



New AUC Chairperson calls for accelerated CAADP implementation



H.E Ping handing over the AU flag to H.E Dlamini-Zuma, looking on is president Yayi (L) and Prime Minister Desalegn (R).

New African Union Commission Chairperson, Dr. Nkhosazana Dlamini-Zuma, has called for accelerated implementation of CAADP for a food secure Africa.

Speaking at the AUC Headquarters in Addis Ababa, during the handover ceremony between the outgoing and incoming Chairpersons and Commissioners of the African Union Commission, on October 15, 2012, Dr. Dlamini-Zuma said Africa should strive towards food security and invest in increased productivity.

She said Africa currently generates only 10% of global agricultural output and imports tens of billions of dollars of food a year.

Dr. Dlamini-Zuma said access to food is the most

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basic right and no nation or continent could develop to its full potential if it could not feed itself. In this regard, she acknowledged the multi-faceted roles which CAADP could play in addressing Africa's challenges of food insecurity and import dependence.

“If we invest in increasing the productivity of our land, we can have food security, export and generate revenue and also save the resources we use to import food. All these resources can be used for development. The continent and AU have taken decisions on these measures, and we know there is ... CAADP We must accelerate its implementation,” said Dr. Dlamini-Zuma.

The handover ceremony was attended by Dr. Boni Yayi, President of the Republic of Benin and Chairperson of the African Union, who is recognized as a Champion of CAADP and proposed a commemoration of its 10 year anniversary in 2014; Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Mr. Hailemariam Dessalegn, outgoing AUC Chairperson, Dr. Jean Ping, Deputy AUC Chairperson, Mr. Erastus Mwencha, Ambassadors,

Permanent Representatives of the African Union, heads of international and regional organizations and AUC staff.

In their speeches during the ceremony, both president Yayi and Prime Minister Dessalegn, highlighted the importance of CAADP and the need for sustaining and scaling up of its implementation.

Speaking on the AU's financial and economic plan, President Yayi said, "The pursuit of actions for food and nutrition security as well as combating poverty is being done by implementing CAADP."

Prime Minister Dessalegn, noted the significant decline in the number of conflicts plaguing the continent, which he said had created a favorable environment for Africa to focus its energy on eradicating poverty and unleashing its potential for economic growth and development.

"In this regard, the implementation of NEPAD and its flagship programmes like CAADP...is to say the least, of paramount importance," he said.

The new Commission takes over the leadership of the AUC for a four year term. At its head is the Chairperson, Dr. Nkosazana Clarice Dlamini-Zuma, deputized by Mr. Erastus Mwencha. This is the first time the Commission is being led by a woman.

The AU Commission is the Secretariat of the Union entrusted with executive functions. It is composed of 10 officials: a Chairperson, a Deputy Chairperson; eight (8) Commissioners and staff members. The Commissioners are in charge of the following portfolios: Peace and Security; Political Affairs; Trade and Industry; Infrastructure and Energy; Social Affairs; Rural Economy and Agriculture; Human Resources, Science and Technology; and Economic Affairs. The mission of the Commission is to become "An efficient and value-adding institution driving the African integration and development process in close collaboration with African Union Member States, the Regional Economic Communities and African citizens."

AUC commends COMESA on regional CAADP Compact progress



Participants of the COMESA Regional Partners' Meeting

The AUC has commended the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), on progress advanced towards the finalisation of a Regional CAADP Compact.

Speaking during COMESA's Regional Partners' meeting held in Lusaka on 4- 5 October 2012, to discuss and endorse a roadmap for the COMESA CAADP Regional Policy and Investment Framework, AUC's CAADP Policy Adviser, Dr. Yihewew Zewdie said the AUC valued increased

focus on the regional dimension of CAADP, because it provided Africa with an additional instrument for regional integration and improved livelihoods for the continent's population.

Dr. Zewdie assured COMESA that the AUC would provide the necessary support to enable the regional bloc come up with a mutually agreed regional CAADP compact and a corresponding Agricultural Investment Plan Framework.

"AUC is ready to support you to advance the CAADP agenda more generally, as well as your

efforts to broaden and deepen the Regional Compact development process,” he said. “AUC would also like to see greater synergy between CAADP and the various agricultural and natural resources management programmes which the COMESA Secretariat coordinates,” Dr. Zewdie concluded.

