



Report of the
17th CAADP Partnership Platform

November 24-26, 2021

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1 ABBREVIATIONS

AfCFTA	Africa Continental Free Trade Area
AGRA	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
AUC	African Union Commission
AUDA-NEPAD	African Union Development Agency
BRR	Biennial Review Report
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CAADP PP	CAADP Partnership Platform
CNC	CAADP Non-State Actors Coalition
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation
FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
GIS	Geographical Information System
IITA	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
MAPLE	Malabo Policy Learning Event
PIATA	Partnership for Inclusive Transformation in Africa
REC	Regional Economic Commission
STC	Specialised Technical Committee
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UNFSS	United Nations Forum on Sustainable Standards
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WFP	World Food Programme
WTO	World Trade Organisation

2 INTRODUCTION

The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) is Africa's policy framework for agricultural transformation, wealth creation, food security and nutrition, economic growth and prosperity for all. Every year since 2005, the African Union Commission (AUC) and the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) have organised an annual partnership event that brings together key stakeholders to assess progress made in implementing the programme's goals and targets. The CAADP Partnership Platform (CAADP PP) provides an opportunity for sharing and learning among stakeholders.

Convened under the theme **'Ending hunger in Africa by 2025 through resilient food systems'**, the 17th CAADP PP ran from November 24-26, 2021. For the second consecutive year, the meeting was held virtually due to the Covid-19 pandemic, which continues to challenge in-person convening. The meeting was attended by over 400 delegates from African Union Member States governments, the AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), non-government organisations (NGOs), farmers' organisations, civil society organisations, financial and development institutions, agricultural research and technical organisations, the CAADP Non-State Actors Coalition (CNC), the private sector, media and development partners.

The 17th CAADP PP was organised in the context of three major events: the United Nations Food System Summit held in September 2021, during which the AU presented the Africa Common Position on the continent's pathways for building resilient food systems; the ongoing cycle of the 3rd Biennial Review Report (BRR) on the progress in implementation of the Malabo Declaration on 'Accelerated Africa Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods' that was adopted by the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in June 2014; and the upcoming 4th Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment scheduled for December 13-17, 2021, which will consider the 3rd CAADP BRR and the 2022-2025 AU CAADP Malabo Business Plan.

The first two Biennial Review Reports showed that the pace of implementation of the CAADP was not enough to put Africa on track to meet the Malabo commitment of ending hunger by 2025, a situation compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic. The 17th CAADP PP served as an opportunity for main constituencies supporting agricultural transformation in Africa to reflect on the main course of action to rectify this state. To this end, the objectives of the PP were to:

1. Assess the status of the implementation of the Malabo commitments based on the findings of the 2nd CAADP BRR and consolidate policy action to fast-track the implementation
2. Engage participants on the Africa Common Position on food systems and its implications for the Malabo commitments.
3. Chart out a realistic roadmap for the remainder of the Malabo journey towards ending hunger by 2025.

The CAADP PP was preceded by a two-day curtain raiser – the Malabo Policy Learning Event (MAPLE) from November 22-23 – which focusing on lessons learned from implementing inclusive policies to support resilient food systems. On the first day of the CAADP PP, two side events were organised by the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) to discuss the Africa Soil Initiative, and by AGRA, AUC, AUDA-NEPAD and Wasafiri to discuss the enhanced role of parliamentarians in strengthening accountability and utilization of BRR. Discussions during the three days were structured under four sub-themes: Strengthening Systemic Capacity to ‘Build Back Better’; Nutrition and Food Safety; Agri-food Trade; and Science and Innovation. Plenary sessions began with lead presentations to frame discussions, and on the final day a high-Level Ministerial Forum examined strategies to accelerate actions towards ending hunger by 2025.

DAY 1

Welcome Remarks:

Dr Godfrey Basiigwa, Director, Department of Agriculture and Rural Economy, African Union Commission, welcomed participants to the meeting. He noted that, despite the fact that it was being held halfway through the implementation period of the Malabo Declaration commitments, the majority of member states were not on track to meet their targets on ending hunger by 2025. In fact, there has been an increase in hunger on the continent, made worse by the onset of Covid-19 in 2020. About 250 million Africans are hungry, a quarter of the continent’s population, while 74% of Africans cannot afford a healthy diet. It was therefore critical for the Partnership Platform to discuss actions to reverse the rising trend food insecurity. It was expected that PP outcomes would support domestication of the Malabo Declaration in AU member countries; domestication of UNFSS Africa common position; and domestication of the 3rd BR outcomes.

