



**IMPLEMENTING THE COMPREHENSIVE AFRICA  
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AND  
RESTORING FOOD SECURITY IN AFRICA**

**Prepared by**

**The NEPAD Secretariat  
for the African Partnership Forum Meeting in  
Washington DC, October 5<sup>th</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> 2004**

# **IMPLEMENTING THE COMPREHENSIVE AFRICA AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AND RESTORING FOOD SECURITY IN AFRICA**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Programmes proposed in this paper come in the context of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture development Programme (CAADP) which has been endorsed by the African Heads of State and Government as a framework for the restoration of agriculture growth, food security, and rural development in Africa.

The CAADP document draws the attention of member governments to a wide range of actions to revitalize African agriculture and provides a framework for harmonized and collaborative responsive action. Four specific thrusts for improving Africa's agriculture that are outlined by NEPAD are;

- extend the area under sustainable land management and reliable water control systems;
- improve rural infrastructure and trade related capacities for market accesses;
- increase food supply, reduce hunger, and improve responses to food emergency crises;
- improve agriculture research, technology dissemination and adoption; and

NEPAD's overall vision for agriculture seeks to maximize the contribution of Africa's largest economic sector to achieve self-reliant and productive economies. In essence, NEPAD aims for agriculture to deliver broad-based economic advancement, to which other economic sectors, such as manufacturing, petroleum, minerals and tourism, may also contribute in significant ways, but not at the same level as agriculture. The NEPAD goal for the sector is agriculture – led development that eliminates hunger, reduces poverty and food insecurity, opening the way for export expansion. The vision for agriculture is that the continents should, by the year 2015:

- Improve the productivity of agriculture to attain an average annual growth rate of 6 percent, with particular attention to small-scale farmers, especially focusing on women;
- Have dynamic agricultural markets within countries and between regions;
- Have integrated farmers into the market economy and have improved access to markets to become a net exporter of agriculture products;
- Achieved a more equitable distribution of wealth;
- Be a strategic player in agricultural science and technology development; and
- Practice environmentally sound production methods and have a culture of sustainable management of the natural resource base.

The CAADP document has now been firmly validated and internalized in most countries' national agriculture development plans. The emerging enthusiasm in

embracing the CAADP process and framework is particularly evident in the numbers of countries that are reporting to achieving or are working towards achieving the goal of allocating at least 10 percent of national budgetary resources to agriculture within at most five years, as agreed in Maputo by the AU assembly in July 2003.

The challenge that is now facing the CAADP process is to move beyond and build upon the political commitment to prepare bankable projects and programmes as well as mobilize funding and expertise to implement these projects and programmes.

The present paper lays out a process that would launch the implementation of the CAADP programme over the next 6 months. The process that is outlined reflects the role of the NEPAD Secretariat as a facilitator and a mobiliser of resources and expertise, that of the RECs and member countries as primary implementers, and the nature of the APF meeting as a forum to discuss and assess the implementation of the NEPAD agenda. The programmes and initiatives that are presented are put together in the context of CAADP's four pillars as well as cross – cutting priorities that are seen as critical drivers in attaining the CAADP goal of achieving at least 6% agricultural growth by the year 2015.

## **2. A SIX-MONTH ROADMAP TOWARDS CAADP IMPLEMENTATION**

Outlined in this report are (a) a roadmap towards the implementation of the CAADP agenda and (b) an action-oriented process which, by March 2005, would produce investment options and institutional arrangements that would allow: (i) RECs and member countries to prepare investment projects and (ii) development partners to plan for long term financial assistance. It does so in four separate steps: First, actionable programmes and initiatives are defined based on the CAADP Pillars. The paper then proposes a strategy for resource mobilisation centered around the identification of lead financial partners for each of the programmes and initiatives. A similar process is proposed to identify lead technical partners. The respective roles of the lead financial and lead technical partners are described in detail in the paper. Finally, a set of 4 regional implementation planning meetings are proposed between November 2004 and March 2005 to agree on rules and procedures for country and regional-level project preparation, in-country resource mobilisation, access to funding by development partners, coordination and governance, and programme performance review.

### **2.1 From framework to actionable programs**

A critical first step towards implementing the CAADP agenda is to move from the concept of framework to a workable action program. In other words, the core themes of the framework document have to be translated into a set of concrete programmes and initiatives that will guide RECs and member countries in the preparation of regional, as well as national investment projects. This step has already been initiated and major progress accomplished. The Secretariat has specified two to three major programmes and initiatives under each of the four CAADP pillars, in addition to three programmes that cut across all the pillars. The list of these programmes and initiatives is annexed to the report (Annex I). The Annex

describes the objectives and sample activities that would be carried out under the programmes and initiatives.

