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The Kingdom of Lesotho signs CAADP Compact



Rt Hon, Dr. Thabane(l) during the signing ceremony

MASERU, 6 September, 2013—The Kingdom of Lesotho on September 5, became the 34th African country and the 8th in southern Africa to sign the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Compact after a successful Round-table conference culminating into the endorsement of the Compact.

Lesotho's CAADP Compact set the context for joint sector policy, budgetary and investment dialogue and commitments to, align, scale up and improve the quality of long term public investments and increased leverage of private sector investment financing in support of Lesotho's CAADP and broader agriculture development priorities.

The Compact was signed on behalf of the Kingdom of Lesotho by the Rt Hon, Dr Motsoahae Thomas Thabane, Prime Minister and Head of Government. Other signatories to the Compact

included representatives of, the AUC, NEPAD Agency, SADC, development partners and the UN Agencies, private sector, civil society organizations and farmer organizations.

During the signing ceremony, Prime Minister Thabane reiterated Lesotho's commitment to ensuring a meaningful transformation of the Kingdom's agriculture. The Prime Minister also recalled that the Kingdom had in the past taken a number of measures to foster private sector investment in agriculture and would continue to work with partners to ensure that the required enabling environment was provided for effective private sector participation.

Speaking on behalf of the African Union Commission and the NEPAD Agency, Mr Komla Bissi, AUC Senior CAADP Adviser on Markets, urged the Government and people of Lesotho and stakeholders in the agriculture sector to continue to

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The Kingdom of Lesotho signs CAADP Compact *(continued from page 1)*

work together in order to boost the growth and development of agriculture for the benefit of their people.

He described the signing of the CAADP Compact as a unique opportunity to complement government's efforts and catalyse the contribution of the private sector to the development of the country's agriculture.

By signing the Compact, Lesotho further strengthened its agricultural development efforts to achieve greater impact on the country's economy and food security. More specifically, signing the Compact accorded Lesotho the opportunity to set the framework and parameters for long-term partnership in the agricultural sector and demonstrated the resolve and commitments of government, national stakeholders and development partners to engage jointly and collectively in advancing Lesotho's agriculture development agenda.

The CAADP Roundtable that preceded the actual Compact signing was held on August 4, 2013 and

was attended by more than 300 participants comprising senior Government officials from the Kingdom of Lesotho, representatives of the various ministries responsible for agriculture and rural development, agricultural experts, policymakers, representatives from farmer organizations, the private sector, development associations, Non-Governmental Organizations, representatives of the African Union Commission (AUC), The New Partnership for Africa's Development Planning and Coordinating Agency (NEPAD Agency), and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Unlike many other countries that have signed the CAADP Compact, Lesotho's pre-compact preparations were led by a locally established Country Team under the coordination of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security with facilitation from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and with support from other development partners and the NEPAD Agency. ■

Sudan signs CAADP Compact

The Republic of Sudan on July 31 became the 32nd African Country to sign the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Compact.

The signing ceremony was officiated by Sudanese Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, Hon. Abdelhaleem Ismail Al-Mutaafi, AUC Commissioner for the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, H.E Tumusiime Rhoda Peace and COMESA Secretary General, Sindiso Ngwenya.

A CAADP Compact spells out a Country's common vision and strategy for the agriculture sector agreed upon by all stakeholders to address national priorities. It is also meant to define actions, commitments, partnerships and alliances to guide country policy and investment responses.

Dr. Al-Mutaafi, reaffirmed Sudan's commitment towards CAADP implementation and pledged to mobilize more stakeholders to support the process.

The Sudan CAADP Compact takes into account the country's Agriculture Revival Programme (ARP) and the Economic Recovery Programme 2012-2014.

Commissioner Tumusiime, congratulated Sudan for signing the Compact, assuring Sudan that, "This significant step promises sustained economic growth, food and nutrition security in The Sudan," as CAADP was not only a reaffirmation of commitment by AU



Commissioner Tumusiime (fifth from left) with delegates after the signing ceremony.

Heads of State and Government to the development of Africa, led by sustained investment in agriculture, food and nutrition security, but also envisioned as a fundamental engine and driver of economic growth based on catalysing comprehensive and broad-based public and private sector investment in the entire agricultural value chain.

She further stated that the AUC was cognizant of the high potential of The Sudan to become one of the leading pillars for realizing 'the African Dream', taking CAADP to another level and meeting the vision of Africa becoming food-sufficient and a net exporter of agricultural and agro-processed commodities to the rest of the world.