3 SESSION 1: STRENGTHENING SYSTEMIC CAPACITY TO BUILD BACK BETTER

The session was organised by AUDA-NEPAD and AKADEMIYA2063, and moderated by Mr Amine Idriss Adoum of AUDA/NEPAD

Dr Ousmane Badiane, Executive Chairperson of AKADEMIYA2063, gave a keynote presentation to set the scene for the session. He focused on four systemic capacity priority areas: Science and Technology; Infrastructure; Services; and Policy and Regulation. Capacities areas were further identified using a value chain segments to ensure completeness and the interrelationship, with a strong focus on the role of government in enabling private investors and consumers to engage. Looking forward, the speaker identified several opportunities in each of the capacity areas to ensure sustained productivity in a way that is healthy for ecosystems and people, and to increase the pace of economic growth in order to eliminate poverty. Major constraints to food systems transformation are electricity (40%) transportation (35%) and customs and trade reforms (25%).

Use of GIS Analysis is key to improving efficiencies through strategic allocation of infrastructure such as warehouses and cold storage facilities, while resilience requires a robust transport network, as this guarantees physical access to food. In addition, Africa needs to harness emerging technologies to deal with changing climate, pests and disease, to enhance online trade, and to provide digital health and eLearning. Unfortunately, many small enterprises produce similar low-quality goods, narrowing their market and increasing competition. To get ahead, they need capacity to innovate, bring new products to life, and improve quality and processes. It is noteworthy that changes in urbanization and agri-food systems provide leapfrogging opportunities for transforming food

systems. The interconnectedness of the food system with other sectors, especially infrastructure, requires integrated solutions to recover and build back better. Overall, building systemic capacities requires data and expertise; relevant institutions, legal frameworks and accountability systems.

One-on-One Discussion with Technical Experts:

The experts discussed how to best strengthen Africa's capacity in five key areas to build food systems and resilience. Those drivers include policy and programme design; science, technology and innovation; value chain skills development; trade and markets; and infrastructural improvement. Panellists were Dr Boaz Kezire, Health Policy and Advocacy, AGRA; Dr Ousmane Badiane; Dr Oliver Kirui, Senior Researcher, Center for Development Research, University of Bonn; and Dr Maximo Torero, Chief Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation.

A system is a set of elements that symbiotically relate to each other, so that without any of them the common good is compromised. Africa, unfortunately, has not looked at things systematically. In areas such as seed production systems, for instance, most investment has focused on two out of seven aspects of the entire seed system, thereby compromising aspects such as variety and quality. The capacity of policy and state systems to deliver and to provide an enabling environment for other systems to function is critical.

Countries that have performed best in providing skills that their value chains need have mainstreamed investment in skills at every level, including farmers and small processors, enabling them to be competitive, expand and create value for all actors. Ethiopia, for instance, has a network of trainers on the ground and a few vocational training networks. Morocco, through its Green Plan, has invested in building skills at farm and value chain levels. All actors are significant and require different skills in order to contribute to agricultural transformation. Evidence from research has shown that without proper skills it is almost impossible to raise productivity. Increased productivity would mean more food, lower prices and better nutrition. However, there are few training institutions for skills such as reducing food waste and loss, food handling, efficient use of resources and profitability. African Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions are poorly equipped in physical and human resources, and where available, training is not relevant to market needs and trainers themselves have limited capacity.

There are significant linkages between infrastructure and food security. Improved road conditions raise food production by 14%. In addition, robust transport networks guarantee physical access to food. The necessary infrastructure for the agricultural sector to thrive includes hard infrastructure that enables food to move from one location to another, and the value chain infrastructure, including aspects such as storage and technologies to reduce food loss. However, most production by small-holder farmers is retained at home because of transportation and infrastructure challenges, making it important to link them to markets. Lack of electricity, poor transportation and customs and trade regulations have been identified as major constraints to agribusiness. In addition, access to digital technologies is low in many parts of the continent and needs to be addressed urgently. Integrated investment in infrastructure has the potential to bring about social and economic development, thus reducing poverty, increasing food security and boosting productivity.

Recommendations:

- It is a matter of concern that the first and second CAADP Biennial Reviews show that governments are performing well in the policy and institutional capacity, but this is not reflected in the functioning of other systems such as markets and infrastructure.

- We must make focused investment backed by science and innovations in building back better.
- We need to work on political infrastructure for the hard infrastructure to work.
- We must adopt a resilience approach while building back better.
- We need to improve the capacity of TVET institutions to teach farmers, SMEs and young people processing and management skills to improve the profitability of their enterprises
- We need to improve farmers' access to markets through physical, regulatory and digital infrastructure. Low access to digital technologies in many parts of the continent needs to be corrected urgently.
- AUDA-NEPAD must urgently design a multi-layer food systems program for the continent.
- Farmers should be given access to markets through physical, regulatory and digital infrastructure.
- Focused investments are important to drive systemic change in food systems.