## **2.2 Mobilisation of financial resources**

The proposed strategy is for NEPAD to seek and reach agreement with up to three financial partners among G8 members and multilateral organisations to take leadership for providing and coordinating financial assistance for the implementation of each of the programmes and initiatives that are referred to above. These lead financial partners would coordinate financial assistance by all development partners for their respective program/initiative. They would act as main interlocutors for the Secretariat, RECs, and member countries in following up and reviewing programme implementation and progress.

The Secretariat has already launched the process of exploring the readiness of individual development partners to take leadership for individual programmes and initiatives. It has undertaken the first two missions to meet with the US Government and the World Bank, which together have agreed to join other partners in taking leadership for six major programmes covering land, water, agribusiness, academic/professional training, research and technology, and knowledge support systems for strategy preparation and implementation. Plans are being made to engage other G8 members and development partners, including multi-lateral organisations. These plans will be finalized at the upcoming APF meeting in Washington.

## **2.3 Mobilisation of technical expertise**

The goal here is the identification of lead technical partners to provide the necessary expertise and advise the Secretariat in its coordination and advocacy role and assist in the preparation and implementation of country and regional-level investment projects under specific programme areas. The lead technical partners carry out analysis and provide advice directly in their respective fields. In areas and cases where they cannot provide these services directly, they would assist the Secretariat, RECs, and member countries in the preparation of terms of reference and the identification of qualified consultants to provide the necessary technical support and advice. Finally, the lead technical partners would lead and coordinate the process of reviewing implementation performance and progress for their respective program/initiative.

The Secretariat is being assisted by FARA and FAO in mobilizing the necessary expertise. The Secretariat has also signed Memoranda of Understanding with individual international research centers of the CGIAR, in addition to an umbrella MOU that has been signed with the CG group as a whole. The next step is to complete the engagement of regional research organisations and networks which has already been started. Other specialized institutions of the UN system will be approached as well to provide technical support in their respective fields.

## **2.4 Implementation planning by RECs and member countries**

The Secretariat focuses on its role as a facilitator in the implementation of CAADP by RECs and member countries. In particular, it emphasizes its role in linking African countries to investment resources and technical expertise that are required to implement the CAADP agenda and thereby accelerate and sustain growth in the agricultural sector and achieve food security. The main value addition here consists in using NEPAD's political capital to facilitate access by African countries to a substantially larger pool of investment finance and technical expertise than they could mobilize individually and separately. In addition, coordination and leadership by NEPAD would facilitate benchmarking and encourage mutual learning and exchange across countries and speed up the spread and adoption of successful development models and best practices. Successes would not be implemented and replicated, if at all, one country at a time but shared and duplicated across a large number of countries, thereby spreading the impact over larger sections of the population over a much shorter time period.

The most critical factor in moving towards effective coordination by RECs and direct implementation by countries is the need to ensure empowerment and establish ownership at the regional and national levels. The Secretariat's strategy to ensure empowerment and ownership and launch the implementation over the next six months includes the following two main building blocks:

### *2.4.1 Preparation of Program Implementation Concept Notes*

For each of the programmes and initiatives, a Programme Implementation Concept Note is prepared to: (i) analyze the main development policy issues and (ii) review lessons and experiences among African countries, as well as outside of the continent where relevant, in dealing successfully with these issues. The objective of the notes is to guide the implementation planning meetings that will be organized for each region between November 2004 and March 2005 to finalize the implementation process with RECs and member countries. All the notes are expected to be completed by October 2004, with the exception of the note for the Water Management and Irrigation Initiative, which is being prepared with input from the World Bank's Technical Department, the International Water Management Institute, and FAO. Some notes have already gone beyond the concept stage. This is the case of the Pan African Cassava Initiative, the Pan African NERICA Rice Initiative, and the Multi-country Agricultural Productivity Program. These still need to be endorsed by the RECs and member countries. Institutional arrangements, funding, and other details of their implementation also need to be agreed upon.

### *2.4.2 Organisation of Regional Implementation Planning Meetings*

The planning meetings will bring together the leaderships of the RECs, representatives of ministries of agriculture and finance at the level of Director General and Permanent Secretaries, farmer organisations, the agribusiness sector, and regional research networks. These meetings will also be attended by the lead financial partners and lead technical partners. The Secretariat will act as co-organizer with the individual RECs.

The objective of the regional planning meetings is to reach agreement on the main components of the CAADP investment programmes for each region, including resource requirements, detailed implementation action plans, and target launch dates.

The main tasks of the meetings are:

- to review the issues, lessons, and experiences that are analyzed and presented in the various Programme Implementation Concept Notes;
- to agree on best practices to adopt in defining the investment programs;
- to identify the knowledge and operational gaps that need to be covered;
- to draft the terms of reference and establish a work programme to fill the gaps and revise the Implementation Concept Notes to produce the final Programme Implementation Documents, within a three-month time frame, which will guide investment project preparation and financial assistance planning; and
- to define a governance structure for each region to ensure effective coordination of programme implementation and tracking of progress.

