



NEPAD NEWS

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Combination of private and public sector strengths will enable Africa's real rural growth

Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO, NEPAD Agency

Africa recently experienced an unusually long spell of steady growth. Sadly, it is a well-known fact that our economies failed to ensure the equitable sharing of the benefits of one of the highest growth rate in the world. So today we are in a context of general decline in commodity prices and a consecutive slowdown in growth in Africa. This downward trend in commodity prices may be a constraint, but I would also like to see it as an opportunity because both public and private stakeholders will have to be more innovative in order to unlock new sources of endogenous growth, wealth and inclusive employment with greater spill-over effects for the region's economies.

Addressing the challenge of employment and wealth in the rural world is crucial for Africa's development. The situation is highly paradoxical: Africa imports the equivalent of USD 50 billion in food each year, even though more than half of the world's uncultivated arable land is on the continent and 60 percent of the population still lives in rural areas! The development of this agricultural potential, at a high productivity and competitiveness level, is essential if Africa is to feed 2.5 billion people by 2050.

Today, the challenge is to identify new tools for sustainable economic growth, this time based on principles of inclusion and equity, while maintaining steady growth rates. Meeting these conditions will enable African economies to cope with a population that is still booming and with the ever-growing number of young people looking for education, training and jobs. These challenges are set against a backdrop of climate change and resource depletion, making the case for the use of production techniques that are tailored to environmental challenges.

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**- CEO of the NEPAD Agency,
Dr Ibrahim Mayaki**



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The principles of inclusion and equity imply adopting spatial and territorial approaches and policies that ensure rural areas benefit from the same developments and initiatives as urban areas; that responsible investments are made in rural areas; and that women and young people have access to the factors of production, especially training, land, water, finance, renewable energy, markets and income that reflects the fruits of their labour.

There are promising signs that private sector money is finding its way towards more inclusive development models. Conservation finance is one of the most exciting corners of agriculture development in emerging countries today. Conservation finance strives to reach three major and complementary goals to finance the agro-ecologic transition by calculating three different kinds of returns: economic, environmental and social.

These new investment projects are based on limited land acquisition and partnerships with farmers' networks that are empowered with new techniques. The new actors take care of their production and of its transformation and ensure an access to the market, whether locally or internationally. Private investment in agroforestry businesses is a big driver for the intensification of farmer's activities while restoring degraded lands, protecting forests and raising farmers' incomes.

The African public sector should invest more money in incubators and accelerators to channel funding and technical support at the beginning of the cycle of these projects. This investment will pay off because the incubators could create a network of agroforestry start-ups with the infrastructure, knowledge and access to the funding needed to realise their concept. The consequences in terms of employment and resource development could be tremendous. In this regard, the support of international governments and donors will also be essential. The progressive transition from solidarity systems to mixed market systems will help to stimulate investment and the development of structural activities capable of laying the foundations for this much-needed change.

Renewing public policies on the basis of local development would also help to tackle the root causes by providing appropriate solutions to ensure people settle and remain in their areas of origin. The empowerment of local authorities should be based on their specific characteristics, their ecosystems, their cultural heritage and their know-how combined with technological innovation and learning, especially for young people and women.

The governance of our natural resources and the financial resources they generate are the cornerstone of our structural change; they require appropriate solutions at the continental, regional, national and local levels, the most critical ones being the regional and local levels. Change will be sustainable when it happens at these two levels.



Farmers and farmers' organisations are key to sustainable development

Dakar, July 25, 2017 – Farmers' organisations and their grassroots members are not just beneficiaries, customers or users, when it comes sustainable development processes, but are key stakeholders who are committed at various levels towards Africa's sustainable development. This was the sentiment expressed in the declaration of the Pan-African Platform of African Farmers' Organisations (PAFO) at the end of the continental meeting held in Dakar, Senegal on 24 and 25 July. The meeting was on 'Climate Change, Sustainable Land Management, Biodiversity, Integrated Resources and Water Management.'

On behalf Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO of the NEPAD Agency, Mamadou Diakhite, Team Leader of the Sustainable Land and Water Management Programme, stated that the goals of Agenda 2063, Africa's 50 year vision for transformation, cannot be attained without strengthening the capacity of farmers' organisations. This is because farmers are the primary caretakers of the continent's land, forests and water resources.

There is great concern over the complexity of financing mechanisms and difficulties in accessing financial resources for the benefit of farmers' organisations and their members. This concern is coupled with challenges in ensuring coherence in the design and implementation of public policies, which impact farming communities and their development.