Dr Manyewu Mutamba, Head (Ag) of Food Systems and Rural Resources at AUDA-NEPAD, discussed lessons learnt from the Covid-19 pandemic for Africa's food systems. Covid-19 has exposed how fragile Africa's food systems are, and the need for urgency in building resilience in these systems. The speed with which hunger set in was staggering, with an additional 46 million people on the continent going hungry as a result of the pandemic. The pandemic exposed the interconnectedness of food systems and diverse sectors including the digital space, transport network. By better understanding this interrelation, governments can find ways to drive systemic change in the process of transforming food systems on the continent. In addition, the pandemic showed how gains made over decades can be lost in an instance, hence the need for resilience-building.

Focussed investments were a game-changer in effectiveness of responses to Covid-19 such as vaccines and diagnostics, in contrast to scattered investments in agriculture in Africa that lead to unsustainable gains. AUDA-NEPAD has facilitated capacity building of institutions, national dialogues to galvanise the food systems agenda, efficient implementation of programmes, inclusivity and ownership, market focus, and will begin implementing a multi-year continental programme in 2022.

Questions and Comments:

- The AU calls for peace across the continent. When farmers are displaced from their farms, opportunities for food production are lost, leading to food insecurity and lack of nutrition for women and children. We need peaceful resolution of conflict through political dialogue to enable farmers to go back and produce food for their families and the markets.
- PIDA is the programme for infrastructural development in Africa. Further information can be found on the AUDA-NEPAD website.

4 SESSION 2: INVESTING IN SAFE AND NUTRITIOUS FOODS AND ENABLING FOOD SYSTEMS TO ELIMINATE HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION

Session Leaders were Dr Chris Toe, Senior Advisor for Corporate and Country Engagement, World Food Programme, and Mr Mphumuzi Sukati, Senior Nutrition and Food Systems Officer, FAO

With only four years to go before commitments in the Malabo Declaration and the African Regional Nutrition Strategy come due, the session used a value chain approach to identify the main

bottlenecks to achieving the objectives and targets of these and other continental policies and strategies; to outline key opportunities and components needed to move the agenda forward, and to identify linkages and synergies between nutrition related-initiatives.

In her keynote presentation, Mrs Estherine Lisinge-Fotabong, Director of Programme Innovation and Planning, AUDA-NEPAD, emphasised the need to combine sound policies, regulations and knowledge with targeted investments to help strengthen Africa's food system. In addition, countries must take advantage of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and move forward together in strategic partnerships at all levels, using all available resources within member states to transform agriculture. Political and institutional frameworks require improvement, budget allocation for governance and development of the sector should be increased, and capacity gaps in the sector need to be filled. The AU is keen to support countries in these areas and has declared 2022 the year for building resilience in nutrition and food security of member states.

Moderated Panel Discussion:

Panellists were Mr Diego Arias, Lead Agriculture Economist for Africa Region, World Bank; Dr Saskia de Pee, Chief, Analytics and Science for Food and Nutrition at the WFP; Prof Amos Laar, of the University of Ghana's School of Public Health; Dr Martin Fregene, Director of Agriculture and Agro-Industry, African Development Bank; and Dr Namukolo Covic, IFPRI-Addis and President of the Africa Nutrition Society. The session was moderated by Dr Chris Toe.

The panel discussed nutrition-sensitive agriculture, affordability and demand for nutritious foods, the role of safe and nutritious foods, priority investment areas for improving nutrition in Africa, and how to improve governance, partnerships and coordination of nutrition interventions. The status of nutrition-sensitive agriculture is worrisome especially for those countries in conflict. The situation has been made worse by the Covid-19 pandemic, making millions more people food-insecure. Promoting nutrition sensitive agriculture requires a focus on nutrition-smart activities and what the farmer can do to improve the quality and quantity of food produced. In addition, a food systems approach to development is required that takes into consideration local demands for food.

Lack of nutritious foods has varying impact on different age groups, with children being most affected. Policies are needed to give everyone access to more nutritious diets, including growing nutrient-dense foods, crop diversification, optimisation of the supply chain, improved marketing, institutional purchasing, post-harvest loss reduction, bio-fortification, providing income-earning opportunities, cash-based transfers and supplementation according to age group. In addition, the importance of food safety in nutrition cannot be overemphasised. Globally, 420,000 people die annually from food-borne hazards, with the highest incidence in Africa as most countries on the continent have a weak capacity to monitor and enforce food safety regulations set by government.

