

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO)

Support to NEPAD

Period of Report: July 2007 to June 2008

Collaboration with other UN agencies in support of the NEPAD Agricultural Programme

Convener of the Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development Cluster (AFSRD)

As the convener of the AFSRD Cluster, FAO continued to collaborate with most members of the cluster especially WFP, IFAD, the World Bank and the African Development Bank (AfDB) in advancing the NEPAD and African Union food security and agricultural development agenda. FAO also contributed in the implementation of the activities of other clusters: Infrastructure Development, Human Resources, Science and Technology, Peace and Security, and Trade and Market Access, as well as prepared and presented a Cluster report at the 8th Regional Consultative Meeting (RCM) that was held in Addis Ababa in November 2007.

Member of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Partnership Platform

In this context, FAO collaborated with UN agencies (IFAD, WFP, ECA and the World Bank) and other bilateral and multilateral donors in providing technical and advocacy support for effective implementation of CAADP. FAO is a member of the Expert Reference Group established by the NEPAD Secretariat to facilitate the design and implementation of CAADP Pillar 3, which focuses on eradication of hunger and poverty through increased agricultural productivity, well-integrated markets and expanded purchasing power of vulnerable groups. The Group has produced the final version of the Framework for African Food Security (FAFS), which outlines the causes and consequences of food insecurity in Africa, and suggests concrete solutions. During the reporting period the Group met in September 2007 in Addis Ababa, February 2008 in South Africa and in March 2008 in Seychelles to assess the progress made and problems encountered in CAADP implementation and deliberate on remedial measures.

Development of a framework and guidelines for Africa Land Policy and Land Reform
FAO is collaborating with the Joint Secretariat, consisting of the African Union (AU) Commission, ECA and AfDB established to develop a policy framework and guidelines aimed at securing land rights for increased productivity, improved livelihoods, enhanced natural resource management and broad-based economic growth. A TCP project has been approved to provide financial and technical support to the Joint Secretariat.

Collaboration in the framework of TICAD-IV

This is one of the most significant and well coordinated supports provided by AFSRDC, in the last 12 months, in the context of the preparation and implementation of the Fourth Tokyo International Conference for African Development (TICAD-IV). The AFSRDC

members involved were FAO, IFAD, WFP and the World Bank, and the main objectives of the effort was to ensure that agriculture and food security are prioritized in the agenda of TICAD-IV and that CAADP is adopted as a framework for Japanese support. In this regard, the four agencies jointly organized a Side Event entitled “Facing the Challenges and Opportunities of High Food Prices” that was chaired by President Kikwete of the United Republic of Tanzania, in his capacity as the current Chairperson of the African Union, co-chaired by H.E. J. Ping, the Chairperson of the African Union. The panellists were the Presidents of the World Bank and IFAD, the Executive Director of WFP and the FAO Regional Representative for Africa. The Event was officially opened and closed respectively by the Foreign Minister and Prime Minister of Japan, attended by over 300 people including a number of Heads of State and Government and Heads of International Development and UN agencies, and attracted wide media coverage.

MDG Africa Initiative - Agriculture and Food Security Thematic Working Group

This initiative was launched by the UN Secretary-General to identify effective mechanisms for implementing MDG commitments. It has a three-tiered management structure including a Steering Group, a Working Group and support Thematic Working Groups. FAO and the AU coordinate the Thematic Group on Agriculture and Food Security with active support from IFAD and WFP. Members include almost all members of the AFSRDC and a number of other international and civil society organizations. The Thematic Group held one meeting in Rome in February 2008, which unanimously recommended that the MDG-Africa initiative supports CAADP’s accelerated implementation (rather than launching parallel processes), primarily at country-level. It further recommended a massive increase in funding for agriculture and food security, using existing funding mechanisms and, if deemed necessary, through establishing new financing mechanisms, whose operational modalities would be guided by the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. Follow-up work has continued by e-mail and side meetings in Pretoria (May 2008) and Tunis (June 2008).

FAO and AU represented the Thematic Group at the Working Group meetings chaired by the Deputy UN Secretary-General in November 2007, as well as February, April and June 2008. The Thematic Group Business Plan was submitted in May 2008. FAO is also leading a study on external financing (ODA and others) to agriculture and food security in Africa.

Collaboration in the Context of Soaring Food Prices

In Africa, the FAO “*Initiative on Soaring Food Prices (ISFP)*” is very closely linked to the implementation of CAADP, particularly its Pillar 3. Within the overall framework of CAADP, the ISFP seeks to provide emergency assistance to countries to increase food supply, by boosting agricultural production, in the immediate future. FAO, together with the AU, the NEPAD Secretariat and the World Bank, organized a workshop in March 2008, in Pretoria, to discuss ISFP Action Plans of 16 countries. FAO, WFP, IFAD and the World Bank are also currently supporting the NEPAD Secretariat to lead assessment missions and provide technical support to countries finalizing their Action Plans.

