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Rural Economy and Agriculture DREA Newsletter



15TH CAADP PP CALLS FOR ENHANCED TRADE AND MARKET ACCESS FOR AGRICULTURE TRANSFORMATION

"Eliminating 90 percent of import tariffs within Africa is predicted to yield a 52 percent growth in trade," said Kenyan Vice President H.E William Ruto.

Speaking when he officially opened the 15th Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Partnership Platform (PP) themed, "Enhancing Trade and Market Access for Accelerated Agriculture Transformation," H.E Ruto said the move to do so should be informed by a conviction that giving up revenues from tariffs for earnings from trade was an optimal trade off.

He highlighted the advantages of the recently launched AU African

Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the boost in trade that it provides the continent.

H.E Ruto further emphasized that commitment to agricultural transformation ought to be reflected in the most critical policy instrument, which is the budget and highlighted that CAADP was increasingly becoming cardinal to the continent's problem solving and Africa's development.

AUC Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, H.E. Amb. Josefa Sacko reiterated the call for accelerated agricultural transformation as a means to boosting the continent's economy.

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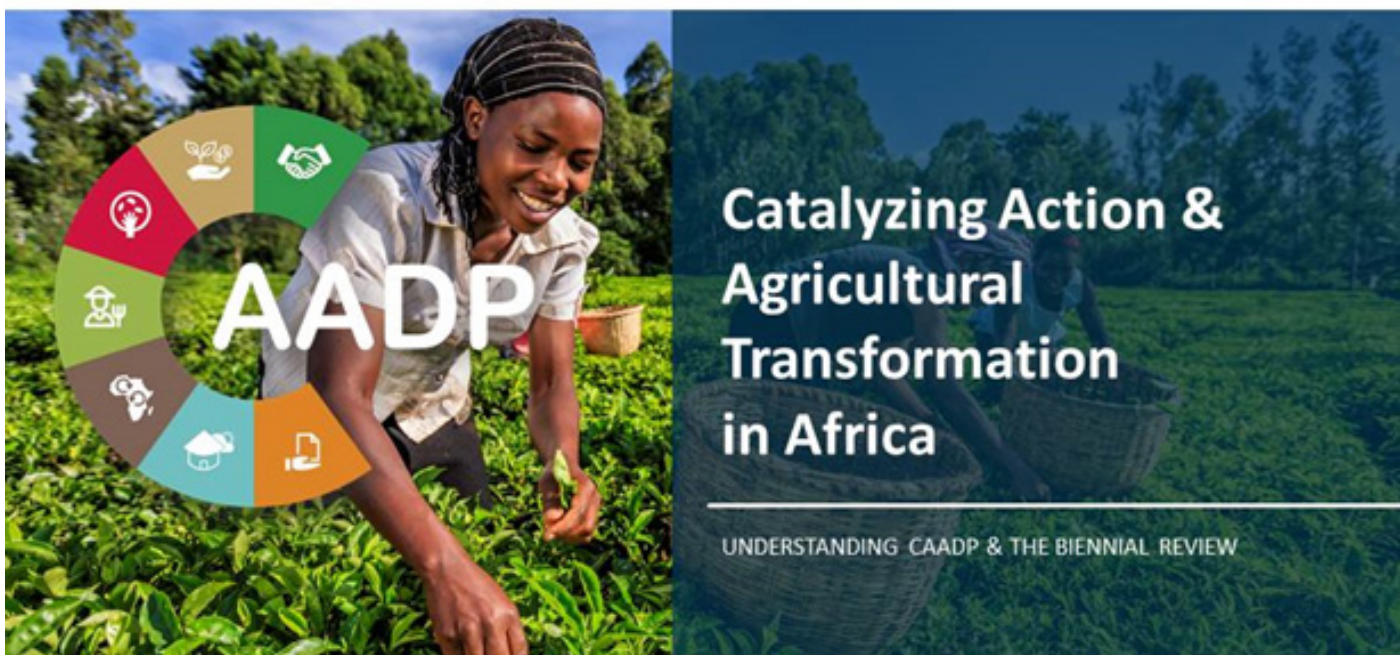
"We all need to work hand in hand to agree on the roadmap and key policy actions that will position the agriculture sector to take full advantage of the single African market of 1.3 billion people and a cumulative GDP of over \$3.4 trillion," said Amb. Josefa Sacko. "We can make agriculture transformation happen by 2025. As we continue to celebrate the recently launched African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), let us not only debate but take action on how to attract funding from public and private sectors to enhance intra-African trade and catalyze agriculture transformation in Africa."

The signing and ratification of the AU's AfCFTA agreement is an opportunity to accelerate growth and sustainable investment by increasing investment and trade, including trade in agricultural commodities.

