

CAADP REVIEW AND PARTNERSHIP PLATFORM MEETING (MARCH 17-20, 2008)

Victoria, Republic of Seychelles

2nd REPORT PREPARED FOR FUTURE AGRICULTURES CONSORTIUM

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April, 2008
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Acronyms

This list is not exhaustive. AU/NEPAD documents are full of acronyms/abbreviations that the author is not yet aware of.

CAADP	Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme
AUC	African Union Commission
NEPAD	New Partnership for African Development
COMESA	Common Market for East and Southern Africa
CRT	Country Round Table
SLWM	Sustainable Land and water Management
ReSAKSS	Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System
FAFS	Framework for African Food Security
REC	Regional Economic Commission
FAAP	Framework for African Agricultural Productivity
FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
RAILS	Regional Agricultural Information and Learning Systems
DONATA	Dissemination of New Agricultural Technologies in Africa
SCARDA	Strengthening Capacity for Agricultural Research and Development in Africa
SSA-CP	Sub Saharan Africa Challenge Program
BASIC	Building Africa's Scientific and Institutional Capacity
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Paper

1 Background and Introduction

The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) is an AUC/NEPAD initiative designed to encourage investment in key areas (pillars) that can make the earliest difference to Africa's agricultural crises. CAADP was adopted by the Head of States as a framework for the revival of agriculture and officially launched in 2003 at a meeting held in Midrand, South Africa.

CAADP aims "to be the main tool for cutting hunger and poverty in half in by the year 2015: millennium development goal number 1". In order to achieve this goal, CAADP asks African countries to commit to:

- 10% of Budget to agriculture
- 6% sectoral growth up to 2015
- Dedicated implementation & monitoring mechanism

To what extent have countries come on board and adhered to these principles? The principal purpose of the CAADP periodic review and partnership platform meeting is to assess this situation. This report is concerned with the third review meeting held in the Republic of Seychelles. Section 2 provides progress of the pillars and countries towards compact. Section 3 identifies the role for Future Agricultures in engagement with CAADP. Section 4 is conclusion and recommendation.

2 CAADP Review and Partners Platform meetings

2.1 Objectives

The first CAADP Partnership Platform (CAADP-PP) Meeting for COMESA region was held in Bujumbura. The second was in Addis Ababa in September 2007² which was the first opportunity for the Consortium to engage with CAADP. The third meeting, the subject of this report, is the second opportunity for the Consortium to engage with CAADP.

The objectives of the review in general and of the 3rd review meeting in particular are:

- Contribute, through dialogue and mutual review, to sustaining and deepening the commitment to and alignment with the key CAADP targets and principles, on the part of African governments and donors.
- Facilitate a constructive dialogue and exchange between senior level representatives of African governments, development agencies and private sector (including farmer) organisations on CAADP implementation, as well as on the broader strategic issues facing African agriculture.
- Review lessons and good practices regarding the identification, design, and implementation of national and regional policies, strategies and programmes that contribute to enhanced agricultural growth, food security and rural development in Africa.

2.2 Structure of the meeting and participants

The meeting was held from 17-20 March divided into two. March 17-18 was dedicated to CAADP progress review and was attended by

AU/NEPAD representatives
COMESA
Country CAADP focal persons
Pillar lead institutions
Farmer organisations

The donor group joined the meeting for the next two days (March 19-20). The meeting then became "partnership platform meeting".

² See Amdissa Teshome (September, 2007).

2.3 *Review of Progress*

There are two major components to review

- Pillar progress
- Country progress toward the Compact

2.3.1 Pillar progress

CAADP is organised into four pillars:

Pillar 1 – Sustainable Land and Water Management

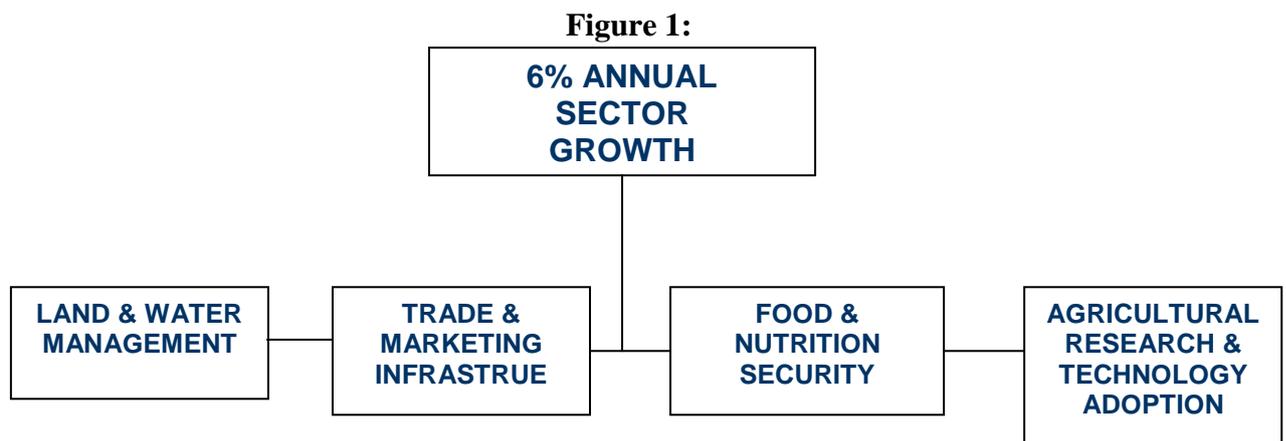
Pillar 2 – Rural Infrastructure and Trade-related Capacities for Improved Market Access

Pillar 3 – Increasing Food Supply and Reducing Hunger

Pillar 4 – Agricultural Research, Technology Dissemination and Adoption

In addition to the pillars, CAADP also has an important component known as Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (ReSAKSS) which is mandated to provide evidence of progress and develop monitoring and evaluation framework.

Livestock, although not designated as a pillar, is considered as a critical area of investment and a separate companion document is prepared.



The lead institutions presented progress in each pillar. It was highlighted that each of CAADP’s pillar is founded on the same principles but not every pillar was developed in quite the same way or at quite the same rate – each pillar had to take advantage of opportunities as they arise. Table 1 is a summary of pillar progress with respect to key benchmarks.

Progress was also reported by the lead institution of ReSAKSS.

Table 1: CAADP Pillar Benchmarks

Benchmark		Pillars			
		1	2	3	4
1	Establish Expert Review Group	X	X	X	/
2	Draft Framework	X	X	X	X
3	Consult countries and regions & review Framework	/	/	X	X
4	Consult international stake-holders & review Framework	/	/	X	X
5	AU Expert Review & Revise		/	X	X
6	AU Ministers' Meeting adoption			X	X
7	AU Heads of State adoption				X
8	Advocacy and communication				X
9	Internalisation and buy-in of pillars in countries and RECS	/	/	/	/
10	Analytical tools & methodological guides				
11	Establish Pillar Oversight Committee				X
12	Establish Expert & Institutions databases (resources for C&RRT support)			/	
13	Mobilise Support Team to CRT				
14	Engage in CRTs - technical support, research and capacity development to backstop & support	X			
15	Implementing early action	X	/	/	/
16	Post-compact technical support, research and capacity development				
17	Harmonising M&E among pillars and ReSAKSS	/		/	
18	Periodic review of Framework				
19	Mobilise resources to support Lead Institutions and Pillar activities beyond Framework development	X			/

Pillar I – Sustainable Land and Water Management (SLWM)
Lead institutions: CILSS and UNZA

In addition to these lead institutions, the pillar has a Steering Committee consisting of COMESA , SADC, CILSS, UNZA, NEPAD, ECOWAS, ECCAS.

Basic principles of pillar 1 are:

- Land and water underpin sustainable development
- Need to mainstream (i) Sustainable land management (ii) Agricultural water and (iii) land policy and land administration
- Address issues including - **Climate change**, biofuels, HIV/AIDS, natural resource management issues in pastoralism, forestry and fisheries

What's happening in Pillar I? The presenter stated that (i) resources are being mobilized (financial and technical) to support country roundtable process and implementation of resulting investment programmes; (ii) continental and regional partnerships coming together focused on scaling up sustainable land and water management (SLM) in Africa; (iii) framework: developed with common vision and pillar tools (Pillar I framework documents); and (iv) roundtables supporting investment development in 20+ countries.

