

**2009 CAADP AFRICA FORUM**  
*30 November to 4 December 2009, Nairobi, Kenya*

**The Bottom of the Pyramid**  
**Agricultural Development**  
**for the Vulnerable**



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## 1. Background to CAADP

Recognizing that agriculture is the mainstay of most African economies, NEPAD has taken the lead in highlighting the critical role agriculture must play to reduce food insecurity and poverty. The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) has been endorsed by African Heads of State and Governments as a vision for the restoration of agricultural growth, food security, and rural development in Africa in July 2003. Since then, CAADP is the AU/NEPAD framework for development of the agriculture sector in Africa<sup>1</sup>. A specific goal of CAADP is to attain an average annual growth rate of 6% in agriculture. To achieve this goal, CAADP aims to stimulate agriculture-led development that eliminates hunger and reduces poverty and food insecurity. More specifically, the NEPAD vision for Africa holds that, by 2015, Africa should:

- Attain food security;
- Improve agricultural productivity to attain a 6 percent annual growth rate;
- Develop dynamic regional and sub-regional agricultural markets;
- Integrate farmers into a market economy; and
- Achieve a more equitable distribution of wealth.

To achieve this, governments agreed to increase the proportion of public investment in agriculture to a minimum of 10% of their national budgets (from an average pre-CAADP level of 4-5% of the public budget). Through the CAADP process, investment is directed to four mutually reinforcing and interlinked pillars:

Pillar I: Extending the area under sustainable land management and reliable water control systems

Pillar II: Improving rural infrastructure and trade-related capacities for market access

Pillar III: Increasing food supply, reducing hunger and improving responses to food emergency crises

Pillar IV: Improving agriculture research, technology dissemination and adoption

CAADP represents a new way of achieving impact by enabling increased and better-aligned investment in agricultural research, development and capacity strengthening. It offers improved decision making and resource allocation based on coherent evidence-based planning, utilising relevant and timely information and analysis. It will improve access to expertise at national, regional and continental levels by involving all stakeholders and by making better use of Africa's human and institutional capacities. CAADP's emphasis on multi-stakeholder dialogue and decision making is central to its success. National and regional ownership in agricultural development is achieved through structured stakeholder involvement around priority setting, matching resources to priority tasks, and collaboration at the implementation stage.

One of the unique values of the CAADP Framework is to stimulate and facilitate analytical work, thereby providing enhanced systemic capacities for evidence-based planning and linking of knowledge centres such as universities, research centres and think-tank institutions directly and systemically to public and private sector processes for development, financing and implementation of investment programmes in the agriculture sector.

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<sup>1</sup> please visit the CAADP website <http://www.caadp.net> or subscribe to the weekly newsletter *NEPAD Dialogue* by contacting [info@triomedia.co.za](mailto:info@triomedia.co.za). (English, French or Portuguese versions available).

## 2. CAADP Actors, Roles and Responsibilities

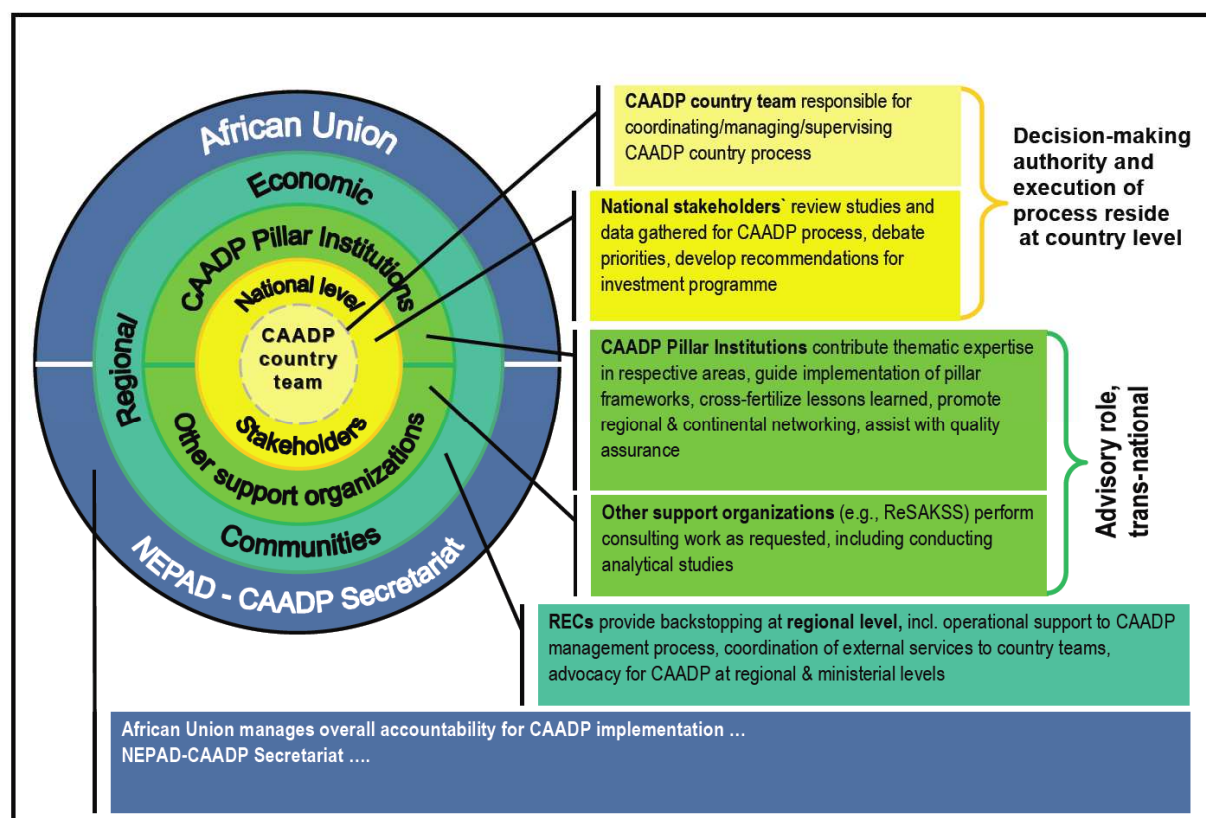
With the four pillars as its foundation, in 2004-05 CAADP began to focus its efforts at the level of Africa's three **regional economic communities (RECs)**, these are the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Each held regional workshops to establish their own priorities based on the continent-wide pillars.

