



Concept Note

2009 CAADP AFRICA FORUM

The Bottom of the Pyramid Agricultural Development for the Vulnerable

9 to 13 November 2009, Nairobi, Kenya

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The Bottom of the Pyramid: Agricultural Development for the Vulnerable

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1 Introduction

The 2009 CAADP Africa Forum is the first in a series of annual events that connects the pan-African CAADP framework to the realities on the ground by being a learning and sharing platform on progress (and problems) in 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 1.6 billion people are ultra-poor living on less than half a dollar a day. Women and youth are over proportionally represented in this group. Most of these extremely vulnerable people are living in sub-Saharan Africa and some estimate that their number may triple during the next generation.

Yet, these people also represent a resource: they can and do participate in economic activities and sometimes small investments can go a long way in either uplifting the lot of these very vulnerable people or assuring that those who recently managed to increase their incomes are not falling back into extreme poverty. The majority of these people 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.

Based on a look at what has worked followed by a discussion of how these successes can be tailored to country context, participants at the forum will be able to take back ideas, inspiration, concrete examples and contacts with peers, which will help them in their endeavours to address the needs of the poor in their own country.

In addition to supporting country efforts, findings of the upcoming forum will be presented to the CAADP Partnership Platform¹ (Abuja, Nigeria 16-17 November 2009) and the forum will provide a valuable platform to share and interact on the implementation aspects of the outcomes of the African Heads of State Summit (from 1-3 July 2009) on *Investing in Agriculture for Economic Growth and Food Security* one of which sub-themes was ‘the participation of the ultra-poor in economic activities’.²

¹ The Partnership Platform is about establishing CAADP as an *instrument* of country-driven agriculture development (the process of CAADP implementation); The Africa Forum is about sharing best practices as an *input* in country-driven agriculture development (the content of CAADP implementation).

² Other sub-themes of the AU Summit were: Climate change, regional agricultural trade & market opportunities.

2 Forum objectives

The purpose of the Africa Forum as a CAADP instrument to support country-based agriculture development is³:

Sharing and learning on progress with diverse agricultural sub-sectors to foster the upscaling 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 Institutions⁴ and other knowledge centres and the realities on the ground in African countries. Countries are represented to the Africa Forum by a team of people from different stakeholder categories (public and private sector, NGO, CBO, Farmer Organizations, academics, traditional leaders, development partners). These Country Teams will in most cases be led by the CAADP focal person in the country concerned.

For the upcoming, first CAADP-Africa Forum, specific objectives are:

1. Facilitate the exchange between countries of best practices in making the vulnerable take part 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 by enabling them to enter into economic activity;
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 (esp Pillar III) to learn from best practices to further sharpen their role in guiding the continent's agriculture agenda;

3 Forum output

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 13th AU Summit decisions.

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 organisers.

³ See also *The Africa Forum as a CAADP Outreach Platform - A Discussion Note* - D. Dietvorst, 17 March 2009

⁴ 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.

4 Forum participants

The majority of participants at the forum will come from one of following categories⁵:

1. AU and NEPAD Secretariat
2. CAADP Pillar Lead Institutions
3. Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and possibly Regional Farmer Organisations
4. Country Teams (public and private sector, NGO, CBO, Farmer Organizations, academics, traditional leaders, development partners)
5. And other participants

Country Teams will be established by the countries themselves and based on their assessment of (i) who best represents the interests of vulnerable people in the country and (ii) who the critical drivers in pro-poor agriculture. This year's forum theme (addressing the needs of the very poor) may mean that Country Teams look beyond the agriculture or productive sector boundaries to experts and activists in the social sector who have relevant experience with the target group (for example with social safety nets, cash transfers, community work). In as much as possible, Country Teams should include a balanced mix of public and private (or non-state) sector, people at national and at sub-national levels, men and women. Where development partners support agriculture in the country, these may also be represented. The CAADP Focal Person (in CAADP countries) should be a member of the team, and where possible its coordinator. Teams may be from 5 to 10 people strong.

5 Expected inputs from different actor groups

The upcoming Africa Forum will draw on experiences made under each pillar programme and will involve all CAADP Pillar Lead Institutions. However, given that the issue of vulnerability is close to the thrust of Pillar III Increasing Food Supply and Reducing Hunger, the Lead institution of this programme, the University of KwaZulu Natal, has taken the lead in providing the overall context for the 2009 CAADP Africa Forum.⁶ CAADP sub-programmes, headed by Pillar Lead Institutions, will report on issues such as ensuring access of the poor to land and water, fostering trade and marketing at lowest levels and how research and extension can be adapted to the needs of the very poor.

