

# **FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO)**

## **Support to NEPAD**

**Period of Report: July 2006 to June 2007**

### **Financial and technical support towards CAADP implementation**

FAO continues to provide assistance in the formulation and/or finalization of the National Medium-Term Investments Programmes (NMTIPs) and Bankable Investment Project Profiles (BIPPs) in order to accelerate the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) implementation at country level. As of January 2007, the process had been completed in 51 countries and the documents for the relevant NMTIPs and BIPPs are available on FAO's website. The exercise, using funding from the Government of Italy and FAO's own resources from the Technical Cooperation Programme, resulted in the preparation of around 200 BIPPs with an investment portfolio of close to US\$10 billion. More than 80 percent of the BIPPs are in the area of water control and infrastructure development.

FAO also continues to provide technical support to the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) with a view to strengthening their capacities to implement CAADP at the regional level. In this context, FAO assisted in the organization of two regional consultation meetings during the period under review, and provided financial support to the African Union (AU) and NEPAD Secretariat to convene a consultation workshop in November 2006 with the participation of all the RECs and other regional bodies involved in agriculture development activities. The purpose of the meeting was to brainstorm on the operationalization of the CAADP-Sirte Integrated Action Plan.

Another important area of FAO support is in the development and implementation of a budget tracking system to monitor AU countries' compliance with the Maputo Declaration to increase resource allocation for the implementation of CAADP to at least ten percent of national budgetary resources. With the help of the resources FAO has mobilized from the World Bank, a more comprehensive and updated report on African countries' budget and expenditures in support of food security and agricultural development in the context of CAADP will soon be made available.

### **Advocacy work and mobilizing political support for CAADP implementation**

With FAO support, the ground for the implementation of CAADP at national and regional levels is almost completed. However, preliminary assessment shows that governments did not adequately reflect the BIPPs in their National Medium-Term Expenditure Frameworks (NMTEF) for funding, and that they were seldom included among the list of projects submitted to donors for funding. This was in spite of the fact that bilateral donors and International Financial Institutions have made it clear that they would support the implementation of the CAADP at country level by funding only those

CAADP-related projects and programmes submitted to them by individual governments.

The issue of mainstreaming BIPPs in national planning frameworks and the NMTEF was discussed at the meeting of the AU Ministers for Agriculture in Bamako on 1 February 2006, which was held alongside the 24<sup>th</sup> FAO Regional Conference for Africa (ARC). FAO strongly supported the recommendation for countries to adopt the NMTIPs and BIPPs as the basis for accelerating the CAADP implementation in their respective countries, with funding coming primarily from their own resources but supplemented by resources from development partners. This recommendation was endorsed by the African Heads of State and Government at their Summit in Banjul, the Gambia, in July 2006.

FAO also continues to advocate for stronger commitments, primarily from African countries and their development partners, through the organization of meetings, networking, the preparation of information brochures, etc. A brief summary of the main advocacy initiatives carried out during the second half of 2006 follows below.

#### FAO and AU meetings of African Experts and Ministers for Agriculture

The FAO and AU meetings of African Experts and Ministers for Agriculture were held back-to-back from 27 November to 1 December 2006 in Libreville, Gabon. The objectives of the FAO technical and ministerial meetings were to deliberate on concrete measures to accelerate CAADP implementation at regional and national levels, focusing on the most strategic components of the Programme; linking agricultural water development and rural infrastructure; and enhancing intra-African trade for food security. The AU meetings deliberated on CAADP-related issues, namely, Early Warning System, Seed and Biosafety and Genetically Modified Organisms. The meetings were attended by delegates from some 26 countries and 10 international organizations, and resulted in recommendations referred to the Summit level at Abuja.

#### AU/NEPAD Food Security Summit

The AU/NEPAD Food Security Summit was convened by the AU at the initiative of His Excellency Olesgun Obasanjo, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, from 4 to 7 December 2006 in Abuja, Nigeria. As the leading technical partner for the Summit, FAO was involved in the preparation of Summit documents, while senior FAO staff chaired the International Technical Committee (ITC<sup>1</sup>), participated in all the preparatory meetings and acted as rapporteurs during the various technical and ministerial sessions.