Three main fundamental outcomes are expected from the above meetings:

- A. endorsement of and commitment to the agreed-on rules and procedures to implement individual programmes and initiatives by member countries and RECs;
- B. commitment by development partners to provide the required long term financial assistance to implement the programs; and
- C. identification of an initial set of investment projects that can be processed immediately to launch the implementation phase in each region.

### **3. Funding the Implementation Process**

The implementation of the Programmes and Initiatives that are summarized above would require funding to cover the cost of coordination, facilitation, and project preparation. The first segment of the roadmap, which consists in the preparation of the Implementation Concept Notes, the organisation of the Regional Implementation Planning Meetings, and the production of the Programme Implementation Documents, covers a six-month period from November 2004 to March 2005. These activities require a one-time funding of US\$ 3,525,000, of which slightly more than 10%, or \$350,000 would be contributed by the NEPAD Secretariat. G8 and other partners are expected to contribute the balance or US\$ 3,175,000.

The above implementation preparation and planning phase will be followed by actual implementation of national and regional investment projects by member countries and RECs. This second segment of the process will require coordination and support from the NEPAD Secretariat and by the RECs. Also, countries would need access to complementary funding to prepare national investment programs. These could be achieved through a Project Preparation Facility. The funding for implementation coordination and support as well as for project preparation would be required on an annual basis. It is estimated at US\$19,000,000, of which US\$11,250,000 would go to the Project Preparation Facility. The NEPAD Secretariat's annual contribution to the overall funding requirement would amount to

US\$2,000,000. The balance of US\$17,000,000 would be contributed by G8 members and other partners.

Given that the Secretariat plays the lead role in organizing the implementation planning process, it would be more efficient if the funding for the first segment of activities (US\$3,525,000) were managed directly by the Secretariat. The proposed Project Preparation Facility, through which co-funding for the implementation process at the regional and country levels would be carried out, could be managed by one of the regional development banks. The best candidate here would be the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA). The advantage of locating the Facility at DBSA is that it would facilitate coordination with the process of reviewing project and programme preparation by countries through the Secretariat. An alternative would be to opt for a decentralized management of the project preparation funds through the RECs. This would require, however, that some type of regional allocation funds be made which may ultimately lead to regional quotas, a fact which is certainly not desirable. The other issues raised by a decentralized management of the Facility include the level of capacity of RECs to carry out the technical review process and the complexity of dealing with at least 5 different accounts.

#### **4. Expected meeting outcomes and follow up**

There is real optimism, enthusiasm and overwhelming expectations facing the CAADP process. NEPAD, with the support of the African Partnership Forum, should capitalize on the optimism and enthusiasm from national governments and RECs. The commitments of the international development community in support of African agriculture should not be delayed any further, if the goals of achieving the MDGs are to be met by 2015. There is a wind of change in Africa that provides hope and optimism that the restoration of food security and agricultural growth, as articulated in the CAADP document, is achievable.

The NEPAD Secretariat is determined to move ahead with the implementation of the CAADP agenda and has now put together the roadmap that is described in this document. It hopes that the meeting will produce a strong commitment by the G8 countries and other partners to support the process as outlined in this document. In particular, the Secretariat hopes:

1. that partners will commit to co-finance the process, once discussed and agreed at the meeting; and
2. that agreement can be reached, in principle, with individual partners regarding their respective role as lead financial partners for the different programmes and initiatives that are presented in the document.

The Secretariat plans, immediately after the meeting, to follow up with missions to individual partners to discuss in more details their role as lead financial partners and the scope of their support for the implementation agenda. It will also immediately initiate the work with the RECs to finalize organisation of the different regional planning meetings.

## ANNEX I

# **IMPLEMENTING THE COMPREHENSIVE AFRICA AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AND RESTORING FOOD SECURITY IN AFRICA**

### **ILLUSTRATION OF PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES: OBJECTIVE, SAMPLE ACTIVITIES, AND ACTIONS BY COUNTRIES AND PARTNERS**

As stressed earlier, the first step in moving towards implementation of the CAADP agenda is to translate its main themes into coherent programmes and initiatives that can be guide implementation by countries and RECs. An illustration of the programmes and initiatives is presented below. For each programme, a short summary of the objective and types of activities are presented as well as the proposed actions by African countries and development partners. More details are given in the Implementation Concept Notes that are under preparation. The objective of including an illustrative list of the programmes and initiatives is to provide a platform for engaging partners at the Washington meeting, individually as well as collectively, and exploring their respective readiness to provide leadership for individual programmes and initiatives as proposed above.

