

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)

Support to AU/NEPAD (Period of July 2009 to June 2010)

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 to be provided in the context of five channels. This collaboration takes place within and outside the context of the Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development Cluster (AFSRDC)¹ 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.

Promoting agro-industry and agribusiness development in African countries

FAO, in collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), African Development Bank (AfDB) and the government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria co-organized the “*High Level Conference on the Development of Agribusiness and Agro-Industries in Africa*” (HLCD-3A), which was held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 8 to 10 March 2010. The event was attended by African heads of state and government, ministers for agriculture and industry, senior government officials and representatives of development partners to discuss and endorse the “African Agribusiness and Agro-industries Development Initiative” (3ADI). The Initiative consists of a programme 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 result of the conference was the “Abuja Declaration on the Development of Agribusiness and Agro-industries in Africa”.

Enhancing market access for smallholder farmers

FAO continued to collaborate with WFP in support of its initiative to leverage local food procurement capacity to enhance productivity of smallholder and low-income farmers. The programme falls within the ambits of CAADP Pillars II and III.

Investment Support for L'Aquila Food Security Initiative (AFSI)

FAO has worked closely with other members of the United Nations High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis in support of the AFSI Group. FAO has contributed significantly to the development of the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP); a World Bank (WB) managed Financial Intermediary Fund (FIF), established under the auspices of the AFSI that is likely to provide the first tangible financial disbursement of the L'Aquila

¹ The Cluster Members are FAO, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UNIDO, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), World Food Programme (WFP), IFAD, ECA, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), World Bank (WB) and World Trade Organization (WTO).

commitments. FAO has made direct contributions to the Country Investment Plans (CIPs) and/or GAFSP proposals for seven countries of which three - Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Togo - are in Africa. The result of this assistance is that the CIPs of these countries received funding ranging from 35 to 50 million USD.

Assistance in the CAADP implementation process

FAO is an active member of the CAADP Development Partner Task Team (DP TT), which includes representatives of key UN agencies, that provides support and advice to NEPAD's Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), CAADP, country-based donor groups and UN Country Teams. Currently FAO is collaborating with a number of development partners in the preparation of country roundtables and preparation of CIPs in support of CAADP implementation at national and regional levels. Such assistance is being provided to Central Africa Republic, Sierra Leone, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda.

Follow-up to the implementation of the TICAD-IV Action Plan

FAO collaborated with other UN agencies in monitoring the implementation of the TICAD-IV Action Plan. In this context, it participated in the 2nd TICAD Ministerial Follow-up Meeting in Arusha, 2 and 3 May 2010. FAO also participated in the meeting of the Joint Monitoring Committee of the TICAD Process that was held in Tokyo in April 2010.

High-Level Task Force (HLTF) on Global Food Security

As noted, the Secretariat of the HLTF, whose members include FAO, IFAD, ILO, IMF, DESA, OCHA, OHCHR, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, WB, WTO and EOSG, is hosted by IFAD in Rome. During the reporting period, the work of the Senior Steering Group of the HLTF focused on the follow-up to the AFSI, of which NEPAD and its CAADP are expected to be the biggest beneficiaries of the 20 billion USD pledged at the G8 Summit in L'Aquila. As noted above, FAO has assisted seven of the eight countries who presented their CIPs for funding under GAFSP for approval by the Steering Committee (SC) at its meeting that was held in June 2010. FAO is currently assisting a number of African countries in their proposals for submission to the GASFP SC funding for consideration at its next seating in October 2010.

Financial support to NEPAD

FAO's support to NEPAD remains more technical rather than financial. However, FAO has managed to mobilize financial resources under three projects, two funded by Spain and one by Italy, amounting to 10 million USD to finance direct technical assistance to NEPAD, the African Union Commission (AUC), and the Economic Community for West African States (ECOWAS) in translating the national and regional CAADP Compacts, already signed by about 19 countries, into operational investment projects. Two of the projects, with a total funding of close to 7 million USD have been declared operational, while the third is under formulation. Furthermore, various FAO technical units have mobilized additional resources in support of food security and agriculture development in Africa in the context of CAADP.

Institutional support to NEPAD

FAO is currently recruiting a Senior Policy and Investment Officer and Food Security Information Analyst to be based at the NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA), and a Senior Policy Officer to be based in Addis Ababa to strengthen the capacity of the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA) of AUC. The overarching functions of the experts

will be to support the continental organizations to lead the advancement of CAADP implementation. Furthermore, FAO is in the process of identifying and recruiting three experts for DREA with funding under the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP).

