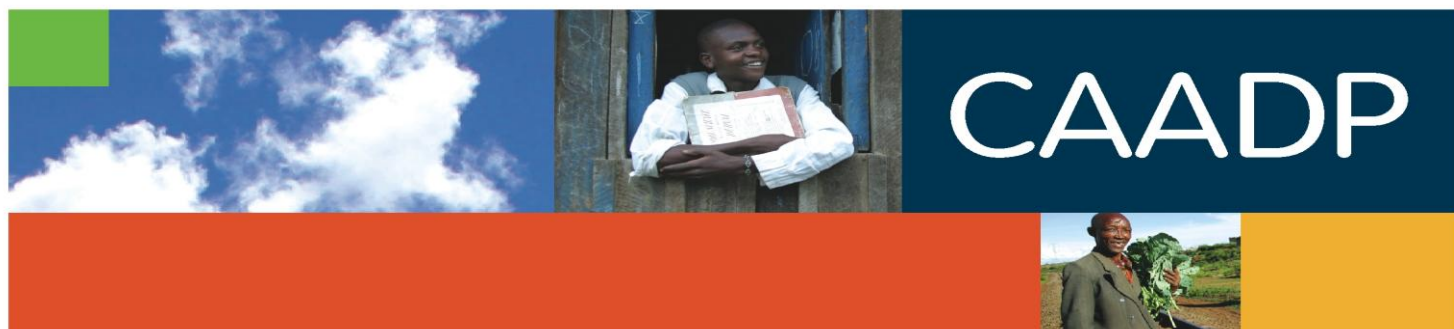




NEPAD Agriculture Unit Quarterly report (Jan - March 2009)

Introduction

This report is prepared as a brief on the Agriculture Unit for the months of January to March 2009. The report attempts to provide an overview of the Unit's main strategic functions and activities for the past quarter.

It is in this regard that the report focuses on the following:

- Strategic areas
- Support to Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and countries on accelerating country level implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Round Tables
- AU/NEPAD's continued leadership in responding to the high food prices
- The CAADP Multi-Donor Trust Fund
- Improved communications and advocacy in support of CAADP
- The CAADP review and key events and summits in 2009

2.0 Strategic areas

The NEPAD Secretariat Agriculture Unit has identified five strategic areas where its intervention will support CAADP

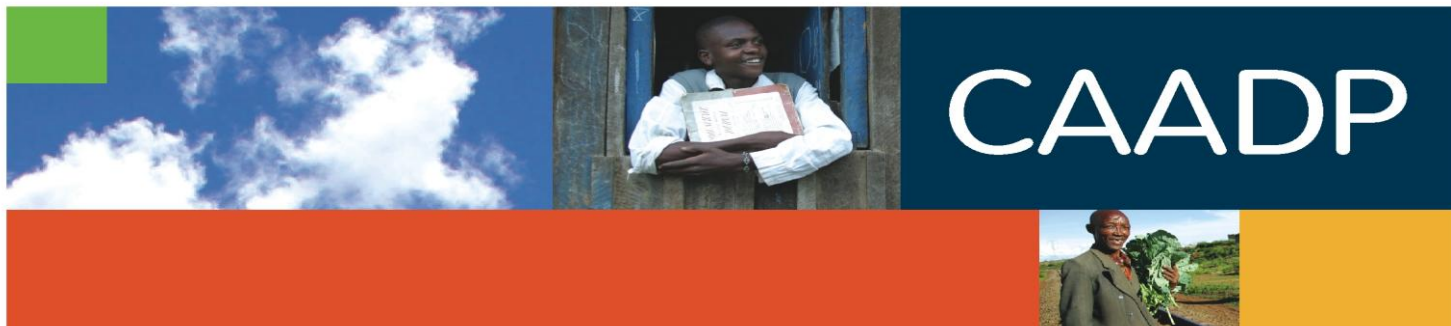
implementation and contribute to the achievement of CAADP goals. These are:

- Partnership and coalition-building to link resources with agriculture investment programmes;
- Promoting CAADP principles in implementation processes and resulting investment programmes;
- Coordinating monitoring and evaluation of CAADP implementation;
- Managing communication and information in support of CAADP implementation and partnership; and
- Harnessing key thinking on emerging agriculture-related issues to articulate African perspectives and contribute to the evolution of the CAADP agenda.

3.0 CAADP Implementation: what is happening?

It must be said right from the start that one of the major successes of CAADP has been the rich dialogue that NEPAD has generated among the African constituency and international development partners on getting agriculture back on the development agenda





as a conduit for hunger and poverty reduction.