At the end of the meeting, members of PAFO adopted a progressive resolution, in making, among other suggestions, a case for the design and implementation of a continental capacity building programme for farmer's organisations. This is in a bid to increase their participation in the implementation of specific food security and land restoration measures, as well as the sustainable management of ecosystems.

The meeting was attended by representatives from PAFO; Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU); Central Africa Sub-Regional Platform of Farmers' Organisations (PROPAC); East African Farmers Federation (EAFF); Network of Farmers' and Agricultural Producers' Organisations of West Africa (ROPPA or Réseau des organisations paysannes et de producteurs de l'Afrique de l'Ouest), and Maghreb Farmers Union (UMAGRI), in addition to the NEPAD Agency and the United Nations Environment Programme. 2



“This network is very timely, as Uganda’s parliament is preparing to pass the biosafety bill and we look forward to working with its members to improve public understanding of biosafety in the country.”

- Dr Charles Mugoya, Chair of the Uganda National Biosafety Committee

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New African Biosafety Communication Network launched

Entebbe, July 18, 2017 - Under the auspices of the NEPAD Agency, an African Biosafety Network of Expertise (ABNE) communication network was launched on 18 July in Entebbe, Uganda, during the Africa Ag-biotech and Biosafety Communication (ABBC) symposium.

“After almost a decade of biosafety capacity enhancement to help build functional biosafety regulatory systems across the continent, NEPAD Agency ABNE is now focusing on fostering proactive initiatives through specific experts networks to help African countries safely harness science technology and innovation opportunities.

The communication network we are establishing today comes after successful implementation of other networks, such as the lawyers network, the food and feed safety network, the environmental network and the socioeconomic network recently established in Accra,” said Dr Jeremy Ouedraogo, Director of NEPAD Agency’s West Africa Regional Office in Dakar, Senegal.

“This network is very timely, as Uganda’s parliament is preparing to pass the biosafety bill and we look forward to working with its members to improve public understanding of biosafety in the country”, said Dr Charles Mugoya, Chair of the Uganda National Biosafety Committee.

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L to R: Dr Margaret Karembu, Dr Douglas Buhler, Dr Jeremy Ouedraogo, Dr Charles Mugoya and Dr Theresa Ssengoba during the launch in Entebbe

Towards an integrated Africa through infrastructure development

The objectives of the African biosafety communication network are:

- To identify and support key biosafety media specialists in African countries and help them develop, update and implement country communication strategies;
- To assist in harmonising and optimising partner and service providers' initiatives to build a strong and effective biosafety communication network in Africa;
- To effectively monitor outputs and outcomes of the support provided to the network, as well as to identify gaps and needs;
- To implement functional information sharing platforms for network members; and,
- To provide timely communication assistance to countries especially in coordination with the Association of National Biosafety Agencies in Africa (ANBAA) for issue management, dissemination of sound research findings and benefits.

Partners of the network include: ANBAA, ISAAA, Michigan State University, Network of biotechnology and biosafety journalists in West Africa, African Journalists Network for Africa (based in Nigeria), Network of Science Communication Journalists in Togo, Uganda and other countries, as well as other networks and service providers operating in the biosafety sector in Africa.

Members and potential members of the network include communication specialists of biosafety service providers in Africa, communication persons from National Biosafety Authorities, as well as members of national/regional science/biosafety communication networks, among others.

The ceremony was chaired by Dr Ouedraogo. It was co-chaired by Dr Charles Mugoya, Dr Theresa Ssengoba from the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology, Dr Douglas Buhler, Director/Assistant Vice-president and Administrative leader of Michigan State University AgBioResearch, and Margaret Karembu, Director of ISAAA Africenter.

The event was attended by about 60 people, including government officials, communications specialists, NBC representatives and staff from various biosafety service providers in Africa took part in the event.



Nairobi, July 19, 2017 - The Lamu Port (Kenya), South Sudan, Ethiopia Transport Corridor (LAPSSET) Corridor Programme is Eastern Africa's largest and most ambitious infrastructure project bringing together Kenya, Ethiopia and South Sudan.¹ The regional project between the countries has the aim of linking them to each other, as well as their neighbours in eastern Africa.

A NEPAD Agency mission was recently undertaken to Kenya, led by David Niyonsenga, PIDA Infrastructure Expert, to facilitate the technical structuring of Lamu-Isiolo-Juba Highway Project, the 1800 km trunk road, as one of the pillars of the LAPSSET Corridor Development. Deliberations on this project were held with representatives from Kenya, South Sudan and the East African Community (EAC). The focus was on joint project implementation coordination, project design, harmonisation and resource mobilisation.