To help fill the gaps in the food and nutrition security space the African Development Bank is providing capital, technical assistance and advisory services to the private sector, in particular small and medium enterprises (SMEs), to procure raw materials for processing nutrient-dense foods for children and pregnant women. Loan guarantees are also available for women in processing and other levels of the food value chain. The Bank has mainstreamed nutrition into its loans and lending portfolio, with 10% of its investments going into nutrition programmes.

Effective governance and partnerships are key to eliminating food and nutrition insecurity. The food environment, monitoring and evaluation as well as coordination need to be governed effectively to enable the continent to achieve its nutrition agenda. Going forward, it is important to identify and

solidify policy mechanisms, processes and related stakeholder relationships through which an agreed common food system and nutrition vision can be realised and improved upon.

Recommendations:

- Multiple micronutrient supplements must be made available to adolescent girls and pregnant and lactating mothers
- Leverage school feeding programmes to ensure children are getting nutritious food
- There is a big scope for the private sector to make healthy foods more affordable through nutrition-sensitive investments.
- We must sustain political will to modernise legislative and governance frameworks for Africa's food safety systems
- Stakeholders must contribute to consumer and industry awareness of food safety.

DAY 2

5 SESSION 3: AGRI-FOOD TRADE: BOOSTING INTRA-AFRICAN TRADE TO BUILD RESILIENT AND INCLUSIVE FOOD SYSTEMS IN AFRICA

The session was coordinated by FAORAF, AUDA and AGRA and facilitated by Dr Suffyan Koroma and Amene Ambonde. It included two discussions followed by a moderated panel discussion. Mr Didier Bonyeme Bokomba of the AfCFTA Secretariat, Mr Massimo Pera, Agribusiness Officer, FAORAF, and Dr Blaise Ouattara, Food Safety and Quality Officer, FAORAF, discussed inclusive and effective participation in the AfCFTA process to enhance food and nutrition security and harmonization of technical and food controls in Africa.

The 2nd BRR showed that only seven countries were on track with the indicator on trade of agricultural products and services, so there is still a long way to go to ensure that trade plays its role in boosting resilient and inclusive food systems in Africa. Out of 43 AU member states that have signed onto AfCFTA, only 29 have ratified it. With regards to tariff lines, 87.8% have been agreed upon, leaving an outstanding 12.2%, including automobiles and textiles. It is noteworthy that the classification of many agricultural products under sensitive products means they are not subject to liberalization, which does not auger well for international trade but favours intra-African trade. Inclusivity and effective participation of all players is important for intra-Africa trade, including small holder farmers, who supply 70% of the continent's food mostly (60%) through informal trade.

AfCFTA presents an opportunity to increase intra-African trade by 20-35%, thereby broadening shared prosperity and reducing vulnerability. It offers more opportunities and less risks to smallholders. The WTO's focus on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBTs) provides the link to improve intra-African trade in agricultural product. At the same time, there are ongoing continental food safety initiatives involving FAO, WHO and the AUC to develop strategies and strengthen national food safety systems, which are relatively underdeveloped in Africa.

Moderated Panel Discussion:

In the second part of the session, Mr Nixon Mageka Gecheo, Senior Programme Officer, Digital Systems and Solutions for Agriculture, Mr Ahmad Mukhtar, Senior Economist, FarORNE and Mr Mohamed Chahboune, discussed opportunities, challenges and experiences in intra-Africa trade.

Digitisation presents a great opportunity to strengthen Africa's food systems and to enhance intra-African trade in agricultural products. The Covid-19 pandemic saw the growth of digital technology in enhancing food trade with the flourishing of e-commerce, use of block chain technology in food supply management and distribution and artificial intelligence. In addition, there are ongoing capacity building initiatives, including digitalization of food safety systems, e-commerce, trade and markets information systems platforms. However, digitalisation in Africa is hampered by limited and unstable connectivity, unreliable data and lack of data management policies.

An issue of concern is the imbalance between intra-African trade and trade between African countries and developed countries. Available data shows that in 2019, intra-African agricultural trade was calculated at US\$17.7 billion, while trade with the rest of the world was worth US\$82 billion. At the same time, North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa trade more with other countries than with each other, a situation that needs to be reversed. Trade between African is not happening at its greatest potential due to regulatory reasons and lack of trade facilitation. Intra-African trade needs to focus on micro, small and medium enterprises due to their flexibility and greater margins for growth and expansion. Interventions should aim to improve the livelihoods of low-income farmers while making mid-level farmers more productive. Morocco, for instance, has established an effective trade and agricultural model aimed at sustainable agricultural growth and trade.

