



Host of the 12th Africa Forum is the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Ethiopia. The forum is co-organised by the Sector Network Rural Development (SNRD) of GTZ and the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) of NEPAD.



The annual Africa Forum provides a platform for African decision makers to exchange experiences on policy and programmes in agriculture and rural development. Africa Forum findings are disseminated widely and represent a valued contribution to the international debate on rural and agriculture development.

Africa Forums were held in Lusaka, Lilongwe, Harare, Accra, Pretoria, Nairobi, Ouagadougou, and Windhoek and have brought together more than 800 people from over 20 African countries.

Each forum builds on the findings of its predecessor and focuses on a theme identified by participants as being of particular and current concern.

Date 29 September to 3 October 2008

Venue Sheraton Hotel, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



Fees Participation fee is 300 Euro which also includes lunch, reception, social dinner and fieldtrips. Participants are responsible for travel, accommodation, dinner & drinks.

Accommodation

The Sheraton Hotel in Addis Ababa. A pick-up shuttle from the airport to the hotel is available.

Languages

English and French

Registration and organisation

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12th Africa Forum

*Making agri-business work
for rural livelihoods:*

*In support of CAADP
implementation at country level*



29 September to 3 October 2008

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Making agri-business work for rural livelihoods: In support of CAADP implementation at country level

Most economies in sub-Saharan Africa are agriculture-based with agriculture not only a pathway out of poverty, but also a main route towards development whether at household or at national economy level. The leverage potential of agriculture is demonstrated across Africa, be it cocoa in Ghana, horticulture in Ethiopia or cotton in Zambia.

The Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) of NEPAD highlights these African agriculture success stories to encourage replication. However 'scaling up' proves difficult and not only because it requires the right mix of natural conditions, human capacity and technical know-how. What is needed (and not always there) is a sustained political commitment to a long-term strategy that allows all stakeholders to play their part.

The fact that rural or agriculture development is not just driven by government, but depends on a great many 'drivers', stood at the centre of the last Africa Forum (2007, held in Accra). During this forum a cross-section of state and non-state actors for each of the around 20 participating countries was brought together. This resulted in productive discussions at peer level (in 'actor' groups) followed by the compilation of Country Action Plans (in 'country' groups).

Cover picture: Road side trading in Ethiopia

The current 12th Africa Forum will build up on this successful process: Again, countries are represented by Country Teams and findings of peer-group discussions among stakeholder categories serve as the basis of Country Action Plans. But, this year the debate will be more targeted and be linked to in-country processes of development by: (i) a focus on agri-business and (ii) a link to CAADP and its implementation at country level.

African success stories in agri-business will be presented to inform, but also to inspire the subsequent discussions in actor and country groups. Results of the CAADP country processes (Country Round Tables) will be integrated into Country Action Plans and vice versa. This will ensure that momentum created during the forum is captured and utilised also after the forum. In this way, the upcoming Africa Forum aims to contribute to the upscaling of agricultural successes within the framework of the CAADP pillar 2: *Improving Rural Infrastructure and Trade-Related Capacities for Market Access*. The following will be addressed:

- ⇒ *escalating food prices*: What are effective responses? What are implications for national strategies and action plans?
- ⇒ *drivers for change*: Who are the actors in making agri-business work for rural livelihoods?
- ⇒ *the importance of leadership*: To what extent is agriculture sector leadership a determinant of success? How is it fostered?



Ethiopian horticulture

Who is invited?

The Africa Forum is aimed at planners and policy makers, programme implementers and other stakeholders in agriculture and rural development.

For the upcoming forum, we would like participants from Africa to coordinate with the Africa Forum country contacts to ensure that countries are represented by balanced 'country teams' with members from the most relevant stakeholder groups (such as central and local government, private sector, farmers' organisations, traditional leaders, the media, academia, parliamentarians, regional organisations and development partners). Please contact the Secretariat (see overleaf) for details of your country's contact person.

In the past, many forum participants have been sponsored, by GTZ and other donors, including CTA, InWent, CIDA, DANIDA, SIDA, DFID, The Netherlands, FAO, IFAD, and World Bank.