Countries are continuously adapting the CAADP Agenda into their agriculture and rural development strategies and programmes. In the COMESA region Rwanda, signed the CAADP Compact in April 2007; Malawi, Uganda, Kenya and Zambia also have advanced with the **Country Roundtables** and expected to sign their compacts in the first quarter of 2009.

To-date Nigeria, Niger, Senegal, Mali, Ghana and Togo have initiated national roundtable processes. It is expected that concrete investment priorities will be defined for support from the international development community who are actively involved in the CAADP Roundtable process. In addition, these countries are currently undertaking the stocktaking and analytical exercise with technical backstopping support from the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

4.0 AU/NEPAD response to the rising food prices

NEPAD is providing leadership in coordinating donor response to the high food prices. Working closely with CILSS, the ACFS and other institutions in East, Central and Western Africa – a tracking system is being developed to take stock of the responses and the implementation thereof at the national-level. NEPAD also continues to actively participate in the High Level Task Force (HLTF) on food security.

5.0 The CAADP Multi-Donor Trust Fund and resource mobilization for CAADP

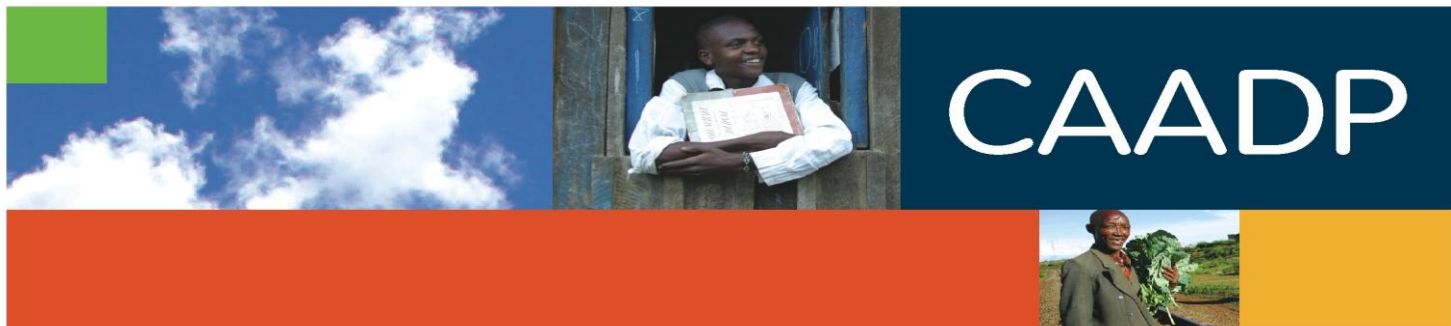
Agreement has been reached with partners on issues of financing and the implementation of CAADP. It is in this regard

that a CAADP multi-donor trust Fund. The Fund with an initial commitment of US\$50 million was launched in 2008. This will provide a window of opportunity to serve as a comprehensive financing mechanism needed to develop and complement CAADP related investments. The African constituency, that is, the AU, NEPAD, RECs and African CAADP Centres of Excellency will be central in the governance of the Fund – with NEPAD/AU providing the overall leadership. As agreed at the recently concluded **CAADP PP in late March 2009** (see below) the Fund will also serve as a basis for the leveraging of additional financing at the continental level.

6.0 Progress with regard to CAADP Pillar activities and key Agriculture Unit / CAADP initiatives

The International Development Community has continued to pay attention to supporting investments around land and water management (CAADP Pillar 1- SLM) through the GEF – a grant to the amount of US \$ 150 million. In addition, the sum of US \$ 1 billion has been leveraged to support some 48 projects in 30 countries – 2008 to 2010. In 2008, the Norwegian Government also committed the sum of US \$ 4 million as a response to the high food prices, but with a special focus on conservation agriculture. The joint NEPAD-FAO programme (2008-09) is focused on scaling-up the adoption of conservation agriculture in four countries, namely Lesotho, Swaziland, Mozambique and Malawi and expected to reach over 23,000 households. In 2009, the programme is expected to involve Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

Implementation of the Abuja Declaration on Fertilizers - NEPAD has continued to collaborate with AfDB, UN-Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Union Commission (AUC) on establishing the



African Fertilizer Development Financing Mechanism (AFFM) as per Resolution 11 of the “The Abuja Declaration on Fertilizer for an African Green Revolution”. In 2008, AfDB retained consultants to draft the AFFM operational documents, namely, the Operational Strategy, Program, and the Manual on the Rules of Procedures. In cooperation with the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), AfDB has also prepared a proposal for establishing a fertilizer regional procurement facility and a consultations are in progress including a planned ‘Fertilizer Review Meeting’ in **April 2009** which will focus on key challenges and the way forward.