The meeting was officially opened by Zambia's Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Dr. David Shamunenga who commended COMESA for its efforts to have a Regional CAADP Compact.

He said that Zambia had made tremendous progress in the implementation of CAADP owing to the support rendered by COMESA and other co-operating partners.

COMESA presented a draft roadmap to the participants which, was the focus of the consultations and at the end of the two day meeting, submissions from the different stakeholders, including representatives from regional organisations, development partners, National CAADP focal points from COMESA countries, Non-state-actor representatives from the region, Pan-African institutions and members of the CAADP Joint Action Group on Regional Trade and Infrastructure, indicated the type of roles and milestones to be followed.

AUC supports Ivory Coast's CAADP Business meeting

The AUC, represented by CAADP Adviser on Rural Infrastructure and Markets, Komla Bissi, attended the Cote D'Ivoire's CAADP Business meeting in Abidjan, to support and guide the process of the Agriculture Sector Investment Finance negotiations as regards the implementation of the National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Programme.

Specifically, AUC-DREA's involvement was focused on; (i) supporting Cote D'Ivoire's CAADP Business Meeting and the Agriculture sector investment finance negotiations in support of the implementation of the National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Programme

(ii) contribute to the review and presentation of the Technical Review Report of the National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Programme to support Cote D'Ivoire's efforts aimed at raising resources for the implementation of the Investment Plan.

During the meeting, it was acknowledged that Cote D'Ivoire was implementing CAADP through the National Agricultural Investment Programme (PNIA) 2010-2015, which was formulated with the support of the *Economic Community of West African States* (ECOWAS). In May 2012, Cote D'Ivoire was invited by the G8 chair, the United States of America, to be part of the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition. This commitment was endorsed on September 26th 2012, in New York in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). It is in this regard that the Government of Cote D' Ivoire organized the Business Meeting to validate the financial and technical requirements and more specifically to secure commitment from all stakeholders for the implementation of the Investment Plan.

It is noted that after several years of political, economic and social instability, Cote D'Ivoire is now in a transformation process. The Government of Cote d'Ivoire is using the CAADP as an instrument to regain political stability and investor confidence in the once, West Africa's agrarian giant economy.

Key observations in the meeting noted that there is enthusiasm in the support of the private sector to invest in the agriculture sector and the total commitment made by the private sector was targeted to support two key value chains mainly cocoa and rice. At the time of actual programme implementation, there will be need to support the government through the proposed PPP arrangement to reconsider the support for other value chains to ensure that attention is not diverted from the traditional food crops (such as cassava, maize, plantain, banana and oil seeds) that also hold the potential for food security and incomes.

The CAADP Business meeting which was organized to secure commitment to revitalize the agriculture sector was well attended with over 500 participants from across the globe.

CAADP PP Business meeting identifies actions to sustain CAADP momentum

The CAADP Partnership Platform (PP) identified key actions to sustain the CAADP momentum during its business meeting, jointly convened by the AUC and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 8th to 9th October 2012.

The meeting was attended by over 50 participants representing the AUC, NEPAD Agency, Regional Economic Communities, nine AU Member States, specialized knowledge institutions, farmer organizations as well as representatives of non-state actors and a sizeable number of development partners that provide technical and/or financial support to CAADP implementation.

The meeting, which assessed a six monthly progress report since the last meeting, also deliberated on a range of issues including streamlining reporting mechanisms to inform the CAADP results framework, Joint Action Groups, sustaining the CAADP momentum, Knowledge, Information and Skills (KIS) Support System, fostering partnerships in the CAADP Agenda, and CAADP process financing. The meeting also agreed on key priority actions on each of the discussion themes that are expected to be implemented in the next six months and progress reported on during the next CAADP PP Business Meeting. Interested readers may contact Mr. Boaz Keizire (Keizireb@africa-union.org) for details of agreed actions.

Dublin meeting discusses aligning CGIAR with CAADP

The AUC has been involved in a key engagement on the broader efforts of advancing African agriculture through CAADP, by aligning the work of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) Centers to African Agriculture.

The agricultural reform process in Africa has necessitated the need for international

and global institutions working in support of Africa's agriculture to reshape and reform their visions and strategies. To this effect, there have been a series of reforms initiated by the CGIAR Centres, such as the development of the CGIAR Research Programs (CRPs) which were targeted to support African agriculture through CAADP.

