

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

11th COMPREHENSIVE AFRICA AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME PARTNERSHIP PLATFORM (CAADP PP) MEETING “Walking the Talk: Delivering on Malabo Commitments on Agriculture for Women Empowerment and Development”

MARCH 25-26, 2015

Johannesburg, South Africa

INTRODUCTION

1. The 11th Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Partnership Platform (PP) Meeting was convened by the African Union Commission (AUC) and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NEPAD Agency) from 25 to 26 March 2015. The meeting was hosted by the Government of the Republic of South Africa, and took place at the Birchwood Hotel, in Johannesburg, South Africa. The partnership platform meeting was followed by a Business Meeting held on 27 March 2015.

2. The Partnership Platform meeting was organized under the theme: “Walking the Talk: Delivering on Malabo Commitments on Agriculture for Women Empowerment and Development”. The Meeting was attended by over 400 participants, including representatives of the AUC, the NEPAD Agency, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and national governments. The meeting also had representation from national, regional and continental farmers’ organisations, the academia, research, capacity building and advocacy institutions, agricultural research centres, civil society organizations, private sector, African youth organisations, media institutions, and representatives of bilateral and multilateral development partners as well as international private foundations.

3. The Commissioner of the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture of the AUC, H.E. Mrs Tumusiime Rhoda Peace, and the Chief Executive Officer of the NEPAD Agency, Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki led the delegations from the AUC and the NEPAD Agency, respectively. They made remarks outlining the progress made and other developments since the 10th CAADP PP – including the adoption of the Malabo Declaration, the development of the Malabo Implementation Strategy and Roadmap as well as the design of the Programme of Work for translating the commitments in the Malabo Declaration into concrete action. In addition, they called for a shift in focus from enhancing processes and planning to actual implementation of economic policy interventions and institutional reforms, with dedicated efforts towards addressing structural marginalization of women in the agricultural growth and transformation agenda.

4. Official remarks were also received from: Prof Edith de Vries, the Director General in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, South Africa; Dr Theo de Jager,

President of Pan African Farmers' Organisation (PAFO) and SACAU; and from Mr. Roberto Ridolfi, the Director for Sustainable Growth and Development at the European Commission and representative of the Development Partners Task Team. The remarks underscored the need for pragmatic actions that will ensure effective translation of the lessons learnt from the first ten years of CAADP implementation into concrete programmes and projects. Furthermore, they placed importance on capitalization of knowledge and skills, greater focus on policy development and institutional reforms, as well as adoption of an inter-sectoral coordination and collaboration approach, with an integral component of mutual accountability, in programme design and implementation.

5. Other remarks were received from representatives of various development partners, including Mr Christoph Rauh, Head of Division for Africa, BMZ, Germany; Mr Bukar Tidjani, Assistant Director General of the FAO, responsible for Africa; Mr Bashir Jama of AGRA; Mr Daniel Gad, Representative of the African Private Sector; and Dr. Yemi Akinbamijo, the Executive Secretary of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA). The delegations committed to supporting the implementation of CAADP over the next decade, in light of the Malabo Declaration and the CAADP Results Framework. To this end, various commitments were made, including: a pledge by the EU to support the establishment of a continental-level agriculture financing initiative that will be launched in July 2015; and the commitment by FARA to support the translation of research findings into innovations and practical interventions.

6. As the first CAADP Partnership Platform Meeting after the Malabo Declaration, and in light of AU's theme for the year 2015 on Women Empowerment and Development, the 11th CAADP PP Meeting purposed to reflect on ways of translating the Malabo commitments into concrete actions and activities at all levels, with an integral focus on ensuring equal access to resources and opportunities for women. Accordingly, the Meeting sought input on the implementation priorities, the delivery architecture and the associated support required by the African constituency community in the short and medium term in pursuit of the Malabo goals and targets.

7. To facilitate in-depth discussions and reflections, the PP Meeting included parallel discussion sessions that were structured around five sub-themes covering five commitments of the Malabo Declaration, namely: i) ending hunger and malnutrition by 2025; ii) inclusive agricultural growth and transformation for women empowerment; iii) boosting intra-African trade; iv) building resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change and other risks through women empowerment; and v) mutual accountability to actions, results and impacts. For purposes of seeking further commitment from the different CAADP African stakeholder constituencies, the different constituent groups were afforded the opportunity of articulating their roles and responsibilities in the new era of CAADP implementation, based on their vantage points.