The deliberations also involved the following:

- An overview of the LAPSSET Corridor Development
- A review of the progress and status of the Lamu-Isiolo-Juba Highway (1800km)
- An overview of Kenya Highway Design and Construction Standards
- An overview of South Sudan Highway Design and Construction
- An overview of EAC Road design standards for corridor highways
- Stocktaking of the lessons learnt from implementation of EAC multinational road projects
- Consideration of possible challenges to the LAPSSET corridor implementation

The LAPSSET Corridor mega project is a corridor under speedy development and that is being tracked by all the countries involved. It is also one of the 51 main continental PIDA programmes covering transport, energy, ICT and logistics based infrastructure.

The corridor aims at creating seamless connectivity between East African countries (Kenya, Ethiopia and South Sudan) by connecting a population of 160 million people in the three countries, with potential to impact the wider Eastern and Central African regions. In addition, the LAPSSET Corridor is part of the larger land bridge that will connect the East African coast from Lamu Port to the West coast of Africa, at Port of Douala in Cameroon.

¹The LAPSSET mega project consists of seven key infrastructure projects starting with a new 32 Berth port at Lamu (Kenya); Interregional Highways from Lamu to Isiolo, Isiolo to Juba (South Sudan), Isiolo to Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), and Lamu to Garsen (Kenya), Crude Oil Pipeline from Lamu to Isiolo, Isiolo to Juba; Product Oil Pipeline from Lamu to Isiolo, Isiolo to Addis Ababa; Interregional Standard Gauge Railway lines from Lamu to Isiolo, Isiolo to Juba, Isiolo to Addis Ababa, and Nairobi to Isiolo; 3 International Airports: one each at Lamu, Isiolo, and Lake Turkana; 3 Resort Cities: one each at Lamu, Isiolo and Lake Turkana; and The multipurpose High Grand Falls Dam along the Tana River: <http://www.lapsset.go.ke/>



NEPAD Agency staff with the children at Bakgethwa House



“Giving is the greatest commodity there is. Sadly, it is neither traded on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange nor on Wall Street,” Komane Lamola

NEPAD Agency commemorates International Mandela Day

Johannesburg, July 28, 2017- “If it makes sad faces smile; mouths and hearts open in appreciation, minds forgetting the pangs and discomfort of misery, it is worth pursuing,” said Edna Kalima.

Ms Kalima shared this quote after attending a NEPAD Agency organised event in honor of International Nelson Mandela Day annually commemorated on 18th July.

The event took place at Bakgethwa House, a children’s home in Ivory Park, Midrand. The home is a safe haven for orphaned and vulnerable children. Children from the community are also often offered meals and a safe environment to play in during the day. The organising team identified this home because of the limited financial support it receives to take care of those children. NEPAD Agency staff members donated various items including perishable goods, food and clothing items.

In his remarks, Martin Bwalya highlighted that the team’s visit is mainly aimed at acknowledging the noble work that Mme Mantaki Makhetha and her team are doing in supporting the children by providing basic needs including food and shelter.

“As an organisation whose mandate is to advance development, including poverty alleviation, food security and prosperity for the peoples of Africa, the critical contribution made by this home in bettering the lives of African children is aligned to the vision of transforming and bettering lives,” he said.

Ms Mantaki Makhetha, founder and owner of the home took the opportunity to brief staff members on how and why she started the home and shared her hopes of even making a bigger impact in the community she lives in.

“I brought these children into my home to ensure that they are protected from the harsh realities of abuse, poverty and child neglect. I do not have much money or resources to take care of them, but I do what I can to ensure that they have a normal, healthy childhood. The contribution that you have made today is highly appreciated,” she said.

This is what staff members had to say on the initiative:

Organising Committee: “The importance of this event goes back to Nelson Mandela’s values; he promoted and instilled the spirit of Pan- Africanism and taking action for the life you want. For us the initiative is linked to Aspiration 6 of Agenda 2063, by taking small steps towards building #TheAfricaWeWant.

Moreover, this initiative creates a platform where NEPAD Agency staff can share their compassion and encourages interaction with the community, fostering the spirit of humanity, philanthropy and unity from our organisation to its local community and Africa at large. We believe this initiative will play an important role in educating the youth about the NEPAD Agency and its role in the African transformation agenda.”

