



JOINT PRESS RELEASE

Agriculture Ministers urged to take up leadership in CAADP implementation



Addis Ababa, March 25, 2013 – The 9th Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Partnership Platform (PP) has opened in Addis Ababa today, with a call for more concrete and achievable actions to accelerate the implementation of CAADP.

Officially opening the PP, Ethiopian State Minister for Agriculture, Prof. Tekaligh Mammo, said Africa was capable of feeding itself provided the right

strategies and policies were in place.

“We are expecting concrete and achievable actions to accelerate implementation of CAADP in the next decade. I call upon my fellow agriculture Ministers to step up leadership in CAADP,” Prof Mammo said.

In her remarks, African Union Commission (AUC) Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, Mrs. Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, speaking on behalf of the AUC Chairperson, Mrs. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, expressed confidence that agriculture was set to be at the centre of Africa’s development agenda.

“The political imperative to create jobs and economic opportunities for the growing men and women in Africa is increasing. The global pressures on food and on-food products, climate change and others will continue to make Africa an important destination for investment, and place agriculture and CAADP at the centre of Africa’s development,” Mrs Tumusiime said.

NEPAD Agency Head of Directorate for Programme Implementation and Coordination (PICD), Mrs Estherine Fotabong speaking on behalf of NEPAD Agency Chief Executive Officer Dr Ibrahim Mayaki said: *“Agriculture has a key role to play in bringing peace in*



our region, not only because it is the primary economic activity in rural areas, but also because it contributes to the maintenance of social equilibrium.”

The Representative from the Pan-African Farmers’ Organisation (PAFO), Chief Alangeh Romanus Che added that CAADP is an all-inclusive approach, providing an opportunity for farmers to fast track economic growth.

The 9th CAADP PP is being held in a landmark year for both the AU, which is celebrating 50 years of its existence, and CAADP commemorating 10 years since it was endorsed in 2003.

The focus of the Platform is on sustaining the CAADP momentum into the next decade so as not to lose any of the gains that have been attained in agricultural and economic growth, as well as to achieve even better results in the years to come.

CAADP is the flagship programme of the AU and New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), designed to assist African countries accelerate economic growth, eliminate hunger, reduce poverty and enhance food and nutrition security, through agriculture-led development.

The two-day meeting will provide African leaders, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), ministries, the private sector, civil society and farmers’ organisations an opportunity to assess the role of agriculture in transforming the Continent.

Special emphasis will be placed on youth, smallholder farmers and women in the agriculture sector, as well as financing models for effective agricultural investments.

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