What next? Build on extensive review and stakeholder consultations to validate Pillar 1 framework by mid-2008; step up country round table SLWM dialogues, programming, activities and finalise Framework documentation and tools – Expert Review Meeting 27th-30th April

Pillar II - Improving rural infrastructure and trade related capacities for market access**Lead institution: Conference of Ministers of Agriculture in West and Central Africa (CMA/WCA)**

The objective of CAADP Pillar II is:

- to accelerate growth in the agricultural sector by raising the capacities of private entrepreneurs, including commercial and small-holder farmers,
- to meet the increasingly complex quality and logistic requirements of domestic, regional and international markets, focusing on strategic value chains with the highest potential to generate broad-based income growth and create wealth in the rural areas and the rest of the economy.

The implementation of the agenda under Pillar II is carried out through the following 5 main strategic areas:

- **Area A:** Raising competitiveness and seizing opportunities in domestic, regional, and international markets
- **Area B:** Investment in commercial and trade infrastructure to lower the cost of supplying the above markets
- **Area C:** Value-Chain Development and Financial Services in Strategic Sectors
- **Area D:** Strengthening the commercial and technical capacities of farmers organizations and trade associations
- **Area E:** Benchmarking and monitoring and evaluation

The presenter explained Pillar II strategic framework (Annex 1) in detail and outlined early actions with respect to the above areas. In a nutshell, there is strong emphasis on strengthening the commercial and technical capacities of farmers organizations and trade associations with a view to creating the required institutional, regulatory and policy framework that would facilitate the emergence of regional economic spaces and boost the expansion of regional trade and cross-country investments.

Pillar II recognizes the need to design and pilot models to integrate small holders into dynamic and higher value agricultural chains. This should contribute to developing effective and scalable tools for government and private sector operators to work with leading Farmer Organizations and Trade Associations (FO/TA) to broaden the access by smallholder farmers to commercial and technical services.

Engagement Opportunity 1: Emphasis on farmer organizations is a potential area for Future Agricultures contribution to CAADP in view of the recent scoping study for the Gates Foundation. CAADP also has shown interest to engage the Gates Foundation with a view to expanding its donor base.

Pillar II has an ambitious plan to develop an infrastructure master plan to link current regional transport infrastructure corridor projects to potential agricultural growth poles. Quality and value-chain development also receives adequate attention.

Pillar III: Framework for African Food Security (FAFS)**Lead institution: Kwa-Zulu Natal and CILSS**

CAADP Pillar III focuses on the chronically food insecure, and on populations vulnerable to and affected by various crises and emergencies. The purpose of this framework is twofold:

- to guide and assist stakeholders in Africa to simultaneously meet the objectives of CAADP Pillar III and the African growth agenda.
- by prioritising and guiding policy, strategy and activity development and analysis that focuses on three strategic areas: (i) increasing food supply, (ii) reducing hunger and malnutrition and (iii) improving responses to food emergencies

The presenter emphasized that the CAADP food security framework is one of the most rigorously reviewed by a wide range of stakeholders. It presents:

- The current status of hunger and malnutrition in Africa;
- Key causes of hunger and malnutrition;
- Priority responses to address these issues;
- How FAFS can be used,
- Recommendations to increase food supply, eliminate hunger and malnutrition and improve emergency management at country, regional and continental levels
- Suggestions for monitoring, evaluation and peer review processes.
- Suggests a model for coordination of pillar III activities.
- Suggestions for scaling up actions

In 2008 it is planned to:

- Establish institutional elements (including providing adequate human capacity at NEPAD, ACFS, CILSS and RECs and facilitate and coordinate FAFS implementation)
- Identify a lead academic institution per REC and establish networks in country to support the CRTs
- Establish REC Pillar Advisors
- Continue to build network of African practitioners and link these with the Country Round Table processes and EGRs
- Establish a FAFS Advisory Panel
- Engage in the CRTs

Most immediately, FAFS will be presented to the Ministers of Agriculture in June 2008 and the expert database under construction will be completed. Criteria will be established for successful FAFS interventions and programmes to guide CRT decisions and develop a series of success story briefs. Furthermore, FAFS will develop and test the African measurement and predictive tools and prepare an annual report on the State of Household Food Insecurity in Africa. Capacity development strategies will be developed around these tools.