The regional response that is needed to cushion the effect of the global crisis on vulnerable people will be addressed both by Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as well as by Regional Farmer Organisations. RECs such as COMESA, ECOWAS and SADC will look at issues like agricultural export bans, biofuel subsidies and speculation in agricultural commodity markets. Regional Farmer Organisations will give examples of how even the poorest people can organise themselves and mobilise their resources to make use of what opportunities the market offers. Further they are important to Country Teams in their role as CAADP hubs.

⁵ Of course, interested individuals are not belonging to any of these groups are also welcome, place permitting.

⁶ Other pillars and their lead institutions are: Pillar I: Land and Water Management (CILSS, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso and University of Zambia, Lusaka, Zambia); Pillar II: Rural infrastructure and trade-related capacities for improved market access (Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of West and Central Africa); Pillar IV: Agricultural Research, technology dissemination & adoption (Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa, Accra, Ghana)

Country Teams identify and share best practices from their country: These may range from food or cash transfer programmes, social safety nets; food production schemes; early warning systems; urban and per-urban agriculture; a focus on women or low investment activities (like poultry) to improve food security; social safety nets combined with production and innovative measures in land tenure or crop insurance to protect also the smallest of assets. Best practices will be brought together from all over the continent and participants will work on how these may be taken up or scaled up in their own country.

In this way, the 2009 Africa Forum aims to strengthen linkages and learning across (between countries) and vertically (between CAADP HQ and Pillar Institutions and country level).

6 Duration and structure of the forum

The 2009 CAADP Africa Forum is a bi-lingual (English and French) 5 day event. One full day is set aside for field trips in the host country, which is Kenya this year.

During the first day, Country Teams will be given the opportunity to present themselves, the stage of the CAADP process in their country and recent progress in the agricultural agenda, where possible against targets set by the country team itself⁷.

The second day of the forum is devoted to presentations of agricultural success stories - which on day four are worked on by Country Teams. Output of the forum is then in the form of Country Action Plans that focus on agriculture development of the poor and linked to on-going or planned CAADP processes in the country. These action plans will be presented on day 5. To what extent these action plans have found their way into implementation will be then be reported on during the next 2010 CAADP Africa Forum.

Following up on the output of one forum at the start of the next stimulates action and makes the Africa Forum into a continuous process rather than a stand-alone event.

Broadly, the structure of the forum is as follows:

DAY 1	
Official Opening	By the host country Kenya
Introductions	Of countries and participants
Setting the Scene	Purpose and structure of the forum
Keynote address	An inspirational message to all
The bottom of the pyramid	Who are the ultra-poor? What are their characteristics, their needs and opportunities?
Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP)	Creating a common understanding of CAADP among participants

⁷ Prior to becoming a CAADP platform, the Africa Forum has been held as an annual event during which country teams drew up action plans. The last Africa Forum of this kind (2008) was co-organised by NEPAD-CAADP and country action plans developed at that forum were already very much aligned to the CAADP process in countries concerned. Those countries that participated in 2008 can report on progress made against their action plans.

Progress report from Country Teams	Outlining the stage of the CAADP process and (where relevant) against targets set in 2008 action plans
<i>Cocktail</i>	Social event: getting to know each other
DAY 2	
Success stories	Culled from CAADP/Pillar III experience and based on what country teams have identified as lessons they can share.
Country Team discussions	First batch of parallel sessions in country teams aiming for a first selection of 'best-fit' practices.
DAY 3	
Market Place (?)	Loose set-up with 'market-stall' displaying a wide range of success-stories using posters, leaflets and other information.
Field trips	A selection of 4 to 5 different fieldtrips will be offered for participants to choose from. Up to 30 people per field trip.
DAY 4	
Feedback from field trips	In 4 to 5 short plenary presentations, with photos!
The CAADP process	Overview of the CAADP process with particular reference to Pillar 3.
Success stories	Culled from CAADP/Pillar III experience and/or based on what country teams have identified as lessons they can share.
Country Team group work	Second batch of parallel sessions , this time the purpose is to build up on the earlier identification of 'best-fit' cases and look at how to uptake or upscale these at country level.
<i>Joint dinner</i>	Social event for participants to not only learn more about each other, but also about the host country, Kenya
DAY 5	
Report back Country Teams	Plenary presentations by country on findings and implications for enhanced programme implementation and national & regional strategies
Summary of findings	Plenary presentation 'bringing it all together'
Evaluation	by participants
Official closing	By host country Kenya