Fisheries contributing towards food security – Strategies based on the NEPAD Action Plan for fisheries have been developed through partnerships with DFID, FAO, GTZ and DBSA. Briefly, the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) has expressed interest in financing bankable fish farming investment options across the COMESA sub-region.

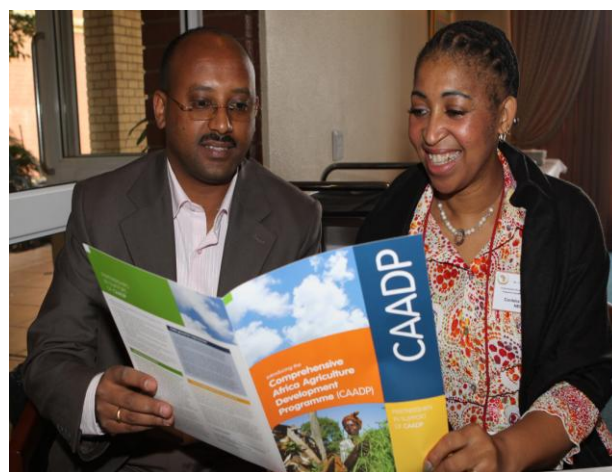
To achieve fisheries and food security and also for the purposes of promoting inland fisheries – including aqua-culture development in African countries DFID in partnership with NEPAD have set-up the Partnership for Africa’s Fisheries (PAF). Initial funding is set at £ 7,460,000. Focus will be on small-scale fisher countries including women whilst also exploring options for using new technologies to enhance increased fish farming and productivity.

The NEPAD Pan African Cassava Initiative (NPACI) - which is a strategic institutional arrangement that is aimed at linking national agricultural research and extension systems to regional initiatives on cassava in order to ensure food security and income generation in Africa – is gaining momentum. This

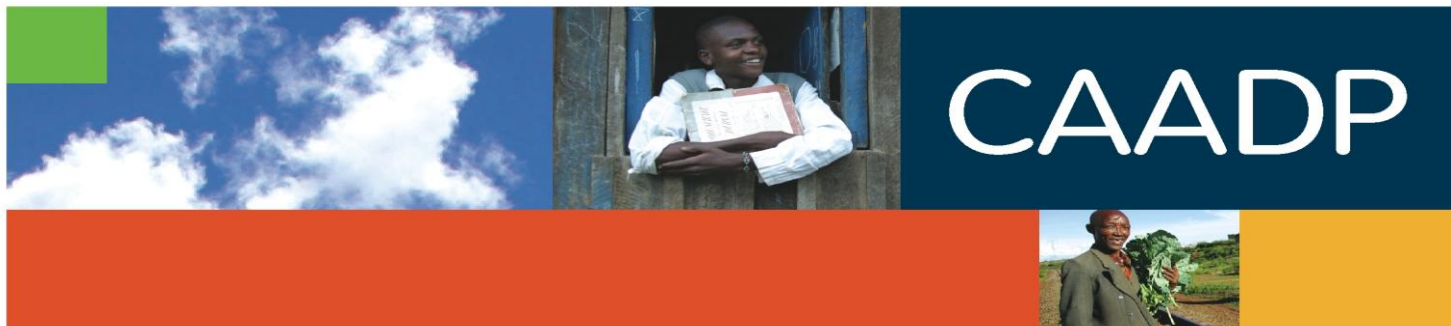
initiative is intended to enhance the food security agenda at the national level including moving towards increased commercialization of cassava – including the processing of cassava into starch and also for other related industrial by-products. Key activities in this regard can be found in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

The New Rice for Africa Initiative (NERICA) – NERICA has emerged as a miracle rice for Africa. NERICA yields are four (4) times more than the traditional rice varieties grown by most small-scale holder farmers across Africa. AGRA and JICA working closely with FARA have committed the sum of 500Mn USD to double rice production in the next ten years. Initiatives in rice production have already commenced in ECOWAS, SADC and COMESA. It is also worth noting that during TICAD4 NEPAD was designated to seat on the CARD steering committee.

7.0 The CAADP Partnership Platform Meetings



Ms. Cordelia Kegerile (right) of NEPAD explains an aspect of CAADP to a colleague from the African Union. Source: NEPAD/CAADP 2009.



The fourth Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme Partnership Platform (CAADP PP) was held in Pretoria between March, 26-27. The meetings were aimed at reviewing and discussing CAADP implementation and progress on the African continent.

At this year's meeting official opening remarks were made by Hon. Lulama Xingwana, Minister of Agriculture and Land Affairs, South Africa; Her Excellency Tumusiime Rhoda Peace, the AUC Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, His Excellency Dr. Joseph Sam Sesay, the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security, Sierra Leone and Dr. Karen Brooks, of the World Bank on behalf of the development partners.