Pillar IV: Improving agriculture research, technology dissemination and adoption (Framework for African Agricultural Productivity - FAAP)

Lead institution: Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)

Pillar IV ensures that agricultural research, technology dissemination and adoption priorities are properly reflected in roundtable processes. The processes include:

- Engagement strategy/ entry point
- Identification and establishing contact with core stakeholders
- Building alliances and negotiations with investors; public, private and collaborating partners
- Launching and planning processes
- Monitoring and evaluation

There are three levels of leadership for this pillar. Continental leadership is provided by the lead institution (FARA) - *NEPAD provides overall leadership for CAADP at continental level*. Second, sub-regional leadership: provided by the SROs (ASARECA, CORAF/WECARD, CARDESA and NASRO) — *RECs provide overall leadership for CAADP at sub-regional level*. Third, national leadership is provided by National Agricultural Research System (NARS)

There are four major components of Pillar IV:

- Regional Agricultural Information and Learning Systems (RAILS) - Enhancing farmers' access to technologies
- Dissemination of New Agricultural Technologies in Africa (DONATA)
- Strengthening Capacity for Agricultural Research and Development in Africa (SCARDA)
- The Sub Saharan Africa Challenge Program (SSA CP) innovations systems approaches to agricultural research for development.
- Developing the proposal for Building Africa's Scientific and Institutional Capacity (BASIC)

ReSAKSS – Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System.

The presentation kicked off by re-stating the decision made at 2nd CAADP-SIRTE Partnership Platform (PP) meeting, September 27-28, 2007, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

- Need for a common M&E Framework for CAADP implementation at the national, regional and continental levels
- Identify benchmarks/indicators capable of measuring progress towards achieving CAADP goals and targets at all levels
- Crosscutting issues such as gender, sustainability, HIV/AIDS and other critical factors should be included
- Common benchmarks, indicators, reporting formats, and timelines established before the next PP meeting
- The AU and NEPAD should work with ReSAKSS to develop the framework

Rationale for common M&E framework:

- The need to assess impact more broadly, adding up to more than sum of pillars: (i) to comprehensively assess whether and how investments and policies surrounding the CAADP implementation are having their desired impact on targeted growth and poverty reduction goals (ii) individual pillar M&E frameworks focus on specific targets without considering how they interact with those of other pillars (e.g. through price effects) to affect the overall CAADP goals and objectives
- To be able to tell a compelling story about progress and performance with CAADP implementation – for progress review at country, peer review at regional, and mutual review at continent wide level.

Achievements to date:

- Initial draft M&E framework circulated for discussion to guide the selection of indicators
- CAADP M&E working group established, beginning with a workshop at the AU (Addis Ababa, Dec 3-4, 2007)
- Initial group of indicators agreed on and subsequent stock taking carried out by ReSAKSS nodes in select countries (3-4 in each region)
- Results from stocktaking used to help refine the indicators and data sources. Large database created summarizing definitions, measurements, frequency of data collection, sources, etc..
- For CAADP PP, Seychelles → Final draft – with improved common M&E framework, recommended indicators (adding value), operational plan, and timetable.

The presenter argued that the M&E system should be simple enough to be practical: (i) over-engineering an M&E system is not only wasted effort but can eventually undermine the M&E system; (ii) simply believing that an M&E system has inherent value is a typical mistake; (iii) the information in the system is only valuable if it is used; and (iv) an M&E system is as good as the data underlying it.

The types of indicators identified were:

- **Input indicators:** what is the overall level of effort invested?
- **Output indicators:** what is the level of provision, utilization and coverage of the investment program?
- **Intermediate outcome indicators:** what is the effect on “assets” and “activities” that affect goals and outcomes?
- **Impact and outcome indicators:** what was the ultimate impact on higher-level goals?

The key impact assessment questions include but not limited to:

- Have expectations in terms of achieving the growth and poverty- and hunger-reduction targets been met so far?

- How effective have different types of policies and investments been in the achievements realized so far?
- What factors have shaped the level of impact that has been achieved?
- What are the trade-offs and complementarities, if any, among different types of policies and investments?
- What are the projected impacts if policies and investments proceed as currently planned?
- Are these projected impacts compatible with the growth and poverty- and hunger-reduction goals?
- Could greater or better distributed outcomes and impacts be obtained by reconfiguring the policies and investment portfolio?
- What are the different policies and types of investments that can lead to greater and more sustainable growth as well as greater and better distributed outcomes and impacts?
- Based on these, what new targets must be set and the levels of effort?