8. In addition to the CAADP PP meeting, ten side meetings were held by different stakeholder constituencies. These included: a meeting on the CAADP Non-State Actors Coalition (CNC), which was officially launched on 24 March 2015; a CAADP Pillar IV meeting; a PAFO Board Meeting; a DPTT Meeting; a meeting on "Improving Land Governance for Inclusive and Sustainable Agricultural Transformation"; a meeting on Climate Smart Agriculture; CAADP Food and Nutrition Security

Programme meeting; AGRA-led meeting on investments in agriculture; Sensitization meeting on revised AU-Guidance Note on Tracking and Measuring Expenditures in the Agriculture Sector; and the CAADP Business Meeting.

KEY MESSAGES ON IMPLEMENTING THE MALABO DECLARATION

9. The 11th CAADP PP recognised that the Malabo Declaration is situated at the highest level of leadership that placed agricultural development in the broader context of the structural transformation of the African societies. The Declaration is the overarching vision that African leaders have provided articulating specific goals to guide in the pursuit of agricultural transformation in Africa.

10. The role of Maputo Declaration in 2003 was acknowledged from the perspective of its emphasis on building the means to achieve growth in the agricultural sector. This notwithstanding, it was noted that the strategy to implement Malabo can no longer focus largely at enhancing more planning and investment; while action and improvements are still necessary in these areas, the leap forward is going to come from increased and bold focus on reforms in economic policies and in institutional capabilities. This will be realised by creating an economic environment that stimulates initiatives - particularly by implementing transparent and foreseeable policies, concurrently with regulating the market to address market failures. The PP also highlighted the new thrust and greater focus on targeting farmers and entrepreneurs as key actors in the design and implementation of interventions.

11. The PP emphasized four critical considerations, namely: i) the support to smallholder farmers towards their transformation into modernized farms is one of the most effective ways for intensifying production and ensuring a knock-on effect in terms of job creation; ii) taking advantage of the growing domestic market and reducing food dependency on unstable global markets, with an orientation towards regional preference; iii) resilience of livelihoods and organizations will be increased not only through coping and adaptation mechanisms, but also by promoting risk and shock reduction measures particularly purposing to improve the functioning of markets; and iv) the management of natural resources must rely on the increased participation of the local communities.

12. The Meeting highlighted the importance of strengthening the systemic capacities of CAADP stakeholders to achieve the Malabo commitments - in light of the new perspectives and emphasis on results and impacts. Furthermore, the implementation of economic policy options and sets of accompanying instruments need to be developed through inclusive debates and sound feasibility appraisals with the support of Science, Technology, Innovation and ICT. In this regard, three specific factors were underlined for fostering change in policy implementation. These factors are: a) institutions have to be strong and consistent in the way they design and implement policies; b) attention must be paid to farmers' capabilities in light of the emergence of a strong private sector in agriculture; and c) partnership relationships should foster the voice of key stakeholders - including women and youth.

13. It was acknowledged that the CAADP Results Framework is the reference document for the design and implementation of initiatives geared at the realisation of

Malabo targets. In this regard, partners were called upon to align their development support for African agriculture with the CAADP Results Framework.

14. In addition, the Meeting noted three major challenges to the realisation of the Malabo targets: Firstly, whereas African constituency groups and partners have common goals in terms of transformation of agriculture, the former have specific implementation obligations that pertain to economic policy considerations; secondly, success will come from effective mobilization of stakeholders internally through appropriate strategies and instruments such as mutual accountability where countries are supported to develop their national-level agriculture Results Frameworks; and lastly, there is need to re-mobilize the African constituency-groups and partners towards financing agricultural development and leveraging the new dynamism of private sector triggered by more favourable economic policies that also encourage partly self-finance collective actions.

