

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME (WFP)

Support to NEPAD

Period of report: July 2008 to June 2009

Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development

WFP provides support to NEPAD within the framework of an existing 2007 cooperation agreement with the African Union (AU) and a memorandum of understanding signed between NEPAD Secretariat and WFP in 2003. During the reporting period, WFP support to NEPAD continued to focus around Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Pillar 3 on key NEPAD priority areas – these include *inter alia*: (a) boosting agricultural production by providing market access to locally produced food to support school feeding and health programmes under the auspices of NEPAD Home-Grown School Feeding flagship project; (b) leveraging WFP local food procurement capacity to enhance market access for smallholder farmers by *inter alia*, buying food closer to the farm gate; and (c) promoting food and nutritional security through trade in staple foods and enhancing resilience to food crises caused by disasters through establishing reliable national and regional food-reserve systems.

Working closely with other UN organizations and partners, WFP continued to provide support to NEPAD for the implementation of CAADP through the CAADP Pillar 3 Reference Group established by NEPAD in 2006, the CAADP Partnership Platform Forum launched in 2006, and also on specific AU-NEPAD initiatives such as developing responses to address the impacts of high food prices.

Enhancing Market Access for Small-Holder Farmers:

WFP is leveraging its local food procurement capacity to enhance agricultural productivity of small-holder and low-income farmers and boost rural development and livelihoods through enhancing market access for local agricultural produce by, *inter alia*, buying food aid directly from the farmers' cooperatives or engaging in forward contracting. This initiative is being implemented on a pilot basis in some fifteen African countries (Burkina Faso, DRC, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia) in partnership with other UN agencies, AU and supply-side partners. Country assessments have been completed in fourteen countries (Burkina Faso, Liberia, Mali, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Uganda) have an approved implementation plan; Kenya and Zambia implementation plans are pending final approval. In addition, five country implementation plans are under development (Ethiopia, DRC, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, and Sudan). This initiative enhances inter-linkages between CAADP Pillar 2: *improving rural infrastructure and trade-related capacities for market access*; and Pillar 3: *increasing food supply, reducing hunger, and improving responses to emergency crises*.

Joint Meeting between NEPAD and WFP:

A senior level meeting was held between NEPAD and WFP in July 2008 with the view to (a) identify and agree on new opportunities for collaboration within the NEPAD-CAADP framework; (b) consolidate joint engagement in addressing emerging global and regional issues, such as the rising food prices; (c) seek enhanced alignment to the NEPAD-CAADP agenda, including support to strengthening capacities at various levels for accelerated and effective CAADP implementation, such as capacity building at NEPAD Secretariat and RECs for the coordination of the rising food prices initiative; and (d) agree on formal modalities for regular communication, a specific joint action and dialogue between NEPAD and WFP. WFP established a Cooperation and Partnership Programme unit to revitalize its partnership programmes.

Expanding School Feeding and Health Programmes:

NEPAD, with support from WFP and the Millennium Hunger Task Force, launched a Home-Grown School Feeding Programme (HGSFP) designed to achieve inter-twined objectives in education, market access for local agricultural produce and, health and nutrition by linking school feeding to local agriculture development through the purchase of domestic food produced by local communities. Out of the twelve countries selected by NEPAD for implementing the programme on a pilot basis, Nigeria and Ghana are implementing the HGSFP.

Collaboration with other UN Agencies in support of NEPAD

I. CAADP Partnership Platform Forum and Expert Reference Groups:

NEPAD has established expert reference groups under each of the four CAADP Pillars to facilitate and support NEPAD in the design and implementation of CAADP at regional and country levels. WFP participates in the CAADP Pillar 3 Reference Group. WFP also participated in the CAADP Partnership Forum meeting held in March 2008. The CAADP Partnership Platform was established by NEPAD to coordinate international support and resource mobilisation for CAADP implementation.

II. UN Regional Consultation Meetings:

The UN Agencies working in Africa formed Thematic Groups under the auspices of UN-ECA as a mechanism to provide coordinated support to NEPAD-AU. WFP participates in the annual regional consultation meetings – the latest one was held in Addis Ababa in November 2008. WFP belongs to three Clusters – (i) Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development; (ii) Peace and Security, and the sub-Cluster on Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development; and (iii) Human Resources Development, Employment and HIV/AIDS.

III. TICAD IV:

WFP collaborated with NEPAD, AU Commission and other UN Agencies on joint

advocacy within the defined themes in preparation for TICAD IV held in Yokohama in May 2008. The Yokohama Action Plan outlines specific actions under the themes on *inter alia*, agriculture and food security, school feeding, emergency response and post-conflict/disaster recovery.

IV. MDG Africa Working Group:

WFP has played an active role in the interagency MDG Africa Working Group chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General and is a member of the Thematic Group on Agriculture and Food Security. The thematic group seeks to reinforce and strengthen the implementation of the NEPAD CAADP Program as part of a comprehensive approach to supporting the AU countries in making progress towards reaching the MDG1 hunger reduction goal.

V. High Food Prices related events:

In response to the global challenges of rising food prices, soaring cost of fuel and energy, high costs of agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizers, etc.) as well as effects of climate change, AU Commission/NEPAD, with the support of partners, organised a workshop to develop short term responses as well as long term strategies to address soaring food prices and its impacts on the socio-economic development of African countries. Some 19 countries met in Pretoria, South Africa, under the flagship of “Accelerating Investment in Response to High Food Prices and Food Insecurity”. WFP worked closely with the AU Commission/NEPAD and other UN Agencies in the organisation of the workshop, provided technical support in the preparation of issue papers and led the discussions on improving food security risk management.

In response to global request and the Pretoria action, WFP together with development partners – WB, FAO, IFAD, USAID and NEPAD, participated in joint programme identification missions to fourteen countries in Africa (Benin, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Ivory Coast, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Zambia, and Egypt).

In addition, with the view to mitigate the impact of high prices, WFP launched an Emergency Market Mitigation Account initiative as part of a unified response and allocated a total of US\$181 million to 18 priority countries in Africa alone to assist governments meet the urgent call for high food price assistance through new and enhanced social safety nets.