FAO’s support to the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD)

In 2012 the African Union Commission, NEPAD Agency, the Lula Institute and FAO formed a partnership aimed at ending hunger in the continent. A year later, the four partners organized a high-level meeting of ministers in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. As a result, the Renewed Partnership to end hunger in Africa by 2025 was established, leading to a declaration to end hunger and a road map for implementation. The Renewed Partnership seeks to assist countries and Regional Economic Communities in strengthening their systems and capacities to deliver programmes that contribute to eradicating hunger and accelerating actions through expanded partnerships.

This Declaration was subsequently endorsed at the 2014 African Union summit in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea and incorporated as the “Commitment to Ending Hunger in Africa by 2025” in the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods. In providing a model for advancing the Commitment to Ending Hunger by 2025, it contributes to the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), which aims to boost agricultural productivity and food security on the continent.

Agriculture, Food Security and nutrition

In November 2015, FAO and NEPAD signed an agreement with the purpose to provide a framework between the parties with the view to facilitate the coordination and harmonization of their respective interventions in support of agricultural development and food and nutrition security within CAADP framework which provide the overall scope of the cooperation.

FAO and partners continue to support the Global Programme for the Control and Eradication by 2030 of the livestock disease Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR), after authorities from affected countries agreed on a common work plan during an International Conference in Abidjan in April 2015. About 20 million euros have been committed by the European Union through the SHARE programme in the Horn of Africa. PPR is also one of the two diseases targeted under the “Regional Sahel Pastoralism Support Project” (PRAPS) (USD 25 million WB grant). By June 2016, all African Regional Economic Communities will have received support to formulate regional PPR Eradication plans.

FAO supports the scaling-up of innovative approaches to improve access to rural agricultural finance for smallholder farmers and small and medium agro-enterprises under its Inclusive Finance for Rural Development Initiative. Examples of recent activities include the development of financial products and services for smallholders in Zimbabwe in close coordination with a USD 48 million DFID-funded programme to support smallholder families and also in collaboration with the Rabobank Foundation on the same in Tanzania, Kenya and Ethiopia, for an amount of USD 12 million.

Social and human development
The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) is supporting the strengthening of rural institutions in 24 countries in Africa. In Gambia, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Niger, Zambia, this is achieved through the Forest and Farm Facility and CoOPequity Programmes and a strategic partnership with WeEffect (Swedish Cooperative Centre). FAO is strengthening the performance, governance and gender equality of Producers’ Organizations, enhancing livelihoods through small scale businesses and improved access to markets, services and finance and improving direct participation in policy making. Through its Global Governance for Hunger Reduction Programme, FAO supported the Government of Niger to strengthen Producers’ Organizations participation in the process of the formulation of the Law on Agricultural Policy. Through its DIMITRA and Farmer Field and Life School (FFLS) Programmes, FAO provides support to countries regarding women’s leadership and gender equality.

FAO continue to conduct advocacy work in support of a coordinated agenda for decent youth employment in agriculture in Africa. This will be expanded in the next biennium under the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth, endorsed by the CEB in November 2015. During the reporting period, FAO supported more than 10 countries in Africa with specific projects on youth employment promotion, child labour prevention and rural women economic empowerment. FAO’s support on youth employment in Africa directly contributes to the achievement of the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, especially on commitment to halving poverty by the year 2025, through Inclusive Agricultural Growth and Transformation. Specifically, it contributes to 2 indicators: i) to create job opportunities for at least 30% of the youth in agricultural value chains; and ii) to support and facilitate preferential entry and participation for women and youth in gainful and attractive agribusiness opportunities.

The collaboration between NEPAD and FAO created an economic environment that stimulates initiatives such as the launch of a 4-year project that aims to create decent employment opportunities for young people in rural areas. This project, “Promoting Decent Rural Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship in Agriculture and Agribusiness (2015-2018)”, funded by the Africa Solidarity Trust Fund (ASTF), forms part of FAO’s support to NPCA and is embedded in the NEPAD’s Rural Futures and CAADP Agenda. It is directly implemented by NEPAD in collaboration with FAO and will result in strengthened NEPAD capacity to design, implement and support youth programmes at country level. At the regional level, the project aims to foster policy dialogue among countries, regional organizations, and development and resource partners on a coordinated approach to decent youth employment and entrepreneurship in agriculture in Africa. At the country level, the
The FAO/NEPAD initiative will benefit over 100,000 young people in these 4 countries and it is anchored in the Rural Futures Program of NEPAD.