#### **1 Extending the area Under Sustainable Land Management and Reliable Water Control Systems.**

Reliance on irregular and unreliable rainfall for agricultural production is a major constraint on crop productivity. Rain-fed agriculture is moreover often unable to permit high-yield crop varieties to achieve their full production potential. Accordingly, it is of concern that for Africa, the percentage of arable land that is irrigated is 7 percent (barely 3.7 percent in Sub-Saharan Africa), while the corresponding percentages for South America, East and South-East Asia and South Asia are 10 percent, 29 percent, and 41 percent respectively. Furthermore, 16 percent of all soils in Africa are classified as having low nutrient reserves, while in Asia, the equivalent figure is only 4 percent. Moreover, fertiliser productivity (expressed in terms of maize yield response) in Africa is estimated at some 36 percent lower than in Asia and 92 percent lower than in developed countries. Building up soil fertility and the moisture holding capacity of agricultural soils and rapidly increasing the area equipped with irrigation, especially small-scale water control, will not only provide farmers with opportunities to raise output on a sustainable basis but also will contribute to the reliability of food supplies. The following programmes have been identified under the current pillar:

## 1.1 Land Management Program

Objective: to revert fertility loss and resource degradation, and ensure broad-based and rapid adoption of sustainable land and forestry management practices in the small-holder as well as commercial sectors.

Activities: They would target public as well as private sector actors and would include:

- a. reinforcement of national capacities for land administration, including those of local governments, to improve access to land and protect user rights;
- b. support to national research and extension systems to develop and disseminate conservation-friendly forestry and farming technologies;
- c. design and implementation of community-based reforestation and resource conservation programs;
- d. scale up proven interventions in soil health, restoring soil fertility with mineral fertilizers, agroforestry, cover crops, and green manures.

Actions by African countries: They would need to: (i) create a legal framework for access to and use of agricultural and forestry land that is transparent and credible enough to encourage long term investment by smallholder and commercial sector operators; (ii) strengthen land administration institutions and set up new ones where they do not exist; (iii) mainstream land management and conservation programmes in national research and extension systems; and (iv) facilitate the establishment of a national soil fertility replenishment programme.

Actions by Partners: Provide: (i) grant funds to co-finance the community-based reforestation and resource conservation programmes and (ii) technical assistance to strengthen national land administration and management capacities.

## 1.2 Water Management and Irrigation Initiative

Objective: to improve management of water resources while expanding access to irrigation both small and as well as large scale.

Activities: They would include public-private partnerships to:

- a. invest in better management of river basin water resources;
- b. invest in basic strategic public infrastructure for water control, thereby creating opportunities for the private sector to invest in irrigation;
- c. invest in small-scale water management, including rainfall-harvesting and drip irrigation; and
- d. set up partnerships with farmer organisations and local administrations to manage access to and use of farm land.

Actions by African countries: Countries would: (i) set up public-private partnerships to develop and manage basic infrastructure for irrigation and encourage private sector investment in irrigated agriculture; (ii) create a legal framework for access to and use of agricultural land that is transparent and credible enough to encourage

long term investment in irrigation; and (iii) create national programmes to scale up small-scale water management techniques.

1. Actions by Partners: Provision of grant funds and loans to significantly expand the share of irrigated agriculture over the next 10 years.

## **2 Improving rural infrastructure and trade-related capacities for market access.**

Improvements in roads, storage, markets, packaging and handling systems, and input supply networks, are vital to raising the competitiveness of local production vis-à-vis imports and in export markets. Investment in these areas will stimulate the volume of production and trade, thereby assisting to generate an appropriate rate of return on needed investments in ports and airport facilities. Moreover, exporting countries within the region need to raise their capacity to participate in trade negotiations and to meet the increasingly stringent quality requirements of world trade.

Unlike the situation in Asia in the sixties where countries were primarily faced with a supply constraint and could, therefore, easily find outlets for incremental output quantities, the context of globalised agricultural markets imposes upon African countries an additional constraint on the demand side. It is not sufficient any more to manage to raise production levels. An equally strong focus needs to be put upon the development of the supply chain across most agricultural sub-sectors. Africa's revolution cannot therefore be a green one, as important changes need to take place far from the farm. The two main programmes that are identified under this pillar seek to help African countries bring about these changes.

### **2.1 Agribusiness, Supply Chain, and Quality Control Initiative**

Objective: 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 markets (domestic, regional and international) focusing on selected agricultural commodities that offer the potential to raise rural (on and off-farm) incomes.

Activities: They would include public-private partnerships to:

- a. develop quality control and management systems to facilitate access to quality certification services, promote firm and farm level training, provide export market intelligence, and facilitate business partnerships with importing companies;
- b. Invest in commercial infrastructure and equipment to improve product packaging, handling, and export logistics at the ports and airports;
- c. Promote competitive farming and manufacturing technologies and practices;
- d. Build strategic alliances to create industry-to-industry linkages, strengthen supply chain linkages that enable rural communities to participate in markets, and strengthen information systems that improve smallholder access to markets.

Actions by African countries: countries would: (i) set up a legal and institutional framework for quality management and certification services provision based on international benchmarks; (ii) build partnership with the private sector to develop and manage the commercial infrastructure base; and (iii) improve the management of port and airport facilities in line with international standards.

Actions by Partners: Financial assistance (grant funds and loans) that is sufficient to allow several African countries to simultaneously implement the above activities over the next 5 years.

