



RESOLUTIONS OF THE AU JOINT CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

AUCC IN ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, • 01-02 MAY 2014



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WE, the Ministers of Agriculture, Rural Development, Fisheries and Aquaculture, having met at the AUCC in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 01-02 May 2014, on the Theme of the Year of Agriculture and Food Security: *“Transforming Africa’s Agriculture for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods through Harnessing Opportunities for Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development”*.

RECOGNISING and appreciating the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government for having declared, during its 19th Ordinary Session, the Year 2014 to be the Year of Agriculture and Food Security, marking the 10th Anniversary of the Adoption of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

ACKNOWLEDGING the progress made in the realisation of the 2003 Maputo Declaration on Agriculture as enshrined in the CAADP framework, the challenges faced, the important lessons learnt over the last decade through implementation of CAADP, and reflecting on the prospects and opportunities for accelerated agricultural growth and transformation through sustaining the momentum.

CONVINCED that accelerated agricultural growth and transformation is a sine qua non for achieving Africans’ aspirations for shared prosperity, improved livelihoods and dignity, as well as peace and security.

STRESSING the strategic significance of ensuring that all segments of our populations, particularly women, the youth, and other disadvantaged sectors of our societies, must participate and directly benefit from the growth opportunities.

ALSO convinced that success in an inclusive agricultural growth and transformation will have the most direct, positive consequential impact on achieving broader sustainable development goals in Africa, including poverty reduction, greater social equity and better environmental stewardess.

RECOGNIZING the need for enhancing conservation and sustainable use of fisheries and aquaculture resources through coherent policies as well as governance and institutional arrangements at national and regional levels,

ACKNOWLEDGING the potential of the aquaculture sector to generate wealth, social benefits and contribute to the development of the African economy, and the importance of fish and fish products in food and nutrition security and livelihoods;

CONSIDERING the need to harness the benefits of Africa’s fisheries and aquaculture endowments through development of value chains, accelerated trade and marketing

EMPHASISING recognizing the role of research and science in transforming fisheries and aquaculture production and productivity to exploit its full potential

CONCERNED over the limited value addition in fisheries and aquaculture coupled with the high level of post-harvest losses especially in small scales fisheries, and taking note of the absence of specific financial mechanism to support SMEs in fisheries and aquaculture.



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1. Commend the African Union Commission (AUC) and the NEPAD Coordination and Planning Agency (NPCA) for the articulation of a vision and clear goals for Accelerated Africa's Agricultural Growth and Transformation to be achieved during the next decade, on which we deliberated during our meeting;
2. Endorse the Report of the Senior Officials and Experts of Agriculture, Rural Development, Fisheries and Aquaculture, who met from 29-30 April 2014; Also endorse the key messages that arose from the interactive discussions that we held with stakeholders on the basis of the proposed vision and goals.
3. Hereby adopt the following Resolutions:
 - a) **On Acceleration of inclusive growth of Agricultural Production and Productivity, to:**
 - i. At least double the current level of productivity, focussing on inputs, irrigation and mechanization, Sustain Annual sector growth in Agricultural GDP at least 6%
 - ii. Support production and utilisation of cost-effective and quality agricultural inputs, mechanisation and agrochemicals (for crops, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture) that are affordable and accessible to all stakeholders.
 - iii. Invest in efficient and effective water management and irrigation infrastructure to facilitate a stable and predictable water supply system, as well as affordable, reliable renewable energy for agricultural production.
 - iv. Put in place measures and mechanisms for ensuring equal access to opportunities, including land, productive assets, knowledge information and skills, for women, the youth, pastoral groups and other socially disadvantaged groups
 - v. Support professionalization of smallholder producers and family agriculture through vocational training programmes
 - vi. Endorse the Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa (S3A) to increase the level of ATFP annual growth through technology generation, dissemination and adoption, and skilled human resources
 - vii. Endorse the Guiding Principles on Large Scale Land Based Investments (LSLBI) in Africa, prepared by the Joint AUC-AfDB-ECA Land Policy Initiative that is aimed at assisting Member States to generate an optimum benefit from such investments.