15. The Meeting further recalled that gender discrimination is not only detrimental to women farmers but also to the economic and social development of the entire population. With this in hindsight, empowerment of women should not be seen only from the lens of economic justice but also of social emancipation. Therefore, actions to redress discrimination in access to productive resources and assets or marginalization of specific groups such as women, youth and smallholder farmers should be at the core of economic policies if the Malabo targets are to be realised.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON ROLLING-OUT MALABO ALONG THE FIVE PRIORITY COMMITMENTS

16. A set of key recommendations were proposed by the parallel sessions for strengthening the implementation of the Malabo Declaration along five subthemes.

17. The session on ending hunger and malnutrition in Africa by 2025:

- Called for incorporation of explicit nutrition objectives and indicators into the design of agricultural programmes and establishing strong information systems for decision-making and policy improvements;
- Expressed the need for the promotion of food systems which include diversification beyond cereals and other staples to include other crops such as, indigenous and orphan crops and focus on horticulture, fisheries, livestock and forestry towards ending hunger and malnutrition;
- Highlighted the necessity for increasing investments in production of nutritious food crops such as bio-fortified and other more vitamin and mineral dense foods. It was recognised that macro-economic factors on food insecurity and functioning of regional food markets play an important role in minimizing the disruptive impact of global markets (i.e. price instability) and should be given adequate attention including through promotion of consumption of local products and supporting local markets;

- Recommended the promotion of nutrition education across all relevant sectors and communities, the enhancement of knowledge management and sharing;
- Called for a multi-sectorial approach and dedicated financial resources for promoting nutrition activities within all relevant sectors;
- Further called for the use of balanced fertilizers that provide micronutrients (e.g., Zinc and Iron) of importance to human nutrition; and
- Strongly recommended the drafting of a clear nutrition advocacy statement / document as an additional CAADP document alongside the CAADP Results Framework and Programme of Work.

18. The session on inclusive agricultural growth and transformation:

- Highlighted a two-pronged approach to pursuing inclusive growth, namely: the primary production and value addition;
- Recommended the development of policies and regulations for securing access to productive assets (land, credit) as a means to encourage the youth and women in agriculture;
- Called for implementing capacity development measures for engagement in agriculture through technical, vocational and entrepreneurial training;
- Further called for implementing measures to reduce productive and economic risks in order to encourage the fishers folk, farmers and agro-processors to invest and adopt innovations;
- Proposed the establishment of regulatory frameworks that encourage the development of credit and insurances services (for instance, with warehouse receipts), as well as interventions to mitigate unstable markets and eliminate internal non-trade barriers;
- Recommended the implementation of measures fostering access to inputs and the establishment - in the short term, of fertilizer marketing policies in all countries, including the use of “smart” subsidy policies and harmonization of regulations;
- Called for the promotion of Public Private Partnerships in the livestock, fisheries and seed sub-sectors;
- Proposed the development of mechanisms for strengthening backward and forward linkages of African farmers to markets. This underscores the need for an inclusive value chain approach with specific considerations for strengthening economic farmer organizations and contractual arrangements; and
- Called for implementing regulations that support the development of financing institutions for agriculture as well as innovative financing options.

19. The session on *boosting intra-African trade*:

- Noted that regional trade integration is a key factor and an opportunity for the overall development of the continent and that international trade agreements are an important, but not sufficient, tool to accomplish this goal;
- Recommended that support is provided for effective enforcement of existing trade agreements; the support will include articulating mechanisms of enforcing laws and regulations adopted by member countries; developing customs unions at REC-level; fast-tracking the establishment of the continental free trade agreement; enhancing negotiation capacities for more flexibility in the management of instability, and endangering competition practices in international markets;
- Called for development of trade corridors, as well as putting in place one stop border posts;
- Further called for harmonizing and enforcing non-tariff measures, standards and grades; such measures could include SPS regulations and intellectual property rights across all levels;
- Recommended the improvement of rural infrastructure and cross-border infrastructure;
- Further recommended the establishment of market information systems;
- Urged member states to develop and simplify trade regimes for small scale traders and farmers;
- Noted the need to integrate regional dimensions of trade issues into the NAIPs; and
- Recommended the improvement of capacities for engagements on global trade negotiations and other related issues, and strengthen capacities of various value chain actors on business and trade.