Another major CAADP category of actors are the **'pillar lead institutions'**; these are existing institutions that have been entrusted with leading CAADP's four pillars. **Pillar lead institutions** are:

- University of Zambia (UNZA) and the Centre Inter-Etat de Lutte contre la Secheresse au Sahel (CILSS) both for Pillar I (land management and water control)
- Conference of West and Central African Ministers of Agriculture (CMAWCA) for Pillar II (rural infrastructure and trade)
- University of Kwa-Zulu Natal and CILSS for Pillar III (increasing food supply and reducing hunger)
- Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) for Pillar IV (research and technology)

Their role is to provide technical expertise and backstopping for regional and national level CAADP implementation, to participate in peer reviews of analytical work and to partner with institutions and knowledge centres at national level of CAADP implementing countries.

### Roles and Responsibilities of CAADP Actors



Source: CAADP (March 2009): Accelerating CAADP Country Implementation - A Guide for Implementers

However, CAADP is meant to be a country-driven process and anchored into the NEPAD member countries via **CAADP country focal points** at national level, mostly within the National Ministry of Agriculture. The CAADP focal points coordinate the formation of the **CAADP country implementation teams**. These are the heart of the whole country process as the central driver and manager of the core CAADP implementation process (see also chapter 8).

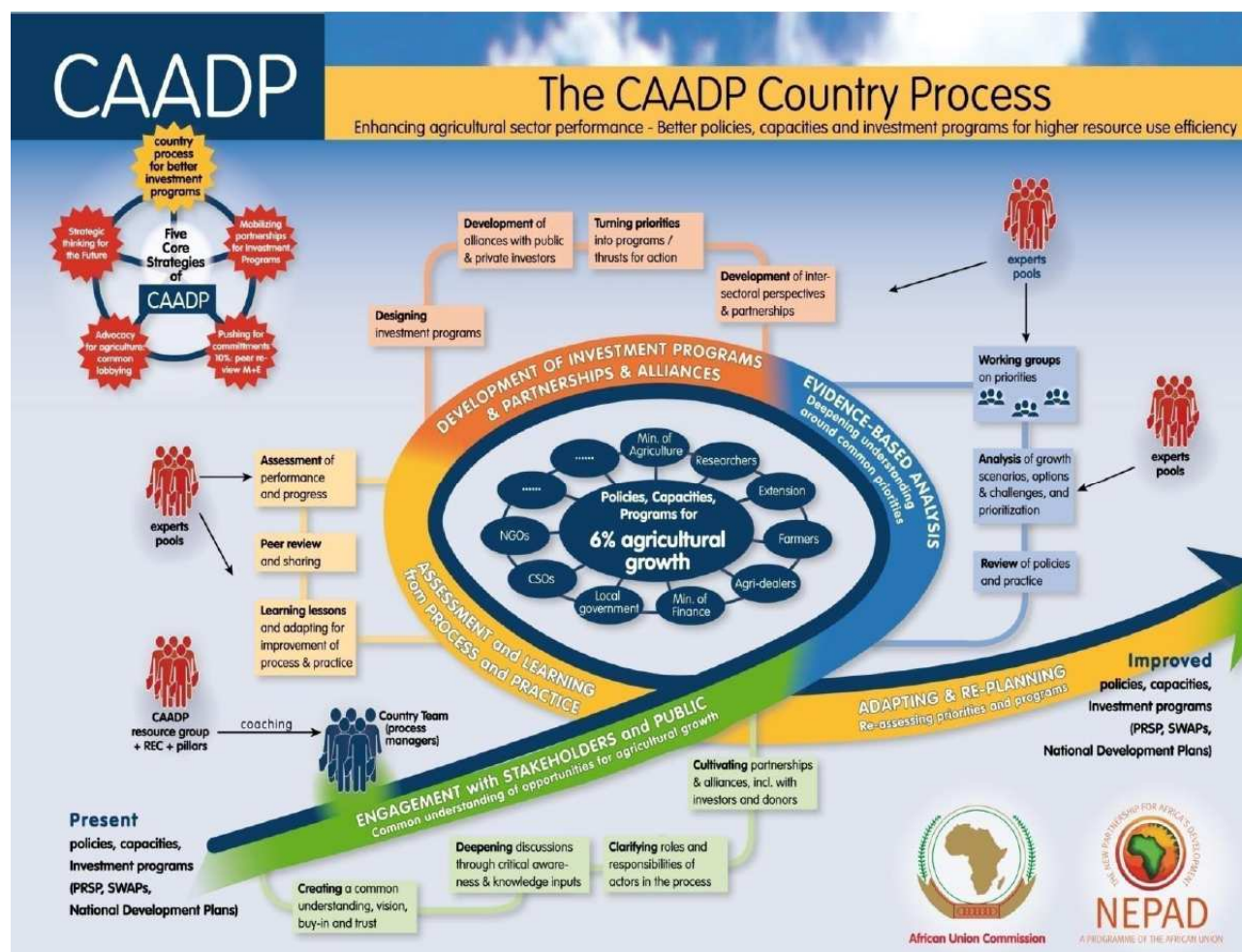
The country team's authority is based on the government's leadership responsibility. Given the importance of their role, the country team must have and be seen to have firm backing from the highest levels of government. It will ideally consist of middle to higher-level staff from the Ministry of Agriculture, other ministries, and representatives of the private sector, farmer organisations, NGOs and other committed actors, forming an effective coalition to make CAADP move forward. The team should be rather small (5-8 members) and is not intended to be a permanent structure, much less a parallel government body. The important objective is to fulfil the team's functions, and in many countries there are existing structures, which can take these on. Indeed, wherever possible, one should aim to build on existing structures, which may mean that in some countries the CAADP country team may be an agricultural sector coordination unit. Particular responsibilities of the CAADP Country team include:

- Promote and facilitate CAADP and agricultural sector related awareness, advocacy for the agenda and commitment of actors at the country level;
- Design the CAADP process and road map in the country in a strategic way;
- Organise and facilitate the diagnostic/analytical work;
- Organise and facilitate an inclusive country process on priority setting of investment options and strategies, catalyse buy-in among actors and ensure alignment with national development systems, strategies and programmes including the PRSP, SWAPs, etc.;
- Manage the work programme and contributions of other actors, including organising and sequencing the components of the CAADP implementation process;
- Stimulate and facilitate engagement and involvement of various partners and stakeholders including the, key public and private institutions, civil society organisations and development partners;
- Coordinate and facilitate networking and collaboration between regional actors (e.g. RECs, pillar institutions) and continental actors (AUC, NEPAD) and the country process;
- Facilitate and coordinate the CAADP related knowledge management operations including progress monitoring based on indicators and benchmarks, peer review, self evaluation and learning, integrate feedback into action plan design and implementation process.

**Four principles** guide the country implementation process, also called the **CAADP Country Cycle**:

1. Evidence-based planning;
2. Inclusive engagement processes;
3. Building alliances with investors;
4. Implementation, Monitoring & Evaluation and peer review.

## The CAADP Country Process



Source: NEPAD-CAADP

When a country engages in the CAADP process, it critically addresses the quality of its policies, strategies and programmes based on these principles. It reviews its institutions and existing capacities to see to what extent these can carry an improved planning and implementation. Investment programmes are designed, implemented, reviewed, adapted, re-planned in an ongoing way, incrementally improving performance. In this way, the quality and effectiveness of agricultural sector programmes is steadily improved by integrating the principles and values of CAADP into the national systems of development planning and implementation.

CAADP does not intend to replace nor run parallel planning and development systems, but rather subjects existing systems to rigorous reform. While external knowledge, ideas and guidance are important to CAADP's success, CAADP is not an external, expert-driven agricultural programme. Instead, CAADP is Africa's plan for development and not a plan for Africa.

Since CAADP emerged in 2003, development partners have worked closely together to support its processes and the development of the CAADP Pillars. NEPAD, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the African Union (AU), together with a number of donors and African governments, worked to further harmonise support. The result is the **CAADP Multi-donor Trust Fund**, hosted at the World Bank. This will channel financial support to CAADP processes and investments.

→ please find more on CAADP implementation under

<http://www.nepad-caadp.net/implementing-caadp-agenda.php>

### 3. Background to the Africa Forum

The first Africa Forum was organised by GTZ in 1998 as an event to inform African decision makers of the shift in development assistance from project towards sector programme support. During this meeting (then in Lusaka) it became evident that the forum in fact addressed a different need: although getting state-of-the-art information on donor-practices was considered useful, participants were more appreciative of the fact the forum gave them an opportunity for exchange of best practices and peer-learning. Thus, popular demand led to a second forum and then to an annual event.

Since then, Africa Forums were held each year in a different African country and hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture in that country. Participants to one forum proposed topics for the next. This continuity in the discussion and the growing number of core-participants turned these forums into a true regional debate, bringing together well over 800 people from more than 20 African countries (→ see [www.africaforum.info](http://www.africaforum.info) for all previous Africa Forums and proceedings).

The outputs of the Africa Forums have often improved the understanding of rural development in Africa. The Forum stimulated debate and its findings were fed back into other processes of rural development. For example, results of the 10<sup>th</sup> Africa Forum were used by the World Bank for the 2008 World Development Report (WDR) Agriculture and Development. The 2008 WDR itself was officially launched in Washington but the very same time presented in Accra to the 11<sup>th</sup> Africa Forum.

In the course of 10 years and 12 forums, three major ‘evolutionary’ shifts took place that contributed to the forum finding its form and function. These were: (i) a progressive ‘African ownership’ in terms of participants, moderators and organisation; (ii) a move away from a focus on donor aid modalities to a focus on country-driven agriculture and rural development; and (iii) a broadening of the target group to include stakeholders beyond the government, in particular private sector, NGO and civil society.

These three shifts occurred less by design than by demand and led to a more effective and action-oriented ‘peer exchange’. However, in the aftermath of the 11<sup>th</sup> Africa Forum it appeared that the forum as an entity in its own right had reached a limit: Country Action Plans were prepared but upon return to their country and day-to-day activities, country team members found it difficult to translate these commitments into action. Part of the reason was that Country Action Plans were insufficiently linked to on-going processes. Indeed those countries reporting most progress had been those that had managed to use on-going development processes (be it CAADP or national agricultural development programmes) as a vehicle for the activities identified during the forum.

As the Africa Forum, like CAADP, had pan-African coverage, it was felt that linking the two might be of mutual beneficial as forum outputs can be integrated in ongoing processes and CAADP implementation could benefit from an Africa-wide platform of exchange. To test the ground, the 12<sup>th</sup> Africa Forum in Ethiopia in 2008 was co-organised with NEPAD under the theme: *Making agri-business work for rural livelihoods: Supporting CAADP implementation at country level*. Participants explored ways in which the Africa Forum and CAADP could reinforce each other and during a plenary session on the last day participants emphatically argued in favour of an Africa Forum as a CAADP platform (see also 12<sup>th</sup> Africa Forum Proceedings at [www.africaforum.info](http://www.africaforum.info)).

