creating, for the first time ever, collective agreement—among African governments, regional economic communities, technical institutions and donors—on where African agriculture should be. Even more importantly, it is creating consensus on how to get there.

Changing the way we do business

CAADP is not simply an agenda; it is a process for transformation. Key to this transformation process is establishing country and regional processes that *fundamentally change how agricultural 'business' is done.*

CAADP is evolving into *the* policy agenda for African agriculture. It is becoming the framework for contributing to agricultural growth, food security and environmental resilience.

It is also developing the mechanisms and relationships that will support better use of agricultural funding. Underway now is the process of building the supporting institutions, frameworks, mechanisms and relationships that set the stage for long-term change.

Collective visions are being developed on the fundamental issues of food security and sustainable land and water management. Countries are revising their policies and work programmes around these agreements—and donors are aligning their resources with them. Examples of their new approaches include the European Commission's *Advancing African Agriculture* policy document, the United Kingdom's Research Into Use programme and realignment of World Bank/Global Environment Facility resources towards sustainable land management.

Working and learning at the country level

The main vehicle for this transformation is action at the country level. The country roundtable process brings together—on an equal footing—the leaders and technical staff of ministries of finance, agriculture, planning, environment and natural resources, as well as farmers, business people, development partners, civil society organisations and other stakeholders.

At the country roundtables these groups of stakeholders take stock of where things stand and identify where they need to focus to speed up growth and reduce poverty. They discuss policies, budgets, investments and development assistance.

Through this process, countries learn how to draw down from what is happening at the regional and continental level. Technical institutions and regional economic commissions likewise gain the capacity to provide technical backstopping and support to these country processes.

A key aspect is that—right from the beginning—resource mobilisation goes hand-in-hand with coalition-building and analytical work. The result is policy change and scaled-up investment programmes that enjoy wide support, are founded on comprehensive evidence-based discussions, and that are already financed.

Donors understand the value of this way of working. For example, through the TerrAfrica initiative, they have mobilised US\$1 billion for sustainable land and water management under CAADP's Pillar 1—with spending rules that are directly aligned to the roundtable process.

Learning

Another tool for 'doing agriculture better' is interactive learning sessions, recently initiated, which aim to develop knowledge and skills on specific issues. Participants in these roll-up-your-shirtsleeves working sessions include regional economic commissions, the institutions leading the pillars and in-country CAADP stakeholders.

The sessions are not talking shops: real learning takes place, as people discuss practical, on-the-ground approaches and go out and try them. If they don't work, there's a frank discussion about why things went wrong and how to fix them. A recent example is the interactive learning session on the country roundtable and pillar framework processes. This boosting of regional leadership will show benefits far into the future. The process isn't easy, but it's the only way to make lasting changes.

Knowledge networks

Connecting up the dots is another CAADP tool for developing continent-wide capacity. Knowledge networks aim to create linkages between NEPAD and the regional economic commissions and between the commissions and the countries. The knowledge networks allow research organisations to link up,

share their expertise and get technical back-up if needed, for example, on best practices or benchmarking, or for peer review.

In the future, an important task of these networks will be to track public expenditure in agriculture and how efficiently it is used. Currently most data is published several years in arrears. The knowledge networks will help gather the comprehensive up-to-date information that is vital for evaluating what is taking place.

Consolidating the CAADP pillars

Under CAADP, Africa's governments have identified four continent-wide entry points, or *pillars*, for investment and action in pursuing increased and sustainable productivity. Each of the pillars operates in a framework, and those frameworks have now been developed. Each is overseen by a lead technical agency, drawing out African expertise to develop specific approaches (Box 3). The partnerships are the pillars' foundations, so strengthening the partnership strengthens the pillar. The result will be widened and deepened engagement, and eventually mobilisation of greater resources.

Box 3. Drawing out African expertise

Pillar 1: Extending the area under sustainable land and water management – *University of Zambia, Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel*

Pillar 2: Improving rural infrastructure and trade-related capacities for market access – *Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of West and Central Africa*

Pillar 3: Increasing food supply and reducing hunger – *University of KwaZulu Natal African Centre for Food Security and Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel*

Pillar 4: Agricultural research, technology dissemination and adoption – *Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa*

Bringing in businesses

The private sector has the knowledge and skills that agriculture in Africa badly needs to complement technical assistance. Organisations such as the Corporate



Council on Africa (US), the Business Alliance for Africa (UK) and the Oslo Conference for the African Green Revolution are bringing together African entrepreneurs, political leaders and leading international agribusiness companies to discuss ways to bring much-needed business skills and investments to African agriculture.

Tracking results

Any new approach will succeed only if there are constant checks that it is headed in the right direction. To do this, CAADP's Partnership Platform meets at six-monthly intervals.

The Partnership Platform draws on the expertise of a full range of partners—from the African Union Commission, NEPAD, regional economic communities, development agencies, regional institutions such as the West African Council of Ministers of Agriculture, the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), sub-regional organisations, the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN), the private sector and farmers' organisations.

Measuring progress

Achieving real change in the long term requires investing in policies, processes and people in the short term. How we measure CAADP success in 2007 is not how we'll measure it in 2027.

We are pleased to see countries moving towards allocating 10% of their budgets to agriculture (Box 4). But, for now, CAADP's main impact indicator is the quality of our processes and policies, and the extent of participation. In these early days we assess results by changes in the enabling environment, alignment of funding and programmes and harmonisation of policies across the continent.

Box 4. Countries moving towards the 10% budget target

- Mali: Allocated 14% in 2006
- Malawi: Allocated 12% in 2006/2007
- Zambia: Allocated 4% in 2005, 5.3% in 2006 and 8% by 2010
- Kenya: Launched the Kenya Agricultural Productivity Programme

As the CAADP process advances, more traditional impact measures will come into play, such as the extent of agricultural growth and the size of national budget commitments to agriculture.

Everything is changing—how we interact at country level, the way we talk about evidence-based information, how we design programmes, and the way we mobilise resources.

2008 – a big year for CAADP

Our goals for 2008 lie in three main areas: alignment, consolidation and tracking progress. By June, we expect to have made significant progress in evidence-based discussions and in designing and developing investment programmes through the country roundtable process.

With the support of stakeholders and partners at every level (Box 5), the path is set for a fresh approach to agriculture in Africa. It will lead to growing productivity and food security for all.

Box 5. How stakeholders and partners contribute to the CAADP agenda

African governments

- Lead CAADP roundtables
- Ensure the participation of all relevant ministries
- Negotiate the country compact with development partners

Regional economic commissions

- Coordinate development of country compacts
- Work on trans-boundary issues
- Set up and operate systems to share best practices and scale up successes

African Union Commission and NEPAD

- Manage communications and accessibility of CAADP information
- Scale up systems to track progress
- Manage Partnership Platform meetings

Development partners

- Bring on board partners who are strong in agriculture and collaboration
- Contribute to Partnership Platform processes
- Support the Multi-donor Trust Fund