Amb. Sacko said in order to foster agriculture transformation, AUC and AUDA/NEPAD were proposing an additional CAADP intervention; the Common Africa Agro Parks (CAAPs) that would take advantage of, and consolidate the AfCFTA.

Other dignitaries present during the opening ceremony included Ministers of Agriculture from 15 countries; permanent secretaries; development partners; NSAs, ambassadors, private sector and senior representatives of Regional Economic Communities.

The 15th CAADP PP organised by the AUC and AUDA/NEPAD presented African countries and their development and technical partners with the opportunity to reflect together, share best practices and identify strategies and policies to foster integration, enhanced market access and intra-regional trade in agricultural commodities and services.



AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION LAUNCHES DIGITAL TOOLKIT AND KNOWLEDGE COMPENDIUM FOR ADVOCATING FOR ACTION ON AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION IN AFRICA

The African Union Commission in conjunction with AUDA/NEPAD launched a new digital toolkit and Knowledge Compendium for African leaders, food security champions and institutions to advocate and educate the public and policymakers about the continental goals aimed at reducing poverty and increasing food security on the continent.

Launched on June 12th, 2019, the digital communications toolkit and compendium targets users including AU Heads of State and Government; government officials, media, regional intergovernmental organizations; non-state actor organizations, farmer organizations etc.

The toolkit focuses on the core concepts of CAADP and the results of the January 2018 Inaugural Biennial Review (BR) Report on the Implementation of the Malabo Declaration. The results of the 2018 report showed that 20 of the 47 countries were on track and 27 countries were not on track towards achieving the Malabo Declaration commitments. Overall, the 2018 Biennial Review indicates that African Union States are not on-track to meet CAADP/Malabo goals by 2025. The African Union is currently supporting countries and Regional Economic

Communities in the process of the 2nd Biennial Review, which will be released and reported on in January 2020 at the AU Assembly. The Knowledge Compendium focuses on the domestication of the Malabo Declaration into country national agriculture investments plans and processes.

Developed in collaboration with development partners, the communications toolkit and knowledge compendium help food security champions and leaders facilitate easier communication and dissemination of CAADP and the BR across a variety of audiences and platforms. Further, the Toolkit includes a downloadable PowerPoint presentation and interactive set of online tools to help users explore the results of the 2018 BR report. The PowerPoint presentation includes; introductory slides about the history of CAADP; the design, intention and results of the 2018 BR process including individual country scorecards; and information about the 2020 BR process. The online interactive version includes the ability to view interactive maps by commitment area, view individual country and regional scorecards and results, compare country



scores side-by-side, view all scores side-by-side and download resources and tools, including the PowerPoint presentations and the Knowledge Compendium on Malabo Domestication.

The Toolkit is available online at <https://www.au.int/caadp/toolkit>

The Knowledge Compendium is available online at www.nepad.org



PAN AFRICAN VETERINARY VACCINE CENTRE SET TO ENHANCE OPERATIONS

A handover ceremony was held at the African Union (AU) Headquarters for the Basis of Design (BOD) for the new AU-Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (AU-PANVAC) laboratory facility. United States of America's Ambassador to the AU, H.E. Mrs Mary Beth Leonard, handed over the BOD to African Union Commission's Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, H.E. Amb. Josefa Sacko.

AU-PANVAC is presently the only Organization mandated by the AU to provide International Independent Quality Control of all vaccines used in Africa and in addition, has the mandate to produce and distribute essential biological reagents for the surveillance and diagnosis of animal diseases.

Currently, PANVAC operates from laboratories inherited from the Ethiopian Government in the seventies and scattered within the National Veterinary Institute facility. The establishment of a new laboratory for AU-PANVAC to be based in Debre-Zeit, Ethiopia, is expected to consolidate all the activities of the Centre at one site and ensure that the activities are implemented according to best practices and in a safe and secure manner. The new facility will include the Continental Vaccine Bank, Quality Control Unit, Biological Reagent Production facility and a Training Centre amongst others.

H.E. Sacko acknowledged the huge support provided by the US Government through its Biological Engagement Program, a part of the US Defense

Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA); to the African Union through AU-PANVAC and indicated that the handover was the result of the transformative power of partnership between the AUC and the US Government.

THE 1ST AU/FAO/WHO INTERNATIONAL FOOD SAFETY CONFERENCE; AN INTERNATIONAL PUSH TO IMPROVE FOOD SAFETY

On February 12th 2019, the 1st International Food Safety Conference was organized by the African Union (AU), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The meeting called for greater international cooperation in order to prevent unsafe food from causing ill health and hampering progress towards sustainable development. The meeting explored key actions to ensure the availability of, and access to safe food. This will require a strengthened commitment at the highest political level to scale up food safety in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

“The partnership between the AU and the UN has been long standing and can be seen as one of the most strategic. Reinforcing this, in January 2018, we have signed the AU–UN framework for the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development” said African Union Commission

Chairperson H.E Moussa Faki Mahamat. “This first AU/FAO/WHO International Food Safety Conference is an illustration of this unrelenting partnership. The African Union Commission greatly appreciates this alliance.” he added.