7 Forum output and deliverables

What the forum aims to achieve can be divided into three main parts as follows:

Part I - day 1 and 2	Output / deliverables
Setting the scene	Understanding and contextualising the aspect of the poorest and the meaning and implications against objectives of food security and socio-economic growth and wealth creation
CAADP	Identifying the implications for agriculture development in general and for the CAADP framework in particular
Success stories from the field and Country Team discussions	Sharing and learning from experiences of and with the poorest. Understanding some key parameters of their plight such as the magnitude, extent and depth of poverty, lessons from initiatives to address their needs, their efforts to live and characteristics of their livelihood and the cost of NOT addressing poverty
Part II - Day 3	Output / deliverables
Fieldtrips	Sharing and learning from success stories with agricultural development for the very poor
Part III - Day 4 and 5	Output / deliverables
Success stories from the field and Country Team group work	Identifying opportunities from country cases and field visits - clarifying the challenges of addressing the issue of the poorest in respective countries.
	Identifying what the CAADP country process offers in terms of thinking, strategies, tools, motivation, implementation systems etc, for us to respond to the needs of the poorest
	Linking findings of the current forum to what was shared and agreed as actions during the last Africa Forum in Ethiopia
	Clarify how findings and output of the current CAADP-Africa Forum can directly help or contribute to the implementation of the AU Summit decisions on Investing in Agriculture for Economic Growth and Food Security

8 Programme content

A broad outline of content under each of the programme components is as follows:

1. *Setting the Scene*

- Introduction of the CAADP
- Introduction of the CAADP-Africa Forum as a new CAADP instrument
- Purpose, content and format of the present 2009 forum
- Introduction of the forum theme: Who are the ultra-poor? Why focus on them? What will happen with the findings of the forum?
- Presentations by CAADP Country Teams on progress achieved since 2008 and on status of the CAADP process

2. *Success stories*

- Presentations by regional organisations such as RECs and regional Farmer Organisations to introduce regional challenges, opportunities and responses to the need of vulnerable people;
- Presentations by CAADP Pillar Institutions and on CAADP Pillar programmes, especially that of Pillar III);
- Country-based success stories (culled in the first instance from Country Teams themselves; and where necessary complemented by those from experiences made by the international development community, policy and research institutions;
- Success stories may include issues linked to:
 - ⇒ **Social protection and social safety nets** in particular those schemes that link social protection to production schemes - e.g. by linking resource-transfers to productive investments in rural infrastructure cash transfer programmes, cash for work, food for work, pension systems, employment systems, food production linked to school feeding programmes;
 - ⇒ **Increased access of the ultra poor to economic opportunity** e.g. land-tenure and land market policies that allow women to own land or land certificates; labour regulations which enable labour migration, particularly for the landless rural poor to areas of greater productivity and opportunity.
 - ⇒ **Protection of assets of the poor:** e.g. crop insurance, crop protection (e.g. of crops grown in public spaces), land and water user rights, land tenure reform
 - ⇒ **Capacity development programmes:** skills development, focus on women, focus on agriculture activities of the poor (poultry, urban and peri-urban agriculture), livelihood diversification, smallholder organisation, commodity organisations, consumer lobbies, agriculture-focused literacy & numeracy training, nutrition education and promotion of dietary diversification (incl. home and school gardens)
 - ⇒ **Coping mechanisms:** e.g. urban and peri-urban agriculture (protection of assets, hygiene awareness for crops grown on land used as public latrines)
 - ⇒ **Fast impact food production programmes:** input provision (seeds, fertilisers, - micro- credit), PPPs, rural finance, veterinary services, household level interventions