Key participants at the meeting included:

- Civil Society Organisations
- Development partners
- CAADP Pillar lead institutions
- Regional economic communities (RECs); COMESA, ECOWAS, SDA
- Private sector representatives
- AUC Commission
- NEPAD Secretariat
- UN Agencies
- IFPRI

and other stakeholders.

A **key recommendation** from the meeting was that it was pertinent that **CAADP redefines itself as a process, largely at the national level**, of good agricultural programming, downplaying key events, and emphasizing the substantive process, engaging more actively with the private sector and civil society, particularly smallholder farmers and strengthening the role of the lead pillar institutions in the national processes. The meeting recognised the progress made by the regional economic

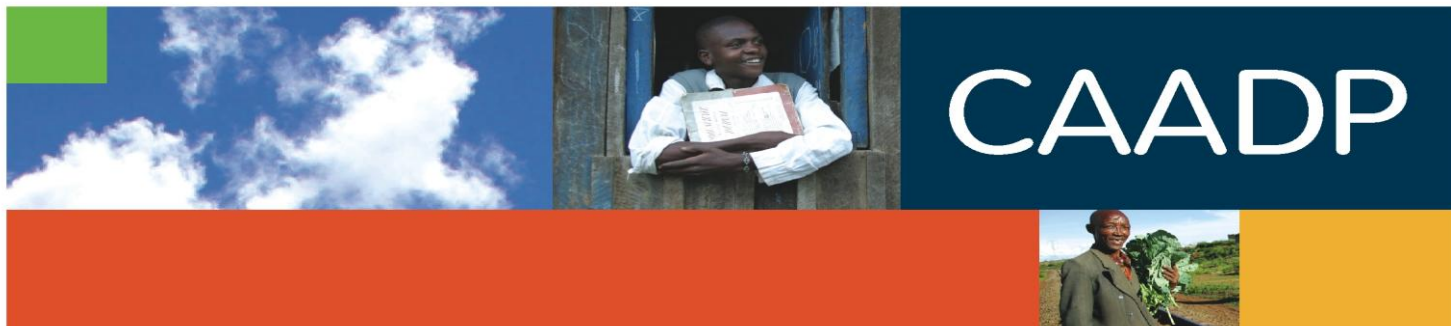
communities in advancing the CAADP Agenda.

9.0 Managing communication, advocacy and information in support of CAADP

Advocacy and communication remains a key priority for CAADP in ensuring that Agriculture remains visible as a development priority area for Africa. Through the support of the Global Donor Platform NEPAD has now got a site that is specifically dedicated to CAADP. The new website <http://www.nepad-caadp.net> is aimed at assisting NEPAD to deal with the increasing queries and requests for information on CAADP specific activities. The CAADP site will also be accessible through the new NEPAD site which is close to being completed. Another key development in this area includes the ongoing work that is being done to set-up of an emerging NEPAD-CAADP Media Forum of African journalists and the establishment of a regular Newsletter that is dedicated to CAADP.

8.0 Conclusion: the upcoming quarter and related key events

In concluding this report it is imperative to note that in terms of looking at the year ahead the NEPAD Secretariat is currently providing technical support to the AU Commission in the preparation of key priority papers that will be tabled at the Ministers of Agriculture Conference (April 2009) prior to the AU Summit in June 2009. NEPAD sees this year's Summit as yet another milestone in the advancement of the CAADP Agenda, and more broadly African Agriculture. This is seen as the most important Summit in redefining the future of African Agriculture after the Maputo Summit of 2003. It is in this regard that NEPAD is also proposing for the set-up of a 'CAADP DAY' prior to the convening of the Summit. The 'CAADP DAY'



would serve as a conversation day between African leaders, CSOs, business and the development partners. Another key development for this year includes – which also comes five years after the inception of CAADP – is the CAADP Review. This evaluation will review the vision and provide guidance and recommendations on how to optimise the chances of success and enhance ownership at various levels. The evaluation will also inform and guide the AU/NEPAD structures on the future direction of CAADP for the next 5-10 years. The interim report will be ready in time for discussion during the Ministers of Agriculture meeting on April 20, 2009 and the final report will be ready for consideration by the Heads of State during the AU Summit on Agriculture in June 2009.

For more information contact:

Prof. Richard Mkandawire

Head of CAADP, NEPAD Secretariat

Email: RichardM@nepad.org Tel: +27 (0) 11 256 3600

Dr. Andrew Kanyegirire

CAADP Communications Manager

Email: AndrewK@nepad.org Tel: +27 (0)256 3600

Visit our website at: <http://www.nepad-caadp.net>

Do you have any suggestions on how we can communicate better? Please contact us to let us know.