This then led to the Africa Forum becoming a true AUC/NEPAD instrument, in support of CAADP implementation starting from the present 2009 CAADP Africa Forum onwards.

## 4. The 2009 CAADP Africa Forum - Objectives and Programme Overview

The 2009 CAADP Africa Forum is the first in a series of annual events that connects the pan-African CAADP framework to the realities on the ground by providing a learning and sharing platform on progress (and problems) in agriculture between policy makers and practitioners from across the continent. Each year, the forum will set itself a theme that is of common and current concern.

For the first of its Africa Forums, CAADP decided to put the extremely vulnerable at the centre of the discussion. In global terms, 4 million people live on less than 2\$ a day, half a billion live on less than 75 cents a day and 162 million people are ultra-poor living on less than half a dollar a day. Women and youth are over-proportionally represented in this group. The majority of these people depend on agriculture as a source of food and income and live in rural sub-Saharan Africa.

People living on less than half a dollar a day were hardest hit by the escalating food prices and as a consequence of global crisis and climate change their number is rising at an alarming rate. Yet, these vulnerable people also represent a resource: they can and do participate in economic activities and sometimes small investments can go a long way in either uplifting the lot of these very vulnerable people or assuring that those, who recently managed to increase their incomes, are not falling back into extreme poverty.

The CAADP-Africa Forum 2009 will bring together expertise and experience from across Africa under its theme of participation of the vulnerable in economic activities. Participants will come from approximately 20 African countries, the majority as part of a multi-stakeholder CAADP-Country Team coordinated by the CAADP Focal Point. Although all CAADP Pillar institutions are involved, CAADP Pillar III on Food Security takes the lead in providing the context for the forum.

During the forum, various responding strategies of the vulnerable will be discussed from different angles (e.g. economic and social) and at different levels: (i) pan-African, (ii) regional (iii) country-wide, (iv) local and (v) household level. Country Teams identify and share success stories from their countries. These may range from food or cash transfer programmes; food production schemes; early warning systems; urban and peri-urban agriculture; a focus on women or low investment activities (like poultry) to improve food security; social safety nets combined with production and innovative measures in land tenure or crop insurance to protect also the smallest of assets.

Best practices will be brought together from all over the continent and participants will work on how these may be taken up or scaled up in their own country. Based on a look at what has worked followed by a discussion of how these successes can be tailored to country context, participants at the forum will be able to take back ideas, inspiration, concrete examples and contacts with peers, which will help them in their endeavours to address the needs of the poor in their own country.

In this way, the 2009 Africa Forum aims to strengthen linkages and learning across (and between) countries and vertically (between NEPAD secretariat, Pillar Lead Institutions, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), farmer organisations and country implementation level).

### **Objectives**

The purpose of the Africa Forum as a CAADP instrument to support country-based agriculture development is to institutionalise a sharing and learning process with diverse agricultural sub-sectors to foster the up-scaling of best practices in agriculture across Africa as an input into country driven development of the agricultural and rural sector.

For the upcoming, first CAADP-Africa Forum, **specific objectives** are:

1. **Facilitate the exchange between countries** of best practices in making the vulnerable take part in agriculture development and agriculture-based economic activities;
2. **Advance the country's agricultural agenda** in support to the poorest part of the population via CAADP implementation looking at next steps regarding the uptake or up-scaling of 'best-fit' practices shared at the forum;
3. **Support Country Teams to use the CAADP framework** as an instrument in supporting agricultural development for the poorest at country level by enabling them to enter into economic activities;
4. Enable **CAADP Pillar Lead Institutions (especially Pillar III) to disseminate their knowledge** with respect to making agriculture development work for the poorest; and
5. Enable **CAADP Pillar Lead Institutions (esp. Pillar III) to learn from best practices** to further sharpen their role in guiding the continent's agricultural agenda.

### **Expected Outputs**

Country Teams will develop a **Country Action Plan** in the course of the forum, in which the ideas taken from the forum are linked to the on-going agriculture development and CAADP implementation at country level. These Country Action Plans are presented and will be followed-up in forthcoming Africa Forums.

Furthermore, a **presentation of a Summary of Key Findings** of the Africa Forum (at the last day of the Forum) serves as a wrap-up to participants. This presentation will also be used as an input into the CAADP Partnership Platform and as a contribution to the implementation of the 13th AU Summit decisions.

Additionally, **proceedings** of the 2009 CAADP Africa Forum will be prepared, both in summary form for policy makers as well as in a detailed version with Country Action Plans attached for purposes of follow-up by participants and organisers.

### **Programme Structure**

The 2009 CAADP Africa Forum is a bi-lingual (English and French) five-day event.

During the first day, after opening, key notes and introductory presentations on CAADP, country Teams will be given the opportunity to present themselves, the stage of the CAADP process in their country and recent progress in the agricultural agenda, where possible against targets set by the country team itself.

The second day of the forum is devoted to presentations of agricultural success stories - which on day four are worked on by Country Teams.

One full day (the third day) is set aside for field trips in the host country, which is Kenya this year.

The fourth day is dedicated to continent-wide topics of CAADP implementation and future outlook; as well as to the drafting of Country Action Plans by participants.

These action plans will be presented on the fifth and last day, alongside the summary of key findings of the Forum.

The detailed programme of the forum is available in the conference bags.



## 5. CAADP Pillars and their Relevance for the 2009 CAADP Africa Forum

Among the four pillars that underpin the successful CAADP implementation, Pillar III is the most important one for the 2009 CAADP Africa Forum. CAADP Pillar III focuses on achieving food security, and eradicating hunger and malnutrition in African countries. The Pillar III work is dedicated to implement the right to food as a human right, since hunger undermines productivity and leads to and perpetuates poverty and is a major burden on development, agricultural growth and the entire economy. Therefore, CAADP Pillar III focuses on the chronically food-insecure, and on populations who are vulnerable to and affected by various crises and emergencies. This is to ensure that the CAADP agenda simultaneously achieves the agricultural growth agenda and Millennium Development Goal targets for addressing poverty and hunger (MDG 1 aims to cut extreme poverty and hunger in half by 2015).