Recommendations:

- Africa must find ways to formalise informal trade and enhance competitiveness through policy interventions.
- Member states need to work with financial institutions to facilitate financing for smallholder farmers and SMEs, help them to identify business opportunities and ways to maximise profitability, and strengthen their management capacities.
- Resource mobilisation to support digitalisation of food safety is imperative.
- We must establish harmonised food safety regulations in the continent to enhance intra-African trade.
- We need to harmonise digital policies and regulations, build capacity and establish dispute resolution mechanism.
- Africa needs to develop trustworthy brands.

6 SESSION 4: PRESENTATION OF THE AU CAADP BUSINESS PLAN 2022-2025

The African Union is developing a Business Plan that will drive the CAADP agenda over the next four years. This session was held to share lessons from the 2017-2021 Business Plan, present to stakeholders the proposed priority areas and obtain feedback to improve the draft. The presentation was made by Dr Simplice Noulala and Dr Hamady Diop and moderated by Mr Robert Ouma.

The 2022-25 CAADP Business Plan, developed with support from Policy-Link, seeks to provide a clear, concise and agreed strategic framework to guide implementation and delivery of the Malabo Declaration commitments. The document is designed to mobilise the support of development partners and CAADP constituencies so that they can align their priorities and resources to enable implementation. Recommended improvements from the consultative process that were considered in developing the new Business Plan included the need for broader participation of stakeholders;

clear focus and harmonisation of initiatives; continued promotion of evidence-based learning; and strong partnership building.

The 2017-2021 Business Plan was found to be well aligned with AU strategies but there was weak involvement of AU institutions in implementation and limited ownership of the programme. Another finding was that while a lot of resources were allocated for the Biennial Review process, not enough investment was made in programme implementation at country level.

The new plan has seven key priority areas and a list of proposed activities aligned with the CAADP results framework 2015-2025. These include:

- 1) Strengthened country and regional systems for CAADP programme delivery
- 2) Expanded public private sector investments
- 3) Increased agricultural productivity and strengthened nutrition and food security
- 4) Inclusive and sustainable agricultural production and accelerated growth
- 5) Expanded intra-Africa trade in agriculture
- 6) Enhancing resilience-building and climate change and risk management
- 7) Strengthened programme coordination, partnerships and mutual accountability for strategic results

The principles of subsidiarity, complementarity and accountability were addressed and respected in developing the Business Plan. Emerging issues such as Covid-19 and climate change, army worm and locust infestations, plant diseases and the increasing frequency of drought, floods and internal conflict were considered.

Recommendations:

- Key delivery mechanisms of the Business Plan by AU institutions (AUC, AUDA-NEPAD and RECs) should include developing strategic frameworks, tools and good practices; supporting capacity development; providing demand-driven implementation assistance, facilitating shared learning; and coordination.
- Identify CAADP Champions on different issues to advocate for CAADP implementation
- Strengthen internal CAADP capacity
- Develop technical networks to support the CAADP process
- Set up an advisory committee to provide strategic advice on implementation of CAADP
- Where countries have already committed to other programmes, the solution is to build on those and fill any gaps

Feedback from Participants:

- There is need to encourage more political engagement in the CAADP and Business Plan processes to for political endorsement. RECs should be at the heart of the implementation process to make it more effective.
- The new Business Plan should focus on country-level implementation.
- Real involvement and participation of non-state actors is important in CAADP implementation. For that to happen, there is need for capacity building and funding at all levels. The NSAs also need to create a platform to engage in the process in an organized manner.
- There is need to build and strengthen country teams and ensure that all partners (both the technical and financial) align their work with the CAADP Business Plan.
- With limited time for implementation of the Plan, it is important to prioritise elements within the seven broad thematic areas.

- Identify the weakest links for implementing the CAAPD agenda
- There is need for establishment of a visible CAADP think-tank to drive implementation of the Business Plan.
- The Business Plan must speak to the SDGs and AU Agenda 2063.
- We should ensure that there is political will, coordination as well as tracking of implementation.
- With the AUC's limited capacity, there is a need to look for more partners and to mobilise domestic resources for implementation of the Business Plan
- There is need for clarity on what constitutes the 10% budget allocation to agriculture. For instance, does it include recurrent expenditure?
- It is necessary to include the gender dimension in CAADP implementation
- The African Common Position and recommendations from the 3rd Biannual Review need to be reflected in the Business Plan to ensure their implementation.

7 SESSION 5: PLENARY OPENING SESSION

The session was moderated by Dr Godfrey Bahiigwa.

Opening Remarks

Opening remarks were made by Ambassador Josefa Sacko, the Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment of the AU commission; Mr. Stanlake Samkange, the current chair of the CAADP Development Partners Coordination Group; H.E. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, the Chief Executive Officer of AUDA-NEPAD, and Hon. Angela Thoko Didiza, the Chair of the third AU Specialized Technical Committee on Agricultural Development, Water and Environment, and also Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development of the Republic of South Africa.

