



PRESS RELEASE NO. 70/ 2011

AFRICAN UNION SIGNS MoU WITH AFRICA RICE CENTER TO ENHANCE FOOD SECURITY IN THE CONTINENT



Addis Ababa, 12 July 2011 – The Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union, Mrs. Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, today 12 July 2011, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Director General of Africa Rice Center, Dr. Papa Abdoulaye Seck, in view to foster collaboration and strengthen working relationship between the two institutions in order to improve the general well-being of its people.

Both parties agreed to promote Rice production technologies and strengthen the capacities of relevant specialized African institutions in areas of:

- (a) Policy research and analysis;
- (b) Promoting production technologies and agricultural innovative systems;
- (c) Provision of policy communications and facilitating dialogue to inform and improve the design and implementation of food and agricultural policies in and among the Member States of the African Union.

Speaking during the ceremony, Commissioner Tumusiime, expressed satisfaction saying that the signing of the MoU will offer an opportunity to reaffirm the AUC commitment to the Maputo Declaration on an agricultural-led growth strategy for the continent through the CAADP process. she added that it will offers an opportunity to fully recognize rice as a strategic commodity for food security and poverty eradication in Africa. “ today, the AUC gets an opportunity to take one concrete step towards the achievement of a vision that both our institutions share; one of an Africa free from hunger and poverty” she underlined.

The Commissioner reiterated the African Union commitment to work hand in hand with this Center to implement programmes and projects, such as the AUC – ECA – FAO project on providing a policy and regulatory framework for AU Member States to develop and promote regional value chains for strategic commodities in Africa.

(See complete speech of the Commissioner on AU website: www.africa-union.org) .

Attached is the program of the event.



**SIGNING CEREMONY FOR THE
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION AND
THE AFRICA RICECENTER**

**African Union Commission Headquarters
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
July 12, 2011
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Infrastructure and Trade Committee Room**

AGENDA

- 10:00 – 10:05 Opening of the Meeting
Dr. Abebe H. Gabriel / Dr. Yemi Akinbamiyo
- 10:05 – 10:15 Welcome Remarks and Statement
*H.E. Rhoda Peace Tumusiime Commissioner for Rural Economy and
Agriculture, African Union Commission*
- 10:15 – 10:25 Statement by the Africa Rice Center
Dr. Papa Abdoulaye Seck, Director General, Africa Rice Center
- 10:35– 10:45 Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding
*H.E. Rhoda Peace Tumusiime Commissioner for Rural Economy and
Agriculture, African Union Commission*
- 10:45– 11:00 Refreshments and Pictures
- 11:00 – 11:30 Meeting between H.E. Rhoda Peace Tumusiime and Dr. Papa
Abdoulaye Seck
- 11:30 –1:00 p.m. Technical Meeting with the Agriculture and Food Security Division