

Newsletter Dialogue Series June 2012

Youth Engagement in CAADP Processes

Does the Youth Voice Count in Agriculture?

The youth are an important stakeholder in the CAADP process, for the future of African agriculture is in their hands. Because of this, it is important that youth constitute a strong part of the non-state actors that are being mobilised to actively engage with the CAADP process at national, regional and continental levels. With support from CTA, the youth attended the 8th CAADP Partnership Platform meeting held in Nairobi, Kenya in May 2012. They were afforded a platform to engage in agricultural policy processes, as CAADP is a major framework for development of African agriculture. Mrs Sithembile Mwamakamba, FANRPAN Youth in Agriculture Coordinator, read a recital prepared and signed by all youth delegates at the meeting. The recital called for increased and

focused dialogue amongst and between the youth; state and non-state actors on CAADP and African agriculture development, for there should be “Nothing for the Youth without the Youth



“The youth are the drivers of Africa’s economic and social development” - Sithembile Mwamakamba

“The African youth can transform the agricultural sector into a modernised and profitable industry that is technology and research-driven ,” says the FANRPAN Youth Coordinator, Sithembile Mwamakamba.

Youth aged between 15 to 24 constitute over 20 percent of the African population, 70 percent of them reside in rural areas and account for 65 percent of labour in agriculture.

“We are the future farmers, future policy makers, future leaders and fundamental drivers of Africa’s economic and social development. We are happy to note the growing realisation that the youth should have space in the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) processes.

“We often hear how agriculture is the backbone of sub-Saharan Africa’s rural economies. CAADP is testimony to the potential contribution of the agricultural sector to Africa’s development. But what we don’t hear is a clear strategy on how the vast majority of the human and capital assets needed are being mobilised and capacitated to drive Africa’s development.

“The youth in particular have limited - and in most cases - no direct access to this economic sector across the entire agricultural value chain – from farming to research, innovation, product development and market participation.

“Agriculture, particularly farming, has long been labelled as an occupation for the aged, illiterate, and rural people. This misconception persists and poses a great threat to the development of the sector. Many young people are unable to fulfil their potential because of poverty, lack of knowledge and poor health.”

Mwamakamba says to change this and increase the involvement of the youth in agriculture, investing in education at all levels

from primary to tertiary levels is paramount. She also recommended the following:

- Linkage of school curricula to on-going policy debates and developments in the agricultural field. More opportunities for on-farm training for the youth and enterprise development training, particularly in value added activities such as food processing, packaging and trade, should be identified and utilised.
- Investment in improving access to technology and information by Africa's young people. Databases of organisations that can provide the youth with information, skills and opportunities in agriculture should be developed and disseminated widely. Targeted marketing opportunities for primary and value-added agricultural products produced by young entrepreneurs should be identified and encouraged.
- Investment in collateral free micro-credit systems that can offer incentives tailored to the financial needs of young farmers. Financial institutions should develop agricultural financing packages and loan products that target the youth – they are often seen as high risk clients as they have very little security or assets that can be used as collateral.
- Institutionalisation of youth involvement in agricultural policy making, giving full consideration to the varying needs of young men and women and the different demands they face. The youth should be given a chance to take an active part in decision-making at local, national and global levels. If young peoples' voices are not heard and the impact of agricultural policy on their lives is not discussed in decision-making forums, even well-intentioned actions on the part of 'the grown-ups' will fail to achieve the intended impact.

"This for us is more than ceremonial engagements. We want serious, systematic and coherent engagement, we want to be consulted and our views embraced in development planning and implementation of programmes. As Africa continues to tackle the challenges of food and nutrition security, it cannot afford to ignore the importance of young people in the development of the agricultural sector".

A meeting of minds – the 8th CAADP partnership platform meeting

Nairobi saw more than 200 delegates from Africa and further afield gather in May to brainstorm ways to 'Accelerating the CAADP implementation for results and impact'.

"CAADP must move beyond its recent focus on support for investment planning, to support countries to accelerate implementation for impact and results," says the Chief Executive Officer of NEPAD and driver of the CAADP initiative, Dr Ibrahim Mayaki.

What were the outcomes?

NEPAD'S flagship programme on home-grown school feeding reported good progress, especially in the form of increased school enrolment, improved school child nutrition and education, raising local food grower's income levels, community willingness and government buy-in. The number of schools embracing the programme is on the rise and school enrolment and performance has been steadily increasing. Other successes included diet fortification and guided programme management at school level.

