



## FINAL COMMUNIQUE OF THE 15<sup>th</sup> COMPREHENSIVE AFRICA AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME PARTNERSHIP PLATFORM (CAADP PP)

*“Enhancing Trade and Market Access for Accelerated Agriculture Transformation”*

11 - 14 June 2019  
Nairobi, Kenya

### INTRODUCTION

1. Convened under the theme “**Enhancing Trade and Market Access for Accelerated Agriculture Transformation**”, the 15<sup>th</sup> Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Partnership Platform (PP) was co-organized by the Government of Kenya and the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) and Regional Economic Communities (RECs), in partnership with Technical and Development Partners, CAADP Non State Actors, Private Sectors, from 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> June 2019, and hosted by the Republic of Kenya at Safari Park Hotel and Casino, Nairobi, Kenya.
2. Some five hundred (500) people participated out of a total of seven hundred and thirty (730) officially accredited participants, including representatives of Pan-African Parliament and Regional Parliamentary Organizations, international organizations (AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, UN Agencies, other multilateral organisations and bilateral organizations), RECs, National Governments, Pan-African farmer organizations, civil society organizations, women and youth organisations, financial institutions, agricultural research and technical organisations, the private sector, media institutions and development partners.
3. The overall goal of the 15<sup>th</sup> CAADP PP was to provide policy makers from AU Member States, Pan-African organisations, development and technical partners, and other non-state actors 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 in the quest for achieving economic and food security outcomes.
4. The main session of the PP was preceded by one-day Dialogue of African Parliamentarians and parallel partner events and followed by a number of synchronized breakout sessions on a variety of related topics informed by the theme. A separate list of the pre-events, partner events and presentations made in breakout sessions, are contained in an annexure to this Communiqué.
5. The Opening Session of the 15<sup>th</sup> CAADP PP was graced by opening remarks by the Guest of Honour, His Excellency William Ruto, Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya, Her Excellency Ambassador Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko,

Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union, His Excellency Christoph Bazivamo, Deputy Secretary-General of the East African Community, and Honourable Mwangi Kiunjuri, Cabinet Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries and Irrigation of the Republic of Kenya. Also speaking in the same occasion were Dr Hamady Diop who delivered a statement on behalf of Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Chief Executive Office of the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), Dr Chris Muyunda, President of CAADP Non-State Actors Coalition and Mr. Christopher Shepherd-Pratt, Head of Food and Agriculture Policy of the Bureau for Food Security of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), representing Development Partners.

6. In their remarks, the named speakers gave key messages which speak to the theme of the PP and agriculture transformation, which are captured in the next section of this Communiqué.
7. The Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya and the Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture launched the CAADP Knowledge Products, by handing over to Member States Ministers and Representatives of Regional Economic Communities who were present in the PP, electronic data storage devices and summary reports of the inaugural (2016-2017) CAADP-Malabo Biennial Report.
8. In the high level Ministerial segment Ministers deliberated and shared their perspectives and countries' experiences within the context of implementation and domesticating the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agriculture Growth and Transformation, the recently launched Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), as well as the theme of the CAADP Partnership Platform.
9. Ministers specifically highlighted the progress in implementation of ongoing agriculture sector investment plans and how their governments are repositioning the sector for increased investment (both public and private sector), with special focus on opening new markets for agricultural, livestock and fisheries commodities, in order to make use of the opportunity the recently launched AfCFTA has provided.
10. Ministers further highlighted how resources are being mobilized and aligned to finance production, processing, storage and transportation of their strategic agriculture, livestock, fisheries and natural resource commodities to feed both into the intra-African trade and trans-continental markets.
11. After being enlightened on the just launched Malabo Reporting Tool – a web-based interactive reporting and information access platform, Ministers highlighted the main factors driving or inhibiting progress, as the case may be, and how they are re-/strategizing to either score further progress or reverse the image with an intention to improve their individual country's performance in the next continental reporting cycle.

## **KEY MESSAGES**

12. It is critical that policy makers in Member States recognize that free trade is the way to go as it assures every producer gets connected to the market when the

prohibiting tariffs are removed at border points. However, for free trade to reach the desired level of intensity, it is critical to put in place the right transport, market and communication infrastructure for easy access and connectivity between trading points.

13. The importance of linking agriculture transformation with infrastructure development that will address rural transformation; including roads, rail, energy and ICT rollout to stop rural-urban and international migration of the younger generations.
14. It is of essence that policy makers in Member State governments recognize that eliminating tariffs to make earnings from cross-border trade is an optimal trade off, as it is predicted that collapsing 90% of import tariffs within Africa can yield a 52.3% growth rate in trade value, which is quite substantial.
15. Considering the persistent challenge of financing national development and investment plans that always hinder performance in the agriculture sector and its far-reaching spill over effects of inability to achieve the goal of ending hunger by 2025, it is important that tremendous need for attracting donors by having solid development projects
16. Africa has remained a marginal player in world trade, considering that its shares in world exports is barely three percent on average, while its import bill has risen significantly over time.
17. It is an imperative that the gain from trade goes beyond the mere exchange of goods and services, especially considering the multiple benefits and impact; this tripling intra-African trade is possible.
18. Livestock and fisheries contribute substantially to improved livelihoods and higher economic growth in African countries of up to 50 percent of agricultural GDP; yet there is very limited investments in these sector. In this regard, it is critical to change the narrative and factor investment, research and innovation in livestock, fisheries and their value chains so as to achieve food security and Malabo and SDG targets of ending hunger and reducing poverty.
19. Call upon the AUC, AUDA-NEPAD and Partners to incorporate livestock and fisheries indicators, covering financing, productivity, trade and resilience into the Malabo Review Reporting mechanism.
20. Using trade data and information is critical toward meeting Malabo Declaration objectives, including helping to prioritize and better target support toward increased private sector growth and expanded trade. It is therefore essential that we, as a continent, are equipped with an effective data capturing system that allows us know at any given time where we stand on trade related matters.
21. Call upon African Union to develop and establish guidelines establishing African position on the GMO seeds for broad awareness raising across the continent.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Participants in the 15<sup>th</sup> CAADP PP Meeting,