Out of 49 members states that were implementing the Malabo Declaration, 36 had made little progress by 2019 towards achieving the commitment targets by 2025. The continental target to bring down the proportion of undernourished people to 5% or less by the year 2025 was not on track, and the number of hungry people on the continent had risen to 250.3 million in 2020, nearly one-fifth of the African population. To fast-track the implementation of the CAADP agenda towards achieving the Malabo target, member states should domesticate and strengthen National Agricultural Investment Plans. At the United Nations Food System Summit in September 2021, Africa elevated the Malabo agenda into the global arena by articulating a common position on building its food system. Key actions towards food system transformation include critically examining current development pathways and associated policy and investment choices, an undertaking made even more urgent by the advent of COVID-19.

To this end, development partners should focus on ensuring that countries have the resources to do what is needed to meet the Malabo commitments, including boosting trade and investment. It is also critical that private sectors and ministers of finance are engaged in the process because domestic resources are the biggest source of financing for programmes. Accountability is key to making the best use of resources and ensuring that money is channelled to the right programmes.

Shocks to Africa's food system over the last couple of years, which have left millions of people in an undignified state of hunger, underline the need for an inclusive and multidimensional approach to strengthening the food system, taking into account national and regional peculiarities. It is important, therefore, that the link between the conclusions of the Food Systems Summit and the

CAADP implementation processes be clear and well coordinated, with accountability mechanisms to keep stakeholders informed of progress and to enable self-correction and improvement where needed.

Despite the reports of slow progress and discouraging statistics, Africa has some wins to celebrate. The many challenges that the continental food system has faced – eruption of animal diseases, plant pests and public health challenges – have presented opportunities for new strategies for development and growth as more stakeholders are keen on the resilience of the food sector. These experiences, for instance, fed into the crafting of an African position that was presented at the Food System Summit on what it will take to strengthen country food systems. The continent is building its response mechanisms and has been able to take quick action to mitigate food insecurity in a number of countries. New mechanisms have been created to ensure that trade continues even under dire circumstances and use of technology has ensured continued engagement with stakeholders at all levels, particularly with farmers. By keeping communication open, planning together and executing together Africa can unblock challenges to ensuring food security on the continent.

Keynote Address :

The keynote address was given by H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn, former Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and current chair of the Board of Directors of the Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa, AGRA. He expressed optimism that the renewed vigour and commitment of African leaders to the CAADP process would spur economic recovery and put countries back on the path to agricultural growth that were curtailed by the effects of climate change and Covid-19. While seven in 10 Africans are involved with agriculture, the number of the hungry on the continent is rising, with 77% of the world's starving children in Africa. It is time to adopt a food systems approach for increased agricultural productivity, greater climate change resilience, and improved health of the people. Elevating the CAADP Malabo declaration agenda and accelerating food system transformation in Africa requires development of a multi-sectoral, government-led yet private sector-driven approach, which will lead to design and implementation of multi-team and multicultural actions aligned to CAADP BR indicators.

In the light of limited public resources, there is need for stronger collaborations with the private sector to drive systems transformation in Africa through increased investment into meeting the Malabo commitments. Through the Partnership for Inclusive Agricultural Transformation in Africa, AGRA supports build of strong agricultural sector working groups that facilitate governments and development partners to align their work, promoting multicultural accountability. In addition, AGRA is working with the World Trade Organization standards and trade development facility to increase smallholder farmers' access to regional markets.

Key highlights from technical sessions of the MAPLE 2021

Presented by Dr Simplicie Nouala, Head of the Agriculture and Food Security Division of the AU Commission

The Malabo Policy Learning Event (MAPLE) 2021 was organised around three main sessions. The first was the design and implementation of Malabo-compliant NAIPs. Delays in the design of NAIP arose from confusion between the NAIPs and the various other policies being implemented at country levels, as well as lack of financial and technical resources, and little political buy-in or engagement. The second session discussed leadership for inclusivity. It was clear that inclusive agriculture food policies are more effective. Leaders must embrace diversity and inclusivity, with deliberate measures to include women and youth in development of the food systems policies. The last session was on

lessons learned from the implementation of the CAADP. A clear message that emerged from the meeting was the need to strengthen technical support to the CAADP process at national, regional and continental level through CAADP pillars – technical institutions and technical networks.

