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2010 CAADP AFRICA FORUM

MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Strategies of Smallholder farmers to achieve Food Security and
Income Growth in Africa

Opening Remarks by Mr. Martin Bwalya

Head of CAADP

NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA)

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

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Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries of Burkina Faso, Dr Laurent SEDOGO,

Honorable Mr Abderrahmane Kehcha, representative of the Commission of the African Union,

Representatives of the Regional Economic Communities,

President of ROPPA, the Regional Farmer Organizations of West Africa,

Vice-President of PROPAC, the Regional Farmer Organizations of Central Africa,

Representatives of UMAGRI, the Regional Farmer Organizations of North Africa,

Representatives of EAFF, the Regional Farmer Organizations of Eastern Africa,

Representatives of SACAU, the Regional Farmer Organizations of Southern Africa,

Representatives of Private Sector;

Our Development Partners;

Colleagues Representatives from of our CAADP African Institutions;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

In the context of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme CAADP, our countries pledged to work in support of CAADP as an African own and African led initiative 'a common framework and tool for the restoration of African agriculture, to boost agriculture productivity, reduce food insecurity and increase incomes in Africa'.

This is the first time in the history of the African agrarian debate that a collective framework has been adopted by African leaders, which tackles growth, poverty reduction, and food and nutrition security issues in such a comprehensive way. This is the first time in the history of agricultural development and cooperation, that African



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countries have put together a growth agenda, which is not only African owned and led, but also enjoys a broad consensus on objectives, targets, implementation processes, and partnership principles.

The CAADP agenda emphasizes the adoption of evidence and outcome based policy planning and implementation, including peer review, benchmarking, and participatory dialogue. It examines long term growth options, their implications for poverty reduction, and the required investments to realize the best options, not just by country governments but also through strategic public-private partnerships and business to business alliances that facilitate the development of smallholder friendly supply chains.

Ladies and gentlemen, CAADP, being a component of the broader NEPAD agenda, has been driven by the conviction that Africa's development problems and challenges cannot be overcome without the necessary ownership and leadership by African governments and stakeholders and the establishment of a clear framework that ensures consistency and coherence of efforts by all stakeholders, including our farmer organizations.

The last fifty years have shown that externally driven agendas, no matter how well intentioned, have failed to deliver on their objectives. On the other hand, they have distracted and frustrated home grown efforts, and thus retarded the emergence of the institutions, skills, and strategic focus so badly needed for long term growth.

CAADP represents a paradigm shift in Africa's development theory and practices. It represents a new freshness in the African agricultural development thinking. It is an African hope - a hope for the cure of African hunger and poverty. A hope that is embedded in the ownership of both the conceptualisation and implementation of the national agriculture programmes - where partners rally around a common framework

Ladies and Gentlemen;



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CAADP provides a broader continental framework to guide member states on how to deal with the challenges that face Africa's agriculture development through increasing investment in specific strategic areas namely:

- Encouraging sustainable land management and improved water control systems,
- Improvement of rural infrastructure and market access to reduce transaction costs and increase competitiveness;
- Increasing national and regional food production to attain food and nutrition security;
- Improve research systems and ensure the creation, dissemination and adoption of new agricultural technologies.

In our joint efforts to move forward this common agenda, Farmer Organisations, both national and regional remain key stakeholders in implementing this agenda as you continue to be the key drivers and beneficiaries of successful agriculture growth.

Participant, our producers continue to face diverse problems including changes in the global weather conditions and climate, hindering development efforts to increase productivity. They also continue to face challenges of accessing both regional and global markets as we continue to sell our products in their raw states.

The CAADP agenda provide the platform to address some of these challenges through peer leaning, and experience sharing among the various stakeholders.

As our farmers continues to feel the impact of climate change in many ways including increasingly unreliable rainfall, rising temperatures, receding water resources and recurrent floods just to mention a few.

The CAADP Africa Forum which brings us together here in Burkina Faso today does not only give our farmers a voice at the policy and programme level, but also provide a platform for them to identify the critical issues affecting the farm business and build consensus on how to address these challenges. It is in this regard that considerations have been given to Regional Farmer Organizations in Africa hence forth



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to take the lead in deciding on the content and contributions to the organization of the CAADP Africa Forum.

This ensures that the forum discussions address key issues of current concern to farmers, provide the platform to share best experience and best practices among our 5 main regional Farmer Organisations from the North (UMAGRI), West (ROPPA), Central (PROPAC), East (EAFF) and Southern African regions (SACAU). This helps to ensure that the forum contributions truly and directly address the farming realities on the ground.

It in this regard that this year forum is focusing on meeting the challenges of climate change which is not only threatening the success of our farmers in engaging in their farm businesses but also threatening existence of humanity if not handled in a very comprehensive manner now. In the next few days we will continue to debate on defining in concrete terms strategies that our smallholder farmers as key stakeholders could adopt in mitigating the effect of this global calamity in order to achieve food security and income growth in our continent.

Hence the objectives of this CAADP African Forum that is being hosted in the next five days are:

- to exchange information on best practices by farmers adapting to climate change and mitigating its impacts
- to disseminate information on how farmer organizations can access and use international climate change and financing mechanisms (such as the Clean Development Mechanism)
- to build an inventory on mitigation and adaptation technologies used by smallholder farmers such as technologies for land and water management and technologies for energy generation



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- to help farmer organisations use the CAADP framework to advance national and regional policy agendas to support smallholder farmers meet the challenges of climate change.

Honorable Minister, at the core of this new agricultural development thinking under CAADP is a commitment to deepening the engagement of the non-state players in the planning and implementation of agricultural development programmes. Farmers' Organizations, and agricultural or rural based Civil Society Organizations and agricultural private players are seen as central and instrumental to driving the CAADP led growth agenda. We are therefore delighted to see non state players taking part at this function.

We at the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities and our National Governments will continue to make the necessary commitments both political and technical in creating an enabling environment to allow the private sector including our Farmer organizations to actively continue to participate in enhancing agriculture growth and food security for this continent.

Allow me to commend the Government of Burkina Faso for your unquestionable commitment to CAADP and for making it possible for us to arrive at this juncture as our host for the 2010 CAADP African Forum. Your commitment to the CAADP process at the continental level is appreciated.

We as the NEPAD Agency working closely with the AUC, have committed ourselves to CAADP. And our energies will continue to be committed to supporting our Farmer Organizations in the CAADP implementation in achieving the goals that we have set for ourselves.



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I would like also to take this opportunity to thanks our development partners, which have been working closely with us for many years and without whom this 2010 CAADP Africa Forum, would have been difficult to organize, I mean the GTZ through his country Director, InWent and the World Bank.

We continue to remain committed to delivering on this promise.

I thank you for your attention.