CAADP Pillar III is a deliberate attempt to ensure that the agricultural growth agenda targets the chronically poor and vulnerable directly, rather than through indirect and hoped-for trickle down effects typical of past development policies and programmes.

Pillar III specifically promotes the following principles:

1. Protect the right to food for all citizens of Africa;
2. Focus on the chronically hungry and malnourished, particularly women and children;
3. Ensure that all parties and players automatically seek to understand and address hunger and malnutrition;
4. Mainstream considerations of human diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and Tuberculosis;
5. Ensure that emergency responses promote growth and reduce chronic hunger;
6. Protect and promote the resilience of the livelihoods of the vulnerable;
7. Ensure that gender dimensions of hunger and malnutrition are addressed;
8. Promote intra-regional trade, particularly in food staples to raise food supply, food quality and moderate price volatility;
9. Integrate regular review and broad-based dialogue to ensure successful implementation of this Pillar;
10. Be in coherence with the MDGs, especially MDG1 to cut extreme poverty and hunger;
11. Integrate lessons from success stories in cutting hunger and malnutrition.

Furthermore, Pillar I will contribute experiences in sustainable land management; Pillar II will share best practices on agricultural value chain development and access to market infrastructure favourable for the poor; and Pillar IV will present its pro-poor initiatives on agricultural research. Thus, the upcoming Africa Forum will draw on experiences made under each pillar programme and will involve all CAADP Pillar Lead Institutions.

However, given that the issue of vulnerability is close to the thrust of Pillar III, the Lead institution of this programme, the University of KwaZulu Natal, has taken the lead in providing the overall context for the 2009 CAADP Africa Forum.

## 6. RECs and their Relevance for the 2009 CAADP Africa Forum

The Regional Economic Communities (RECs) are the operational arms of the African Union in the regions. Within the CAADP framework, the RECs were mandated at an early stage to facilitate the country and also regional processes. Several RECs have been at the centre stage in designing the country roundtable processes so far and have been instrumental in moving the CAADP agenda forward. In the spirit of the expanded CAADP team across AU-NEPAD-RECs, the main roles and responsibilities of the RECs in the CAADP country processes are:

- **Lobbying and advocacy for the CAADP agenda** at country, regional and continental levels;
- **Initiating the CAADP process with ministries**, providing access to the ministerial level and facilitating the establishment of country teams and the formal structure;
- **Coordinating external support for country processes**, and developing the country team's capacity to manage the process;
- **Facilitating links and sharing of experience with other teams** in the regions for process design and implementation (enhancing the competence);
- **Driving the CAADP agenda at the regional level** (mainly the transboundary priorities), and supporting countries to come up with regional priorities;
- **Coordinating and participating in monitoring, evaluation and peer reviews** of the member countries;
- **Assisting with resource mobilisation** for the process at national and regional levels; and
- **Mobilising think tanks** on emerging critical issues.

Even though the heart of CAADP implementation lies with the country teams, some of the persisting problems in Africa agriculture require a regional response, particularly with regard to the effect of the global financial and food crisis. During the 2009 CAADP Africa Forum, RECs such as COMESA, ECOWAS and SADC will keep a close look at the following specific issues:

### 1. Increased supply through production and regional agricultural trade

- Existing regional initiatives and programmes to promote sustainable options for increasing production of food;
- Existing regulation mechanisms of markets to reduce food price instability: this refers to the internal regulation of markets and the redefinition of trade policy instruments at (national and regional borders);
- Regional trade promotion and market access initiatives and programmes (i.e. identification of national and regional sensitive agricultural products and food, as well as support measures and programmes within the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs));
- Biofuels promotion; and
- Arable land leases in order to enable (not to reduce!) regional food security.

## **2. Initiatives to increase economic opportunities for the vulnerable**

- Existing environmental, institutional and policy initiatives at regional level which help the vulnerable to effectively protect, use and expand their assets, incomes and livelihood opportunities to sustainably improve their food security status.

## **3. Improved risk management initiatives**

- Early warning systems, that help to measure, monitor and track groups who are vulnerable to food insecurity and shocks;
- Resourced and functioning programmes to reduce vulnerability to droughts, floods, food price inflation and other shocks;
- Existing initiatives addressing regional, trans-boundary and emerging risks, such as crop pest infestation, spread of diseases through migratory livestock herding, and, invasive alien species;
- Existing crisis response and early warning systems including respective mechanisms, triggers, actors and emergency resources;
- Existing frameworks and commitments that are supportive of the risk management items outlined above;
- Existing regional Agricultural Information Systems including monitoring of crop and livestock production, trade promotion, analysis and strategic monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs.

## **4. Initiatives to increase quality of diets through food diversification among the target groups**

- Existing regional initiatives and actions to increase the access of vulnerable groups to diversified food production and supply to improved micro-nutrient intake;
- Existing environmental, institutional and policy initiatives to promote food fortification at regional level.

## 7. Farmer Organisations and their Relevance for the 2009 CAADP Africa Forum

Regional Farmer Organisations are crucial players for CAADP implementation since they represent the voice of farmers, thus the key actors for agricultural development. Over the last couple of years, regional farmer organisations, such as East African Farmers Federation (AEFF) and others have gained strength and influence over regional agricultural processes. Like national farmer organisations and associations, they constantly have improved their ability to lobby for the interest of their members and to make their voice heard in policy processes and implementation of programmes agricultural and rural development.

Regional Farmer Organisations will give examples of how even the poorest and most vulnerable actors in the rural areas can organise themselves and mobilise their resources to improve their livelihoods.