The “From Protection to Production Project” (PtoP) and NEPAD have a strong partnership through the Agriculture and Social Protection in Africa (ASPA) technical reference group, which also includes the African Institute for Health and Development (AIHD), the Africa Platform for Social Protection (APSP), the African Union (AU), UNICEF, the World Food Programme (WFP), ILO and the World Bank. The project aims to enhance the coherence between agriculture and social protection interventions focusing on Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe. FAO produced, with the NEPAD collaboration, the guidance material on strengthening coherence between agriculture and social protection, which will support countries in adopting a more integrated and cross-sectoral approach to social protection and in seeing social protection as part of the debate on productive inclusion, knowledge and policy support for better linking agriculture and social protection.

The CAADP Partnership Platform (CAADP PP) meetings have also strengthened the relationship between FAO and NEPAD serving as a forum that responds to the need for a collective multi-stakeholder mechanism with a continent-wide perspective to coordinate collective and mutual responsibilities in CAADP implementation. The CAADP PP meetings are held twice yearly, usually in March and October.

The two organizations have collaborated in an effort to improve access to finance for women in agribusiness. A survey was conducted in November 2015. FAO is in the process of collating the findings. The findings of the survey will help understand issues and circumstances that women in agribusiness face in accessing finance for their operations and inform interventions aimed at improving the plight of women in agriculture.

Both parties identified the following priorities:

- Integrated policy, budget and investment formulation work of national and regional investment plans;
- Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship;
- Climate change, resilience and sustainable agriculture systems;
- Nutrition, Social Protection and the Eradication of Hunger;
- Livestock, Fisheries and Aquaculture development
- Agri-business, food safety and food loss.

Cross-cutting issues include the following:

- Gender-sensitive policies and programmes;
- Knowledge management and South-South Cooperation;
- Communication and advocacy.

The Food and Nutrition Security Program undertakes studies, builds capacity for policy makers and program experts across sectors and supports implementation. The goal of the Program is to reduce hunger and malnutrition of the vulnerable populations focusing on evidence-based policies and nutrition programs. CAADP provides a unique gateway for mainstreaming nutrition in national, regional and continental food systems.
With financial and technical support from FAO, based on lessons learnt over the past 3 years of CAADP Nutrition Initiative, there is enormous progression on integrating nutrition in the CAADP Process and other related Nutrition activities. FAO is still committed and has strengthened the partnership with NEPAD FNS to develop the African Nutrition Agenda, more importantly to integrate nutrition in all related agricultural policies, strategies, agriculture-smart food systems and investment plans as stipulated in the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) declaration and framework for action as well as the Malabo Declaration and CAADP Results Framework for vision 2025.

In implementing the activities, some of the achievements are indicated below:

- The implementation of NEPAD/SADC Food Security and Nutrition Knowledge Management Country Pilot Phase kick-started in August until December, with Zimbabwe being the first country followed by Botswana, Lesotho and Zambia. These were country-owned activities, supported by NEPAD and FAO. A brief on this deliverable was developed with key highlights of good practices and challenges/gaps in countries in terms of knowledge management and information system. Comprehensive Reports are available for the four countries.

- From November to December, NEPAD and FAO sensitized 15 Member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) during ECOWAS Nutrition Forum in Togo in November 2015. Fifteen SADC Member States were sensitized through presentations on NEPAD/SADC Food Security and Nutrition Knowledge Management during various workshops such as the SADC Food and Nutrition Security Implementing Strategy held in South Africa in November 2015. ECOWAS and WAHO expressed interest in establishing a Food Security and Nutrition Knowledge Management in ECOWAS Region in 2016.

- Contribution was given to the SADC Food and Nutrition Security Strategy on profiling indicators which will be monitored and tracked in the NEPAD/SADC FSN KM Platform. The workshop was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in November 2015.

- A brief for Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security (ADFNS) was developed and a joint presentation prepared in Uganda in October 2015 with FAORAF for the 6th ADFNS, on mainstreaming nutrition in the CAADP Process; the presentation included the preliminary results of the NEPAD/SADC FSN KM Platform Pilot phase, ICN2 outcomes and the commitments to the Malabo Declaration on ending hunger and malnutrition.