Three levels of dissemination strategy were outlined. First, annual trends and situation analysis of the agricultural sector – to be completed in time for the second CAADP PP review meeting each September of the year. Final briefs will then be prepared in a professional manner and ready for circulation prior to the meetings. The target audience will be non-technical in nature

Second, the ReSAKSS website (www.resakss.org). The website architecture has been developed from the start with the CAADP M&E needs in mind – to view and download current trends, data, charts, supporting research publications, and so forth. There are also region specific websites:

- East and Central Africa (www.eca.resakss.org)
- Southern Africa (www.sa.resakss.org)
- West Africa (www.wa.resakss.org)

Third venue will be through various other media and presentations to review of the information and results of analysis at various forums including CAADP PP (Africa wide), CAADP advisory councils at REC level, ReSAKSS steering committee meetings (also REC level) and other regional and country level policy dialogue gatherings.

The presenter outlined some operational challenges as follows:

- Getting hold of the data: requires sufficient detail on projects and services by all sources across all four pillars of the CAADP
- Promotion and endorsement of standardized and harmonized set of core indicators across countries: (i) countries have varying degrees of availability, quality, quantity, frequency, as well as measurement and analytical capacities; (ii) requires the development of a standardized protocol for data collection, measurement, and reporting, which will depend a lot on how countries follow through in adhering to the demands for improve data systems and reporting.
- How to maintain the M&E System as useful, practical and timely in the long run

Each presentation was followed by Q&A and discussion which is too detailed to present here.

2.3.2 Country progress

Country progress is measured by three indicators:

- Progress towards the Country Round Table and Compact
- Achieving the 10% budget allocation to agriculture
- Achieving 6% growth rate up to 2015

The Compact is a strategic document in which key areas of investment are identified. It is also a document that

- Ensures commitment from national government and partners
- Defines roles and responsibilities
- Factors in pillar input

- Sufficient detail to bind partners
- Political and technical content
- Process into compact not uniform

In order to get the Compact, countries must go through a series of steps (conveniently divided into 10) as shown in Table 2. There are 19 countries in the COMESA economic region. Eight of the 19 COMESA countries have not yet launched CAADP – Ethiopia is one of them. Malawi, one of the Future Agricultures countries, has progressed well and nearing the signing of Compact. Kenya is also progressing very well. The implication of these differences for the Consortium is examined in Section 4.

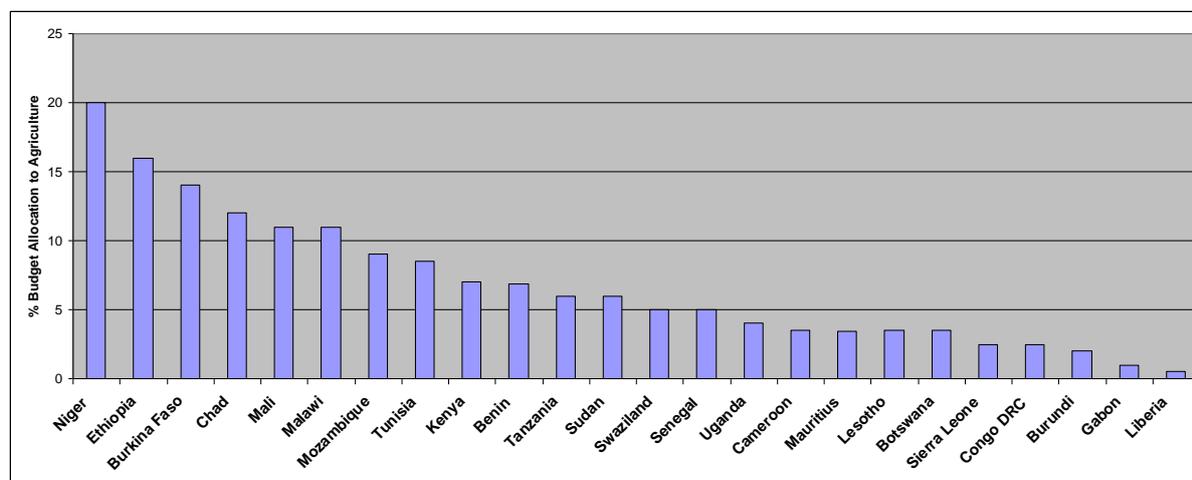
As far as the second target is concerned, six of the 19 COMESA countries are allocating to agriculture more than the 10% budget allocation recommended by CAADP³. These are Niger, Ethiopia (app 16%), Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali and Malawi (app 11%) (see Figure 2).

