



**Building South-South linkages:**  
The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and Asia



CAADP

PARTNERSHIPS  
IN SUPPORT  
OF CAADP

# What can South-South partnerships bring to **agricultural development in Africa?**

## **Africa can learn important lessons from the development successes and challenges of other Southern nations.**

South-South partnerships involve working together on common challenges such as agriculture, adaptation to climate change, water and health, and can lead to huge strides forward in reducing poverty and sustainable development.

A good example is the so-called 'Green Revolution', which was founded on the use of productive new varieties of wheat and rice coupled with the application of fertiliser, and which transformed Asian agriculture in just a few decades. Africa can learn much from Asian successes in the Green Revolution, its associated agro-industries and marketing sectors.

Leading organisations in agricultural development, like the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the UK Department for International Development (DFID), believe that the key that unlocks the door to successful development of agriculture is the successful transfer and take up of agricultural technology to developing countries through both South-South and North-South cooperation.

Growth in the agricultural sector in many Asian and Latin American countries, including India, China, Brazil Viet Nam and Indonesia, has prompted growth in other sectors and helped reduce poverty. As these examples show, there is no one route for countries to move from an agricultural to an industrialised and higher income economy. However, understanding the different routes and appreciating the drawbacks, as well as the opportunities, can help African nations to grow their way out of poverty.

## **South-South successes in Africa**

### **Many important advances in agricultural development have been shared with African countries through South-South partnerships that are based on common interests.**

A good example is Bangladesh's innovation in micro credit - a simple concept that created profound changes. The model has spread to more than 100 countries, including many in Africa, and gives poor rural farmers and producers - many of them women - a leg up from subsistence production into the market economy.

Japan's scientific support and its funding for the African initiative to develop NERICA, the 'New Rice for Africa' are remarkable examples of Asian-African collaboration (Box 1) building on African and Asian partners' strengths. By putting their technical know-how and funds together they came up with a new rice that has put many rice-growing areas in Africa well on the way to becoming as productive as rice-growing areas in Asia.

## **Box 1: New Rice for Africa (NERICA) - a remarkable story of Asia-Africa collaboration**

African and Asian scientists were key to the assembling of a critical mass of expertise in the global consortium that developed the cross of Asian and African rice varieties called NERICA. This New Rice for Africa combines the hardiness of West African rice and the high yields of Asian rice.

NERICA yields up to 50 percent more grain than traditional African varieties and a whopping 200 percent more when farmers apply fertilizer and use better methods of cultivation. Not only does NERICA rice give higher yields but it saves on imports and has more protein. Farmers like it because it's a weed-beater and resists pests and diseases. Plus the growing period is less than 90 days, much shorter than the 140 days of other varieties.

Just developing NERICA though is only part of the story. The African Rice Initiative (ARI), launched in 2002 in Côte d'Ivoire, played a crucial role in helping to spread NERICA, in finding ways to produce more and better quality seed and in sharing the best ways to grow it.

Now Japan is helping spread NERICA to East African countries such as Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania and is capitalizing on the success of the NERICA experience to support agricultural research and policy development for other crops important to Africa.

## **What is the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)?**

**The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) is the most ambitious and comprehensive agricultural reform effort ever undertaken in Africa.** It's a dynamic, home-grown, African owned and driven initiative that addresses policy and capacity issues across the entire agricultural sector and entire African continent.

CAADP represents African leaders' collective vision for agriculture in Africa (Box 2). They see it as a means for transforming African agriculture and reducing hunger and poverty. After years of under-investment, agriculture and rural development are back on centre stage as crucial players in development and growth in Africa. CAADP reflects this recognition that agriculture will be central to alleviating poverty and hunger and reaching the Millennium Development Goals.

Simply put, CAADP is a framework for economic growth and poverty reduction, and for improving trade and other core issues related to agricultural development of the African continent.

## Box 2: The CAADP vision for agriculture

This ambitious and comprehensive vision for agricultural reform in Africa aims for an average annual growth rate of 6 percent in agriculture by 2015. Reform will pay particular attention to small-scale farmers, especially women.