The programme provides an innovative model to address food insecurity, agricultural development and educational attainment. It has been identified by the Millennium Hunger Task Force as a quick win in the fight against poverty and hunger. In 2003, African governments included locally-sourced school feeding programmes in their planning. That same year, NEPAD, together with the World Food Programme and the Millennium Hunger Task Force, launched a pilot programme to link school feeding to agricultural development through the purchase and use of locally produced food.



Participants of the CAADP PP Meeting, Nairobi 2012

The meeting recommended that countries incorporate the programme into current national food and nutrition security frameworks. National governments should commit resources for the programme in collaboration with the private sector. The private sector, especially the small holder farmers, must be supported and given the appropriate farming technologies, education and other inputs to produce better and process the commodities along the value chain for quality, acceptability and easier marketing.

The Coalition for African Rice Development reported continued commitment and support of CAADP at country level, mainly through operationalising investment on the ground. Noting the increasing private sector support for CAADP, the meeting requested the African Union Commission and NEPAD to ensure alignment.

The agricultural science agenda for Africa and tertiary education reported the need for a science agenda. This would engage all actors to generate, deliver and apply agricultural knowledge to enhance the impact of investments in research and development.

The meeting recognised the important role of the African Fertilizer and Agri-business Partnership in the CAADP implementation and its linkages with the private sector and smallholder farmers in the agricultural value chain. It is a mechanism to strengthen fertilizer and other input markets.

The President of the Pan African Farmers' Forum, Ms Elisabeth Atangana noted the increasing importance accorded to agriculture as a vehicle for economic development in Africa. She said Africa can feed and develop itself, but only if there is greater investment in the agricultural sector focusing on smallholder farmers. She called for greater investment in women and youths in agriculture, access to markets, capacity building of regional networks and farmers' organisations and shared learning between countries.

"The African Union Commission continues to work closely with African Union member states, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, regional economic communities, Pan African institutions and our development partners to accelerate the implementation of CAADP. This will increase Africa's agricultural productivity, food and nutrition security," says African Union Commission Commissioner Rhoda Peace Tumusiime.

Is CAADP a meaningful programme?



"CAADP focuses on improving food security, nutrition and increasing incomes in Africa's largely agriculture-based economies" - Ian Mashingaidze.

The NEPAD [Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme](#) (CAADP), as Africa's collective vision on agriculture, demonstrates the continent's commitment to taking full responsibility for its agriculture development agenda.

"Indeed, it is a meaningful programme," says the Food, Agricul-

ture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network's (FANRPAN) Programme Manager for CAADP Ian Mashingaidze, .

"The programme focuses on improving food and nutrition security and increasing incomes in Africa's largely agriculture-based economies. It also supports African countries to reach a higher path of economic growth through agriculture-led development."

Each of the programme's four pillars deals with key issues that are critical for the development of African agriculture. Pillar one focuses on extending the area under sustainable land and water management while pillar two seeks to improve rural infrastructure and trade-related capacities for market access. Pillar three seeks to increase food supply and reduce hunger, while pillar four deals with agricultural research, technology dissemination and adoption.

"We are aware that assuring food security is a pressing issue. Time is not on our side to ensure that an ever-growing population will have food. The 8th CAADP Partnership Platform meeting, hosted by the African Union Commission and NEPAD in Nairobi, Kenya in May this year, emphasised the urgency. Themed 'Accelerating CAADP implementation for results and impact', it emphasized the need for active participation of non-state actors, women and youth in the CAADP agenda," says Mashingaidze.

African Youth part of the food security solution

With 70 percent of Africans deriving their livelihood from agriculture, the sector is key to reducing poverty and improving food security. The youth are better placed to solve Africa's food security challenges, as they are technologically inclined and literate.

This is according to Dr Lindiwe Majele Sibanda, Chief Executive Officer of the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN).

"African leaders laid foundations for an agricultural transformation in 2003. Countries developed detailed strategies, increased public sector investment, and elevated political commitment – all with support from the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), an initiative led by the African Union Commission and the NEPAD Agency.

"To feed the continent's more than one billion people from land that is primarily climate challenged and hostile, food insecurity and poverty issues are the armed conflict of modern-day Africa. Implementing climate-smart agriculture is the solution that the continent needs to embrace.

"Add to this the fact that Africa holds 65 percent of the world's arable land, but produces only ten percent of the world's output. This results in 265 million people being chronically hungry because of the huge underutilisation of resources. These facts can no longer be ignored.