Similarly, with respect to 6% agricultural growth rate, another key CAADP target, the number of countries which have met or exceeded the target has more than doubled between 2003 and 2005 from 5 to 11 countries. The countries that achieved or surpassed this target in 2005 were: Angola, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Mauritius, Mali, Senegal, Kenya, Chad, Guinea, and Congo DRC. As shown in Table 2 below, many of these countries are far from signing the Compact.

³ Due to the varying definitions of the “agriculture sector”, the AU Commission and NEPAD embarked on defining the core areas of agriculture and rural development relevant to the 10% budget allocation. This is believed to facilitate comparison across countries (see African Union flyer (www.africa-union.org)).

Table 2: Progress in Implementation of Round Table Processes by COMESA Member States as at 29 February 2008

Progress by Steps Leading To Round Table Processes and Signing of Compact in Member States										
	Government Buy-in (1)	Focal Point appointed (2)	CAADP Launched (3)	TC appointed (4)	Experts engaged (5)	Draft report submitted (6)	TC discussed Report (7)	Final Report submitted (8)	Stakeholder workshop (9)	RT Conference, Compact signed (10)
Countries										
Rwanda										
Malawi										
Zambia									27.3. 2008	29-30.4.08
Uganda										8-9.5.08
Kenya										
Djibouti										
Seychelles										
Madagascar										
Comoros										
Swaziland										
Burundi										
Zimbabwe										
Ethiopia										
Mauritius										
Sudan										
Egypt										
DR Congo										
Eritrea										
Libya										

Figure 2: Status of Budget Allocation to Agriculture, 2005


2.3.3 Lessons from progress so far

The following lessons have been identified from CAADP progress so far:

- The speed of country round table (CRT) processes differ from country to country –
 - Buy-in is not automatic
 - It takes time resources and other issues (environment)
 - National policy reform contribute to delay
- The level of engagement and buy-in by development partners at regional and continental level does not necessarily mean that it is the same at country level
- Country engagement (start-up) is more than political decision - buy-in at programme/technical level also crucial
- Communication is key to success to buy-in and development of information systems
- The process can be extremely time consuming and resource demanding which may discourage countries from moving along
- Awareness raising is not yet sufficient
- Inter- and intra-pillar activities and communication are challenging
- Passion and energy of those involved has driven us this far. How can it be sustained?
- Cross cutting issues related to pillars needs attention.

2.3.4 Challenges

The CAADP team has identified the following challenges that the process has faced so far:

- The financial capacity for coordination of the CRT processes at Focal Point Offices is still weak
- Large number of stakeholders (public, private, academia, NGOs, farmers and development partners) pose a heavy logistical burden to mobilize (if not fully mobilized, inputs are compromised)
- The current analytical team too small to do analysis along pillars and sub-sectors.

In addition to these, CAADP is vulnerable to a number of factors that came to light during the discussions. First, CAADP is five years old⁴ but only one country (Rwanda) has managed to complete the process and sign the Compact. As COMESA pointed out in its way forward (see below), speeding up the country engagement is crucial for the survival of CAADP.

⁴ This in itself was considered an achievement. Some participants commented “five years old – alive and kicking!”

Second, the number of donors rallying behind CAADP is limited to the traditional donors (DFID, USAID, World Bank). The donors themselves asked “where are the Japanese and the emerging donors such as China?” Again, COMESA has identified this weakness and in its way forward indicated the importance of (i) supporting countries in resource mobilisation and (ii) forging South–South Cooperation (China, Brazil, India, etc...).

Third, the likely establishment of Global Fund for Agriculture has created tension. It was not clear whether it should be seen as an opportunity or a threat. This was openly debated. The author’s observation is that if such a fund is established and does not require a long accession procedure as CAADP, then countries might turn to that fund. This will certainly weaken CAADP’s position.

