



COMMUNIQUE

of the

4th CAADP PARTNERSHIP PLATFORM (PP) MEETING MARCH 26-27, 2009 PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA

A. Introduction

1. Hosted by the NEPAD Secretariat, the 4th CAADP Partnership Platform Meeting was convened in Pretoria, South Africa on the 26th and 27th of March 2009. The CAADP PP which provides for collective multi-partner peer review of the CAADP implementation process including highlighting emerging issues and lessons has evolved into a key instrument for peer interaction and information sharing among the core institutions and partners' involved in CAADP implementation.

2. The Meeting officiated by South Africa's Minister of Agriculture and Land Affairs, Hon. Lulama Xingwana, had a record turn-out of 210 participants signed up on the first day. This included the Her Excellency, the AUC Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, Ms. Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, and the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security for Sierra Leone, Hon. Dr. Joseph Sam Sesay.

3. The Meeting also had a large number of representatives from development partner institutions and governments, including new ones such as Japan, Italy and Canada. Others in attendance were representatives of the Regional Economic Communities (COMESA, ECOWAS, and SADC), CAADP pillar lead institutions, civil society and farmer organization representatives (SACAU, ROPPA, and EAFF), Private sector/ agribusinesses associations and country level representatives.

4. The meeting reviewed and discussed the following issues:

- *Progress and status in CAADP implementation focusing on identifying key lessons and defining strategies and critical elements for accelerating implementation at country level*
- *Operationalisation of the CAADP Multi-donor Trust Fund (MDTF)*
- *CAADP implementation "early actions" including initiatives to enhance farmers access to fertilizer*
- *Preparation of the upcoming Ministers of Land and Agriculture Conference and the Heads of State Summit*
- *CAADP links to global deliberations on agriculture, food and nutrition security*
- *Preliminary outcomes of the CAADP Review.*

B. Summary of Key Messages and main action points

Accelerating country level CAADP implementation

5. Acknowledging growing common understanding of the country CAADP implementation processes and the encouraging progress, in many countries, particularly in West Africa, the Meeting:



- i. Called on all stakeholders (players and partners) to facilitate the acceleration of country level CAADP implementation
 - ii. Noted that even though the compact was an important feature in the CAADP implementation process, it was important to recognise that the Compact is not the key output, let alone the objective, of the CAADP Round Table processes.
 - iii. Noted that CAADP implementation at country level should:
 - (a) recognize and build on ongoing agriculture planning processes, including PRSPs, rather than embarking on a parallel process, and
 - (b) be led by a country team with the right mix of skills and authority to ensure that the process involves all relevant sectors and disciplines.
 - iv. Noted and called for formal high level (even at the level of the Heads of State and Government) involvement in CAADP implementation. This will help to ensure the political push for CAADP implementation.
6. The Meeting called for an accelerated implementation of the measures proposed in the CAADP Implementation Guide, as part of the renewed strategies to enhance country driven CAADP implementation. This will include:
- i. Sensitization and orientation of high level political and technical offices, including the Permanent Secretaries, on the principles, objectives and targets of CAADP
 - ii. Provision of adequate financial and technical support to the Country CAADP teams for their effective functioning to lead national CAADP Round Table Process
 - iii. Review and refine, in practical terms, the function of the CAADP pillar frameworks and hence the roles and responsibilities of the Pillar institutions / knowledge centres and think tank institutions at the national and regional levels. This exercise should also lead to defining a clear ToR for these institutions including the criteria for their selection.
7. The Meeting noted that realising the desired reforms in support of CAADP implementation at country level will need concerted efforts by all involved, including civil society and especially national and regional farmer organisations, the private sector as well as the development partners.
8. The Meeting recognised that (i) as an AU framework CAADP is the continental mechanism for realising agricultural development, economic growth and poverty reduction and (ii) the AU is the organisation with the mandate, responsibility and legitimacy to represent the interest of its member states on CAADP.
9. The Meeting recognised the critical importance of regional integration to fully exploit opportunities for trade and food security. The CAADP process has significantly contributed towards furthering regional integration and strengthening the linkages with national level planning processes. These are key areas where the leadership of AUC-NEPAD have clear added value.