"We are mindful of the fact that agriculture contributes significantly to climate change factors and obviously needs to be part of the solution. Part of this solution is the creation of a climate-smart agriculture response programme to counteract the effects of climate change factors. Climate-smart agriculture is a pathway towards development and food security built on three pillars – increasing productivity and income, enhancing resilience of livelihoods and ecosystems and reducing and removing gas emissions from the atmosphere. Climate-smart agriculture is centred around new technologies and the youth can use their skills and knowledge in driving the processes.

"However, Africa needs to be an integral part of the global policy discourse, not an unprepared add-on. The unified message of 'No agriculture, no deal' successfully communicated at UNFCCC COP17, has moved forward to Bonn, Rio+20 and will now go forward to COP18."

Sibanda says the global arena is also ready for public/private cooperation with Africa and its Youth, which is the biggest resource, to ensure that challenges are faced head-on.

"The announcement of US President Obama's initiatives are reassuring – an intense private sector engagement to support CAADP.

"However, Africa's agricultural transformation depends on harnessing this foundation to unlock a vibrant private sector, that includes youth in agriculture, that increases productivity, produces nutritious food and creates wealth and employment.

"African youths are part of the solution – we call on all structures to nurture their talent as they are the future of African agriculture," says Sibanda.



"Food insecurity and poverty issues are the armed conflict of modern-day Africa" – Lindiwe Majele Sibanda

9 years later - where do we stand with CAADP?

In July 2003 the heads of state and government of the African Union meeting in Maputo, Mozambique established the most comprehensive agricultural development deal on the African continent.

Known as the Maputo Declaration, Africa's leaders committed to allocating ten percent of their national budgets to agriculture by 2008 to achieve an average annual growth rate target of six percent in agriculture by 2015.

"To date, only eight countries - Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Malawi, Mali, Niger and Senegal - have exceeded this target," says Ian Mashingaidze FANRPAN's , Programme Manager for CAADP.

"Most countries have made significant progress towards this goal.

"Ten countries - Angola, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, the Republic of the Congo, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria, Senegal, and Tanzania – have also achieved the six percent growth target."

Mashingaidze says the programme aims to eliminate hunger and reduce poverty, with agriculture as the primary basis for wealth creation, source of employment and income.

"CAADP focuses on improving food security, nutrition and increasing incomes in Africa's largely agriculture-based economies. It also supports African countries to reach a higher path of economic growth through agriculture-led development," says Mashingaidze.

Nine years since the signing of the Maputo declaration, 30 out of 54 African countries have signed CAADP compacts and incorporated the CAADP into their national agricultural agenda. Rwanda was the first country to sign on 31 March 2007. The other countries are Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda and Zambia.

"We are just over halfway there. However, we at FANRPAN believe that, with food security as a major priority worldwide, African leaders are realising the benefits that the CAADP can add to a country's well-being. After all, Africa holds 65 percent of the world's arable land. This potential can easily be translated into reality when we all work together; government and non-state actor partnerships are not an option but a must have" says Mashingaidze.

CAADP Implementation Update (as at 1 September 2012)

Countries still to launch CAADP (12)	Countries working towards signing CAADP Compacts (6)	Countries with signed CAADP Compacts (30)		
		Countries only signed CAADP Compact (7)	Countries with Investment plans (4)	That have held Business Meetings (19)
Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Cameroon, Chad, Egypt, Gabon, Madagascar, Mauritius, Namibia, Sao Tome & Principe, South Sudan	Comoros, Congo-Brazzaville, Lesotho, South Africa, Sudan, Zimbabwe	Central Africa Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Mozambique, Seychelles, Swaziland, Zambia	Burkina Faso, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Ivory Coast	Benin, Burundi, Cape Verde, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda

(Information summarized from [www.caadp.net/pdf/Table_1_Countries_with_Investment_Plans_ver15_\(2\).pdf](http://www.caadp.net/pdf/Table_1_Countries_with_Investment_Plans_ver15_(2).pdf))

Are African regions contributing to the success of CAADP?

“While just over half of the 54 African countries signed up for the [Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme](#) (CAADP), we believe that Africa as a whole is aware of the essential role of agriculture and is playing an active role in promoting it,” says Ian Mashingaidze.

With 19 member countries, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) is the largest regional economic community in Africa with a population of 410 million people. The agricultural sector accounts for more than 32 percent of the GDP of COMESA. Agriculture employs 70 percent of the region’s total workforce and provides a livelihood to almost 80 percent of the region’s population. It also accounts for nearly 65 percent of the foreign exchange earnings, some 30 percent of intra-COMESA trade and close to 65 percent of raw materials to the industrial sector.

“However, the agricultural sector in the region is underdeveloped,” says Mashingaidze.