Financial support to NEPAD

FAO is not a funding agency. As such, its assistance to the NEPAD Secretariat and AU in implementing their Food Security and Agriculture Development Programmes, especially the CAADP-Sirte, is more technical and policy advice. However, FAO continued making significant financial contributions to enable the NEPAD Secretariat organize meetings and undertake missions in support of the NEPAD agricultural agenda. Support was provided through a TCP project operated between May 2006 and October 2007, and a follow-up TCP project approved in October 2007 for implementation within 12 months.

FAO also supports the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and national governments in formulating agricultural investment programmes and mobilizing resources for their implementation in the context of the CAADP and National Programmes for Food Security (NPFS). For example, FAO mobilized some USD 900 million, from domestic and external resources, in support of NPFS in 15 countries, of which USD 138 million was acquired during the reporting period.

Furthermore, FAO mobilized USD 17 million for launching the ISFP. Of this, 50 percent was FAO/TCP resources and the remaining 50 percent was a donation from the Government of Spain. In addition, FAO has recently approved TCP projects for 24 African countries with a total budget of USD 12 million in support of procurement and delivery of urgently needed inputs to boost production and productivity of small and vulnerable farmers. During the High-Level Conference on *World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy* organized by FAO from 3 to 5 June 2008, donors and international financial institutions pledged close to USD 20 billion, of which a significant proportion is expected to be destined for Africa.

Institutional support to NEPAD

FAO remains a major partner of the NEPAD Secretariat in the agriculture sector. Since 2003, the Organization has provided services of successive advisers towards strengthening the Secretariat's capacity to develop and implement action plans for effective and coordinated implementation of CAADP at regional, subregional and national levels. Currently, there are two Senior FAO Agricultural Advisers assigned to NEPAD under a TCP project funding. In addition, FAO finances short-term consultants for specific tasks including strategic planning, the preparation of background documents, organization of implementation-related meetings, mobilization of funding from international and regional funding agencies, and monitoring compliance with the Maputo commitment to allocate 10 percent of national budgets to agriculture by 2008.

FAO also provided financial and technical support to the AU in conducting studies and developing policy frameworks for the establishment of the African Common Market for Basic Food. The study took place in 2006 and 2007, and was followed by an international workshop held in January 2008. The workshop was attended by representatives of the AU, ECA, RECs, WFP, Farmers' Union and Civil Society, who reviewed and finalized the Action Plan for establishing the Common Market for Food Commodities.

Advocacy work in support of the CAADP agenda

FAO's own preliminary assessment shows that many governments did not effectively incorporate the National Medium-Term Investment Programmes (NMTIPs) and the Bankable Investment Projects Profiles (BIPPs), prepared for 51 governments with FAO's financial and technical assistance between 2003 and 2007, in national Medium-Term Expenditure Frameworks (MTEFs), and they are seldom included among the projects or programmes submitted to donors and International Financial Institutions (IFIs) for funding. Consistent with its mandate, FAO pursues vigorous advocacy work to ensure adequate public support for sustainable agricultural development where agriculture remains the dominant source of livelihoods for the large majority of the population.

The first line of FAO's advocacy action is directed to African governments, to meet the Maputo 10 percent commitment and to ensure that agriculture is prioritized in national development and expenditure frameworks. In this regard, FAO is working closely with AfDB, NEPAD and the AU, to organize a joint meeting of African Ministers for Finance and Ministers for Agriculture to discuss prioritization of agriculture for funding from domestic and external resources as well as meeting the 10 percent budgetary target. This is in line with the recommendation of the meeting of African Ministers for Agriculture in Libreville and the Abuja Food Security Summit held in November and December 2006, respectively. The joint meeting is expected to take place early next year or in the context of the AU Summit that will be held in Madagascar in July 2009. FAO's effort in this regard seems to have yielded some results, as some countries have reported implementation of BIPPs under domestic and/or external funding.

The second thrust of FAO's advocacy work is directed at engaging bilateral donors and their organizations to support agriculture development and food security programmes in the context of NEPAD. FAO actively participates in donor-funded seminars and workshops organized, within and outside Africa, to discuss agriculture development and food security in Africa.

The third thrust of FAO's advocacy work is towards ensuring that CAADP remains the overarching framework for international support to agricultural development and food security in Africa, and that all donor-supported initiatives be implemented in the context of CAADP. Such initiatives include the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), the MDG-Africa Thematic Group on Agriculture and Food Security, the EU sponsored initiative "Advancing African Agriculture", etc. As an active partner to these initiatives, FAO advocates for aid effectiveness and synergy in the context of CAADP.

The fourth priority area of advocacy work has been directed at enhancing resource mobilization for the implementation of the BIPPs and other CAADP related activities. Activities implemented in this regard include FAO/NEPAD missions to the headquarters of the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) in Vienna, and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) in Khartoum. OFID is currently engaged in completing preparation of selected BIPPs in Mozambique, Rwanda and Zambia.