

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO)

Support to NEPAD

Period of report: July 2003 – June 2004

Orientation of work in support of NEPAD

FAO has a multi-prong approach to support NEPAD. FAO supports the NEPAD Secretariat and the African countries in developing NEPAD projects and programmes; develops and implements joint programmes in support of NEPAD; supports the strengthening of the sub-regional consultation mechanisms; and is committed to promoting coordination and coherence in support of NEPAD priorities.

Primary focus of activity

FAO's primary area of focus is food and agricultural development. Following a request from the NEPAD Secretariat, FAO has provided assistance to the Secretariat in the formulation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), which was endorsed by the African Ministers of Agriculture at a meeting held at the FAO headquarters in Rome in June 2002 and at African Ministers of Agriculture meeting in Maputo in July 2003, before its submission to the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, also held in Maputo in July 2003.

During the same meeting, the AU Heads of State and Government adopted the Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security, which provided strong political support to the CAADP. Major commitments from the Declaration include, *inter alia*: i) implementing, as a matter of urgency, the CAADP and allocating at least 10 percent of national budgetary resources towards the

agricultural sector; ii) ensuring the preparation of investment projects under CAADP for the mobilization of resources; and iii) ensuring the establishment of regional food reserve systems, including food stocks, which are linked to Africa's own production.

Steps undertaken as follow-up to the Maputo Declaration

FAO, in conjunction with the NEPAD Secretariat and the AU, hosted 2 sets of meetings, in September 2003 and in December 2003, as a follow up to the Maputo Declaration. Many development partners and regional economic communities were invited to these meetings. In the first meeting, participants agreed that countries should start with the preparation of the National Medium-term Programmes and the formulation of investment projects. Their progress was examined during the second meeting in December 2003.

FAO has also undertaken consultations with various partners (NEPAD Secretariat, World Bank, IMF, OECD, ADB) to examine the possibility of setting up a mechanism for tracking the allocation of budgetary resources in African countries. In this regard, a meeting was held in February 2004.

During the 23rd Regional Conference for Africa held in Johannesburg on 1-5 March 2004, FAO reported on a number of activities, which were carried out during

2003 in the framework of the implementation of NEPAD. These activities include:

i) *Initiative to review and update National Agricultural and Rural Development, and Food Security Strategies and Policies*

To date, 47 draft summary National Strategies have been prepared, providing the overall framework for Medium-term Investment Programmes and investment projects currently under preparation.

ii) *Integrating forestry, fisheries and livestock issues into the CAADP*

Following a request from African Ministers for Agriculture, FAO is contributing, in collaboration with the NEPAD Secretariat, to the integration of these sub-sectors into the main CAADP document. A companion-document will be prepared and presented to the AU Heads of State and Government in Addis Ababa in July 2004.

iii) *Implementation of fertilizer production and use in Africa*

A paper was presented on the issues surrounding production and use of fertilizers in Africa. Attention should be given to the improvement of fertilizer availability (including through local production) at affordable prices on the basis of regional and sub-regional cooperation and the involvement of the private sector.

iii) *Establishment of regional food reserve systems, including food stocks*

Jointly with the World Food Programme (WFP), FAO has also prepared a paper on *Regional Food Reserves*. The paper will be used as input into a broader one to be prepared by WFP on behalf of the NEPAD Secretariat.

FAO's financial commitment to NEPAD

FAO has provided financial assistance to:

a) individual African countries which amounts to US\$7 million to formulate National Medium-term Programmes as well as prepare bankable projects;

b) the regional NEPAD programmes to prepare a study on ECOWAS Common Agricultural Policy and the Africa Common Market for agricultural commodities (US\$600,000); and

c) the NEPAD Secretariat (US\$360,000).

In addition, funding of NEPAD activities have been undertaken through the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP). Three TCP projects were approved in 2003 in support of NEPAD activities for a total amount of US\$933,468:

i) *Advisory support to the NEPAD Secretariat (TCP/RAF/2917)*

This project's objective is to provide advisory support to NEPAD while contributing to the mobilization of Africa and partners' efforts to achieve a vibrant agricultural sector in line with the priorities of the CAADP.

ii) *Incorporating forestry, fisheries and livestock sectors in the NEPAD-CAADP (TCP/RAF/2924)*

The overall objective of this project is to assist the NEPAD Secretariat to elaborate a vision for a comprehensive development programme for the forestry, fisheries and livestock sectors (total budget of US\$258,000).

iii) *Assistance in the establishment of a common market for basic food products (TCP/RAF/3007)*

This project will provide support to the AU and its member states in reviewing and assessing the status of current constraints hindering the flow of trade, with special focus on basic food products, and identifying the best option for establishing an African Common Market for agricultural products.

framework and define priorities for the countries and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as well as the strategies to achieve the objectives that will allow sustained growth in the agricultural sector.

Recommendations for strengthening the implementation of NEPAD

For the agricultural sector, a framework has been agreed upon and endorsed by African authorities: the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAAPD). The next steps are to use the