in resource poor pastoral/agro-pastoral contexts

- ⇒ **Increasing nutritional security** by improving the nutritional quality of whole foods through bio-fortification and/or by promoting chemical fortification during processing where appropriate in a value chain.
 - ⇒ **(Public) investments for agriculture growth:** rural infrastructure services, agriculture research and extension, management information systems (early warning systems for droughts, floods and natural disasters; household food security)
 - ⇒ **Strategies to identify and leverage other sector programming / resources to protect and strengthen the agricultural workforce:** e.g. HIV/AIDS prevention/treatment to rural town centres, malaria campaigns to coincide with agriculture calendar and seasonal exposure;
 - ⇒ **Marketing and trade:** Minimum price guarantees, food price relief measures, targeted subsidised for production, improved linkages between agric-based early warning systems, and risk management.
 - ⇒ **Governance:** poverty as a political issue, pro-poor budgeting,
 - ⇒ **International measures:** calming markets by curbing excessive speculation in agrarian markets, public grain reserves, carefully targeted food import financing, reliable food aid, eliminating agricultural export bans to reduce
- Success stories need to be structured: how this is best done is yet to be decided, for example by theme, by level of intervention (household, country, continent, international) or any other way.
 - Success stories (day 2 and day 4) may be presented in parallel sessions (divided by theme, by level of intervention or both).

3. Group work by Country Teams

Group work is in two parts - Both sessions are by country team. During the first session (day 2) an analysis is made of success stories presented and whether, why and how these are useful in the country context concerned. During the second session, country teams develop a Country Action Plan in which next steps are identified linked to the CAADP process in the country and the national agricultural development agenda.

4. Presentations by Country Teams

Two sessions are allocated to the presentations by country teams: First session reports the progress made against action plans of last year (day 1) and the second session is a presentation of the Country Action Plan outlining action planned for the coming year (day 5)

5. The 'Wrapping up' session

Is a plenary presentation of the findings of the CAADP-Africa Forum 2009, followed by an evaluation of the forum by participants and a look at the venue and theme for the CAADP-Africa Forum 2010.

9 Forum organisation⁸

Organisation of the CAADP Africa Forum is by four interdependent teams as follows:

- i. **Oversight team:** This is a team entrusted with overseeing progress towards the achievement of the wider vision of the Forum as a result of tasks accomplished by the other three teams. In this function, the oversight team also serves as a central point of contact for actions and decisions that lie beyond the routine mandates of the other teams. Finally, the oversight team follows up the timely dispatch of invitation letters by the NEPAD Secretariat to all potential participants including lead (key note) speakers and other resource persons.
- ii. **Content team:** The main task of this team is to sharpen the preliminary thematic focus areas of the Forum in ways befitting the value additions of the CAADP Africa Forum as discussed above. Providing operational definition of key concepts, identifying and elaborating on sub-themes, identifying lead speakers and other paper presenters, preparing background documents, and developing programme schedule constitute some of the main tasks that the team is expected to accomplish. As part of its tasks for the upcoming CAADP Africa Forum, the team is also expected to put in place a strict procedure, including a timeline, for accepting and organising paper presentations.
- iii. **Local organizing team:** This team will be established in the country where the Forum is held. Some of the main tasks of this team centre on organizing meeting venue, booking hotels and plane tickets, getting bi-lingual translation of documents (English-French) done well before the meeting date, availing professional interpretation services during the event, ensuring adequate coverage of the event in national media and related public relation outlets, organizing refreshments, lunch and social dinners.
- iv. **Moderation team:** Working in close consultation with the content and local organizing teams, the moderation team is expected to ensure that the meeting organization and the programme schedule deliver on the expected objectives of the Forum. To this end, the Team advises on appropriateness of the meeting venue (including on sitting arrangements), length of the working day, format of group discussions, and number and composition of working groups. As a 'Masters of Ceremony', the team members working in a seamless manner introduce speakers and the main tenets of their speeches/presentations, summarise the main issues, and endeavour to keep the participants interested in the subject matter of the discussions.

⁸ Section taken from *Minutes of the meeting on mainstreaming Africa Forum into CAADP learning platforms* - 19 February 2009, Yihenew Zewdie

Members of these teams for the upcoming 2009 CAADP Africa Forum are as follows:

Oversight Team		
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Organising Team		
<p>For Kenya: CAADP focal person, key non-state actors involved in the CAADP process, manager of the Kenyan GTZ support to agriculture and locally contracted conference organisers. The members themselves decide upon the exact composition of the Organising Team. The CAADP focal person and the manager of the GTZ support to agriculture (Reimund Hoffmann) will co-lead the team.</p>		