



**African Union
Commission**

**New Partnership for
Africa's Development**



**COMMUNIQUE OF THE 3rd CAADP-SIRTE
PARTNERRSHIP PLATFORM MEETING**

September 19-20, 2008

Victoria, Seychelles

A. Introduction

The 3rd CAADP Partnership Platform (PP) met on 19 and 20 March 2008 at the Seychelles International Conference Centre in the Seychelles to review progress of CAADP implementation since the last meeting (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, September 2007).

The CAADP PP meeting also built on the outcomes of the AUC, NEPAD, RECs and Pillar Lead Institutions Meeting held just prior (17th – 18th March 08) to this CAADP PP meeting.

The AUC and NEPAD thank COMESA and the Government of Seychelles in respectively organising and hosting the meeting.

B. Summary and Key Messages

Five year target on the Maputo decision

1. The Maputo HSG decision (2003) on increasing public expenditure investment support to agriculture to at least 10% of Government budget was a target over a five year period. Hence, 2008 is an important year in the CAADP implementation calendar and would be important for the continent to critically and objectively take stock to assess performance including movement on the 10% target review the lessons to further energize the CAADP implementation agenda which is currently gaining momentum at all levels. In this context, the meeting called for:
 - a) Strengthening the engagement to especially inform and facilitate strategic advocacy work targeting high level political and private business institutions and systems
 - b) Organize special high level meeting as a means to draw attention to the achievements of the CAADP agenda and ensure engagements to scale up on these achievements and lessons
 - c) Identification and bringing on board one or a small number of high level prominent person/s as CAADP "Champion/s" (e.g. a serving or retired Head of State with a passion in agriculture/food security)
2. African governments should even further demonstrate their commitment to the CAADP agenda and indeed to fighting hunger and poverty by increasing public expenditure budget supporting investment financing to the agriculture sector

Acceraleting country level CAADP implementation

3. The Meeting noted that there was now greater, deeper and harmonized understanding of the country CAADP implementation processes. This was applauded as critical and should underpin accelerated implementation of the CAADP agenda

4. Support to strengthen competencies and capacities for the CAADP teams around the focal point persons will be an important feature in consolidating and accelerating CAADP implementation
5. Input and support by the Pillar Institutions to the country roundtable processes on tools and information for comprehensive and high quality analytical work will be critical to realizing CAADP value in the design and implementation of agriculture investment programmes
6. Modalities on the linkages and collaboration between the Pillar institutions and RECs, on one hand, and the inter-pillar linkages among the Pillar Institutions will require to be clearly defined and strengthened
7. Stimulated by the country CAADP compact signed in March 2007, the Rwanda Government has made significant adjustments in public expenditure to the agriculture sector. The need for both private sector and development partners to accordingly scale up aligned investment financing to complementary government is an urgent matter
8. 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
9. Developing and sustaining enabling environment (policies, trade regulations, infrastructure, etc...) for regional agriculture markets will be cardinal in driving and enhancing agriculture productivity and ultimately the CAADP agenda

Mobilising financing support to the CAADP agenda

10. The Meeting noted that CAADP provides an African defined framework that also aims to stimulate and support alignment and harmonization including development aid effectiveness. In this context, the Meeting charged that the AUC and NEPAD takes leadership in:
 - a) providing clear guidelines/framework for engagement with development partners and investors on alignment of investment and development support to the CAADP agenda
 - b) Pro-actively engage development partners and private sector/Foundations with evidence based presentation of the CAADP framework as mechanism to guide coherent and effective investments into the agriculture sector
 - c) Mobilizing and linking technical units in governments to information support to urge increased public expenditure to the agriculture sector
11. The Meeting noted the greater and growing interest and re-commitment to the agriculture agenda by both African institutions (The African Heads of State and Government decision on an agriculture-led development agenda – NEPAD (2001)) and the international partners (i) The 2007 World Development Report – World Bank, (ii) the European Commission (EC)'s Advancing African Agriculture (AAA), the (iii) The Meeting urged the AUC and NEPAD to jointly lead the way on a strategy engagement at various levels to seize the opportunities including proving clear African positions and strategies to ensure the CAADP grows as the framework for scaling up investments into the Agriculture sector
12. The Meeting noted the need to identify and pursue clear mechanisms to attract investment financing into agriculture within the context of CADP framework from various sources including private sector (local and international/multi-nationals and the foundations), public sector and the development organisations
13. Applauding the efforts by all concerned to establish the CAADP Trust Fund (expected to be launched in October 2008), the meeting emphasized need for operational budget at country level (i.e. around the country CAADP teams) to help in organizing and stimulating implementation.