Fourth, the relationship between CAADP and PRSP is not clear. Are they complementing or competing? One of the reasons why most countries have not moved as fast as required is probably because they have gone through the PRSP process and identified the investment priorities for agriculture and other sectors and to a great extent have funding for it!

Fifth, some of the challenges to CAADP emanate from achieving the targets set by it. For example, as discussed earlier, six of the 19 COMESA countries have achieved the 10% target of budget allocation to agriculture. Is this as a result of CAADP or the respective countries prior commitment to the sector? Ethiopia for example might feel that agriculture has been and continues to be a priority sector.

Similarly, with respect to 6% agricultural growth rate, another key CAADP target, the number of countries which have met or exceeded the target has more than doubled between 2003 and 2005 from 5 to 11 countries. Interestingly, among these countries, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Congo DRC are far from signing the Compact. Therefore, what is the contribution of CAADP to this achievement?

Finally, the most serious challenge is what happens post-Compact. A number of participants asked what Rwanda got one year after signing the Compact. COMESA pointed out that Rwanda doubled expenditure on agriculture since the signing of the Compact. But this did not satisfy the participants.

2.3.5 The way forward

COMESA was commended for its commitment to advance the CAADP agenda. It has monitored and documented the process and created an open forum where ideas exchanged without restriction. The Seychelles meeting was facilitated by an independent facilitator. COMESA has also identified opportunities and challenges and charted the way forward. The key areas needing attention are:

1. Speeding up country engagement in CAADP roundtable
2. M&E and knowledge and information sharing /management
3. Implementation of Communication Strategy
4. Strengthening of African institutions (Network of Pillar institutions; centres of excellence)
5. Supporting countries in resource mobilisation
6. Communication and advocacy
7. Enhancing capacities at RECs/Country to support CAADP implementation – exchange/learning
8. October 08 high level review meeting
9. South–South Cooperation (China, Brazil, India, etc...) / (C-of-E; networking for specialised input)

3 What role for Future Agricultures in the CAADP process?

3.1 Introduction

The Mid-Term review of Future Agricultures work in the three countries recommended, among other things, that the Consortium should “Engage with CAADP to achieve a pan-Africa presence”.⁵ Accordingly, the Consortium identified CAADP review and partnership platform meetings as important venue for engagement. Accordingly, the Consortium instructed Amdissa Teshome to attend the third CAADP review and partnership platform meeting in Seychelles. The ToR for this meeting was as follows:

⁵ Ellis, F. and Bahigwa, G. (2008)

- Intelligence gathering on the status of the three Consortium countries in the CAADP process (Ethiopia, Kenya and Malawi)
- Exploiting opportunities for publicising the Consortium work using different strategies (one-to-one; one-to-many)

This section builds on the progress report presented above and highlights some key areas of engagement in the three Consortium African countries – Ethiopia, Kenya and Malawi. These countries are conveniently located in the COMESA regional economic area.

3.2 Overall engagement

At the Seychelles meeting, Future Agricultures was presented as a side event to a small group of interested people and provided a five minute feedback in plenary. This was used as an opportunity to identify critical areas where the Consortium work could feed into CAADP.

An attempt was made to align Future Agricultures thematic areas with CAADP pillars. For example, the Policy Process theme is a perfect complement to the pillars since none of them explicitly address policy formulation. This weakness was in fact raised during the discussion.

The Growth and Social Protection theme is also a perfect complement to the pillars. CAADP focuses on growth and says very little on social protection. The current thinking is there must be a balance

Engagement Opportunity No. 2: align Future Agricultures thematic areas with CAADP pillars to cross fertilize knowledge and experience. This should include hooking www.future-agricultures.org to ReSAKSS website (and vice versa) to share evidence from Future Agricultures work with the CAADP process (and vice versa).

between growth policies and social policies to bring about development. The trickle down theory has almost become irrelevant. Even if countries achieve high levels of growth, there are millions who fall out of the net. These citizens need protection!

There are also areas where the Future Agricultures themes could learn from the pillars. For example, Pillar II is strong on markets which the Commercializations theme could benefit from. Similarly, the technology theme could benefit from Pillar IV immensely.