Negotiation with the Government of Spain is underway on the approval of the Trust Fund project mentioned in Section 3, which will be aiming at strengthening capacities in the formulation and implementation of CAADP in ECOWAS and its member countries. The project makes a provision for a long-term expert and short-term international, regional and national consultants. Furthermore, a project funded by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation – “*Monitoring African Food and Agricultural Policies (MAFAP)*” - is assisting African policy-makers to align national, regional and continental policies to ensure CAADP investments support the achievement of CAADP agricultural growth and poverty reduction targets.

The institutional collaboration between FAO and NPCA is reviewed bi-annually by senior management of the two organizations at meetings hosted by both on alternating basis. A high-level FAO delegation visited NPCA during the first week of June 2010, for the first consultation of this year. The next consultation will take place September to October 2010. The outcome of the high-level consultation in June included agreements on: (i) expanding support to the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) beyond the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to include the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS); (ii) strengthening coordination of donor support to the CAADP process, while ensuring the process remains country-driven; (iii) FAO to ensure quality of national CAADP Investment Plans even where it has not been directly involved in their preparation; (iv) ensuring that the projects approved in support of NPCA make provision for operational and travel expenses by NPCA staff and management; and (v) collaboration in the preparation of the Nutrition Side Day to be organized during the AU summit in July 2010 that will take place in Kampala, Uganda.

Advocacy work in support of the CAADP agenda

In line with its vision and mission, FAO continued to advocate for mobilizing financial and political support to eradicate hunger and poverty by promoting sustainable agricultural growth and value addition. Although the effort is global, the focus for FAO’s advocacy work has been Africa because of the magnitude of food insecurity in the continent. Some of the advocacy related activities implemented include the following:

- follow-up, in collaboration with other UN agencies and International Financial Institutions (IFI), on the implementation of the AFSI, with the view to making a reality of the pledge made to allocate 20 billion USD over three years in support of food security and agriculture development
- monitoring and reporting at appropriate fora implementation of the Maputo 10 percent budgetary commitment by African governments, ensuring CAADP remains an Africa-led, Africa-owned and, to the extent possible, Africa-funded programme
- participation in high-level conference and meetings with the objective of soliciting support to the African food security and agriculture agenda. These include participation in the Brazil-Africa Dialogue on Food Security, Combating Hunger, and Rural

Development that was held from 10 to 12 May 2010 in Brasilia, Brazil. The FAO delegation was led by the FAO Director-General, and was a follow-up to the meeting President Lula had with representatives of African countries on the eve of the World Summit on Food Security held at FAO headquarters in Rome in November 2009. The meeting resulted in concrete collaboration frameworks, and FAO is assisting Brazil and AUC/NPCA in operationalizing the agreements reached

- fostering collaboration with Regional and IFIs in the formulation of agriculture investment plans in the context of CAADP
- promoting South-South Cooperation between African countries and countries in the emerging economies category by providing technical support to the African Union and NEPAD in organizing summits and high-level meetings
- mainstreaming CAADP implementation as an important agenda item in FAO conferences and communications. For example, the 26th FAO Regional Conference for Africa held in Luanda, Angola, in May 2010, discussed the progress and challenges in CAADP implementation, and highlighted the need for building stronger partnership between FAO, member countries and African continental and regional organizations in the formulation and implementation of CAADP programmes and projects.

Assessment of results and impacts of FAO assistance to NEPAD since 2007

It is difficult to attribute any progress made in CAADP implementation solely to FAO. However, together with the efforts of other development partners, FAO has seen some tangible achievements in CAADP implementation during the reporting period:

- CAADP has been accepted by all major development partners, bilateral and multilateral donors, international and regional financial institutions and UN agencies as a framework for the delivery of food security and agricultural development assistance in Africa
- although, by the end of 2008, only eight African countries had achieved or surpassed the Maputo 10 percent budgetary allocation target, many more have significantly increased resource allocation to agriculture in the last couple of years in conformity with the spirit of CAADP as an African owned and African driven programme
- Nineteen countries and one REC (ECOWAS) have concluded their country roundtable process and signed a compact, and most of them have formulated investment plans that led to financing
- the capacity of NEPAD has significantly improved in terms of providing policy leadership to the RECs and its development partners. This is reflected in the guidelines and roadmaps it develops and shares with partners in appropriate fora.