14. In the short term (i.e. before the CAADP Trust Fund is operational), funding gaps to support the country roundtables in countries already moving should be addressed
15. Engagement and participation of the private sector in agriculture sector remains a challenge. Meeting urged CAADP through its Pillar 2 thrust to define and pursue strategies that makes agriculture attractive for largescale private sector investments

Emerging issues and technical considerations in CAADP implementation

16. The Meeting recognized as critical threats on the agricultural and indeed broader development agenda from emerging issues such as climate change, bio-fuels, GMOs and "carbon funds and the CDM". The Meeting urged the effort to ensure the CAADP framework provided support to countries to integrate responses (adaptation, mitigation) on these issues. The Meeting specially also urged the AUC and NEPAD to proactively lead on strategic quick action to the raising food prices.

C. Key Actions for 2008

Accelerating CAADP implementation

1. NEPAD Secretariat in liaison with the RECs and the country CAADP teams to urgently and proactively take appropriate measures to bring together public and private sector and development partners to engage and take immediate action to accelerate CAADP implementation. Main thrusts in this regard include:
 - i. support to consolidate and strengthen capacities of the country CAADP teams around the CAADP focal persons
 - ii. raise awareness and mainstream the CAADP implementation guide in all the relevant CAADP implementation structures at all levels
 - iii. ensure desired technical and financial support to the country and regional CAADP teams along defined work programmes
2. Pursue concretely the alignment and use of the pillar frameworks in the development of both country and regional CAADP Compacts. In addition, the strategy should strengthen inter-pillar linkages and the associated synergies including across the Agriculture sub-sectors defined in the CAADP companion document. A working group of the pillar lead institutions, AU, NEPAD and RECs should be constituted to draft these strategies and circulate them ahead of the next PP meeting
3. NEPAD Secretariat to lead engagement supporting all the RECs including IGAD, EAC, SADC and ECCAS to elaborate CAADP implementation support to their member states
4. Develop and put in place a capacity development programme responding to capacity and resources needs at AU/NEPAD, REC and country CAADP teams level to enable them move rapidly on implementation of the country Roundtable Process and development of country and regional Compacts
5. Stimulate/facilitate increased participation of stakeholders such as CSOs, the Private Sector, Farmer's Organisations and NGOs in country level CAADP implementation processes
6. Operationalise the M&E framework integral to the pillar framework thrust and moving to define a peer review mechanism

Resource mobilisation

7. Collaboration among all players to ensure immediate funding support to CAADP implementation process at all levels
8. Engagement at global level to attract/influence investment and development support financing modalities to align to the CAADP framework
9. Define and share widely an African position to guide in pursuing alignment to the framework

10. NEPAD jointly with RECs to support member states/governments to engage in-country based development partners by:
 - ensuring that in-country development partners are informed on the country's CAADP undertaking
 - calling for harmonised and coordinated engagement between government/national players and the development partners
11. Ensure major development support initiatives including the G8 agenda, TICAD4, APF and others have agriculture and CAADP on their agenda and are honouring their past commitments to Africa's agriculture and rural development agenda
12. Along the South – South Cooperation principle, pursue collaboration with Universities and specialized institutions in China, Brazil, India, etc...on strengthening expert capacities for the CAADP pillar institutions/Centres of Excellency