Specifically, Farmer Organisations will share their experiences in terms of:

### 1. Service provision to the membership:

- Input provision (improved seeds, fertilisers, etc.)
- Financial services
- Market information and analysis
- Market access and sales

### 2. Capacity development programmes:

- Technical (extension), commercial skills development, focus on women and agriculture activities of the poor,
- Gender equality focus
- Organizational and business development
- Commodity and consumer organisations/lobby

### 3. Advocacy and lobbying to influence policies in favour of vulnerable smallholder farmers

### 4. Policy development and advocacy

It is expected that regional farmer organisations will play an even more important role for CAADP implementation in future. During this 2009 Africa Forum, various options and possibilities how the link between CAADP and Farmer Organisations should look like, will be discussed and agreed upon. Particularly emphasis will be given to how and the Africa Forum can be made useful for Farmer Organisations and what role they should play for the CAADP Africa Forum in future.

## 8. CAADP Country Teams

The CAADP country implementation team is the heart of the whole country process, as the central driver and manager of the core CAADP implementation process. The team plays a coordinating and facilitative role, drawing on a variety of sources to provide technical and political support as needed. Its authority is based on the government's leadership responsibility. Given the importance of its role, the country team must have and be seen to have firm backing from the highest levels of government (for example, via an official delegation of authority from the relevant senior government structure).

The country team ideally consists of middle to higher level staff from the ministry of agriculture, other ministries, the private sector, farmer organisations, NGOs and other committed actors, forming an effective coalition to make CAADP move forward. The team should be rather small (5-8 members) and is not intended to be a permanent structure - much less a parallel government body. The important objective is to fulfil the group's functions, and in many countries there are potential existing structures which can take these on. Indeed, wherever possible, one should aim to build on existing structures (e.g. in some countries this may be an agricultural sector coordination unit).

The principal responsibility of the CAADP country team is to communicate about the roles and responsibilities in the management of the implementation process, which involves:

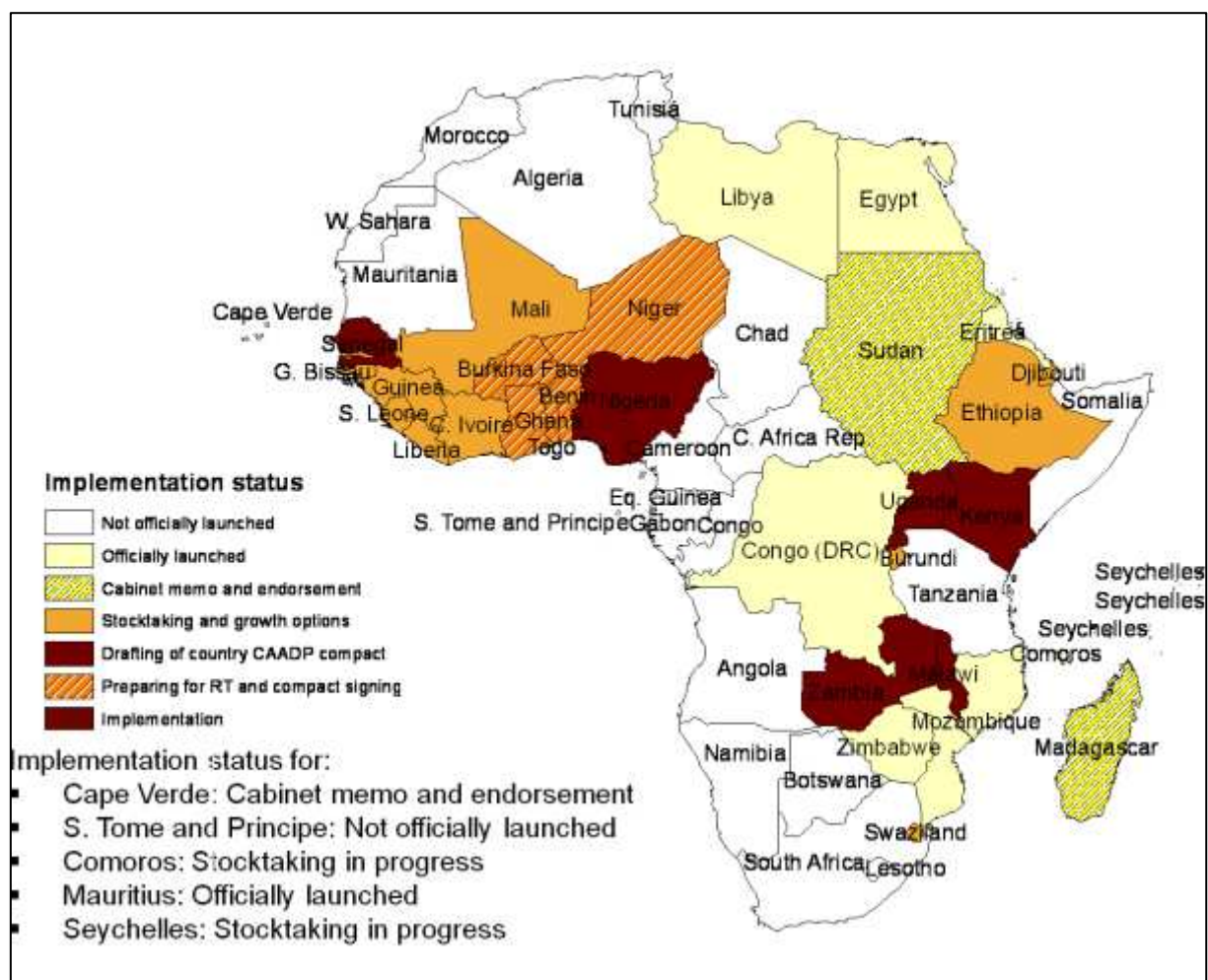
- **Promoting CAADP and facilitating CAADP and agricultural sector related awareness, advocacy and training** for a better internalisation of the agenda and commitment of actors at the country level. One of the most difficult aspects of the process is the facilitation of continued political support and engagement right from the start.
- **Stimulating and facilitating the engagement and involvement of various partners and stakeholders** including development partners, key institutions, civil society organisations, public-private bodies etc. based on agreed common vision, collective responsibilities and mutual collaboration where 'everyone is a winner'.
- **Designing the CAADP process and road map of the country in a strategic way.** This includes facilitation of consultations and negotiations with related partners and stakeholders, the development of a work programme and action plan that lays out the structure and flow of the country CAADP implementation process (sequencing of events, stages, steps etc.). The process design is based on the CAADP process framework with its four components which is contextualised and prioritised according to the given local circumstances.
- **Organising and facilitating diagnostic/analytical work.** This includes collecting and assembling relevant information for the CAADP diagnostic work, such as a list of relevant interventions, identifying and recruiting consultants to undertake required studies, approving and aggregating consultants' outputs and disseminating the findings so that they can inform the prioritisation process.
- **Organising and facilitating an inclusive country process on priority setting** of investment options and strategies, catalysing buy-in and internalisation among actors and ensuring alignment with national development systems, strategies and programmes including the PRSP, SWAPs etc.).