AUC's Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA), represented by its Director, Dr. Abebe Haile Gabriel and Mr. Boaz Keizire, CAADP Advisor, attended a meeting in Dublin, Ireland from 16-19 September 2012, to review and follow up on how to shape the work of CGIAR in line with the African agriculture process under CAADP.

The progress that has been made on CAADP and the recent CGIAR reforms, present an opportunity for this alignment. The alignment processes especially the goals, targets and priorities within CRPs was intended to be linked to CAADP based national and regional agriculture and food security investment plans. Correspondingly, the evidence-based plans that have been established through the CAADP are critical to helping prioritize research investments in the CGIAR systems.

The meeting developed concrete actions of how CAADP-based country and regional agriculture and food security investment plans could inform and be informed by the CGIAR research programs. The meeting identified opportunities to leverage existing relationships to better align around a science agenda for African agriculture. The key input to the meeting by DREA was to define the demand for CGIAR reforms based on a series of principles.

AUC-DREA also explained that CAADP provided a unique opportunity for such an alignment, especially and since, no other region in the world, other than Africa, has a collective continental framework for agricultural growth and transformation. AUC-DREA further argued that few regions would parallel Africa in terms of accessibility, receptiveness and openness at all levels by policy makers to new ideas to foster agricultural growth at times without the necessary scrutiny of which the result has not always been positive.

A case was made that in Africa, there was a collective voice and agreement to country specific Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plans which set the priorities for investment, including agricultural research.

AUC-DREA made a case for two feasible ways for the CGIAR alignment process mainly; (i) the need to respond to those priorities as identified in the country plans i.e., realign CGIAR priorities with the country priorities; (ii) the need to assist countries to refine and set new and emerging priorities and hence develop joint priorities. This was considered as not only feasible but also possible to do. The meeting was informed that mechanisms for alignment existed especially through country and regional processes and structures through working with CAADP country teams, National Agricultural Research Centres, sub-regional organisations and the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA). The meeting also noted that the emerging Knowledge, Information and Skills (KIS) Support architecture was being built along a similar model.

Further, the meeting considered that work under this effort would be treated as a Joint Action Group (JAG) on science and technology agenda, which would periodically report through the CAADP reporting architecture of the annual CAADP PP and Business meetings.

AUC facilitates launch of G8's New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition as part of CAADP implementation

AUC-DREA participated in two key meetings organised by the Governments of Tanzania and Ethiopia, to launch the G8's New Alliance on Food Security and Nutrition, in Dar es Salaam and Addis Ababa respectively. The launch meetings were attended by Mr. Boaz B. Keizire, Technical Advisor of CAADP, to facilitate and reiterate the African ownership and principles of CAADP.

The basis for the launch meetings were on the commitments made by the G8 and African leaders', as well as the private sector to support African agriculture in the context of CAADP, during the launch of the New Alliance on Food Security and Nutrition, at the 2012 G8 Summit. At that meeting, the G8 and selected African leaders agreed to begin with three initial countries of Ghana, Ethiopia and

Tanzania. The launch of country cooperation frameworks is a process where a set of key policy commitments and actions, previously agreed by Government and private sector, are discussed, with other CAADP stakeholders to ensure necessary actions are done to facilitate faster investments on the agreed commodity value chains.

Tanzania and Ethiopia, therefore, scheduled to launch their country cooperation frameworks and discuss agreed commitments between 6th - 7th and 12th September 2012, in Dar es Salaam and Addis Ababa respectively. AUC-DREA has been providing continental perspectives, guiding and supporting the launch processes in the three countries.

Key policy commitments were discussed and agreed, where governments, private sector and development partners consented to scale up investments in specialized value chains within the geographical regions where these value chains are being implemented.

A number of key country policy commitments were discussed to accelerate the implementation of CAADP, by involving the private sector as catalysts. Other notable commitments were made by development partners, mainly G8, to support efforts within the CAADP investment plans. National, regional and international private sector companies pledged and signed specific deals including, their own financial resources to finance the value chains. There were agreements to establish mutually agreed accountability mechanisms with agreed platforms as instruments to implementation.

Upcoming events

African Day for Food and Nutrition Security

October 31, 2012, Addis Ababa

**Launch of the Partnership for
Aflatoxin Control in Africa (PACA)**

October 31, 2012, Addis Ababa