20. The session on *building resilience and reducing vulnerability to risks*:

- Acknowledged two complementary approaches namely: coping and adaptation mechanisms, and promoting risk and shock reduction measures particularly purposing to improve the functioning of markets;
- Urged governments to ensure sound economic policies that integrate a comprehensive approach - including regulation of relationships between stakeholders and market institutional arrangements. Such policies should incentivize investments for creating a stable financial and more predictable market environment;
- Noted the need to mainstream climate change adaptation and risk management strategies into National and Regional Agriculture and Food

Security Investment Plans and develop a Continental Framework on Integrated Risk Management in Agriculture;

- Recommended the implementation of measures ensuring inclusive (through a gender lens) access to and adoption of risk management and resilience building tools (including productive safety nets) at household level; and
- Called for prioritizing measures for fostering sustainable intensification, ecosystem based and climate smart practices.

21. The session on *mutual accountability*:

- Noted the importance of quality data in measuring the results of implementing the Malabo Declaration;
- Called for setting up systems of mutual accountability to actions and results at all levels (national, regional, continental) with a pledge to uphold a systematic and regular progress review process using the CAADP Results Framework as the primary mechanism;
- Urged AU Member states and RECs to domesticate the CAADP Results Framework by identifying, prioritizing and focusing on a set of core and easily measurable indicators of agricultural growth and development in preparation for the biennial review process;
- Recommended the development or strengthening of the capacity of national agricultural M&E systems to foster their responsiveness to emerging needs and to the imperatives of the Malabo Declaration;
- Further called for harmonizing and building synergies between statistical and accountability systems developed for CAADP with other related processes;
- Urged Member states to build capacity for intra-country dialogue to facilitate mutual accountability including Joint Sector Reviews and assessments.

MECHANISMS AND ROLES OF AFRICAN CONSTITUENCIES

22. The meeting emphasized the shift in orientation over the next decade, placing premium on implementation. In this regard, the key African constituency groups supporting CAADP implementation at national, regional and continental level made specific commitments for the effective implementation of the Malabo Declaration:

23. The *Private Sector Constituency*:

- Acknowledged that Malabo has specific provisions for value-chain development, local markets, public private partnerships and intra-African trade;

- Noted the complex relationship between governments and the private sector, and identified specific ways that governments can create an enabling environment and support the private sector; these include providing the requisite infrastructure, a sound legal framework to operate in, and development of policies that minimize business risks;
- Committed to contribute to refining the investment plans (NAIPs and RAIPs) for purposes of making them to be more appealing and bankable to the private sector;
- Agreed to establish a private sector umbrella structure or platform (at country, region and continent scale) that would enable the private sector to speak with one voice;
- Further committed to consider the impact of investing by incorporating environmental or social considerations into business practices;
- Expressed willingness to work with Governments and Development Partners on concrete programs such as the Aflatoxin Control Partnership in order to improve the quality of Africa's marketable products; and
- Pledged to contribute to women empowerment by developing a specific focus on informal trade - since this is an important activity for many women.

24. The *Farmers Constituency*:

- Recognized that the Malabo Declaration expands the opportunities for farmers to enhance collaboration with governments and other stakeholders in African agricultural development;
- Agreed to raise awareness about the Declaration amongst farmers and to lobby governments to have it domesticated at national and sub-national levels through relevant legislative and regulatory structures and instruments; and
- Committed to jointly develop and implement programs for women empowerment, and to mobilise more financial and technical support through instruments such as the creation of Women Development Fund; research in understanding the impacts of development on women's rights; political support towards women empowerment and publicising case studies of successful farmers' organizations.