Food contaminated with bacteria, viruses, parasites, toxins or chemicals causes more than 600 million people to fall ill and 420 000 to die worldwide every year. Illness linked to unsafe food overloads healthcare systems and damages economies, trade and tourism. The impact of unsafe food costs low- and middle-income economies around \$95 billion in lost productivity each year. Because of these threats, food safety must be a paramount goal at every stage of the food chain, from production to harvest, processing, storage, distribution, preparation and consumption, conference participants stressed.

A follow-up event, the International Forum on Food Safety and Trade focusing on inter-linkages between food safety and trade and hosted by WTO in Geneva took place from 23-24 April.

AUC – DREA SIGNS TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT WITH FAO TO BOOST INTRA-AFRICAN TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES AND SERVICES

H.E. Amb. Josefa Sacko, AUC Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture and the Assistant Director General of FAO, Regional Office for Africa, Dr. Abebe Haile Gabriel, signed a Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) on “Support for Boosting Intra-African Trade in Agricultural Commodities and Services to Advance Implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement.”

The two-year project signed in March 2019, is the outcome of discussions between AUC’s Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA) and FAO on strengthening the capacities of DREA, selected Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and AU Member States to formulate regional and national frameworks on agricultural trade. This initiative will contribute to Commitment 5 of the 2014 Malabo Declaration – on boosting intra-African trade in agricultural commodities and services - to advance implementation of the AfCFTA. It comes at a time when the AfCFTA agreement is set to come into force, with the minimum threshold of 22 ratifications of the agreement having been reached in April 2019.

Despite the impressive economic growth rates experienced on the continent in recent years, Africa has remained a marginal player in both domestic and world trade. The relatively low performance of intra-African trade in agricultural commodities is of particular concern. Therefore, to take advantage of fast-growing intra-African market opportunities, African agriculture must undergo a structural transformation that entails shifting from highly diversified and subsistence-oriented production systems towards more market-oriented ones. The project seeks to tackle challenges at the policy and institutional levels by convening key stakeholders at the continental, regional and national levels to formulate policies that will make an impact in terms of increased employment and incomes for actors in selected agricultural value chains. Additionally, the project aims to achieve the outcome of enhanced

intra-African trade in agricultural commodities and services through improved policy and institutional capacities and systems for trade.

Four outputs will contribute to the achievement of the project’s expected impact and outcome: (1) improved policy frameworks at the continental, regional and national levels; (2) strengthened institutional mechanisms for agricultural trade; (3) enhanced knowledge sharing, cooperation and information exchange on agricultural trade to support AfCFTA implementation; and (4) increased capacity for monitoring and reporting on agricultural trade performance at the continental, regional and national levels. A notable contribution of the project, to complement the African Trade Observatory being established by the Department of Trade and Industry of AUC, will be the establishment of an agricultural trade portal to disseminate market information and knowledge products to farmers and other actors in the agribusiness value chain to promote intra-regional trade in agricultural commodities and services.

The project will operate in six recipient countries, i.e. Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar and South Africa, as well as two Regional Economic Communities – COMESA and ECOWAS.



CONTROLLING YOUTH MIGRATION THROUGH SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT: THE CONTRIBUTION OF AU SAFGRAD!

By Dr Ahmed ELMEKASS, AU SAFGRAD Coordinator

The relationship between Environment/Sustainable Agriculture and migration is complex with the other socio-economic factors that drive people to move, either voluntarily or by necessity. It is estimated that extreme events and environmental degradation will move or permanently displace up to 200 million people by 2050. Migration is therefore a nexus for many issues of sustainable development, such as agriculture, food security, water and energy. With Agenda 2063, African Union recognises the crucial role of migration and displaced persons in the socio economic development of the continent.

According to the International Organization of Migration about 20 migrants drown per day. This figure reflects the urgency of translating the outcome of agenda 2063 into concrete reality.

CATALYZING INNOVATION IN THE LAND SECTOR FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Securing the rights to land of many people world-wide is critical to the global development agenda. The continued efforts towards ensuring that land rights are secured have been echoed in the African Union Declaration on Land and the Sustainable Development Goals. To contribute and learn from the growing body of knowledge on effective ways to improve land governance, a delegation from the African Union Commission participated in the 2019 World Bank Land and Poverty Conference.

Most developing countries have land governance systems that are based upon outdated laws and paper records. The 2019 World Bank Conference was held under the theme Catalyzing Innovation and focused on how land tenure challenges can be addressed using appropriate technology, with appropriate laws and regulation in place and people having the right skills. African countries can invest in digitalizing some of the land administration processes including the use of low cost and affordable methods to document land rights that allow for more participation and transparency.