By 2015, African leaders hope to see:

- Dynamic agricultural markets within countries and between regions in Africa;
- Farmers taking part in the market economy and enjoying good access to markets so that Africa, capitalising on its comparative and competitive advantages, becomes a net exporter of agricultural products;
- A more equitable distribution of wealth for rural populations - in terms of higher real incomes and relative wealth. Rural populations will have more equitable access to land, physical and financial resources, and knowledge, information and technology for sustainable development;
- Africa as a strategic player in agricultural science and technology, meeting the growing needs and demands of African agriculture; and
- Environmentally sound agricultural production and a culture of sustainable management of natural resources as a result of better knowledge, more information and the application of technology.

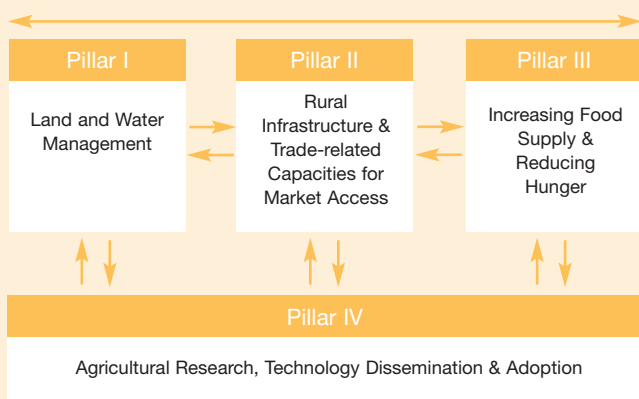
## CAADP - a key entry point for Southern partners

**CAADP is a key entry point for Southern partners seeking to respond directly to agricultural development priorities in Africa.** Because CAADP is African owned and driven, it has the authority and credibility to facilitate mutual learning and synergies across borders. As a vital link between regional and continental initiatives and on-the-ground action, CAADP streamlines and adds value to national and international partners' development efforts.

## Harmonisation and alignment - adding value

**By harmonising their activities, partners and donors make best use of their collective efforts.** To encourage harmonisation, CAADP enables a focus on one coherent African-defined agenda in order to avoid duplication of effort and maximise impact on the ground. The common, agreed CAADP objectives (Box 3) are seen as the key priority investment areas that will revitalise African agriculture.

## Box 3: Priority investment areas to foster agricultural development in Africa



**Alignment means that donors support the development, within the framework, of partner countries' policies, strategies, institutions and systems.** Partner countries, on their side, work towards sound and operational development policies, strategies and systems for managing aid.

As a linking and coordinating body CAADP underpins the harmonisation and alignment of development initiatives in agriculture (Box 4).

## Box 4: CAADP: aligning partner efforts

CAADP harmonises and coordinates global, continental, regional and country initiatives in order to maximise the effectiveness and efficiency of support provided to ensure agricultural growth and better food security.

CAADP facilitates support for regional and sub-regional organisations of Regional Economic Communities and national governments in order to make best use of development financing and align technical assistance with the African vision for agriculture.

CAADP supports and coordinates regional and country peer-review and monitoring and evaluation to assess the performance of agriculture through a well-grounded knowledge base.

CAADP facilitates strengthening the capacity of regional and sub-regional organisations of the Regional Economic Communities and national governments to implement the African vision for agriculture.

## Promoting South-South partnerships in Africa

**Continent-wide initiatives, such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), institutions (such as the regional economic communities) and international bodies are ideally placed to promote South-South exchanges, and to boost sharing of experiences, technologies and expertise for agricultural growth, food security and rural development in areas of common interest.**

### Common interests

With respect to agricultural development, Asia has made considerable headway on many fronts that are relevant to Africa, including agro-processing, drought and famine management, water harvesting and management, agricultural research and technology transfer, the establishment of rural knowledge centres and the setting up of micro credit and financing systems. Africa can also draw lessons from Asian countries on how to make sure that their development programmes reflect their own priorities and cultures.

Successful economies in Asia have implemented policies and strategies that boost the development of the private sector. These experiences would help groups in Africa, such as East African exporters of fresh fruit, vegetables and dairy products, to take advantage of growing markets in China and India as diets in these countries converge with those of industrial nations.

For example, Viet Nam has numerous links with African countries, including an agriculture cooperation project with Mozambique. Viet Nam's two-way trade with Africa has grown significantly from just \$15 million in the early 1990s to around \$1 billion today. Viet Nam and its African partners are expanding their relationships, both bilaterally and through the South-South Cooperation Framework, in such areas as agriculture, science and technology, health care, education and environmental protection.