Accelerating CAADP Implementation: Organisational development, strengthening capacity and transforming agricultural education

1. In view of the primacy of building local capacity it was agreed that investments be made in the transformation of agricultural education and training to meet current and future needs in reforming the agriculture sector for increased and sustainable performance.
2. The Meeting called for increased funding support for capacity and organisational development in national and regional knowledge institutions to better enable them to support CAADP implementation.



Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Pillar Institutions in accelerating CAADP implementation

3. The Meeting called on the AUC and NEPAD to reach out to the other RECs - that are not yet fully involved in the CAADP process – for the purposes of creating space for dialogue with them on CAADP ownership and implementation.
4. Noting the critical role of knowledge centres, think-tank institutions including the pillar institutions and their networks in advancing the CAADP Agenda, the Meeting urged them to be more proactive at regional and national level and to build on emerging best practices.
5. Modalities on the linkages and collaboration between the Pillar institutions and RECs, on one hand, and between the Pillar Institutions themselves on the other, need to be clearly defined and strengthened.

Civil Society and Farmer Organisations in accelerating CAADP implementation

6. The Meeting welcomed the initiative taken by farmers to establish a continental level forum supportive of CAADP implementation. The Meeting called on African governments and Partners to financially support this initiative.
7. The Meeting expressed commitment to engage with the farmers organizations, not just at regional and continental fora, but more so at the national level including in stimulating proactive participation of farmers and their organizations in country CAADP implementation and roundtables.
8. The Meeting called on the AU-NEPAD to work with the RECs and country level partners and stakeholders to initiate at the country level a consultative and lessons sharing fora similar to the continent-wide CAADP PP including support to facilitating grassroots learning platforms (e.g., links between CAADP and the Africa Forum).

Advocacy and Communication in accelerating CAADP implementation

9. Around a coherent communication strategy, more concerted effort is required to (i) raise general public awareness of the CAADP Agenda and (ii) better inform agriculture and rural development policies and strategic plans at all levels.
10. The meeting underscored the need to streamline the reporting mechanism and the need for appropriate tools for Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E).
11. The Meeting called on the CAADP PP partners and stakeholders to support and/or facilitate increased purpose-tailored communication on CAADP for development partners' country/field offices through bilateral engagements and the generally existing agricultural donor working groups (ADWGs).
12. The Meeting commended the development and launch of the CAADP website, noting that this is key tool in advancing information flow and awareness on the CAADP Agenda.

CAADP in stimulating increased investment financing into African Agriculture

13. The meeting called for renewed efforts and strategies to encourage member States to honour their commitments to key AU Summit decisions including the 10% budget allocation to agriculture and rural development and the 6% annual agricultural growth rate.



14. The meeting while applauding the response of donors and the wide range of financing available, including the EC Food Facility and other financing support available to the CAADP Agenda took note of the need to further stimulate and strengthen engagement and alignment of external financing to the CAADP agenda.

15. The Meeting commended the role the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development continues to play in rallying increased and coherent donor alignment to the CAADP Agenda. The Meeting urged the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development to further advance dialogue on alignment and support to African agriculture along the CAADP framework and in light of the Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action. In this regard, the Meeting also noted the need for collaborative efforts to engage new / emerging development partners.

16. The Global Donor Platform for Rural Development will share with CAADP PP partners the work currently underway on development of a self-assessment mechanism and work to exploring opportunities for instituting user-friendly agricultural investment tracking system.

17. The Meeting welcomed the commitment of the United Nations High Level Task Force (HLTF) and AGRA towards aligning their programmatic and funding mechanisms with the planning process supported by CAADP.

