



The 9th CAADP Partnership Platform Meeting
[25-26 March 2013, African Union Conference Centre, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia]

CONCEPT NOTE

1. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE FOR THE 9th CAADP PP

Since its endorsement by AU Heads of State and Government in 2003, CAADP has realised substantive success in guiding countries through intensive national sector policy reviews and analyses in order to transition into evidence-based policy planning and implementation, towards the realization of the CAADP target of 6% annual agricultural growth. CAADP implementation has been launched in over 40 countries across the continent and, 30 countries have signed the CAADP Compact and are in various stages of development of their National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plans (NAFSIPs). Out of the 27 Member States that have developed CAADP-based NAFSIPs, 11 countries received funding from the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) for implementation of these plans.

However, CAADP implementation has essentially been confined to public investment planning, resulting in a high level of donor financial dependency. Moreover, the focus was mainly on increasing supply (volumes produced by agriculture) at the expense of a more holistic and integrated appreciation of the relationship between agriculture and development. Furthermore, the translation of CAADP from a continental policy framework to a tangible country level Implementation plan has witnessed a shift in the nature of the challenges that countries and RECs are facing currently. The main challenges that countries and RECS are faced with are: unfavourable policy environments for agricultural growth, food security and ameliorated incomes; unharnessed but innovative financing instruments that can catalyse agricultural growth; lack of strong institutions and leadership to accelerate and fully implement the CAADP agenda; and lack of capacity to adapt to emerging continental and global challenges such as climate change, food and energy price unpredictability, under-nutrition concerns; and inadequate engagement in south-south cooperation, amongst others.

This has led to the realization that the desired results of CAADP implementation can only be attained by moving beyond establishing plans and processes and concentrating on implementation through: the creation of an enabling policy and institutional environment; forming partnerships with non-state actors, particularly the private sector; the fostering of greater cooperation and leadership among African countries; and increased and more diversified sources of financing. The latter has been boosted by the radical change in the financial landscape in Africa during the last decade which offers governments more room for manoeuvre and therefore opportunities to reduce financial dependency. This calls for greater mobilization and engagement of political and technical leadership at regional and national level, a stronger role of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Member States in the advancement of the CAADP agenda, and increased resources and alignment of efforts by governments, private sector, and partners to implement CAADP investment Plans.

Consequently, CAADP needs to look forward and adjust in order to address and find solutions to the challenges that countries and RECs are facing in implementing the CAADP agenda. The CAADP Partnership Platform (PP), provides a forum for these issues to be discussed, reviewed and agreed upon for effective implementation of the CAADP agenda.

The 9th CAADP PP builds on the discussions and outcomes of the 8th CAADP PP but with a more focused attention on implementation, results and impact. The 9th CAADP PP will pick up where the 8th PP left off, to deepen the examination of achievements and successes during the past 10 years of CAADP as a basis for identifying and agreeing on the thrust and focus in subsequent years. The 9th PP will take into account the creation of a platform for “CAADP at Ten”, which will provide an opportunity to reflect on drawbacks in order to inform a new thinking on how to facilitate a transition of the CAADP agenda into the next decade. The 9th CAADP PP will also create a forum for the full array of stakeholders involved in agriculture development including the AUC, NPCA, RECs, DPs, national governments, private sector, civil societies to:

- (i). Revisit the last ten years of CAADP to assess its success and failures. Then assess or develop a clear vision for the next ten years (2014-2024);
- (ii). Assess progress and performance on the core CAADP targets such as the 10% budget allocation to agriculture and the yearly agricultural growth of 6%;
- (iii). Exchange information, and share country-based experiences and lessons in agriculture development and in embracing the CAADP Framework as a driving instrument for attainment of results and impact;
- (iv). Discuss the implications that newly emerging issues will have on CAADP, and African Agriculture and Food Security;
- (v). Identify and discuss options and alternative models for CAADP financing;
- (vi). Review and strengthen instruments and mechanisms for accountability in CAADP implementation;
- (vii). Provide means of alignment and synergy among stakeholders for the broader CAADP agenda and future directions;
- (viii). Engage in political mobilization for sustaining the CAADP momentum, and revitalizing its core values

2. THE 9TH CAADP PP FOCUS

The 9th CAADP PP is being held in a landmark year for both the AU, which is celebrating 50 years of its existence, and CAADP commemorating 10 years since it was endorsed in 2003. At the July 2012 Summit, African Heads of State and Government endorsed a Decision to mark 2014 as a Year of Agriculture and Food Security and commemoration of 10 years of CAADP. The Assembly of African Heads of States and Government at January 2013 Summit further noted that the commemoration of CAADP should be used as an opportunity to consolidate the achievements and draw lessons to deliver more results. The Heads of States, therefore, commended the “Sustaining the CAADP Momentum” exercise aimed at strengthening policy, institutions, local leadership and knowledge support with greater emphasis on investments to transform African agriculture, food and nutrition security. There is a consensus that this theme should be maintained for the 9th PP which will be held in 2013.