## **2.2 Regional Trade Facilitation Initiative**

Objective: to create the required regulatory and policy framework that would facilitate the emergence of regional economic spaces that would spur the expansion of regional trade and cross-country investments.

Activities: They would consist in building capacities of the Regional Economic Community bodies to:

- a. develop and operate agricultural sector and trade policy surveillance systems to effectively monitor and remove barriers to trans-border commodity movement (Regional Policy Monitoring Systems and publication of Policy Report Cards);
- b. collect and disseminate information on regional trade flows as well as study trends in regional commodity markets (Regional Trade Information Systems and publication of Regional Commodity Outlook Reports)

The Regional Policy Monitoring Systems and Regional Trade Information Systems would be integrated into the Regional Strategy Knowledge Support Systems described below (see Section 2.5.2).

Actions by African countries: At the regional level, RECs would: (i) house the Regional Policy Monitoring Systems and Regional Trade Information Systems; (ii) devote a minimum level of own resources to fund their operations; and (iii) integrate them into their policy harmonisation and regulatory mechanisms. At the national level, member countries would recognize and adopt the Report Card System as a tool to mutually monitor national policies and regulations affecting regional trade and investment in the agricultural sector.

Actions by Partners: Grant co-funding and technical assistance to RECs to: (i) design and implement Policy Report Card Systems to monitor and align national policies and regulations with regional trading agreements; (ii) build capacities to analyze trends in regional commodity markets and regularly publish the Regional Commodity Outlook Reports; and (iii) systematically collect and disseminate regional trade statistics for major commodities.

## **3. Increasing Food Supply and Reducing Hunger.**

The CAADP programme clearly argues the critical importance of improving food security based on the recognition that one third of the African population suffer from

chronic hunger and malnutrition. NEPAD in this regard intends to pay special attention to focusing on investments that will respond to the growing frequency and severity of food emergency crises, in addition to focusing on long term development interventions. The following programmes have been identified for priority support in this area:

### **3.1 Regional Strategic Food Reserves and Risk Management Systems**

The Implementation Concept Note for this programme has been completed with the support of the World Food Program. As part of the preparation of the concept note, eight case studies have been carried out to review experiences and performance of the different types of food reserves that have been adopted at national and regional levels to deal with emergency relief and seasonal food shocks. The studies also looked at alternative mechanisms of responding for food emergency crises, including credit-guarantee to facilitate intra-regional trade, food aid procurement through triangular transactions, financial reserves, option trading, and weather-based insurance. Furthermore, the studies have looked at national food security policies and strategies and identified complementary policy and institutional measures, at country, as well as regional levels, which should be an integral part of food reserves and risk management systems. The studies have concluded that regional food reserves should not be pursued. Rather, it recommends that national food reserves be coordinated regionally and used to serve regional objectives.

Objective: to establish at the national level, well managed, and regionally coordinated food reserves and early warning systems that would allow African countries to respond in a timely and cost-effective manner to food emergency crises.

Activities: The following activities would build the core of the programs:

- a. establish country-level emergency food reserve stocks sufficient to meet three-months of food needs during emergency-induced food shortages;
- b. build capacities of management teams and provide technical assistance where necessary;
- c. set-up complementary regional financial reserves to finance large-scale food emergencies.

Actions by African countries: African countries would, at the national level, commit to reviewing and aligning sector policies and regulations with the requirement of well functioning domestic agricultural markets, including: (i) removal of regulatory and administrative obstacles to internal and cross-border trade; and (ii) facilitation, in partnership with farmer organisations and other private sector groups, of transparent circulation of information across the same markets. At the regional level, they would: (iii) take the necessary measures at the level of RECs to accelerate the integration of regional markets and expand cross-border trade in food; and (iv) work with the RECs to set up coordination mechanisms to supervise and integrate national food reserves and early warning systems.

Actions by Partners: They would: (i) provide technical and financial assistance to countries to establish the food reserves stocks, set up and operate early warning systems, and coordinate national systems and (ii) provide funding for the regional financial reserves that would complement the national food reserves.

### **3.2 Home Grown School Feeding Programme**

About 200 million Africans are food insecure. Most affected are mothers and young children. Apart from acute lack of calories, in particular young children lack a balanced diet of sufficient energy, proteins, vitamins and minerals. There are an estimated 50 million children in the school-going age (6-13 years) that lack adequate nourishment.

Objective: It is twofold: (i) to reduce malnutrition in school-going children, through diet supplementation with a complete meal that is adequate in carbohydrates, protein, fat, vitamins and minerals; and (ii) to expand local demand and stimulate production by smallholder farmers.

Activities: Sample activities would include:

- a. provision of basic school lunch meals that are balanced in terms of calorie and micronutrient to 1,000,000 school children in poor and vulnerable areas;
- b. acquisition and operation of storage facilities and transport equipment;
- c. construction and equipment of school kitchens.