Rural Economy Head of Division Dr. Janet Edeme chaired a session focused on ways of securing land rights of women. The session presenters and participants implored stakeholders that interventions focused on promoting women's rights to land must among other things emphasize the need for governments to review and amend laws so as to eliminate any form of gender bias and discrimination with regards to land.

Speaking during the closing ceremony of the conference, the Director of the Department of Rural Economy, Agriculture and Environment, Dr. Godfrey Bahigwa emphasized the need for countries to adopt and use technology to advance the rights to land of people everywhere in the world and invest in building skills of people working in various states to make use of the technology.

The conference ended with commitments for continued collaboration in the land sector in Africa.

CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION

There are many reasons for rural-urban migration among them: searching for job opportunities; low prices of agriculture products; education; health and other social services gap between rural and urban areas; insecurity in some rural areas and wage gap between rural and urban areas. (Africa Geography Blog).

According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), about, 2.6 billion people depend directly on agriculture; 52 % of the land used for agriculture is moderately or severely affected by soil degradation. 74 % of the poor are directly affected by land degradation. Due to drought and desertification, each year 12 million hectares are lost (23 hectares per minute), where 20 million tons of grain could have been grown.



POLITICAL COMMITMENT OF AFRICAN LEADERS TO BE TRANSLATED INTO REALITY

The AU Heads of State and Government reaffirmed that the Theme of the Year 2019, on refugees, returnees and IDPs, presents an auspicious historical moment as it brings to fore the Africa's continued exemplary level of shared solidarity towards displaced populations, in the spirit of Pan Africanism, at a time when displaced persons are faced with discrimination and xenophobia in many parts of the word; and they committed themselves to striving towards realization of the noble goals of 'Agenda 2063 – The Africa We Want' by addressing the structural root causes of forced displacement and by implementing durable solutions to humanitarian crises and forced displacement in Africa.

The local communities will feel the positive impact when the commitments and decisions are being translated into reality. In this regard, the several actions that could be considered include the following top ten:

- (i) Land and agriculture including agribusiness have to be among the priority areas of the national investment plans.
- (ii) More national efforts and public investment are also needed.
- (iii) Improving the agriculture image and adding land and agriculture to the education curriculum.

- (iv) Facilitating access to land and credit.
- (v) strengthening and offering the young farmers and their organizations a voice.
- (vi) Providing farmers with new and appropriate technologies.
- (vii) Linking social media to agriculture.
- (viii) The role of research, extension, access to market and market information are important.
- (ix) private sector has to be more committed to the social aspects of their nationals as well as allocate more budgets to agribusiness sector.
- (x) Development partners have to be more committed in doing their role in land sector.
- (xi) Climate adaptation and mitigation.

AU SAFGRAD CONTRIBUTIONS

AU-SAFGRAD as the specialized technical office of the African Union in semi-Arid Zone of Africa, is contributing to the achievement of Agenda 2063 in different dimensions among others:

- (i) The support to the engagement of Non States Actors (NSA) organizations in the implementation of Malabo Declaration in Africa;
- (ii) The support to the promotion of strategic agricultural commodities value chains development in Africa ;
- (iii) Strengthening capacity building of African Young researchers and other relevant stakeholders on mitigating the challenges of agricultural development in African Drylands;
- (iv) Building livelihood resilience of small holders through promotion and adoption of agricultural technologies/innovations through the adoption of Climate Smart Agricultural (CSA) Technologies;
- (v) Facilitating the generation and the implementation of policies and strategies on key issues affecting resilience of small holders livelihood in drylands of Africa;
- (vi) Facilitating the operationalization of platform of desertification and strengthening the implementation of UNCCD process in Africa as well as (v) facilitating various events related to key environment issues in Africa and
- (vi) Developing the Continental Irrigation and Agriculture water Development Framework (CIAWDF);
- (vii) Strengthening the link among farmer organization, research institutions and extension services,...etc. Currently, AU SAFGRAD is organizing high Level Policy Dialogue in the nexus among Land degradation, Migration and development in the G5 Sahel.



A DIFFICULT BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE PROCESS

In conclusion the development is a holistic process not just the responsibility of the government but it is the responsibility of the whole society including individuals and/or groups (state and non-state actors).

The young people have to be more committed by using their different skills, talents and optimizing the available resources to improve their lands, villages, and contributing to improve their society without totally relying on outside facilities. Most of the time this is could be difficult but not impossible.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Second All Africa Post Harvest Loss Congress: September 17-20, 2019. Addis Ababa , Ethiopia.
- African Day for Food and Nutrition Security October 31, 2019.

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