- **Managing the work programme** and contributions of other actors, including organising and sequencing the components of the CAADP implementation process, e.g. organising for partnership development and coalition building and provision of capacity building for selected key institutions.
- **Coordinating and facilitating interaction and collaboration between the regional level and actors, (RECs, pillar institutions etc.) and continental actors (AUC, NEPAD etc.) and the country processes**, including ensuring that country needs (demand) are expressed and accordingly linked to relevant support options from the regional and continental support institutions (e.g. preparing and managing support on analytical work, ensuring terms of reference are prepared and agreed by all concerned, and managing the service providers/consultants).
- **Facilitating and coordinating CAADP related knowledge management operations** including progress monitoring based on indicators and benchmarks, peer review, self evaluation and learning, and integrating feedback into the action plan design and implementation process.

## 9. CAADP Country Implementation Status

In most countries, the CAADP country implementation process progressed the most during the last three years. The “*Bi-monthly Information Note on Country CAADP Implementation CAADP Roundtable Process Summary of progress on CAADP Roundtables and Implementation*” reports that: 34 countries have launched their National CAADP process. Of these, 16 countries have completed the first phase of CAADP implementation at country level, the so-called **Engagement and Partnership Development** Phase. This first CAADP phase includes the establishment of broad-based government commitment to leading the CAADP country process, the sensitisation of key agricultural sector stakeholders and the creation of public awareness. The end of this initial phase marks usually the beginning of the second phase of **Evidence Based Planning**: a first kick-off workshop for the formal launch of a national CAADP Round Table which started in many countries with a standardised stock-taking exercise of the agricultural sector in order to deliver the analytical and diagnostic backbone for future growth and investment strategies. A further 12 countries have completed this phase and have signed **Country Compacts**. Rwanda, as the championing CAADP country, has gone even further with and is at the stage of Country Compact implementation which includes the alignment of government and donor support to the CAADP process.

### CAADP Implementation Status (June 2009)



Source: NEPAD-CAADP, <http://www.nepad-caadp.net/library-country-status-updates.php>

<b>Status of CAADP Country Roundtables (November 2009)</b>			
	<b>Countries</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Status</b>
1	Benin	15-16 October 2009	Compact signed
2	Burkina Faso	date to be confirmed	
3	Burundi	24-25 August 2009	Compact signed
4	Cape Verde	10-11 December 2009	
5	Côte d'Ivoire	date to be confirmed	
6	Ethiopia	27-28 September 2009	Compact signed
7	Gambia	27-28 October 2009	Compact signed
8	Ghana	27-28 October 2009	Compact signed
9	Guinea	date to be confirmed	
10	Guinea Bissau	date to be confirmed	
11	Liberia	5-6 October 2009	Compact signed
12	Mali	12-13 October 2009	Compact signed
13	Mauritius	15 November	postponed
14	Niger	29-30 September 2009	Compact signed
15	Nigeria	12-13 October 2009	Compact signed
16	Rwanda	31 March 2007	Compact signed
17	Senegal	date to be confirmed	postponed
18	Sierra Leone	17-18 September 2009	Compact signed
19	Swaziland	26-27 November	postponed
20	Togo	29-30 July 2009	Compact signed
21	Uganda	29 October	postponed
22	Zambia	12 November	postponed



## 10. Progress made with Country Action Plans from Previous Africa Forums

During the last forum that was co-organised by NEPAD, Africa Forum Country Teams committed to support the CAADP process and to find out how Country Action Plans, drawn up during the forum, could be merged with the CAADP process in their respective countries. For some countries, such as Namibia, it meant finding out if there were any CAADP intentions at all (as the country was in the pre-planning phase) and for others it meant to simply engage in an on-going CAADP process with lessons learned from the forum.

Correspondence with country contact persons after the forum showed that many teams had indeed stayed true to that promise and had had the first Africa Forum Country Team meeting together with CAADP stakeholders within two months after the forum. For some teams, the CAADP focal person had already been a participant to the Africa Forum and so making sure that priorities identified during the forum were taken on-board of the CAAD country agenda was not a problem. Other teams had to go out and make contact with the CAADP process and focal point first. The various progress reports from the Africa Forum country contact persons indicate different levels of implementation of identified activities and different levels of merging with CAADP country processes. However, all reports indicate a much stronger liaison with the CAADP country focal points.

Important for participants was the fact that CAADP is not a parallel process or a programme super-imposed from the top without regard for existing agriculture programmes. Participants from 'CAADP countries' actually confirmed that the CAADP process had helped them 'screen' national policies, structures and capacities in such a way that much more results-oriented capacity development or reform activities had taken place. This in turn serves the CAADP objective of making national policies, programmes, institutions and actors more effective vehicles for agricultural growth.

