

# **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**

## **Support to AU/NEPAD (Period of July 2010 to June 2011)**

### **Collaboration with other UN agencies in support of NEPAD**

FAO's collaboration with other UN agencies in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and its Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) continued during the reporting period. This collaboration takes place within and outside the context of the Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development Cluster (AFSRDC) of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM). Some of FAO collaborative efforts with UN agencies and other development partners in support of NEPAD and the African Union Commission are briefly highlighted below.

#### *Collaboration under the UN Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development Cluster (AFSRDC):*

FAO continued to serve as the Coordinator of AFSRDC until November 2010, when the African Union Commission Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (AUC/DREA) accepted to co-chair the Cluster with FAO. AFSRDC met twice during the reporting period with the participation of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), AUC/DREA, WFP, ILO and FAO. The first meeting was held on 10 November 2010 and the second on 2 February 2011 both in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The key outcomes of the first meeting included: (i) agreement on the immediately launching of the formulation of a comprehensive and integrated capacity building programme for AUC/DREA and NPCA in the context of the UN Ten Year Capacity Building Programme (TYCBP); (ii) commitment by FAO and WFP to co-finance the capacity needs assessment and preparation of medium-term capacity building programme; (iii) acceptance of AUC/DREA to co-chair AFSRDC meetings with FAO, and to be supported respectively by NPCA and WFP; (iv) adoption of the annual AFSRDC report, prepared by FAO for a joint FAO/DREA presentation at the 11th RCM meeting; and (v) DREA/NPCA to spearhead identification of key Cluster activities in areas where UN support will have a clear value addition. The main objective of the Cluster meeting in February was to brief the FAO and WFP consultants on capacity building on the scope, methodology and process in the analysis and formulation of the capacity building programme and the timeline for its finalization, review and adoption. The meeting agreed to meet in the second half of March to discuss the consultants' reports and to define Cluster activities for the remaining part of the year.

#### *Supporting Conference of African Ministers for Agriculture:*

The Conference was held in October 2010 in Lilongwe, Malawi, and it was jointly organized by AUC/DREA, NPCA and the Government of Malawi. The theme of the Conference was "Delivering on African's Agriculture Development Agenda, and it was officially opened by the President of the Republic of Malawi, who was also, at the time, the Chairperson of the African Union (AU) and attended by Ministers of Agriculture, Development Partners, African institutions as well as Farmer Organizations. FAO with input from the Rome-based Institutions assisted AU-DREA and NPCA in the preparation of the background documents to the conference. The objective of the Conference was to galvanize political support by African Governments towards fast-tracking implementation of the Africa Food Basket initiative and propose quick wins at national and regional levels within the overall context of the CAADP processes. One of the outcomes of the Conference was to establish a

Food Basket Strategic Group composed of 17 member countries, WB, FAO, AfDB with the task of leading and monitoring the process of turning Africa into a food basket. The other outcome of the Conference was the official launching of African Food and Nutrition Day on 29 October 2010 and will be commemorated in all African countries annually.

*African Agribusiness and Agro-industries Development Initiative (3ADI):*

FAO has continued the work on a follow-up activities to implement the decisions of the “*High-Level Conference on the Development of Agribusiness and Agro-Industries in Africa (HLCD-3A)*”, that was held in Abuja, Nigeria in March 2010 under a joint technical leadership of FAO, UNECA, UNIDO, IFAD and the African Development Bank (AfDB). One of the key follow-up activities includes establishing a framework and financial mechanism that should enable African countries to develop highly productive and profitable agro-value chains, link producers to markets, increase value addition, foster innovative institutions and services, reinforce financing and risk mitigation mechanisms, and promote enabling policies and provision of public goods. The collaboration with AfDB is also continuing in designing a continental framework programme on reducing post-harvest losses which is in line with the CAADP agenda. The proposed interventions are being mainstreamed into CAADP National Investment Programmes. In addition, a regional TCP project with the AUC/NEPAD is being formulated with the objective of, inter alia, creating awareness among African institutions on post-harvest issues as well as building capacity to identify projects which can be funded under initiatives such as the AfDB’s continental framework programme.

*Supporting the implementation of CAADP:*

FAO continues to be a key player in the CAADP Task Team (CAADP/TT) of Development Partners. The CAADP/TT involves almost all member UN agencies of AFSRDC, bilateral and multilateral donors and international financial institutions. The Team holds telephone conferences and two face-to-face meetings - in Berlin and Zurich - during the reporting period. The teleconferences and face-to-face meetings focus on coordination of Development Partners Support to national governments, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the two continental organizations, i.e. AUC/DREA and NPCA in the formulation of policies and investment programmes in the framework of CAADP implementation. The CAADP/TT discusses operational and technical issues, but its main objectives are ensuring that Development Partners’ support at country and regional levels is coordinated and synchronized, and mobilization of technical, political and financial support especially from the participating donors and technical institutions. With regards to the latter, the most significant achievement has been the successful application of five African countries - Ethiopia, Niger, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Togo - to accessing funds from the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme that resulted in these countries receiving financial support for the implementation of their CAADP agenda USD51.5, 33, 50, 50 and 39 million respectively. GAFSP is a Programme designed to facilitate the delivery of the commitments made by G8 countries at their Summit in L’Aquila, Italy, in 2009.