3.3 Country specific engagement

3.3.1 Ethiopia and CAADP

As shown in Table 2, Ethiopia's performance with respect to the Compact is not satisfactory. This was clear from the second review meeting held in Addis Ababa in September 2007. Therefore, the Consortium commissioned its representatives in the three countries to undertake a very basic investigation of the status of each country. This involved, interviewing CAADP focal persons, if any, and other relevant institutions.

This preliminary investigation revealed that Ethiopia has a problem with pushing the CAADP agenda. This was ironic because (i) Ethiopia is among the first countries to complete the two early steps, namely government buy-in and assigning CAADP focal person and (iii) at the time of writing, Ethiopia chairs NEPAD.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development indicated the launch of CAADP was delayed for

Engagement Opportunity No. 3: Here is a clear opportunity for Future Agricultures to bring the Ministry up to speed and help it facilitate the round table. We have already established good rapport with the Ministry and have developed consultation techniques that the Ministry has appreciated. COMESA has also indicated they need help to move things in Ethiopia!

capacity problems. Facilitating the Country Round Table requires human and material resources. On this point, COMESA actually finances the process. What it requires is readiness from the countries concerned. Key informants from the Ministry indicated that there is a weak-link with COMESA and country focal persons. The technical backstopping from COMESA was inadequate, which has

contributed to the delay in holding the Round Table and subsequently launch CAADP. There is also a feeling, subject to verification, that membership of the World Trade Organisation may have something to do with the support given.

The relevance of the educational and professional background of focal persons to the pillars is also an important factor. One must feel that he or she is contributing to the debate. This was not the case in Ethiopia. Due to the recent restructuring of the Ministry, things are bound to be delayed until the dust settles!

3.3.2 Malawi and CAADP

Malawi is on the right track! As shown in Table 2, it is only a step away from signing the Compact. Malawi's experience is vital to Ethiopia as well as Kenya who is a few steps away from signing the Compact.

Engagement Opportunity No 4: Link up the CAADP focal person and Future Agricultures Malawi country coordinators to share experience. Wherever possible invite CAADP focal persons to Future Agricultures meetings/forums.

3.3.3 Kenya and CAADP

Kenya CAADP focal person was present at this meeting. It was learned that Future Agricultures country coordinator is involved in stock taking for CAADP. This relationship should be strengthened.

4 Conclusion and recommendations

The present engagement is much better than the Addis Ababa meeting. The first reflection report was honest enough to state that it should not be considered as an authoritative report and the author was not in a position to answer questions regarding the process and outcomes of the CAADP. Readers will find this report better reflection of the meeting and the author is in a position to answer some questions that may arise.

Despite some of the vulnerabilities of CAADP identified in the report, it is still worth engaging with and encourage our respective countries to come on fully board. To this end, we (Future Agricultures) have promised COMESA/AU/CAADP team that we will do our level best to help Ethiopia move up the ladder – provided there is willingness on the part of the Ethiopian Government!

The first report noted that Future Agricultures has a golden opportunity to engage in CAADP since the three focus countries are at similar stage of engagement. Within six months the situation has changed and Malawi has advanced and Kenya is following closely but Ethiopia has not moved. Therefore, ironically, Ethiopia is in a fortunate position to learn from the two countries and perhaps speed up the process.

The report identified the following specific areas of engagement:

Engagement Opportunity No. 1: *Emphasis on farmer organizations is a potential area for Future Agricultures contribution to CAADP in view of the recent scoping study for the Gates Foundation. CAADP also has shown interest to engage the Gates Foundation with a view to expanding its donor base.*

Engagement Opportunity No. 2: *Align Future Agricultures thematic areas with CAADP pillars to cross fertilize knowledge and experience. This should include hooking www.future-agricultures.org to ReSAKSS website (and vice versa) to share evidence from Future Agricultures work with the CAADP process (and vice versa).*

Engagement Opportunity No. 3: *Here is a clear opportunity for Future Agricultures to bring the Ministry up to speed and help it facilitate the round table. We have already established good rapport with the Ministry and have developed consultation techniques that the Ministry has appreciated. COMESA has also indicated they need help to move things in Ethiopia!*

Engagement Opportunity No 4: *Link up the CAADP focal person and Future Agricultures Malawi country coordinators to share experience. Wherever possible invite CAADP focal persons to Future Agricultures meetings/forums.*