Prior to the upcoming 2009 CAADP Africa Forum in Nairobi, country contact persons of previous Africa Forums were asked to report on progress made against the action plans presented during the last Africa Forum in 2008. Specifically they were asked to give the following information:

- a. Please list the Priority Issues as mentioned in the 2008 Africa Forum Country Action Plan
- b. Please describe progress achieved against these priority issues - if little or no progress was achieved, describe why that has been the case.
- c. Please, in as much detail as possible, describe whether these issues and the action taken under progress were linked to the CAADP country process and if so, how this was done.

Responses were received from (i) Benin, (ii) Burkina Faso, (iii) Cameroon, (iv) Ethiopia, (v) Ghana, (vi) Kenya and (vii) Namibia.

All these progress reports are annexed in the conference binder (apart from the Ethiopia country action plan, since the Ethiopia country action plan had already been merged with the activities planned by the Ethiopia CAADP team).

## 11. Recap: Summary Proceedings from Africa Forum 2008

The 2008 Africa Forum represented a turning point in the history of the Africa Forum. Since 1997, the Africa Forum had been following its own growth curve as an independent platform. This independency was useful when the purpose of the forum was to keep practitioners updated on the latest thinking in development, as was the case in its early years. Later, when the exchange of implementation experience between peers became more important, the forum could still fulfil its purpose as a stand-alone platform. However, in recent years, participants have come not as individuals but as members of a Country Team; their interest was no longer just to get and exchange information, but to act on it. Soon, participants' requested inter-forum implementation support. However, much as the forum organisers would want to comply, this is where the forum, as an independent platform of learning, could no longer be of much assistance.

At the same time, NEPAD developed its Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). Regional Economic Communities and Country Round Tables drive the process of CAADP implementation at country level. A central element in that process is to find out where successes in African agriculture have been achieved and to then see how these can either be up-scaled or replicated. Not surprisingly, identifying and up-scaling these success-stories are a slow process.

For the 2008 event, the Africa Forum and NEPAD joined forces to answer two questions: (i) Can the Africa Forum be used as an outreach platform for CAADP? (ii) Would linking up with the CAADP process increase the relevance of the forum's output at country level? After the forum, participants concluded that the answer to both questions is a clear YES!

The following four points were the key results of the 12<sup>th</sup> Africa Forum with respect to CAADP implementation:

### 1. Understanding CAADP

What CAADP is and (also important) what it is not, has become very clear to forum participants. Any remaining suspicions that CAADP is a top-down and parallel process were removed: First by Martin Bwalya's excellent presentations and second by people from CAADP-pioneer countries telling others how the CAADP process, through its stocktaking and analyses, had really strengthened their own country-processes.

### 2. Supporting the CAADP process at country level

Countries represented in the forum were at different stages in their CAADP process: Few had signed a Compact, several had begun stocktaking exercises and many had completed the engagement and partnership phase. Participants found it extremely useful to hear of experiences from those who are ahead in the process. Especially Rwanda offered people a lot of good advice on what to do and what to look out for, and thereby made people feel more prepared for what lies ahead.

Another benefit of this exchange mentioned by participants was that it was a relief to hear that exercises like stocktaking and institutional analyses had exposed weaknesses also in other countries. And that this was not something to be ashamed of, or to hide, but rather something to be embraced as the very purpose of the CAADP process. Knowing that your peers were also not faultless, but that sticking with the process has made them stronger, was felt to be a strong motivation to continue.

### **3. Learning about agri-business successes**

Lots of information on agri-businesses was offered by a wide range of actors and on a wide spectrum of topics. Some of this found its way into Country Action Plans, notably the value-chain approach. However, parallel sessions limited the choice of participants with respect to which presentation they want to attend. In addition, the time allocated to the agri-business session was limited this year on account of the tree planting exercise that followed after. Despite these limitations, the summary presentations by actor group were excellent and presented a good picture of factors of success and factors of up-scaling. A summary of these findings was presented at the end of the forum and is here attached as annex 8.

### **4. Supporting the up-scaling of agri-business successes**

The up-scaling of what works in agriculture will in future years become the ultimate objective of the Africa Forum as a CAADP instrument. Experiences of the 2008 forum pointed the way with regard to how this can best be achieved. According to Country Teams conditions that would need to be met include the following: Country team members need to be real representatives of their stakeholder category with respect to status and seniority in decision making; (ii) Country team members should be part of on-going development processes in agriculture, especially that of CAADP (iii) Country team members should have knowledge of agriculture policies and programmes in their country; (iv) Agri-business success stories presented at the forum should be based on a rigorous process of selection; and (v) Supporting information (e.g. brochures, contact details, studies) should be available for each agri-business success for further information and future reference.

To summarise: As an annual platform of exchange, a 'CAADP-Africa Forum' was proposed as an instrument to help: (i) Inform country processes in relation to CAADP implementation and (ii) Exchange and learn about best practices in agriculture and rural development.

→ For more details on the results and discussions of previous Africa Forums, please visit the website [www.africaforum.info](http://www.africaforum.info) where you can download proceedings and presentations.

## 12. List of CAADP Country Focal Points

Prior to this year's CAADP Africa Forum, participating countries had identified country contact persons and formed country teams. However, in the process of merging the previous Africa Forum with the CAADP country processes, these contact persons and country teams are now merged in the national CAADP country process.

The following list provides the names and contact details of the acting CAADP Country Focal Points as well as the names of the country contact persons of previous Africa Forums. How country teams organise themselves and what role the Africa forum contact person plays in the future will be left to the country teams themselves to decide. In any case, it is expected that the CAADP focal point will play a coordinating role.

Country	CAADP Country Focal Point	Country Contact Persons for previous Africa Forums
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