Government and private sector investments in agriculture are low, with most African countries devoting less than five percent of their national budget to agriculture. There is enormous potential for agricultural development in COMESA. Less than nine percent of its total arable land is under cultivation and there is huge potential for expansion, commercialisation and modernisation. The size of the population provides a potential workforce for agriculture and a potential market for agricultural products.

Mashingaidze says there is consensus among stakeholders that a COMESA-EAC-SADC tripartite (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, East African Community and the Southern African Development Community) approach will enhance the CAADP.

“Such a compact will address issues common to all three regional economic communities. Although an overarching framework, it should not be rigid but differentiated, providing a faster gear for urgent investment for specific sectors.”

The COMESA agriculture strategy entails the harmonisation of agricultural policy across the region, working towards regional food security - replacing imports with local production and increasing agricultural productivity.

The actions for this strategy towards improved regional food security entail the facilitation of efficient agricultural markets, the acceleration of new technologies and the promotion of an enabling agricultural policy environment.

“FANRPAN trusts that the tripartite approach will speed up the implementation of CAADP in east and southern Africa, with increased food security as the first prize,” says Mashingaidze.

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) consists of 15 countries and promotes the economic integration in all fields of economic activity.

The agricultural sector plays a determining role in the economic and social development of ECOWAS, contributing 35 percent to the region’s GDP and up to 60 percent of employment and income generation. Regional production covers 80 percent of the population’s food needs in ECOWAS.

Women play an important role in production, processing and marketing of agricultural products. However, they are not always taken into account adequately in development policies and strategies, to modernise agriculture. They are weakly represented in various organisations and at consultations and negotiations.

The ECOWAS agricultural policy focuses on modern and sustainable agriculture, based on the effectiveness and efficiency of family farms and the promotion of agricultural enterprises, by involving the private sector.

The implementation of the policy is based, on the one hand, on policy reforms in external and internal trade, taxation, investment codes, regulatory frameworks, industrial and monetary policies and information, and on the other, on investment programmes.

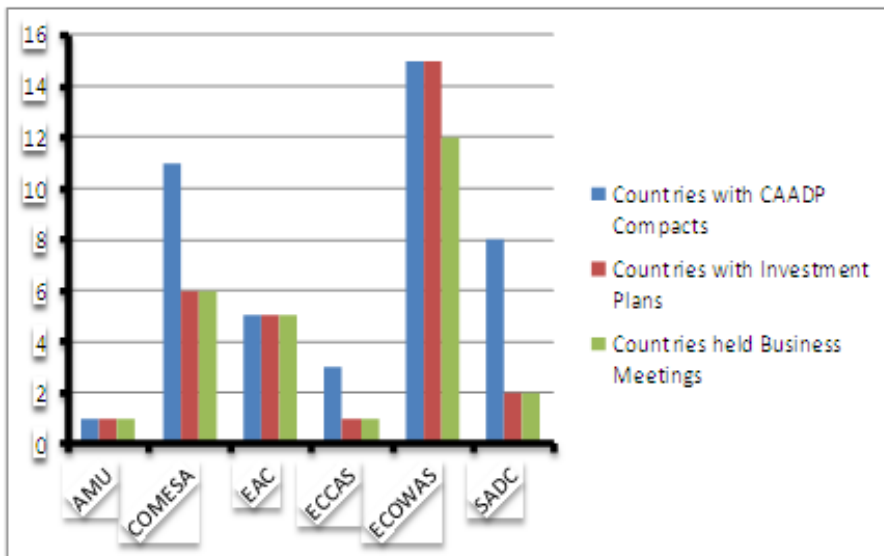
Actions include water management, management of shared natural resources, sustainable development of farms, markets and supply chains, prevention and management of food crises and other natural disasters, and institutional strengthening.

ECOWAS member countries have a single, unified framework for planning and intervention in the agricultural sector. This resulted in the coordination of national agricultural investment programmes, fostering dialogue among actors in each country.

Focus areas include an agricultural information system and the regional initiative for food production and the fight against hunger, with action programmes to promote strategic food value chains for food sovereignty, promote an overall environment favourable to regional agricultural development and reduce vulnerability to food crises and promote stable and sustainable access to food.

These first-generation programmes run until 2014 and will be followed by other second-generation programmes. ECOWAS member states have also coordinated mechanisms for financing and the Regional Technical Agency for Agriculture and Food and the Regional Fund for Agriculture and Food have been established.

“We believe these African regions have the ability and will to work towards sustained food security. FANRPAN will assist to make this happen, sooner rather than later, through its focus on promoting policy research, advocacy and capacity building,” says Mashingaidze.



Are non-state actors necessary for CAADP to work?