Funding CAADP implementation

18. The Meeting welcomed the establishment and commissioning of the MDTF and asked African countries and institutions to contribute to the Fund, and called for collective effort to make it effective in strengthening and accelerating CAADP implementation.

19. Noting that substantial disbursements on the MDTF will only be available later in the year, there is URGENT need to explore - within the context of the MDTF - interim financing mechanisms to fast track critical activities at the NEPAD, AU, Pillar Institutions and activities leading to the finalisation and signing of country compacts.

20. The Meeting emphasized that while the MDTF remain a key and strategic funding arrangement for CAADP implementation processes, the MDTF will not provide for investment funding needs and therefore, partners and countries are encouraged to explore complementary funding options.

21. The Meeting agreed that: (i) there was a real need to increase the efforts of all stakeholders with regard to funding CAADP; (ii) pro-poor agricultural development requires not just more investment but also better investment that leads to tangible results.

The upcoming joint Conference of Ministers of Agriculture and Lands and the AU Heads of State and Governments Summit

22. The upcoming joint Conference of Ministers of Land and Agriculture and the AU Heads of State and Governments Summit with the theme: - ***Investing in agriculture for Economic Growth and Food Security*** is a key opportunity for both African and the international development community to reaffirm their support for and highlight their commitment to work through the CAADP partnership.

23. Among others issues, the Meeting noted that it will be important for the upcoming AU Ministerial Meeting and the Summit to also address and take measure to ensure commercialization of land does not result in unchecked land acquisitions with adverse consequences not only on food security, but also on food sovereignty, especially among the poor and most vulnerable sections of communities. Negotiated policies, regulatory



frameworks and guidelines to govern this process with the full participation of all stakeholders are necessary.

CAADP Early Actions and cross cutting issues:

African agriculture priority sub-sectors

24. Alongside efforts and initiatives in the crop sub-sector, the Meeting called for enhanced and deliberate efforts to mainstream the other agriculture sub-sectors of CAADP, namely Livestock and Pastoralism, forestry and tree farming and fisheries and aquaculture.

CAADP and Climate change

25. The Meeting urged systematic and proactive engagement to stimulate and support initiatives advancing mitigation and adaptation to climate variability. The Meeting noted that issues around carbon /soil carbon would present opportunities for financing African agriculture with positive impact on productivity and environmental resilience and protection of bio-diversity.

26. The CAADP Pillar 1 (Sustainable Land and Water Management) should provide leadership for a comprehensive inter-pillar engagement to ensure CAADP-aligned support to efforts on agriculture based climate change mitigation and adaptation as integral elements in identifying and designing investment options within CAADP framework implementation.

Enhanced farmer access to fertilizer

27. Ensuring farmers have access to fertilizer is critical and urgent in enhancing agricultural productivity. However, there are still numerous challenges in this regard including the continent's low production capacity of fertilizer, which is partly due to the high investment capital required, and the high transport and handling costs resulting in fertiliser prices that are too high for smallholder and subsistence farmers.

28. The Meeting, hence, noted that CAADP should be instrumental in rallying analytical and evidence based information and knowledge for appropriate political, policy and technical decisions and initiatives. The aim here is help stimulate consented private and public sector engagement for increased and widespread access to and efficiency in the use of fertilizers, addressing among others:

- Measures to reduce the supply chain costs,
- An improvement in fertilizer use efficiency.

Host, venue and dates for next CAADP PP Meeting

29. The Next CAADP PP Meeting the 5th is scheduled for September 2009.

30. The meeting endorsed the offer by ECOWAS to host the 5th CAADP PP Meeting. The AUC will formally communicate this decision to ECOWAS. By end of May 2009, this should be formalized with actual dates and venue agreed between AU-NEPAD and ECOWAS and communicated to partners.

31. Within this period, i.e. by end of May, the Commissioner-DREA will appoint a joint AUC, NEPAD, ECOWAS and GDPRD Task team to spearhead preparations for the 5th CAADP PP.