Recommendations:

- Capacity gaps to move the various CAADP processes forward at continental and country level must be addressed, as should the need for quality data to inform decisions.
- Africa needs to adopt climate-smart agriculture and to close the gap between what is currently producing and projected food demand.
- Tapping into the use of big data will help drive farm-level decisions on inputs and agricultural water management.
- Governments must address institutional bottlenecks that curtail the adaptation rate of the food systems approach.
- Technical support to the CAADP process must be strengthened at national, regional and continental level through CAADP pillars – technical institutions and technical networks.

8 SESSION 6: HIGH-LEVEL FORUM PANELS

Panel 1: High-Level Ministerial Forum Panel (Member States and RECs):

The REC discussion revolved around what is required to strengthen institutions and increase investment at the national and regional level to accelerate action towards ending hunger by 2025 based on their experiences. Discussants were Mr Alain Sy Traoré, Director for Agriculture and Rural Development at the ECOWAS Commission; Mr Domingos Gove, SADC Director for Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources; and Mr Abakar Mohammed, Head of Agriculture at the Rural Development Department, ECCA. The session was moderated by Hon Angela Thoko Didiza, Minister for Agriculture, South Africa.

Africa needs disruptive leadership that will stop doing business as usual and act differently for different results. To build food system resilience requires application of the principle of subsidiarity, complementarity, solidarity, and partnership: regional and continental institutions should not be doing what countries can do for themselves., complementing where necessary and building solidarity using a multi-sectoral approach that should be applied.

RECs need to support implementation of policy to facilitate movement of food across borders; develop social protection mechanism through establishment of grain and food reserves at the local, national and regional levels; coordinate prevention, control, and management of trans-bordering plant pests and diseases as well as animal diseases. They should support capacity building and strengthening of knowledge and information systems; coordinate activities of technical and financial partners; and support border cooperation amongst member states.

The private sector should be fully involved in regional processes. For instance, the SADC Business Council, established in August 2019, has a seat at the SADC policy-making table. Financial support from the private sector is also important, particularly for the growth of agro-industries. Stakeholders should work within a multi-sectoral framework for agriculture that connects all sectors. Member states should also take advantage of AFCFTA to facilitate trade in agricultural products and develop their production capacities. At the same time, legal and institutional frameworks are needed to regulate importation of food to protect local production.

Ministerial Presentation:

Hon. Geraldine Mukeshimana, the Minister for Agriculture in Rwanda, shared her thoughts on ways to accelerate the implementation of CAADP, lessons learned from implementation in Rwanda, and how to ensure that the Malabo commitments, the UN food systems summit outcomes and the BRR recommendations are domesticated in national agricultural investment frameworks?

Implementation of CAADP requires strong institutions both at national and regional levels. Country commitment, political will ownership of the processes and a multisectoral approach are also critical, as are accountability and mutual accountability. For Rwanda, agricultural policies must be pro-poor, gender-sensitive and also nutrition-sensitive. It is important to make sure that no one is left behind. Because the value chain involves many non-agricultural actors and activities, it is important for dialogue to take place and that planning is done jointly. , are very critical. Also looking that eliminating inefficiencies because sometimes we'll be saying that we need finances but the way the finance is utilized and how to eliminate efficiencies, bringing in IT tool is very critical.

The stereotypical African farmer is poor and uneducated; it is important change the agriculture narrative to elevate the sector and make it more attractive to young people and other potential farmers through de-risking mechanisms that can make production systems sustainable and financing more available. Rwanda uses different systems like insurance, matching grants and innovation challenges, and so on, but I still believe that we need to do more and think more on what can be done. Finally, 10% public sector financing of agriculture is not sufficient, given the importance of food production and challenges Africa still has to overcome.

Recommendations:

- Africa needs to produce its own fertilizers to avoid high international prices and increase food security.
- The continent should produce enough to feed its population and export to the other countries instead of importing food from Europe.
- Member states and RECS should ensure that relevant institutions for the implementation of NAIPs and of RAIPs are empowered, both in the public and private sectors

Panel 2: High-Level Partner Panel:

The session moderator was Dr Ousmane Badiane, Executive Chairperson of ACADEMIYA2063. Partners made brief remarks about their support to the common CAADP agenda of ending hunger by building resilience and inclusive food systems. Discussants were the Director General of FAO, H.E. QU Dongyu, Ms Alexious Butler, Ag Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Resilience and Food Security, USAID; Martin Fregne, Director of Agriculture and Agro-Industry, Africa Development Bank; and Alfred Gilbert Dixon, Director of the Development and Delivery Office, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture.