1. Call upon the AUC to facilitate RECs and Member States to develop concrete actions to take advantage of the opportunities in the African Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA).
2. Urge the principal institutions responsible for creating and sustaining market infrastructure and trade to work together to develop strategies and mechanisms for increasing access to information through the use of information and Communication Technology, strengthening trade practices to transform markets systems and creating an enabling policy environment to transform market systems.
3. Considering that there is enormous need to accelerate the development of the agro-processing industry through a value-chain approach if we are to achieve agriculture transformation, urge Member States to establish stronger linkages between policies and pragmatic strategies for achieving agricultural, trade and industrial development.
4. The private sector is capable of potentially transforming agriculture by way of linking productions to markets. Therefore, encourage Member States Governments to institutionalize public-private partnerships that promote innovative investments in agricultural value chains and that easily attracts intra-African trade and overseas markets.
5. Encourage AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs and Member States to develop strategies for making agriculture and agribusiness attractive to the youth, which can take into consideration a number of innovative approaches for creating opportunities for the youth, including: Youth Idea Generators (for innovative ideas for investing in agriculture and its value chains, including use of technology in agriculture); Fund for Youth Entrepreneurs in Agribusiness; Youth in Agriculture/Agribusiness Policy Advocacy Networks (for peer-to-peer advocacy); Land plots as incentives for winning youth agricultural projects.
6. Call upon African Union institutions encourage smallholder famers to see agriculture as a business, and to mobilize different partnerships both existing and new ones to facilitate market access for smallholder famers, women and the youth in strategic value chains, and establish an international board to draft and formulate issues regarding young people and women to increase their competitiveness in the context of the AfCFTA.
7. Urge Member States to translate national policies into simplified language that can be easily understood by farmers so that such policies are appreciated and attract action and wide scale application.
8. Urge the AU Heads of State and Government to consider pursuing the single trading currency initiative to ease trading across neighbouring countries and cushion farmer cooperatives against exchange rate losses.
9. Call upon AUC, AUDA-NEPAD and Partners to develop new tools and approaches for generating information for better quantifying of trade between member states with an aim to facilitate intra-African trade in line with the Malabo Declaration.

10. Call upon AUC-NEPAD to working in close collaboration with RECs to develop mechanism/protocols, systems and tools for monitoring formal and cross-border informal trade in agriculture commodities and services and ensure such information is made accessible in appropriate formats to interested users.
11. Encourage RECs to ensure that tariff liberalization protects key food security and value added products, including protection of indigenous food and seeds.
12. Encourage African Union institutions to support the work by COMESA, SADC and ECOWAS on the harmonization of their respective seed policies
13. Encourage RECs and Member States to strengthen quality infrastructure systems for standardisation of food safety, plant health, animal health, quality and environmental soundness of goods, services and processes that comprise institutional, policy and regulatory frameworks and practices.
14. Call upon AUC and the AUDA-NEPAD to lead an inclusive consultation and development process on a uniquely African Agriculture and Food Systems investment financing architecture linked to ensuring attainment of related Malabo Declaration, Agenda 2063 and SDGs targets. This should address both increased volumes of investments as well as the quality and appropriate strategic allocation of the investments. A proposal should be developed and presented at the next CAADP PP for endorsement before being submitted to the relevant AU processes.
15. Encourage Member States to provide relevant education, information, communication targeting different stakeholder, including standards and compliance requirements.
16. Encourage RECs and Members States to develop and harmonise national and regional standards, based on the 1-1-1 principle, which align with international standards for value chains for improved African product competitiveness and intra-African trade.
17. Encourage RECs and Member States to develop policy frameworks for food fortification by supporting the development of a robust food fortification model for small scale farmers, which includes strengthened quality assurance mechanisms to scale up trade opportunities from local to national, regional and global markets.
18. While the communiqué on the Parliamentary Dialogue was immediately released during the plenary closing session, a separate communiqué has been prepared for the ministerial closed session
19. The participants thank the AUC, the AUDA-NEPAD and their partners for elevating the profile of the CAADP PP by inviting Ministers in charge of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Parliamentarians at the continental, regional and national level. This was a rich peer learning and exchange platform. The participants reassure the organizers that they will use the knowledge and experience gained through this meeting for the progress and development of the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the Malabo Commitments in the African continent.

**Done on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya**