

Communiqué to the 2010 CAADP Day 21 July 2010, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

1. INTRODUCTION

The Second CAADP Day meeting was held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso on 21 July 2010, organized by the AUC and AU-NEPAD, and held as integral part of the 5th FARA General Assembly.

The meeting brought together Ministers of Agriculture and representatives of government from five African countries (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Uganda) and one European country (Germany), the private sector (Equity Bank, Pan African Agribusiness Consortium UBA), farmers' organizations (ROPPA, EAFF, SACAU, PROPAC, AGRA), Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), as well as development partners and United Agencies.

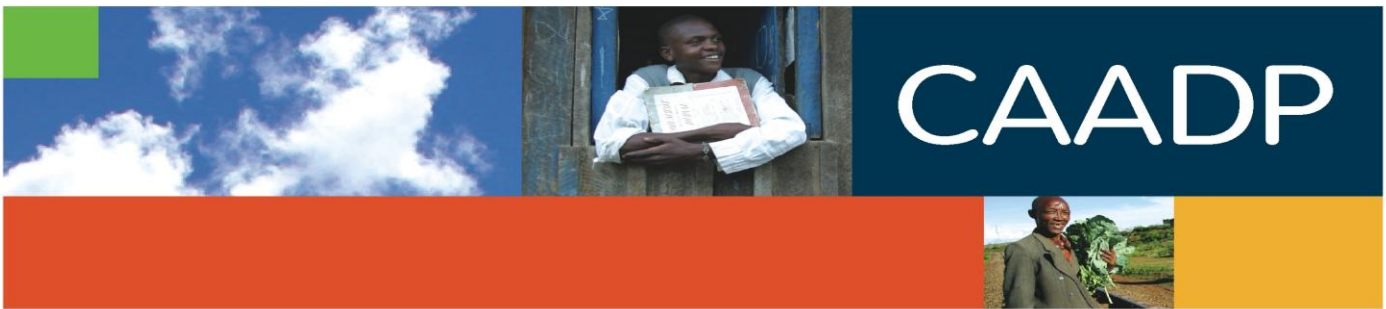
The purpose of the meeting was to an inclusive dialogue platform for the AUC, NEPAD, the private sector, farmers' organizations, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and development partners to engage each other on the progress achieved in the implementation of CAADP since 2003 and also to explore the challenges that may delay the process in achieving the CAADP targets, if they not addressed, yet.

The CAADP Day's main event was a panel discussion with the theme '*Post-Compact CAADP Implementation: the African private sector and investments in agriculture*'. This panel discussion was a welcoming opportunity to widen the political space and investment climate for CAADP to Agriculture by paying particular attention to the role of the private sector. And it also showcased the results CAADP has been achieving so

2. OPENING CEREMONY

Main Messages:

The Opening Statements highlighted that although many studies had shown that in Africa agriculture has been having the biggest impact on economic growth and poverty reduction, this had not prevented the sector from a significant decline in domestic and external funding during the last three decades. The speakers pointed out that the weak agriculture sector policies and institutions in the political landscape of African countries were at the root of low budgetary allocations to agriculture.



This Forum provided therefore an excellent opportunity to review the progress and to identify the challenges that the CAADP implementation has been facing so far. To achieve a better resource investment and an effective CAADP implementation concrete actions and public commitment need to be articulated. Agriculture investment is a key instrument to achieve social economic growth and has a decisive impact poverty reduction. Moreover, investment in the agricultural sector will allow realizing the millennium developments goals in Africa.

Finally, the speakers emphasized the importance for governments to ensure effective leadership in agriculture developing processes and to promote a favorable environment for the private sector to invest into the agriculture sector. It is important to improve information sharing, training and sensitization of the CAADP Pre- and Post-Compact process.

3. PANEL DISCUSSION

i. Panelists

The panel discussion attracted close to 200 policymakers, Ministers, researchers, and representatives from farmers' organizations, the media, the private sector, and development partners who engaged with each other through a moderated panel discussion – on their CAADP implementation experiences.

The panelists at the discussion included: Dr. Sam Sesay -Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security of Sierra Leone, Kwesi Ahwoi -Minister of Food and Agriculture of Ghana, Dr. Laurent Sedogo -Minister of Agriculture, Water resources and Fisheries of Burkina Faso, Vincent Rubarema - Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries of Uganda, Lucy Muchoki - Chief Executive Officer of the Pan African Agribusiness Consortium, Esther Muhiri -General Manager Marketing Agribusiness of Equity Bank and Mr. Alphonse Kadjo -General Director of UBA.

ii. Key points arising during the discussion

The discussions focused on different issues and problems arising in the CAADP implementation process. With regard to the benefits of engaging in CAADP, the discussion stressed the need to define financing mechanisms and a joint review of Government investment plans to realize a comprehensive co-owned investment plan.

The panelists underlined that CAADP is a country- led process and must reflect the vision and development strategy of the respective country. At the same time, all stakeholders have to buy



into the process to ensure an ease of planning and investment and to jointly identify investment priorities. However, an effective monitoring system with clarified targets and well articulated means of measurements and areas of corrections is not always in place and needs to be addressed more seriously.

The Ownership in the CAADP Process was regarded as a significant principle for the acceptance of the entire process. The panelists highlighted the importance of responsive leadership from the top with a clear vision to provide guidance and accountability. These principles are regarded as part of the countries development plans and will allow for Mobilization of the experts of sectors and the involvement of the private sector and civil society.

To showcase the implication of the various elements the panelists pointed out the factors facilitating the CAADP Process. The discussion demonstrated that not only other ministries than the Ministry of Agriculture needed to be included in the process, but that the private public partnerships as well as the consultation of civil society and farmers' organizations are crucial steps for the creation of a favorable environment for private sector investment. Finally, it was stressed to promote synergies between producers, processors and traders.

One of the key questions was how to get the buy in of the private sector. The discussion highlighted the importance of regular and frequent meetings on CAADP between government and the private sector. To make the agriculture sector more attractive for investors, tax holidays and a gestation period for the private sector could be provided. Furthermore, subsidies for small-scale farmers should be made available to foster this sector.

Finally, the discussion focused on how to effectively target farmers. It was emphasized that farmers need to be regularly involved into the key discussions. Farmers should also be introduced to banking services and benefit from improved conditions for credit access. Given the often low literacy rates of farmers, consultations with farmers should be in the appropriate format and training should be provided on financial literacy. These measures would help to mobilize and improve farmers' capacities. Moreover, governments need to sensitize farmers on policies and involve them in developing policies documents and programs.

4. Positions of the different representatives

Representatives from the farmers' organisations highlighted that the problem of funding and access to finances requires new thinking and new solutions that go beyond what is being offered by the banks today.

The Ministers overwhelmingly felt that in order for a country to succeed with the implementation of the CAADP agenda there had to be political will at the highest levels of Government and genuine national ownership of the country's agricultural strategy.



Representatives from the private sector highlighted that they see agriculture as a serious business venture. However, they also felt that it was important for African agriculture to be move away from a subsistence focus to a commercial focus and that there are financial incentives on the market that can be accessed to do this.

Members of the media called upon researchers and scientists in African agriculture to be more proactive in terms of sharing information with the media and also recognise their roles as sources of information. Scientists were also called upon to use social media as an avenue for highlighting their work to the wider public.