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- b) On harnessing markets and trade opportunities for transformation and shared prosperity, to:**
- i. Reduce poverty through agriculture by half, through among other things, creating job opportunities for at least 30% of the youth in agricultural value chains.
 - ii. Triple Intra-African Trade
 - iii. Accelerate intra and inter-regional trade in Africa aimed at bolstering demand for African agricultural products, including simplifying and formalising the current trade practices.
 - iv. Fast-track establishment of Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) and transition to a continental Common External Tariff (CET) scheme to promote intra-African value-addition and trade in food and agriculture, without compromising quality and standards
 - v. Reform policies and institutions to facilitate investment in markets and trade infrastructure and promote inclusive regional agricultural value chain development, focussing on strategically selected agricultural commodities
 - vi. Commit to coordination mechanisms put in place at continental level to promote African common position on agriculture-related international trade negotiations and partnership agreements.
 - vii. Strengthen the capacities of smallholder producers in the areas of entrepreneurship, leadership and organisation development, negotiations and entry to markets including contracting.
 - viii. Reduce PHL at least by half. Invest in infrastructure for market and value-chain development at national, regional and continental levels, including, local manufacturing transport, energy, ICT, post-harvest handling, processing, storage and distribution.
 - ix. Support and facilitate preferential entry and participation for women and youth in gainful and attractive agri-business opportunities.
 - x. Promote the establishment of platforms for multi-actors interactions.
- c) On achievement of food and nutrition security goals, to**
- i. Commit to Zero Hunger by 2025, reduce stunting by 50%
 - ii. Take concrete measures that ensure good governance and necessary policy reform and legal frameworks to prioritise food and nutrition security agenda towards meeting the 2025 ending hunger goal.



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- iii. Develop and operationalise social protection packages and agro-entrepreneurship programs that target rural smallholders, especially women and youth
 - iv. Develop and apply context-specific and realistic indicators for tracking food and nutrition security, considering the complexity of the food and nutrition security issue
 - v. Prioritize livestock and integrate animal welfare issues as an important part of agriculture development and transformation and as a key strategy towards realizing the food and nutrition security goals.
 - vi. Develop an African position on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and capacity for Africa to take advantage of the opportunities.
 - vii. Strengthen strategic food and cash reserves to respond to food shortages occasioned by periodic prolonged droughts or other disasters/emergencies
 - viii. Strengthen early warning systems to facilitate advanced and proactive responses to disasters and emergencies with food and nutrition security implications
 - ix. Target priority geographic areas and community groups for interventions on Food and Nutrition
 - x. Encourage and facilitate increased consumption of locally produced food items, including the promotion of innovative school feeding programs that use food items sourced from the local farming community
 - xi. Enhance the nutritive quality of food items through fortification of necessary elements.
- d) **On enhancing resilience of Africa's agriculture to climate change and other types of hazards, to**
- i. ensure for at least 30% of farm/pastoral households to be resilient to shocks
 - ii. Support the integration of the resilience-building agenda into Africa's contribution to the post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, sustainable development agenda, and climate change.
 - iii. Accelerate implementation of the Climate Change Response Strategies at national level and the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and its Programme of Action in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA)
 - iv. Support capacity development and increase investments for resilience building initiatives, including social security for rural workers



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- v. Integrate climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction programmes and mainstream both into NAIPs and RAIPs
 - vi. Strengthen and actively participate in continental, regional, and national platforms for enhanced coordination, experience sharing and mutual learning
 - vii. Improve availability and access by smallholder farmers to reliable and up to date climate and risk information, knowledge, technology and instruments (e.g., crop and livestock insurance) to facilitate climate-resilient and risk-informed agricultural development process through investments on climate and weather information services
 - viii. Promote the conservation and development of crops varieties and livestock breeds that can withstand and adapt to harsh climate conditions, including use of indigenous genetic resources
 - ix. Improve risk management and resilience capacity for the most vulnerable groups, including women, children, and socially disadvantaged groups.
 - x. Prioritize the vulnerable ecosystems such as forests, arid and semi-arid lands, soil health, soil erosion, biodiversity, etc., where the challenges of desertification and land degradation are acute.
 - xi. Develop and implement in-country pilot projects on climate change and desertification impacts on agriculture, for possible scaling up of best practices and strengthen resilience.
 - xii. Set realistic targets on additional number of farm households practicing climate smart agriculture by 2025
- e) **On Enhancing Public-Private Partnerships and Investment Financing for African Agriculture, to:**
- i. Sustain the momentum of allocating an increased percentage of national annual budgets to agriculture, in line with the 10% minimum commitment, also putting in place measures to ensure efficiency and effectiveness of these investments.
 - ii. Put in place mechanisms and systems to recognize and appreciate performance of Member States with respect to progress on key commitments agreed upon.
 - iii. Establish and/or strengthen inclusive public-private partnerships for at least five (5) priority agricultural commodity value chains with strong linkage to smallholder agriculture.
 - iv. Put in place and/or strengthen financing schemes that are friendly to smallholder enterprises to support their transition to viable businesses.