Against this, the AUC and NPCA have planned to use all major and key agricultural related events during 2013 and 2014 as a build-up to 2014, a year of agriculture and food security and commemoration of the 10 years of CAADP. The 9th CAADP PP will form the initial efforts of

raising the political profile of CAADP in the 2014 events. Similar higher level related events will be held in the margins of 50th Anniversary of Organization of African Unity (OAU) scheduled May 2013 in Addis Ababa. Accordingly, the 9th CAADP PP is attracting the highest attention from African political and technical leaders at the level of Heads of States and Ministers to demonstrate commitment and ownership of the agenda they agreed to pursue.

The partnership platform meeting also offers an opportunity to showcase some of the important initiatives and activities in Africa on CAADP. Of equal importance, the event is a partnership-building platform with different stakeholders of the African agricultural agenda.

3. THE 9TH CAADP PP THEMES AND SUB-THEMES

3.1. FOCUS AND THEME

The CAADP PP is a platform that facilitates practitioners (especially country level players) and other stakeholders to share and learn lessons. The 9th CAADP PP builds on the discussions and outcomes of the 8th CAADP PP but with a more focused attention to Implementation, Results and Impact. “Sustaining the CAADP Momentum - from Decisions and Commitments to Implementation for Results and Impact”, therefore, is the guiding theme of the 9th CAADP PP. The 9th CAADP PP will be an initial platform for launching the run up to 2014 Summit on raising the political profile of CAADP. The PP will have both HE the President of Benin and Prime Minister of Ethiopia providing a key note address with the AUC Chairperson providing the opening remarks. In the spirit of strengthening country leadership, the 9th CAADP PP will have a series of Ministers in different parallel sessions and as panelists at plenary sessions.

The CAADP PP will be conducted through parallel (break-out) and plenary sessions guided by the sub-themes and attendant key topics. The intention is to give participants an opportunity to engage in-depth in topics of critical interest around broader thematic and sub-thematic areas. Countries and/or experts will be asked to prepare the specific cases for informing the discussions. The real life substance in these cases is what will make a difference in these presentations.

Some topics will be related to experiences and outcomes of specific Country team or Joint Action Groups (JAGs). In this case, a representative of these consultative groups will be asked to provide technical support to the selected countries to prepare their presentation on the related issues and/or topics.

Each thematic area and/or work, will require some expert input, and hence a maximum two-page note will be developed describing the issues and guiding the discussions in each breakout session. Clear and simple, but real life cases, perceptions and experiences will be encouraged so that the dialogue and outcomes can better inform the priorities and actions in sustaining the CAADP momentum.

The CAADP PP will revolve around the following key overarching questions: 1) What lessons and experiences should inform future priorities and practices for CAADP stakeholders, and 2) Based on lessons and experiences of CAADP implementation, what options should inform the commitment to measuring and delivering results and impact?

3.2. THE 9TH CAADP PP SUB-THEMES

Broadly, a number of issues continue to emerge that affect the speed and quality of CAADP implementation, and affect/compromise results. The sustaining CAADP momentum exercise outlined a number of areas which are central to implementation of CAADP for results. Like the

8th CAADP PP, the issues of public and private sector funding continue to emerge both as instruments for implementation and also as catalysts to country commitments. Further, the level of technical and political commitment for institutional and policy reforms to effect implementation have continued to define the required progress at country level. Moreover, issues of accountability for results continue to feature as key instruments that should catalytically foster the implementation drive. In the context of sustaining the CAADP Momentum, therefore, the sub-themes of the 9th CAADP PP will be as follows:

Subtheme 1: Harnessing alternative and emerging financing models for effective agricultural Investment

Over the last few years, the CAADP country investment plans have become vehicles and tools for attracting public financing to the identified priority areas. There are increasing commitments from both governments and development partners to finance up to 70 percent of public commitments in country investment plans. Thus in many countries, there is need for additional resources of finance to support the full implementation of the country investment plans. A number of alternative sources of financing have not been effectively tapped to leverage the traditional public sector and development financing mechanisms. This theme, will focus on enhancing the existing sources of finance as well as exploring what the alternative sources can catalyze the available options. The focus will be on tapping from the abundant and potential private sector financing as well as existing and new catalytic funds available to finance African agriculture.

Under sub-theme one, the CAAP PP will interrogate two broad areas in understanding available and workable public and private financing models for agriculture. At the initiation of the G8 and G20, the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) was established. Despite many countries having not accessed resources from GAFSP, it presented itself as a catalyst and trigger for countries to hasten CAADP related reforms in anticipation of these resources. Moreover, in some of the countries where GAFSP has been received, a number of challenges continue to characterize the administration and management of these resources against the intended objectives. In essence, it actually means that finance as an instrument can foster other reforms in public sector and private sector initiatives. The 9th CAADP PP participants will be provided with an opportunity to understand and deliberate on the mechanisms and issues for accessing and utilization of GAFSP as an input to the public sector financing of country plans. Related to this, an issues draft paper will be discussed on other available options for agricultural and CAADP financing. This paper is being finalized by NPCA.

Sub-theme one will further discuss the emerging critical initiatives on private sector financing in advancing the CAADP agenda. This will be technically supported and facilitated by the JAG on private sector and will further discuss the successes and failures of using country case studies.