This is an exciting time for Africa. Political will is stronger than ever before to implement the AU's 2063 agenda and there are big opportunities for game-changer solutions. To accelerate the change needed three key pathways will be required: first, increasing agricultural productivity to ensure that Africa reaps the benefits of the intra-Africa single market; secondly, building resilience food systems by addressing water and the climate-related challenges in agriculture; and thirdly, digitalization and use of data for evidence-based policy, planning and implementation to improve efficiency and reduce environmental impact. FAO is committed to leveraging its expertise and experience to work with key partners and stakeholders to transform Africa's agrifood systems.

The African Development Bank believes that investment in Africa's agriculture should aim to make it competitive, which will entail clustering production and value addition. Africa also needs to attract financial and organizational capital into agriculture and increase capacity for modern production by attracting young people into agriculture and increasing their capacity to produce food. At the request of African heads of states, the bank is working with the Environmental Foundation for Africa (EFA) to help countries increase their investment in agriculture, and is on a mission to raise one billion dollars in the next two years to feed 200 million Africans.

Ending global hunger and malnutrition remains one of the greatest challenges and opportunities of our time and is a top priority for USAID and the US government. Recently, USAID launched a refresh of the global food security strategy, and as part of that, Administrator Samantha Power has committed to achieving a 20% reduction in extreme poverty and child stunting in the countries where USAID works. Building on this momentum, USAID will continue to invest in strengthening local capacity to implement CAADP in a number of ways, first by leveraging its leadership and technical capabilities to facilitate access to science-based solutions and information, and secondly by supporting and improve the digital ecosystem to expand access to data and digital tools for key populations like smallholder farmers. USAID has also entered into a new partnership with the AUC to implement the Paris agreement for climate action in Africa.

Africa must produce food in sustainable ways that create wealth, taking advantage of proven research and development outputs available in the continent. To this end, the continent needs to leverage International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) technologies and innovations for shared prosperity through developing responses to the challenges confronting agriculture in Africa, providing resilience to the food systems, raising productivity and value-added product frontier of key crops, addressing the nutritional deficiencies and safety, and in general, the competitiveness of African agricultural products in the global market. IITA is committed to the common CAADP agenda and to partnerships at all levels to actualise agricultural transformation on the continent.

Recommendations

- Africa needs to leverage IITA technologies and innovations for shared prosperity through developing responses to the challenges confronting agriculture in Africa.
- The continent needs to catalyse scaling of climate-smart and nutrient-sensitive technologies and innovations to boost food production and nutrition.

9 SESSION 7: CLOSING CEREMONY

The session moderator was Mrs Estherine Lisinge Fotabong

Reading of the 17th CAADP PP Communique:

Dr Godfrey Bahigwa presented the draft communique of the 17th CAADP PP meeting. The communique highlighted 14 key messages, including the fact that with only four years left to attain the CAADP Malabo goals and targets across the seven commitments, the majority of member states are not on track to meet the target of ending hunger by 2025. In fact, hunger has been rising in Africa in recent years. The fragility of the continent's food systems was exposed by Covid-19, hence the need to develop resilient food systems. Improvements are needed in various aspects of the agricultural sector, including political and institution arrangements, increased budget allocation to agriculture to meet the 10% target of the Malabo Declaration, improved sector governance, as well

as farmer knowledge and skills development. Core systemic capacities to ensure gradual transformation are needed in science and technology, infrastructure development, service delivery, and policy and regulation. Further capacity is needed to enhance the value chain approach to ensure completeness and consideration of interrelationships therein.

Food safety aspects are relatively underdeveloped in Africa, hampering intra-Africa trade. However, there are ongoing continental efforts led by AU and AUDA-NEPAD to address these gaps, including the formation of the Africa Food Safety Strategy, the Africa plant health strategy, and an Africa food safety agency. Notably, the COVID-19 pandemic promoted the use of digital technology in enhancing food trade, with flourishing e-commerce, use of block chain technology in food supply, management and distribution, and artificial intelligence. However, AU member states are grappling with limited and unstable connectivity and reliable data, lack of management policies, and constrained interoperability. It takes multiple stakeholders to deliver on the Malabo commitments. Coordination and governance systems must therefore be prioritised.

To realize gains, the Malabo Declaration, the Africa common position and the results of the BR must be domesticated. The resilience approach is critical to building back better. That includes building capacity at the local level to implement and adopt mitigation and adaptation measures based on local needs and experiences. Africa can reform its food systems by combining sound policies, recognitions, and knowledge with targeted investments to ensure nutritious, safe, and affordable food for all. In addition, mobilization of diverse stakeholders internally will drive Africa's transformation within the context of the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement trade agreement.

Closing remarks:

Ambassador Josefa Sacko summarised discussions at the 17th CAADP PP, which she described as “very rich” and inclusive. What remains is to mobilise resources to turn recommendations into action to eliminate hunger in Africa.