Actions by African countries: They would: (i) contribute up to 50% of the funding; (ii) set up transparent and effective governance structures at the national and regional levels; and (iii) assist participating schools and communities in organizing governance structures involving parents and teachers.

Actions by Partners: They would provide co-funding, up to 50%, for the financing of the activities above.

### **3.3 An African Nutrition Initiative**

Besides school age children, chronic hunger and vitamin and mineral deficiencies affect large parts of the population in African countries. NEPAD is therefore determined to help countries meet the broader nutritional challenge facing many among them, in a way that takes account of the complex and multisectoral nature of the problem and of the possible solutions. The nutrition programme will be undertaken with an intersectoral brief including health, education and social welfare.

A Task Team is being assembled to provide advice to the NEPAD Secretariat on the process of developing an African Nutrition Initiative. The Team will oversee the preparation of the Implementation Concept Note for the Initiative. The Note will outline the problems; review approaches and solutions with greatest impact; and will propose possible implementation strategies as a guide to more detailed planning. The Note will define more precisely the overall objective, sample activities, and actions by African countries as well as by partners.

## **4. Agricultural Research, Technology Dissemination and Adoption.**

It is widely recognized that the most effective way to reduce poverty and improve food security in the long run is to raise the productivity of resources that poor people

depend on for their livelihood. In the case of most African countries, these resources are agricultural land and labour. Furthermore, the option of agriculture-led development and the objective of a 6% agricultural growth require a more rapid and sustained increase of productivity in the agricultural sector.

#### **4.1 The Multi-Country Agricultural Productivity Programme (MAPP)**

The centrepiece of NEPAD's agenda under this pillar is the promotion of technology generation and dissemination systems that would allow African countries to meet the above challenge. The Multi-Country Agricultural Productivity Programme is the main NEPAD programme in this area.

Objective: To achieve: (i) a sustained flow of technologies which are suitable to the context and adequately meet the challenges of African agriculture through (ii) national agricultural technology systems that are responsive to opportunities and constraints facing farmers.

Activities: The main activities would:

- a. strengthen the capacities of farmer organisations to participate more actively in the generation and dissemination of agricultural technologies, in particular through more proactive partnering with the research and extension systems;
- b. improve the efficiency, accountability, and sustainability of the national agricultural technology generation and advisory systems, including by strengthening their linkages with regional and international institutions;
- c. promote the development of efficient market chains for the delivery of agricultural technologies and inputs;
- d. strengthen the capacity of national governments to deliver their core functions; and
- e. support the development, at the regional level, of effective organisations (associations, networks) of producers/technology users, research institutions, technology suppliers and policy makers, to facilitate efficient technology transfer across countries.

Actions by African countries: They would: (i) design and implement agricultural/rural development strategies that are based on decentralized and participatory policy-making and implementation; (ii) have in place demand-driven agricultural technology generation and transfer strategies, supported by accountable institutions; and (iii) provide the necessary core financial support to maintain the research and extension services institutions that are needed to sustain the program.

Actions by Partners: Provide co-funding, through loans and grants, to finance the above activities.

#### **4.2 The Pan Africa Cassava Initiative**

Cassava has over the past two decades emerged as a major food security commodity. Cassava serves as staple food for 200 million Africans second only to maize in its calorie contribution. In a number of countries Cassava has become a major commercial crop, grown by both small and large scale farmers. Poor urban consumers have become the principal beneficiaries of the Cassava boom that is

taking place in some countries, as they benefit from the ensuing price decline and more readily available supplies.

NEPAD's Pan African Cassava Initiative has adopted the theme "CASSAVA - A Poverty Fighter in Africa". The program's philosophy is that production of Cassava can viably and sustainably expanded if driven primarily by market forces. Consequently, the change strategy that is adopted is based on an integrated business approach focusing on providing technology to growers and linking farmers to markets. The smallholder growers shall be the focus of this strategy. In the short to medium term, the strategy will promote technologies that are already on the shelf, multiply and distribute improved planting material, as well as increase production, processing, and marketing know how.

Objective: to mobilize the large potential of Cassava to contribute to food security and income generation among African countries.

Activities: Examples of activities to be carried out would include:

- a. technical and financial support to commodity chain institutions;
- b. support for technology development and dissemination; and
- c. Facilitation of access to finance

Action by African countries: Countries would design and implement a strategy to develop and modernize the cassava sector, including partnerships with the private sector (farmer organisations and agribusiness operators) to strengthen the commodity's supply chain.

Action by Partners: Provide technical assistance and co-financing to support country efforts to develop the cassava sector.