The objective of the Summit was to revisit existing action plans related to the implementation of CAADP with a view to galvanizing commitments already made by African countries and their development partners. One of the guiding principles for organizing the Summit was to ensure that the recommendations made would add value to previous declarations and decisions. In this regard, the Summit endorsed an outcome-

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<sup>1</sup> The members of the ITC included representatives of the Nigerian National Organizing Committee, the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture of the AU Commission, the NEPAD Secretariat, FAO, African Development Bank, ECA, WFP and IFAD.

based approach, and identified five outcome areas that served as a framework and guide for action. The Summit also agreed on the need for Africa to select a few commodities for strategic focus, and on starting to formalize selected priority AU decisions for Africa to focus on. Among the additional outcomes of the Summit were the renewed commitments expressed by African countries for the CAADP agenda and strengthened interagency collaboration, particularly between FAO, the African Development Bank, IFAD and WFP.

#### Other NEPAD/CAADP Advocacy-Related FAO Initiatives

In addition to the above, FAO continued to seize every opportunity to advocate for African development. These included:

- High-level participation in the Sino-African Summit held from 3 to 5 November 2006 in Beijing. The Director-General met with key Chinese Government Officials and advocated for increased Chinese technical and financial assistance for Africa's agricultural development in the context of CAADP. A media event broadcasted on Chinese television underlined that Sino-Africa cooperation in the field of agriculture would benefit both the Chinese and African people.
- Advocating for African development through increased networking with European Parliamentarians for Africa (AWEPA), in view of a possible AWEPA/NEPAD Secretariat/FAO cooperation to mobilize political and financial support within Africa and Europe for CAADP implementation. A draft concept note in this regard will soon be finalized.
- FAO's continued strong high-level involvement in following up the implementation of the Maputo Declaration, as well as the resolution of African Heads of State and Government to mainstream the NMTIPs and BIPPs in national development frameworks and to mobilize the necessary resources for their implementation through countries' own contributions and/or external resources.

#### **Institutional support to NEPAD Secretariat**

Direct support to NEPAD Secretariat has included secondment of successive senior agricultural advisers, under different funding mechanisms, a junior professional officer (JPO) and short-term consultants to work directly with the Secretariat. The contract of the current agricultural adviser expires in June 2007, and the JPO's contract will expire in October 2007. There is great likelihood that the position of senior agricultural adviser will be further extended. The main task of the FAO-provided staff is to ensure that the CAADP agenda moves forward through the preparation of background documents, the convening of implementation-related meetings, the formulation of relevant documents for mobilizing resources, supporting the RECs and improving coordination with the Rural Economy and Agriculture Department of the AU Commission.

While endorsing the CAADP at their Summit in Maputo in July 2003, AU Ministers for Agriculture requested the preparation of a Companion Document to expand the scope of the CAADP document to include livestock, fisheries and forestry sub-sectors. FAO

provided financial and technical support to the Secretariat in preparing and producing the Companion Document in the four AU languages. While the English version was made available for distribution in July 2006, the versions in Arabic, French and Portuguese will be available by June 2007.

### **Cooperation with other UN agencies, International Financial Institutions and Governments**

As the convener of the Agriculture Cluster, FAO cooperates and collaborates closely with the UN agencies supporting the NEPAD CAADP agenda. Thus, for example, it provided technical inputs for the preparation and implementation of the FAO and AU technical and ministerial meetings in Libreville, as well as for the Abuja Food Security Summit, for which it involved UN partners, including ECA, IFAD and WFP. In addition, FAO cooperated closely with the African Development Bank (AfDB) in the preparation of the Background Document on Water Control and Infrastructure Development for Food Security for the Libreville meetings. Furthermore, FAO and AfDB are planning to convene a joint meeting of African Ministers for Agriculture and Finance in June 2007.

### **Impact of FAO support**

Agriculture and infrastructure programmes are the most advanced among the different NEPAD sectors. In the case of the agriculture programme, FAO's financial and technical support has made a considerable impact. Some concrete indicators in this regard include:

- the fact that 51 countries have now completed preparation of project profiles for funding to operationalize CAADP;
- the decision of the African Governments to increase resource allocation to agriculture to 10 percent of their national budgets;
- the endorsement of CAADP by the G-8 countries and their decision to use the CAADP document as a framework for their support to agriculture in Africa;
- the mainstreaming of the NMITPs and BIPPs in the national development framework in a number of countries, and the evidence that some countries have already started implementing them utilizing their own resources and/or financial support from their development partners.

However, despite the positive indicators and the numerous political commitments, progress in the CAADP implementation has been slow so far. In this regard, FAO is planning to undertake a number of measures in support of the AU and the NEPAD Secretariat to implement the CAADP-related recommendations of the Abuja Food Security Summit and the Libreville ministerial and technical meetings.