



Announcement of the 2009 CAADP Africa Forum

Introduction

The first CAADP Africa Forum will be held from **30 November to 4 December 2009** in Hotel Laico regency in **Nairobi, Kenya** on the Theme ***“The Bottom of the Pyramid: Agricultural Development for the Vulnerable”***. The CAADP Africa Forum is an annual platform of peer-learning and sharing on progress in African agriculture between policy makers and practitioners from across the continent. Each year, the forum will set itself a theme that is of common and current concern.

For the first of its Africa Forums, CAADP puts the extremely vulnerable at the centre of the discussion. People living on less than half a dollar a day were hardest hit by the escalating food prices and as a consequence of global crisis and climate change their number is rising at an alarming rate. In global terms, 4 billion people live on less than 2\$ a day, half a billion live on less than 75 cents a day and 162 million people are ultra-poor living on less than half a dollar a day. Women and youth are over proportionally represented in this group and the majority of them depend on agriculture as a source of food and income.

By putting the plight of the extremely vulnerable at the centre of the attention, CAADP contributes to a timely and much needed response to counter the alarming trend. Response strategies will be discussed from different angles (e.g. economic and social) and at different levels: (i) pan-African, (ii) regional (iii) country-wide (iv) local and (v) household level.

Objectives

The purpose of the Africa Forum as a CAADP instrument to support country-based agriculture development is:

*Sharing and learning on progress with diverse agricultural sub-sectors to foster the up scaling of best practices in agriculture across Africa as **an input** into country driven development of the agricultural and rural sector.*

As such the CAADP-Africa Forum will build a bridge between the highly specialist knowledge and experience offered by the CAADP Pillar Lead Institutions¹ and other knowledge centres and the realities on the ground in African countries.

The specific objectives of the 2009 CAADP Africa Forum are:

1. Facilitate the exchange between countries of best practices in making the vulnerable take part

¹ The CAADP framework is divided over four key areas in the form of pillar programmes, each of which is spearheaded by a Pillar Lead Institution.

- in agriculture development and agriculture-based economic activities;
2. Advance the country's agricultural agenda in support to the poorest part of the population via CAADP implementation looking at next steps regarding the uptake or upscaling of 'best-fit' practices shared at the forum;
 3. Help Country Teams use the CAADP framework as an instrument in supporting agricultural development for the poorest at country level to enable them to "break into" economic activity with direct positive impact on their food security and economic situation;
 4. Enable CAADP Pillar Lead Institutions (especially Pillar III) to disseminate their knowledge with respect to making agriculture development work for the poorest;
 5. Enable CAADP Pillar Lead Institutions (especially Pillar III) to learn from best practices across Africa to further sharpen their role in guiding the continent's agriculture agenda;
 6. Enable practitioners, country teams, policy makers understand this aspect of the poorest including its implication on overall development and options for them to respond to their specific needs.

Outcomes

Country Teams will develop, in the course of the forum, a **Country Action Plan** in which the ideas taken from the forum are linked to the on-going agriculture development and CAADP implementation at country level. In this way, the momentum built up at the forum finds a way onto national agenda's and (hopefully) into implementation.

At the end of the forum is a **Presentation of Key Findings**, which serves as a wrap-up to participants. This presentation will also be used as an input into the CAADP Partnership Platform and as a contribution to the implementation of the decision of the 13th AU Summit.

Further, **Proceedings of the 2009 CAADP Africa Forum** will be prepared, both in summary form for policy makers as well as in a detailed version with Country Action Plans attached for purposes of follow-up by participants and organizers

It is expected that CAADP-Africa Forum complements the CAADP-Partnership Platform (PP), whereby the PP lays out the structure of the CAADP process and the AF informs the content of CAADP supported agricultural development.

- Participation fees: Euro 300 (to be paid at the registration desk of the forum)
- Registration at: africaforum@nepad.org
- Contribution should be sent at: presentation@africaforum.info
- For more information see the website: www.africaforum.info or www.caadp.net

Person contact for the registration

Sharon Okello,

c/o PSDA, P.O. Box 41607,

00100 Nairobi, Kenya

Telephone: +254 20 2253904 / 340520 / 2211659,

Fax: +254 20 2218765