25. The *Civil society constituency*:

- Recognized that Malabo Declaration is a unifying, overarching vision to bring together the disparate efforts of state and non-state actors;
- Noted that the Declaration provides an opportunity for sharpening the focus on vulnerable and marginalized groups, drawing from its commitment on inclusive growth;

- Committed to openly engaging in the mechanisms of mutual accountability with state and other non-state actors, anchored around a common agenda and a focus on verifiable actions and results;
- Agreed to rededicating themselves to the agenda of inclusiveness (particularly focusing on marginalized groups) and re-orienting their programmes and activities to closely align with the commitments. This will include supporting African women farmers in practical ways such as capacity building initiatives for developing basic skills and asset bases for production, leadership training, market linkages, relevant research, support for access to finance, and giving women voices in local and international fora;
- Pledged to engage in genuine and meaningful partnership and dialogue with other players; and in particular under the newly formed umbrella of Coalition of Non-State Actors; and
- Further agreed to play a role in facilitating advocacy work on the Malabo Declaration.

26. The Government Constituency:

- Recognized that Malabo Declaration provides an impetus and a sense of urgency to accelerate implementation of CAADP with emphasis on ensuring sustainable public financial allocation to agribusiness;
- Noted the social and economic diversity of countries and the need for the implementation of the Declaration to be contextualized based on specific country development context; for example, increased support to the development of sub-national agricultural investment plans is necessary in countries with devolved governance systems;
- Committed to deepen the implementation of the investment plans and necessary measures of economic policies in the field of the 4 thematic areas of the Post-Malabo Implementation Strategy and Roadmap;
- Pledged to strengthen the monitoring, evaluation and accountability systems at all levels, and in this regard, the CAADP Results Framework will serve as a valuable tool to complement existing processes within national development strategies;
- Committed to incorporate targets for women empowerment, and to facilitate organization and group formation for women to ensure that their voice is heard at all levels;
- Further pledged to improve the coordination of CAADP implementation structures, organisations and platforms vertically (sub-national to national) and horizontally (across sectors);
- Further agreed to define, identify and work with all actors at the different levels to ensure all stakeholders play their role in terms of implementation on

the ground by enhancing bottom-up consultations, create awareness and ensure buy in of CAADP; and

- Committed to work with development partners to ensure that development resources reflect the country-needs and priorities, with a focus on women.

27. The Regional Economic Communities Constituency:

- Welcomed the Malabo Declaration as a framework for linking and harmonizing national and regional agricultural investment plans and policies;
- Highlighted the need for a change of mindset at the regional level with clear definition of responsibilities at the national level specifying the roles of all institutions involved in CAADP implementation;
- Agreed to organize regular regional meetings to fast track implementation of the Malabo Declaration and strengthen coordination of work between national and regional levels;
- Further agreed to review current approaches and identify and address shortcomings in the implementation of the Declaration;
- Committed to establish multidisciplinary and multi-sectoral platforms;
- Agreed to promote information sharing among countries at regional level;
- Pledged to take the lead on the Malabo commitment to boost Intra-African Trade in Agricultural Commodities and Services; and
- Committed to ensure increased support for land reforms especially by harmonizing laws and culture-change to promote women access to and security of tenure on land; review credit laws that discriminate women; support capacity building for women especially on business skills; develop and implement policies that increase capital availability to women smallholder farmers; and support education for all, including young girls.

PARTNERSHIP AND COORDINATION ARCHITECTURE

28. The 11th CAADP PP reaffirmed the importance of upholding the basic principles of partnership which include evidence based analysis, inclusiveness, accountability, transparency, local ownership, complementarity and subsidiarity. The meeting proposed several new principles and asked the NPCA and the AUC to lead a process of incorporating these into the partnership and coordination structure for CAADP. The meeting called for a renewed dedication and consistent use of these principles in order to guide implementation over the next 10 years. The PP also called for a strengthening of the implementation structures and systems, including the partnership platforms, business meetings and national accountability systems. These structures help to organise and mobilize implementation. There was a general

view that CAADP implementation mechanisms need to focus on widening partnerships and alliances required to deliver on the Malabo commitments.

NEXT STEPS

29. The Recommendations and Commitments will be used to refine the activities of the Program of Work for delivering the Malabo Implementation Strategy and Roadmap;

30. The AUC, the NPCA and the RECs will use the Program of Work to engage the AU Member states to implement the Malabo Declaration;

31. Dedicated support will be provided to AU member States and RECs to operationalize the CAADP Results Framework in support of their national and regional agriculture priorities and the biennial review process.