Subtheme 2: Strengthening country leadership, ownership, and commitment;

Experience in CAADP implementation has demonstrated that stronger political commitment and leadership is essential in fostering commitment, ownership and implementation for results. Where strong political leadership and commitment has been exercised around CAADP implementation, progress has been realized. Sharing experience and learning lessons on how this works will be the centre of focus in sustaining the CAADP Momentum. A combination of a strong leadership from Permanent Secretaries and Ministers responsible for Agriculture with support from Heads of States in utilizing country investment plans as delivery instruments to

agricultural will matter in delivery of agricultural services for results and impact. Hence the session will bring together Senior Policy makers including Ministers of Agriculture, Chief Executive Officers of RECs other high-level dignitaries to share their own experiences.

Subtheme 3: Establishing instruments and mechanisms for strengthening accountability;

Effective delivery for results and impact beyond leadership and commitment is to put in place instruments for monitoring, evaluation and reporting as strong instruments for strengthening accountability. Delivery for results and impact will require a package of interventions drawn from financing, leadership and commitment as well as effective mechanisms for accountability. Building from the recent progress in monitoring and reporting CAADP implementation through ReSAKSS, and Mutual accountability framework, coupled with the defined actions and targets done under the “Sustaining the CAADP momentum” exercise, and other pieces of work being commissioned, will constitute a new refined CAADP results framework. The detailed results framework will therefore define a future accountability system for CAADP. The role of civil society in CAADP implementation has improved. Under this session, an independent critic of what is perceived as progress from the “bird eyes” view of civil society will set a stage for what CAADP stands for.

Linked to third sub-theme, the 9th CAADP PP will look at key fundamental issues to input and validate the exercise on developing the “CAADP Results Framework”. Here, the strategy will be to: i) provide specific guiding questions on this area to be discussed by all the breakout sessions and sub-themes; (ii) reflect on an independent accountability report with a view to demonstrate and acknowledge that the Non-State Actors (NSA) have and are playing a role in CAADP and; iii) raise issues especially on accountability of Governments and international communities in honouring their funding commitments

Subtheme 4: Fostering policy reforms, institutional change and structural transformation for increased investment in agriculture.

Inadequate policy and institutional reforms continue to stand in a way of effective CAADP implementation to achieve results and impacts. This is demonstrated in limited private sector engagement and investment in country investment plans. The session discussion with the private sector – farmers being at the forefront - can help to illustrate how policy and institutional constraints will have to be addressed. Hence the session will discuss how the private sector – which includes farmers - sees the emerging policy and institutional reforms with reflection on what has worked and what needs to change in order to trigger additional private sector investment and how ongoing efforts such as the Grow Africa and the New Alliance can contribute. The session will further be guided to identify policy and institutional blockages to investments and how these blockages have been turned into policy commitments to facilitate stronger investment in CAADP investment plans. These will be discussed as examples to create an understanding to all countries on how stakeholders can identify policy constraints and turn them into policy commitments and investments for implementation targeting results and impact. There are a number of areas, other than private sector, that continue to face policy and institutional challenges in their implementation. Some of these include; nutrition, land, food safety and others.

In relation to the third and fourth subthemes is the need to strengthen the relevancy of CAADP commitments - mainly the progress and performance being made on the core CAADP targets, (i.e. the 10% and the 6%) through presentation and interrogation of the CAADP M&E Report. Linked to this are the questions of political and technical feasibility of 10% public spending, as

well as the efficacy of 6% in delivering the required poverty reduction targets and/or increased household incomes. Various discussions will need to be held to inform options for the new forms of targets around these areas.

4. MEETING PARTICIPANTS

All stakeholders involved in the advancement of the CAADP agenda and the development of African agriculture are invited to the 9th CAADP Platform Meeting. This includes member states, Regional Economic Communities, government ministries, farmers' organizations, the private sector, civil society, Development partners, donor communities, the African Union Commission, and the New Partnership for Africa's Development, among others.

5. LOCATION AND MEETING DATE

The 9th Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Program's Partnership Platform (CAADP PP), organized by the African Union Commission and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) will be held on 25 – 27 March 2013 in Addis Ababa at the new African Union Conference Center. The main PP will be preceded by the Pre-CAADP PP – which also serves as an AUC-NPCA-RECs and ReSAKSS Joint Planning and Review Meeting and a dialogue platform with Continental farmer organizations. This meeting will take place on 23-24 March 2013 at the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

6. MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

The 9th CAADP PP will engage all relevant participants in discussions geared at advancing the CAADP agenda.

An event management company is being contracted to provide support to invited participants and technical facilitators.

7. INFORMATION KIOSK/DESK OR EXHIBITION

The 9th CAADP Partnership Platform Meeting will put in place an information desk for the duration of the meeting. This will allow participants to display and distribute literature materials. Participants are invited and highly encouraged to take this opportunity to disseminate relevant information. For organisations and institutions intending to share information and knowledge materials, please contact Carol Jilombo at Jilomboc@africa-union.org and Maureen Nkandu at maureen@nepad.org to reserve a space.

CONTACT DETAILS

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