#### **4.3 The PAN African NERICA Initiative**

Rice is a major food crop for millions of people in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). In Eastern, Central and Southern Africa (ECSA), rice consumption far outweighs production. Recent estimates by FAO indicate total rice imports into the region in 2002 of 1 million metric tons, costing an estimated US\$ 260 million in scarce foreign exchange. The New Rice for Africa (NERICA), an interspecific hybrid between the local African rice (*Oryza glaberrima*) and the Asian rice (*Oryza sativa*) offers new opportunities to expand production in the region. NERICAs have unique characteristics such as shorter duration, higher yield, tolerance to major stresses, higher protein and good taste compared with the traditional rice varieties. NERICAs have also been reported to have stable yields under different management conditions. This Initiative is, therefore, expected to contribute to food security and poverty reduction, and ensure a sustainable use of resources in the rice sector. The programme is to be implemented in 10 ECSA countries, to enhance access by farmers to NERICA and other improved high yielding rice varieties, as well as complementary production and processing technologies.

Objective: To contribute to food security and poverty reduction, and ensure a sustainable resource management in the rice sector of ten (10) ECSA countries

through broad-based access to high yielding NERICA rice lines, other improved varieties, and accompanying technologies.

Activities: The following activities would be carried out under the Initiative:

- a. introduce and promote broad-based adoption of NERICAs and other improved rice varieties;
- b. promote an efficient community-based seed production scheme (CBSS) and enhance linkages with the private seed sector in order to ensure sustainable supply and wide distribution of high quality seeds;
- c. develop pilot-scale quality rice processing centers to improve the quality of milled rice and develop supply to local and regional markets by smallholder farmers; and
- d. build the capacity of smallholder rice farmers, seed producers, millers, and other partners to contribute to the development of the rice sub-sector.

Action by African countries: Countries would: (i) design and implement demand-driven rice technology generation and transfer strategies; (ii) establish policy and institutional framework that is in line with the objective of developing a competitive rice sector; and (iii) provide the necessary core financial support to maintain the research and extension services institutions that are needed to sustain the program.

Action by Partners: Provide technical assistance and co-financing to support country efforts to develop the rice sector.

#### **4.4 The Fish Sector Development Program**

African fisheries and aquaculture are at a turning point. The fish sector makes vital contributions to food and nutrition security for 200 million Africans and provides income for over ten million engaged in fish production, processing and trade. Fish has become a leading export commodity for Africa, with an annual export value of US\$ 2.7bn. Yet these benefits are at risk as the exploitation of natural fish stocks is reaching limits and aquaculture production has not yet fulfilled its potential. Africa produces 7.31 million tons of fish each year. Of this 4.81 million tons are from marine fisheries, and 2.5 million tons from inland fisheries. While capture fisheries rose steadily throughout the 1980s and 1990s they have stagnated since then, reaching about 6.85 million tons in 2002. Aquaculture on the other hand has risen, but slowly, and only in Egypt has growth achieved rates of increase seen in other parts of the world. These trends combined with population growth mean that per capita consumption of fish in Africa is low and stagnating. The analysis of future demand and supply of fish in a recent study by IFPRI and the World Fish Center suggests that if per capita consumption is to be maintained at present levels up to the year 2020, capture fisheries will need to be sustained and where possible enhanced, and aquaculture production would need to more than double.

Objective: to safeguard the future contribution of Africa's fish sector to poverty alleviation and regional economic development, in particular through (i) improved management of natural fish stocks, (ii) the development of aquaculture production, and (iii) the expansion of fish marketing and trade.

Activities: Core activities would include:

- a. Build capacities to assess fish supply and demand trends and design and implement policies that are sufficiently responsive to such trends;
- b. develop infrastructure to support the expansion of fish production and trade;
- c. strengthen the capacities of fish producers and processors to make better use of dynamic trade opportunities; and
- d. build regional and national level capacity for research and technology transfer to support the expansion of fish production.

Actions by African countries and Partners: In order to foster greater understanding of the challenges to develop the fish sector, including actions to be taken by African countries and their partners, the Secretariat, at the invitation of the Nigerian Government, is organizing in collaboration with the World Fish Center and FAO a Fish-for-All Summit early next year. The objectives of the Summit are the following: (i) to establish a shared understanding among key stakeholders of the current status and likely future trends of African fisheries; (ii) to agree on priorities for the development of fisheries and aquaculture in Africa within the context of the NEPAD programme; and (iii) to agree future directions for research and capacity building in support of these development priorities. An Implementation Concept Note will be prepared after the Summit to guide the implementation process for this sector.

## **5. Critical Areas Across The Four Pillars**

There are three clusters of critical issues that cut across the four CAADP pillars and which need to be addressed as part the implementation of agenda. These are: academic and profession training in upgrade skills in the agricultural sector; information and knowledge systems to support sector strategy and policy formulation and implementation; and alignment of the PRSP process with CAADP priorities and objectives.

### **5.1 Academic and Professional Training in the Agricultural Sector**

The need for increasing capacity in agricultural science and agricultural and development economics in Africa arises out of the fact that in the next several decades, agriculture, including livestock, forestry and fisheries, will continue to be the foundation for development, hunger eradication, and poverty reduction in the continent. Presently, Africa is experiencing a significant capacity shortage. The capacity gap must be addressed if the advances made thus far in agriculture-led poverty reduction in the continent are to continue and the regions currently experiencing serious declines in food security are to reverse their situation.

