



Communiqué to the CAADP forum being held in Ouagadougou- 4th to 8th October 2010

We the Civil Society and Farmers Organizations meeting in Ouagadougou between 2nd and 3rd October 2010

Appreciative of the fact that Africa states, through the Heads of States summit in Maputo in 2003 Committed themselves to allocate 10% of their national annual budget to support Agriculture and ensure annual growth rates in the agricultural sector by 6%,

Aware that at a minimum, an additional US \$ 40 billion and more than US \$20 billion is required per year to achieve MDG 1 at global level and in Sub Saharan Africa respectively

Recognizing that African governments are making deliberate efforts to meet the Maputo declarations and implement the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) in their countries

Are concerned that;

1. It is evident that 10% budgetary allocation to agriculture by low income countries can only cover part of the investment needed yet, only a handful of countries are actually meeting the 10% commitment.
2. There is no collectively agreed definition of what Agriculture sector entails, and different countries are adopting such diverse definitions as to bias the compliance monitoring and comparative analysis; making a mockery of any peer review processes.
3. The people, who do the actual farming- women, are missing from the Agricultural discourse platforms at local, national and continental levels
4. With only five years to go to MDG target date, only one country, Ghana, is on track to realizing Goal one of Halving poverty and hunger and a majority of African countries are off track.

5. Hunger is a structural problem that needs structural solutions to address it, and the root causes are partly due to the slow pace of agrarian reforms, which are not receiving adequate attention from Governments.
6. Climate change is already affecting all four dimensions of food security: food availability, accessibility, utilization, and food system stability. This is likely to undo the development gains already made

Now therefore we wish to state that;

1. Governments must develop and finance robust and costed national “breakthrough” plans for ending poverty and halving hunger by 2015 through increased investment on women farmers and other small holder farmers.
2. National agricultural policies and development strategies must be sustainable and anchored on a rights based approach as provided in the FAO voluntary guidelines on Right to Food, and these must be monitored and reported through a transparent and participatory approach.
3. Governments must fast track development/ finalization of agriculture and livelihoods policies and legislations that are supportive of right to food, cognizant of the threats posed by climate change and that National Agricultural investment plans under CAADP should take due cognisance of these policies and legal frameworks.
4. Government must build systems and capacity to reduce the vulnerability of people to respond to impact of climate change by most importantly, allocating resources to support small holder women farmers and fisherfolk to adapt to climate change.
5. The governments must enable and finance the systematic involvement of women and smallholder farmers in agricultural policy making, programme design, implementation, review and evaluation
6. The strategies must also be subjected to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for their social, political, ecologic and economic impact to local livelihoods, social structures and ecological integrity.
7. The government must promote sustainable agricultural development models, such as agro-ecological approach, through supporting community seeds banks, use of indigenous knowledge, invest in small scale irrigation systems, provide affordable credit and (or) direct support to farmers and their organizations to develop and disseminate suitable technology (that reduces drudgery, especially for women).

8. The government must collect and avail to public, comprehensive sex-disaggregated data in the agriculture sector that is timely, accessible, available and comparable.
9. The governments should strengthen financial management in agriculture ministries, including by upgrading budgeting, procurement and management systems, and empowering national anti-corruption agencies, parliaments and audit offices to step up scrutiny and enforcement; and fully implement freedom of information laws.
10. There is need for caution by African governments, farmer's organizations and other CSOs to ensure that green revolution approaches do not unduly promote use of GMOs in the future and other technological solutions that may result in problems such as an increase in soil erosion, decline in biological diversity, loss of land and social marginalisation associated with this
11. Governments must address landlessness and implement redistributive land reforms in favour of women and other marginalized sectors (small holder farmers, fisher folks, pastoralists, agricultural workers, landless and off farm rural communities) as a part of agrarian reform.
12. The governments must promote cooperatives as a model of growth. Reverse the growing concentration of market power in the top and intermediate levels of the value chain, both through effective regulation of agribusiness and market intermediaries; as well as through support to cooperatives, small scale agro- processing by the smallholder farmers, fisher-folk, forest-dwellers etc; and other strategies to increase the market power and value addition of small producers.

With specific focus on Women farmers, we also restate that;

1. The growing burden of unpaid work must be addressed. Improved investments in infrastructure along with greater investments in adaptable labour-saving technologies are needed, especially as environmental degradation intensifies. Expanding early childhood education or paying welfare benefits directly to mothers would have dual benefits for both women and children.
2. Research and development must focus on developing improved varieties of the crops grown by women, including those hitherto largely ignored, and involve women in research design, for example through participatory plant breeding
3. Extension services must be targeted specifically at women (untargeted services will benefit men) and involve their participation; this should include training more female extension officers but also training male officers to meet the needs of women farmers and equip them with communication skills and transport to reach often remote women farmers.

4. Women need more secure tenure and increased access to land. Governments must redistribute land to women. In addition they must eliminate all policies and practices that discriminate against women in matters of land rights. Where land reforms have been passed, these need to be effectively implemented.
5. Ensure that policy, programmes and budgets take into account the feminisation of agriculture and give priority to the realization of women's farmer's rights.

To development partners

1. Developed country governments must increase their support to agriculture from the present 5.1% to at least 10% of their total aid to Africa. This is to match the 10 for 10 proposal, whereby African governments should achieve 10% agricultural spending at the same time as donors spend 10% of their aid on agriculture
2. In the spirit of global partnerships as per MDG goal 8 ensure funding goes to support sustainable local initiatives driven by local communities rather than substituting local production systems
3. Critically assess and transparently share the content of their Aids and how much they benefit and reinforce recipient country's priorities
4. Put in place clear mechanism for African countries to access funds targeted climate change mitigation and adaptation.

To the Farmers movements and network

1. There is need to include and enhance the membership of women farmers even where they are not the landowners.
2. Critically evaluate their position on issues based on diversity and typology of farmer interests they represent in policy dialogue circles.