## Promoting South-South partnerships in Africa - continued

Africa also has much to learn from Indian experience in providing rural communities with opportunities for lifelong learning.

However, Africa also has much to share with Asia, for example its experiences in dealing with HIV/AIDS and in the setting up of strong regional cooperation frameworks. Many practical participatory methods for involving farmers in the development of new agricultural techniques could also be shared.

### Complementary economies

Since 2000, China-Africa trade has quadrupled in volume, testimony to a mutually-beneficial relationship. Chinese and African economies are highly complementary - China has technology and managerial skills suitable for African countries, while Africa offers China both markets for its goods and vast supplies of untapped resources. In science and technology, China's experience in increasing agricultural output holds great promise for African farmers.

In the struggle against poverty, China serves as a model and inspiration to African governments. It is the world's first and only country to achieve the first Millennium Development Goal of halving poverty ahead of schedule. From Africa's perspective, China has the advantage of being both a developing country and a global player.

Adapting to climate change is clearly a priority for both China and Africa. Other areas of common interest are clean gene technology which is already being used in Uganda and China, biopesticides, drought resistant crops and farming systems.

### What partnerships are being sought?

CAADP is seeking to build strong and healthy South-South partnerships with Asia and China based on common interests and comparative advantages.

CAADP wants to establish inter-regional cooperation between Asian and African sub-regional organizations to stimulate the exchange of information, experiences and best practices. Triangular cooperation between the private sector, academic and research institutions and NGOs also has lots of potential for productive partnerships.

Asian regional research organisations, such as the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) could be linked with African organisations. These include the continental Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) and sub-regional Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA); Conseil ouest et centre africain pour la recherche et le développement agricole/West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/WE CARD); Southern African Development Community's Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Directorate (SADC-FANR); and North African Sub-Regional Organisation (NA SRO) which will be launched soon by the North African members of the Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa (AARINENA).

### What mechanisms could be used to nurture such partnerships?

As a linking and harmonising body, CAADP nurtures South-South partnerships by helping partners get together in the right places at the right times.

Getting representatives of regional, technical and political organisations and networks together gives each the opportunity to contribute to national compacts and wider policy frameworks, to exchange information and harmonise activities in agricultural development. CAADP roundtables are an ideal mechanism for Southern partners to join dialogues and discussions. Participants at these roundtables include, for example, the Lead Institutions for the CAADP Pillars, the Framework for African Agricultural Productivity (FAAP) and DFID's Research Into Use programme.

The new strategic partnership to support Sino-African cooperation is another mechanism for linking partners. This follows on from the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation held in November 2006, when the Chinese Government announced new China-Africa Development Funds. The strategic partnership is a major shift from government-to-government collaboration to enterprise initiatives and more trade. China has already acted on this and established fertiliser, pesticide, fodder, farm produce processing and aquaculture agreements with African countries.

Japan's Tokyo Conference for International Development (TICAD), launched in 1993 to promote high-level policy dialogue between African leaders and development partners, is yet another example of a successful mechanism for linking Asia and Africa. TICAD has evolved into a major global framework to help implement initiatives for African development under the dual principles of African ownership and international partnership. The TICAD IV meeting, to be held in 2008, will be an opportunity for cementing and enhancing cooperation between Africa and Japan.

Initiatives such as the DFID-funded Research Into Use programme that work to support CAADP also aim to stimulate South-South learning. They do this through exchange of successful up and out scaling experiences of agricultural technologies, policies and processes and application of agricultural innovation systems principles within the sector.

Other ways of South-South partnering could include bilateral visits between African and Asian countries, exchange visits and tapping into the skills and knowledge of Southern partner professionals and experts. These face-to-face interactions would build trust and relationships, encourage networking and strengthen capacity.

### How to get in touch with CAADP

CAADP is keen to link with partners in Asia. We aim to work with the widest possible range of relevant institutions. So why not get in touch with us to explore the opportunities for cooperation? We look forward to hearing from you.

## Contact CAADP

For more information, please contact **Richard Mkandawire** ([RichardM@nepad.org](mailto:RichardM@nepad.org)) or see [www.nepad.org/2005/files/caadp.php](http://www.nepad.org/2005/files/caadp.php)

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