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- v. Create multi-stakeholder platforms to promote mutual financing mechanisms.
 - vi. Promote and prioritize local resources mobilization for agriculture investment to discourage heavy dependence on external sources of funding that may limit a sense of ownership and buy-in by farmers and other stakeholders.
 - vii. Establish and strengthen the capacities of domestic apex private sector intermediary institutions for inclusive facilitation and coordination to ensure engagement of private sector in CAADP implementation.
- f) **On harnessing the potentials of fisheries and aquaculture resources, to:**
- i. Endorse the AU Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa
 - ii. undertake reforms to address governance of fisheries and aquaculture and develop institutions that lead to sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in line with the AU policy framework and reform strategy for fisheries and aquaculture
 - iii. develop fisheries and aquaculture as an integral component of sustaining the CAADP momentum results framework
 - iv. scale-up integrated aquaculture development as a means of increasing rural productivity and food security and nutrition
 - v. accelerate trade by developing fish value chains, promoting responsible and equitable fish trade and marketing in order to significantly harness the benefits of Africa's fisheries and aquaculture endowments
- g) **On Sustaining the CAADP Momentum Results Framework, to:**
- i. Commit the Principles and Values of the CAADP Process
 - ii. Endorse the CAADP Results Framework as a key tool:
 - a) to translate Africa's agricultural development goals into tangible targets; to track, monitor and report on progress as well as facilitating mutual learning and accountability
 - b) to foster alignment and coordination and rallying multi-sectorial efforts towards common goals
 - c) to accompany further planning and programming for new programmes



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- iii. Strengthen Africa's capacity for knowledge and data generation and management to support evidence based planning and implementation
- iv. Strengthen multi-institutional platforms for regular peer review, mutual learning and mutual accountability.
- v. Commit to an Agricultural Review Process to be conducted every two years; and a mid-term review, after five years, of the 2015-2025 CAADP key goals.

4. Request:

- a. The AU Commission and NPCA to develop an implementation strategy and roadmap that facilitates translation into results, of the vision and goals of the CAADP 2025 Africa Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation (3AGTG 2025);
- b. The AU Commission and NPCA, in collaboration with partners to develop mechanisms that enhance Africa's capacity for knowledge and data generation and management to strengthen evidence based planning and implementation.
- c. The AU Commission and NPCA, in collaboration with African relevant scientific institutions, to undertake a study to explore the possibility of developing an African position on GMOs with a view to taking advantage of the opportunities that this may present.
- d. The AU Commission and NPCA to institutionalize a system for peer review that encourages good performance on commitments and periodically recognize exemplary performance through awards.
- e. The AU Commission and RECs to facilitate the acceleration of economic integration to boost intra-Africa trade in food and agriculture.
- f. The AU Commission, NPCA and RECs to establish African Centres of Excellence for Aquaculture, Capture fisheries, biodiversity studies and oceanography to enhance capacity for fisheries and aquaculture research.
- g. The RECs to support the efforts of Member States in developing value chains, promoting responsible and equitable fish trade and marketing, through significantly harnessing the benefits of Africa's fisheries and aquaculture endowments
- h. Development Partners to rally their technical and financial support in a harmonized and coordinated manner behind implementation of these resolutions.



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5. Recommend the Assembly to endorse the following commitments on Africa Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation Goals to be achieved by 2025 (3AGTGs 2025):
- a) **Commitment to the CAADP Process and the 10% public spending target**
 - b) **Commitment to Zero hunger**
 - i. Productivity : at least double productivity (focusing on Inputs, irrigation, mechanization)
 - ii. Post-harvest loss : reduce PHL at least by half
 - iii. Nutrition: reduce stunting by half
 - c) **Commitment to reduce poverty through agriculture by half.**
 - i. Sustain Annual sector growth in Agricultural GDP at least 6%
 - ii. Establish and/or strengthen inclusive public-private partnerships for at least five (5) priority agricultural commodity value chains with strong linkage to smallholder agriculture.
 - iii. Create job opportunities for at least 30% of the youth in agricultural value chains.
 - d) **Commitment to triple Intra-African Trade**
 - e) **Commitment to ensuring for at least 30% of farm/pastoral households to be resilient to shocks**
 - f) **Commitment to the CAADP Result Framework and to an Agricultural Review Process every two years.**



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