“Absolutely,” says Dr Lindiwe Majele Sibanda, Chief Executive Officer of the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN).

“Feeding the world’s seven billion people cannot be tasked to governments alone. Yes, governments are responsible for the planning and execution of food security programmes, social protection interventions to meet the needs of food insecure populations, and to have the foresight to know where food needs will be in future. This foresight alone is evident in Africa’s Maputo Declaration in 2003 where the continent’s leaders pledged to assign ten percent of national budgets to agriculture and to a six percent annual increase by 2015.

“However, implementation of agricultural strategies and action plans is doomed for failure without the cooperation of non-state actors. The immense role that private organisations play, for example in the development of fertilizer, seeds and agricultural implements, speaks for itself.

“It is in view of this that FANRPAN, with support from development partners that include the UK Department for International Development, The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale

Zusammenarbeit and the United States Agency for International Development, is promoting the strengthening of civil society engagement in policy analysis, dialogue and implementation of the CAADP process through advocacy engagements and multi-stakeholder policy dialogues.

“The support that FANRPAN enjoys from its development partners was instrumental in the successful campaign ‘No agriculture, No deal’ to ensure that agriculture becomes a stand-alone part of global climate change negotiations and not an add-on.

“Both the strategic and financial support from these partners ensured that agriculture’s case was put on the table in Bonn and Rio+20, and is now en route to COP18 later this year.

“In CAADP’s nine-year existence, the role of non-state actors has become increasingly evident. At every year’s annual platform countries report on, and call for – greater participation of these partners. After all, feeding nations is a combined responsibility,” says Sibanda.

FANRPAN – an integral part of CAADP



“Full proof information is essential for a food secure Africa” - Sindiso Ngwenya

As a major independent Africa-wide organisation that advocates for evidence based food security policy development, FANRPAN has an essential role to play in the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP). FANRPAN’s CAADP programmes are supported by the UK Department for International Development, the German Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, and the United States Agency for International Development.

This is according to the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) Chairman, H.E. Sindiso Ngwenya who is also Secretary-General of COMESA.

“With food security on top of the continental development agenda, now more than ever, we fully realise the need to focus on our core business - ensuring that full proof information is available for a food secure Africa.

“We are fully equipped to play this role. We must be the catalyst that brings African countries together to stand and be counted on in matters of food security. This is more than evident in our unifying role at last year’s COP17 meeting where, for the first time since 1994 – the first Conference of Parties – the conference realised that we are serious about agriculture being granted its rightful place on a world agenda that has to provide food security for seven billion people. Africa spoke with one voice.

“We are promoting the strengthening of civil society engagement, particularly the youth in policy analysis, dialogue and implementation of the CAADP process through advocacy engagements and multi-stakeholder policy dialogues.”

Ngwenya says by 2015 African leaders and communities hope to see dynamic agricultural markets within countries and between regions in Africa.

“They also hope to see farmers taking part in the market economy and enjoying good access to markets. In this way Africa can capitalise on its comparative and competitive advantages and become a net exporter of agricultural products”.

“A more equitable distribution of wealth for rural populations - in terms of higher real incomes and relative wealth - is another goal. Rural populations will have more equitable access to land, physical and financial resources and knowledge, information and technology for sustainable development”.

“Most important, they would want to see Africa as a strategic player in agricultural science and technology, meeting the growing needs and demands of African agriculture. Add to this environmentally sound agricultural production and a culture of sustainable management of natural resources as a result of better knowledge, more information and the application of technology, and Africa is well underway to a sound food secure future. FANRPAN is renowned for its solid convening brand” says Ngwenya.

This document has been produced with the financial assistance of CTA, USAID and GIZ. The views expressed herein are those of the author(s) and can therefore in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of CTA; USAID; GIZ; representative of FANRPAN or of the cosponsoring or supporting organizations.



About FANRPAN

The Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) is a multi-stakeholder, multi-national policy network that supports the development and implementation of better food, agriculture and natural resources (FANR) policies in Africa. Its members include universities, research institutes, the business sector, farmer groups and other civil society organisations that have a stake in FANR policies. FANRPAN’s membership is organised into national nodes in sixteen countries, with a national secretariat hosted by an existing national institution that has a mandate for agricultural policy research and advocacy. FANRPAN also has a mandate to work Africa wide.

Copyright

FANRPAN Regional Secretariat

141 Cresswell Road, Weavind Park 0184, Private Bag X2087, Silverton 014, Pretoria, South Africa
Telephone: +27 12 804 2966. Facsimile: +27 12 804 0600. Email: policy@fanpan.org. Website: www.fanpan.org