### **Financial support to the NEPAD/CAADP Agenda**

FAO support to the AUC/DREA and NPCA continues to be more of a technical rather than of a financial nature. As such, FAO has continued with its technical support towards enhancing the process of CAADP implementation at continental, regional and national levels. Nevertheless, FAO has managed to mobilize USD10.5 million to fund its technical assistance in support of CAADP implementation. Of this, USD7.7 million is mobilized under two Spanish funded projects and the remaining USD2.8 million is provided under an Italian funded project. One of the Spanish projects is specifically earmarked to strengthen the capacity of ECOWAS and its member states in the design, implementation and evaluation of agriculture sector and sub-sector policies and investment

programmes in the framework of CAADP. The second Spanish funded project is to assist developing countries in the design and implementation of policies and programmes to mitigate the impact of soaring prices and develop their abilities for early warning and responses to similar occurrence.

FAO is also assisting some African countries to design National Programme for Food Security, integrate it into the CAADP process, and mobilize funding for their implementation. In this respect the countries assisted or being assisted includes Chad, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea and São Tomé and Príncipe.

### **Institutional support to NEPAD**

As stressed above, FAO's main assistance to NEPAD and its parent organization the AUC/DREA is focused at strengthening the capacity building of the African institutions. In this regard, FAO continued to provide experts to NPCA and AUC/DREA. Currently there are two FAO Experts on secondment to AUC/DREA funded under its Technical Cooperation Programme projects, one Senior Policy/Investment Officer at NPCA and one Senior Policy Officer based in Addis Ababa to work closely with AUC/DREA and UNECA with the responsibility of liaison, advocacy work and resource mobilization in support of Africa's food security and agriculture agenda jointly pursued by AUC/DREA and NPCA. In addition, a Senior Information Analyst is being recruited to be based at NPCA under an EU funded project.

The primary role of the FAO provided advisors is to enhance the continental Organizations' capacity in policy and advocacy work in support of CAADP implementation, monitoring and reporting. In terms of strategy, the delivery of FAO Technical to the continental agriculture agenda and Institutions is anchored on four mutually reinforcing pillars. These are: (i) Mobilization of FAO's in-house technical expertise; (ii) alignment of FAO field programme with the CAADP agenda; (iii) building Partnership and alliances with development partners; and (iv) advocacy work and resource mobilization.

### **Advocacy work in support of African development**

#### *Resource mobilization in support of food security and agriculture development:*

FAO continues to play a crucial role in advocating for increased and appropriate external and domestic investments towards agricultural development and food security in Africa. This is pursued along different avenues including the organization of, or participation in, international high level meetings and Summits, publication of technical review reports on the status of food security and agricultural development in Africa, and preparation of advocacy notes and organization of consultative seminars on policy options. Although most of these initiatives are global in scope, Africa, as the main region which suffers from hunger and malnutrition, is at the forefront of FAO's advocacy work on food insecurity and poverty reduction. Some of such initiatives are briefly highlighted below.

#### *Contribution to G-20 initiatives:*

FAO was represented at high level at the G-20 meeting held in Seoul on 11-12 November 2010, which adopted "the Multi-Year Action Plan on Development", that is anchored on nine pillars and aimed at facilitating "inclusive, sustainable and resilient growth in developing countries, with emphasis on Low Income Countries (LICs)". The Multi-Year Action Plan recognized the

responsibility of FAO and partner Agencies in improving policy coherence and coordination for food security. Furthermore, the G20 Summit requested FAO in collaboration with IFAD, IMF, OECD, UNCTAD, WFP, the World Bank (WB) and WTO to work with key stakeholders to develop option for G20 consideration on how to better mitigate and manage the risks associated with the price volatility of food and other agriculture commodities without distorting market behavior, ultimately to protect the vulnerable. The proposal will be tabled and discussed at the next G-20 Summit in France. In addition, the G20 Summit gave a clear mandate to FAO, the WB, OECD and the Aquila Food Security Initiative (AFSI) to monitor the progress on disbursement and the implementation of AFSI pledges. Key FAO technical units have since then been mobilized to meet the request of the G20 Summit.

*Raising awareness about Food Insecurity and Malnutrition:*

In November 2009, when the critical threshold of one billion hungry people in the world was reached in part as a result of the global soaring food prices and the financial crisis, the FAO Director-General, launched an online petition “*1 billion hungry project*” to urge political leaders to take urgent action against hunger and malnutrition. The project which is supported by UN agencies, NGOs, youth groups, farmers’ organizations, the private sector, FAO Goodwill Ambassadors and other personalities reaches out to people through website and is available in the six official languages of FAO as well as Italian, Japanese, Portuguese and Swedish. Initially, the objective was to reach one million signatures but already by October 2010 the target was surpassed and the number of signatures is continuing to grow.

*Participation in the first Arab forum for agricultural and food investment:*

The Forum was organized around four themes: (i) Arabic investment horizon - opportunity and execution; (ii) the Role of public and private sector investment in agricultural production and processing; (iii) investing in agricultural infrastructure and services; and (iv) strategic relationship between the private sector and the Arab Financing Institutions. The Forum was attended by representatives of Arab governments and a number of private sector enterprises involved in the various phases of the agricultural value chain from production, to processing and retail. FAO delivered a key note address with the title of “*CAADP – A Framework for Afro-Arab Cooperation and an opportunity for promoting Arab Investment in Africa*”. The main message of the key note address was promoting Arab private and public sector investment in one or more aspects of the agricultural value chain in Africa within the framework of CAADP.

*Publication of guide for policy and programmatic actions at country level to address high food price:*

As part of its Initiative on Soaring Food Prices (ISFP), in January 2011, FAO published an updated “*Guide for policy and programmatic actions at country level to address high food prices*”, which covers the pros and cons of three types of measures aimed at minimizing vulnerability of developing countries to international price volatility and their impact on macroeconomic instability: The Guideline was widely circulated and it will be the basis of organizing sub-regional training workshop on Preparedness and Mitigation of the impacts and effects of price volatility in food crops.