The Sudanese CAADP Compact was signed by Sudanese Ministers of Agriculture and Irrigation, and Finance and National Economy respectively, the AUC, NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency, COMESA, representatives from the Sudanese Farmer's Union, private sector, civil society and development partners. ■

African Risk Capacity: Uniting the continent to face Climate Change

The African Risk Capacity (ARC) has been established as the newest Specialized Agency of the AUC, under the leadership of the AUC Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, H.E. Tumusiime Rhoda Peace.

This follows a unanimous endorsement by AU Heads of State and Government in July 2012, when Commissioner Tumusiime, opened a Conference of Plenipotentiaries in November, during which 18 AU Member States signed the ARC Establishment Agreement, establishing the Agency as a legal entity. To date, four additional Member States have since signed the agreement. These 22 signatories were invited to the inaugural Conference of the Parties (COP), presided over by the Prime Minister of Senegal, H.E. Abdoul M'baye, in February 2013 in Dakar. Among the decisions taken, the COP elected the Agency's Governing Board, chaired by Hon. Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Coordinating Minister for the Economy and Minister of Finance for Nigeria.

The establishment of the ARC is meant to equip African Governments to be able to respond to the effects of climate change and natural disasters adequately.

Africa accounts for less than 3 percent of global emissions, yet the continent is widely recognized to be the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

As currently structured, the system for responding to natural disasters is not as timely or equitable as it should, and could be. International assistance through the appeals system is secured on a largely ad hoc basis after disaster strikes, and countries are forced to reallocate monies in national budgets from essential development activities to crisis response. Only then can relief be mobilised toward the people who need it most - often too late. Lives are lost, assets are depleted, and development gains reversed - forcing more people into chronic hunger, malnutrition and destitution across the continent.

The ARC allows African governments to break out of this cycle,

by offering modern financial tools, like cost-effective insurance, that allow to transfer the burden of climate risk away from the most vulnerable and least equipped to shoulder it to a risk pool that can handle it much better.

To date, six ARC Member States have customized Africa RiskView — the software application that serves as the technical engine behind ARC — and submitted Operation Plans to the ARC Secretariat. These plans will be reviewed in September by the ARC Peer Review Mechanism, composed of these States' peer sovereigns who have had this power delegated to them by the COP. The ARC is currently looking to expand the risk pool through a second round of African countries, and continues to work on a flood model to expand its services to its Member States. The ARC treaty is currently open for signature at the AU Commission. ■



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AUC and FARA sign MoU to enhance strategic partnership in Agriculture, Science and Technology

The African Union Commission (AUC) and the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) on July 18, in Accra, Ghana, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to broaden the strategic partnership between the two organisations in strategic areas including agriculture, Science and Technology, among others.

The MoU was signed by AUC Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA), H.E Tumusiime Rhoda Peace and FARA Board Chairman, Dr. Tiemoko Yo, during the opening ceremony of the Comprehensive Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) day celebration held at the Africa Agriculture Science week in Accra, Ghana.

Several African Ministers of Agriculture officiated at the event in addition to other senior leaders from governments, international organisations and think tanks in the agricultural sector.

By signing the MoU, AUC committed to provide leadership and coordination support in the implementation of the jointly agreed initiatives, while engaging FARA to provide technical support in the design, development and implementation of continental initiatives on promoting agricultural research and innovation for development in Africa and in support of CAADP country plans.

FARA on the other hand agreed to provide strategic advice to the AUC on promoting African agriculture transformation for economic growth and development through enhancing



Commissioner Tumusiime(l) shakes hands with Dr. Yo, after signing the MoU

agricultural research, innovation, science and technology. Through the MoU, FARA will further provide strategic guidance and support to the development and implementation of the Agriculture Science Agenda for Africa and Agriculture Education and Training.

The MoU will remain in force for four years effective from its date of signing.

During the official opening of the CAADP Day, Commissioner Tumusiime said the CAADP Day was a major event in the African Agriculture Transformation Agenda, which aims to raise further awareness and the profile of CAADP as an African owned, driven and African led priority framework.

“The theme of the CAADP Day “Africa feeding Africa” sets the scene for reflecting on how to improve agricultural production to eradicate hunger and poverty in the continent. The CAADP Day is an important event to reflect and discuss for an improved delivery on CAADP implementation for the

African people,” said Mrs. Tumusiime.

She also congratulated the Government of Ghana for having met the Millennium Development target of Goal Number 1, of Ending hunger and reducing poverty by half by 2015 and having passed the stage of becoming a Middle income country.

Several ministers reiterated their commitment to support the implementation of CAADP in their respective countries. The Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security in Sierra Leone, Dr. Sam Sesay, for example, called for a review of CAADP commitments mainly the 10% public spending and 6% agricultural growth. The Ministers specifically further called for the need to be concrete on how to guide African Heads of State as they look to recommit themselves in 2014, the AU declared Year of Agriculture and Food Security and Commemoration of 10 years of CAADP. ■

High-level Meeting adopts Declaration for unified and focused action to end hunger and malnutrition by 2025

Heads of State and Government of African Union Member States, together with representatives of international organizations, civil society organizations, private sector, cooperatives, farmers, youths, academia and other partners on July 1, 2013 unanimously adopted a Declaration to end hunger in Africa by 2025.

The declaration was adopted during the High Level Meeting of African and International Leaders on a **Renewed Partnership for a Unified Approach to end Hunger in Africa by 2025 within the CAADP Framework**, initiated and organized by the African Union Commission, FAO, and the Lula Institute along with broad non-state actors.

By adopting the declaration, the Heads of State and Government stressed their resolution to end

hunger in Africa by 2025 in line with the process of sustaining the CAADP momentum.

They also reaffirmed their determination to accelerate the implementation of the Maputo Declaration (July 2003) on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa as outlined within the CAADP framework.

The declaration further committed the leaders to advocate for a combination of policies to promote sustainable agricultural development with social protection, for a budgetary allocation focused on the poor and one that recognized the importance of non-state actors to ensure food security.

Development Partners were also urged to strengthen the renewed partnership for ending hunger in their cooperation with Africa within the CAADP framework.

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Heads of State and Government during the HLM

High-level Meeting adopts Declaration for unified and focused action to end hunger and malnutrition by 2025 (continued from page 5)

AUC Chairperson, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma said decisions made at the High-Level Meeting would be discussed by the African Union Assembly in January 2014.

However, in working towards meeting commitments made, the African Union has declared 2014 as the Year of Agriculture and Food Security and the commemoration of the 10 year anniversary of CAADP.

The synergy from combining CAADP with its renewed momentum and social protection under the partnership for **Unified Approaches to End Hunger in Africa** justifies the ambition to achieve the following objectives:

- Eliminate hunger and poverty by 2025, in the same time frame as for the Sustaining CAADP Momentum (SCM);

- In the countries implementing the partnership's approach, reduce hunger by 40 per cent by 2017;
- Improve access to food all year round, reducing the need for external food aid within 10 years;
- Prioritize defeat of stunting, especially in children under 2 years, and to provide nutrition of pregnant women and young children;
- Double the productivity of staples within 5 to 10 years, without compromising the sustainability of farming systems; and
- Reduce food waste and losses to levels no worse than global averages, with the ambition to minimise them.

The full declaration can be accessed at:
<http://pages.au.int/endhunger>. ■

AUC supports Guinea CAADP Post Compact High-level Business Meeting

Following the signing of the Guinea CAADP Compact on 6th-7th April 2010, the Government of the Republic of Guinea hosted the Agricultural Sector High Level Business Meeting on 3rd and 4th June 2013 to launch the National Agriculture Sector Investment Plan (PNIASA; 2013-2017).

In the same spirit of boosting agriculture productivity, Guinea also submitted the PNIASA to the GAFSP on 05th June 2013.

The Business Meeting chaired by the Prime Minister, H.E Mohamed Saïd Fofana, was attended by Ministers, state Ministers, Senior Government Officials, representatives of the African Union Commission

(AUC), the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), ECOWAS, civil society, farmer organizations, private sector and representatives of the development partners supporting agriculture and rural development.

The main objectives of the meeting were to receive, discuss and launch the PNIASA, make immediate financial commitments and to initiate the process of mobilizing resources for funding the financial gaps in the PNIASA budget.

Further, the roadmap of the implementation of the NASIP was presented and discussed by the participants and the PNIASA was launched by the State Minister of Finance.

In terms of target, Guinea intends to achieve 10.3% annual growth rate in the agriculture sector and reduce food insecurity to halve poverty by 2015 to result in 7.3% of the overall economy under full implementation of the PNIASA.

The AUC committed to work with the Government to facilitate peer review, capacity strengthening for implementation of the PNIASA, tracking of outputs and impacts, benchmarking, and learning in support of each of the programs under the PNIASA in the spirit of the commitment to the Maputo Declaration and overall principles of CAADP. ■

African agriculture, a key focus of the G8

AUC DREA took part in the Pre-G8 Meetings in London, in preparation for the G8 Main Summit in, Northern Ireland.

AUC Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture H.E. Rhoda Peace Tumusiime and Senior CAADP Coordinator, Mr. Boaz Keizire, were in London from June 7-9 to attend three key sessions: The inaugural meeting of the Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition; the High-level Event on Nutrition for Growth and the session on the promotion of African Agriculture New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition.

The session on the promotion of African Agriculture under the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition focused on accelerating investments and reforms in African agriculture in support of CAADP. The event showcased progress, launched new country partnerships and took forward initiatives to deepen impact on the ground. In attendance at the important event, were the President of Malawi, H.E Joyce Banda, Vice President of Brazil, H.E Michel Temer, former UN Secretary General, Kofi Anan, former President of Ireland, H.E Mary Robinson, former President of Ghana, H.E John Kufuor, and Bill Gates of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, among other key officials.

In their remarks, all leaders applauded Africa's prioritisation of Agriculture and demonstrated by committing 2014 as a year of agriculture and food security and commemoration of 10 years of CAADP. They further called on Africa's leaders to continue championing the role of agriculture.



H.E. Tumusiime the AUC Commissioner for Rural Economy and agriculture, Bill Gates of Gates Foundation, Akin Adesina, Minister of Agriculture of Nigeria and H.E. Kufuor, former President of Ghana.

AUC also attended the Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition, co-chaired by the former President of Ghana, H.E John Kufuor and the former Government Chief Scientist of the UK, Sir John Buddington.

The panel reviewed emerging research evidence on agriculture and food systems with a view to providing global focus and guidance on how to scale up nutrition efforts and measure performance in countries.

Meanwhile, the High-level Event on Nutrition for Growth focused on the Theme: 'Beating hunger through business and science.' It aimed at contributing to the UN Secretary General H.E Ban Ki-moon's challenge to prevent millions of children from being undernourished, malnourished, stunted and wasted. The meeting received findings from the work and studies on science and innovations to address agricultural development as well as new commitments, both financial and policy, to scale up nutrition.

It was agreed to put in place a mechanism to track delivery on these commitments.

Consequently, donors secured new commitments of up to US\$ 4.5 billion to tackle under-nutrition, with an estimated US\$19 billion committed for improved nutrition outcomes from nutrition sensitive investments between 2013 and 2020. Some of the key commitments came from the United Kingdom which committed 650m pounds between 2013 and 2020; Netherlands 150m Euros, European Union Commission 410m pounds and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will invest US\$ 862.7m between now and 2020. Other commitments came from the Children Investment Fund amounting to US\$793m for 2013 to 2020, while Canada committed US\$145m and Save the Children committed US\$675m from 2013 to 2020. ■

AUC supports Uganda on integrating agriculture and food security risk management policies and tools in its CAADP investment plan

Agricultural and food Security risks occur with significant probability. These risks can be in the form of shocks and hazards which have negative effects on production and productivity, consumption, trade, market and value addition. Recurrent agriculture and food crises often tend to undermine the chances of achieving such development objectives as outlined in the CAADP Framework. Countries and regions have up to recently mainly set up mechanisms to manage crises and have moderately attempted to prevent them. However, the recurrence of crises necessitates paying greater attention to risk management approaches in particular, in the arid and semi-arid regions of the continent.

The Uganda CAADP risk management mainstreaming workshop followed in the wake of a regional workshop for East and Southern Africa in Johannesburg in 2012. It was planned to set pace for country-specific efforts to integrate elements of risk management into a CAADP-informed national agriculture and

food security investment plan. The outcomes of the workshop are expected to help in developing strategies that could be adapted by other countries as well as helping the Regional Economic Communities prepare themselves to roll out and adequately support country teams in the process of mainstreaming risk management into their NAFSIPS.

Consequently, the overall goal of the workshop and follow up process was to ensure that risk management interventions are planned, coordinated, budgeted and implemented as part of Regional and National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plans. The focus of the workshop was, therefore, to develop specific orientation guidelines as to how risk management can be integrated at the regional and national (Uganda) levels with a focus on the various tools, institutions and capacities that need to be enhanced or put in place.

AUC-DREA's engagement in the workshop was in order to share knowledge and information on current efforts by the the

commission in coordinating, facilitating and mobilizing relevant initiatives under the guidance of the CAADP Framework.

The main outcome of the workshop was a draft roadmap for implementation of risk management in Uganda, institutional arrangements, coordination mechanisms and monitoring and evaluation interventions. In order to arrive at these outcomes, the Uganda meeting participants went through structured stocktaking process, using a set of tools prepared for the purpose.

The workshop created high expectations, especially with Uganda being the first of the countries to start implementing the initiative (mainstreaming agriculture and food security risk management into CAADP). A key recommendation from the meeting was to explore ways of setting up an agriculture and livestock insurance scheme to encourage small-scale farmers to continue producing and scaling up on investing in agriculture. ■

Upcoming events

- **October 27-31, 2013- Abuja-Nigeria:** Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Partnership Platform Business meeting
- **October 30th 2013-Niamey, Niger:** Commemoration of the Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security (ADFNS). This year's commemoration is themed, 'Toward an African Renaissance: Achieving the Right to Adequate Food and Nutrition.
- **November 12-13, 2013-Dakar-Senegal:** ReSAKKS Annual Conference