Constituting a first step in this process would be the reform and strengthening of Africa's academic and research institutions so that they can more effectively use their existing human resources. As programs for advanced student training will require some time to create large enough numbers of staff in research and policymaking in the various countries to make a difference, enabling the region's institutions to make better use of the knowledge they possess is an urgent step that must be embarked upon immediately.

In addition to the challenges in the formal education sector, African countries will have to expand technical and professional training to upgrade the skills of the future

farming generations. The demands of modern marketing and distribution systems cannot be met with yesterday's skills. Moreover, broadly accessible technical and professional training would modernize the farming sector and raise its appeal for future generations.

Objective: to (i) significantly increase the number of Africans with Post-Graduate degrees in agricultural sciences and agricultural/development economics; (ii) modernize smallholder farming through broad-based access to professional training; and (iii) reform and restructure training and technology institutions, where necessary, to raise efficiency of use of existing resources and improve the quality of services.

Activities: The core activities would include:

- a. support, upgrade, and expand selected universities to become regional centers of academic excellence and create new centers of excellence where required by the specificity of the academic field;
- b. establish partnerships and exchange programmes between African universities and targeted leading universities and colleges around the world;
- c. create professional training centers to modernize smallholder farming and raise its attractiveness as a career for young people in rural areas.

Actions by African countries: Countries would: (i) improve the management of current research and academic institutions and provide incentives for excellence; (ii) provide sufficient funding to support a minimum level of key research and training programmes that reflect national development priorities; and (iii) set up a regional benchmarking system to monitor and improve performance of national and regional research and academic training systems in the agricultural sector.

Actions by Partners: Grant funding that would allow: (i) setting up and operation of centers of excellence for key academic and research areas for the different regions in Africa and (ii) financing of partnerships and exchange programmes with leading foreign universities and colleges.

## **5.2 Information and Knowledge Systems to Support Strategy Formulation**

An important part of strategy and policy formulation and implementation is to have access to adequate benchmarks, best practices, statistical information, and other relevant technical information. This access is lacking in most African countries. The situation can be remedied by using modern communication technologies to collect, store, and expand access to the above information. Doing so collectively at the regional level would allow economies of scale and encourage mutual learning and exchange of experiences.

Objective: to improve the quality of sector governance and strategy formulation and implementation in the agricultural sector by African countries.

Activities: Types of activities to be pursued would include the following:

- a. inventory and document successful development strategies in the agricultural sector across Africa;

- b. establish a data base on international best practices in sector governance and strategy preparation and implementation;
- c. assemble statistical information and modeling tools to support and inform policy design and formulation;
- d. document and evaluate the quality of national policies in the agricultural sector (see Regional Policy Monitoring systems in Section 3.2.2);
- e. produce regular reviews of sector trends and performance at the country and regional level (See Regional Trade Information Systems in Section 3.2.2).

Actions by African countries: countries would, and the regional level: (i) set up and operate Strategy Information and Knowledge Support Systems; and at the national level, (ii) create nodes and link the latter to key national strategy planning and implementation institutions as well as research and academic institutions; as well as (iii) develop mechanisms that would allow private sector access to the regional knowledge systems.

Action by Partners: Provide grant funding to set up and operate Regional Strategy Information and Knowledge Support Systems, which would be hosted by the Regional Economic Communities and could be accessed from individual member countries.

### **5.3. Governance and PRSP Implementation Support**

It is critical to achieve consistency of long term development efforts in African countries and in particular maintain the focus on poverty reduction through higher productivity and incomes among the poorer segments of the population. It is therefore necessary to ensure that PRSP processes are in line with the CAADP agenda. As more and more countries move further on the PRSP process, it is important that the associated budget support programmes reflect the pro-poor and pro-small holder options that underlie the CAADP program.

Objective: to raise the allocation of resources by countries to the agricultural sector and improve the implementation effectiveness of support programmes based on PRSPs, as well as the impact of such programs, in terms of their contribution to the objectives of growth, higher small-holder productivity, and poverty reduction.

Activities: The key activities would include:

- a. develop and implement a Budget Tracking System for the agricultural sector;
- b. set up a PRSP Review Task Force to help countries mobilize expertise to improve programme design and implementation;
- c. organise a review process to monitor the design and implementation of budget support programmes and facilitate learning across countries.

Actions by African countries: Countries would work with the Task Force to develop and adopt criteria, benchmarks, and best practices to ensure that: (i) Country PRSPs reflect national agricultural growth and small-holder productivity objectives and (ii) the resulting investment and budget support programmes are consistent with the agricultural sector priorities and objectives as declared in the PRSPs and CAADP documents.

Actions by Partners: Provide grant funds to: (i) Support the preparation of country PRSPs and investment programmes based thereon and (ii) set up an independent process to monitor programme performance.