Kevin Kahatano: “In giving, you are adding value to other people’s lives and it can be life changing for the recipients of your kindness”

Eliane Koko Ngnasoke: “You can never ‘over give’ or ‘under give’. The things that we take for granted mean the world to someone else”

Komane Lamola: “Seeing the smiles on the kids’ faces, it dawned on me that giving is the greatest commodity there is, sadly, it is neither traded on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange nor on Wall Street.”



As we talk more and more about the second liberation of Africa and economic liberation, one cannot avoid thinking also of the Africans who represent more than half of the continent's population: Women

The Africa We Want cannot happen without women

Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO, NEPAD Agency

As we talk more and more about the second liberation of Africa and economic liberation, one cannot avoid thinking also of the Africans who represent more than half of the continent's population: Women. Should we also consider this question in terms of a new liberation, an emancipation? Would not it be more constructive to look at the situation of the 410 million African women today, and then to see how to help them more?

Recently, I was struck by UNICEF figures - **if all girls in Africa went to primary school, maternal mortality would be reduced by 70 percent. That would be 50,000 lives saved each year.** What would be the implications of this with regards curbing of sexually transmitted diseases, or improving children's daily diet? The prospect is mind blowing.

Access to education for girls, which varies greatly from country to country, remains a priority. We need to identify weak links and bottlenecks in order to ensure access to education for girls and young women. **More than a bet on the future, it is an economic and political necessity. That is particularly true when we take into account that about 28 million girls and teenagers, who are of school age, will probably never go to school for even a single day in their lives...**

The issue is also economic because women represent half of our continent's human resources. In agriculture, **40 percent of agricultural work is carried out by women, but yet they produce 80 percent of food in households. It should also be pointed out that unemployment affects them more than men: 10.6 percent of women are unemployed, compared with 8.2 percent men, according to the World Bank.**

In Africa too, disparities are significant, for instance in Uganda, Tanzania and Malawi, where the number of women in the fields exceeds 50 percent. In Ethiopia and Niger, on the other hand, they account for only 29 percent and 24 percent respectively of the overall workforce. According to FAO, "Enabling women to participate more effectively in agricultural activities means reducing the number of people suffering from hunger and malnutrition in all its forms. It also improves the well-being of children and families, which contributes to training human capital for future generations and long-term economic growth."

On the other hand, thanks to quotas such as those in Burkina Faso and Rwanda, the representation of women in parliament has increased significantly. In sub-Saharan Africa, women's representation was 22.3 percent in 2015, compared to only 8 percent in 1995. At the global level, the figure is 22.1 percent. This is a big step forward for Africa.

However, much remains to be done. Equality is not yet a reality despite the progress made. Violence against women, genital mutilation and forced marriages remain a reality. As the UN stresses, "Despite the adoption of innumerable international conventions and protocols that reaffirm gender equality, discrimination and prejudice hold back the emancipation of African women. In virtually every sector of activity, women on the continent are still struggling to gain recognition of their right to live in dignity." This at a time when we are talking about the necessity to reduce births in Africa. How do we do it without involving women?

Initiatives exist to highlight and promote the role of women in this new phase of our history. The Women Advancing Africa Forum, organised by Mrs Graça Machel in Tanzania this summer, aims to celebrate the central role of women in shaping African development and their capacity to lead social and economic change. The aim is to ensure that women on the one hand are emancipated and participate directly, but also to ensure they are recognised, in the development of Africa, in making positive strides towards "The Africa We Want."

Upcoming Events

- 12 - 25 Sep 2017: *72nd Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 72), New York, USA*
- 16 - 20 Oct 2017: *Africa Week, New York, USA*
- 30 Oct - 1 Nov 2017: *Commemoration of the 8th Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security with Continental Symposium on Food Systems, Kigali, Rwanda*
- 30 Oct - 3 Nov 2017: *PIDA Week, Walvis Bay, Namibia*
- 28 - 30 Nov 2017: *4th Global Science Conference on Climate Smart Agriculture, Johannesburg, South Africa*
- 27 - 29 Nov 2017: *3rd Biennial Scientific Conference on Medical Products Regulation in Africa, Accra, Ghana*
- 27 - 29 Nov 2017: *Third ICAO Aviation Forum (IWAF/3), Abuja, Nigeria*

See also: www.nepad.org/events

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Proverb

**“In the desert of life,
the wise person
travels in a caravan
while the fool prefers to
travel alone.” Arab
Proverb**



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