

Yokohama Action Plan 2013-2017

III. Empowering Farmers as Mainstream Economic Actors

1. Overview of Pillar III.

Agriculture supports the largest amount of private economic activity in Africa, and it is by far the largest generator of employment and source of livelihoods. Recognizing this, empowering farmers as mainstream economic actors is a key objective of the TICAD process. Outcome targets under this pillar of the Yokohama Action Plan are a) attain 6% growth rate in agriculture as set out by the CAADP (Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme); and b) double 2008 rice production levels by 2018 under CARD (Coalition for African Rice Development). At present, the continent's annual agricultural growth rate remains at just under 4 percent. 40 African countries are partners in CAADP, 37 have developed Compacts, and 30 have developed national agricultural investment plans. In addition, regional economic communities are developing regional investment plans. CARD is providing support to 23 countries for increased rice production and adoption of new technologies. There is considerable demand for increased agricultural output. Growth in demand for food in Africa is among the highest in the world, and is expected to double by 2020, primarily in cities. The continental market for rice alone is estimated to reach US\$8 billion by 2025. Yet, yields in Africa of the key staples are typically between one half and one third of those that could be achieved, and lag behind global competitors. Increasing agricultural output and empowering farmers also requires improved rural infrastructure, especially feeder roads linking farmers to markets.

2. State of Implementation by Africa and partners

(1) Africa's efforts

- (a) African countries and institutions are implementing regional and continental initiatives, primarily CAADP, to increase agricultural production and productivity and improve food security.
- (b) Under CAADP programs and initiatives, countries are increasing investments in agriculture with the aim of achieving the target of 10 percent of national budgets and 6 percent agricultural growth. They are implementing national action plans and exploiting regional complementarities and cooperation to boost growth, supported by the AUC, NPCA, and RECs.
- (c) CAADP is also promoting and supporting the development and transfer of agricultural technology to improve agricultural production and productivity, including of smallholder and women farmers, and enhance rural livelihoods.

(2) Activities/Initiatives by partners

- (a) Partners are supporting a range of initiatives to increase agricultural production and productivity in line with CAADP, including though provision of training and inputs; disease control interventions; land and water use and management; research and innovation; and access to credit. They are also actively supporting increased rice production through CARD by assisting governments to develop national strategies, financing rice-related research and dissemination, irrigation, and use of new technologies; promoting a value chain approach; and increasing access to credit and financing options.

- (b) Promotion of market-based and smallholder commercial farming is supported by training and capacity development for small scale farmers, particularly women; facilitation of export strategies targeted at small-scale producers; assistance to farmers' groups to expand income generating potential; and assistance to governments to encourage private investment in agriculture.
- (c) These efforts are complemented by initiatives to promote responsible private investment that also benefits smallholders, and support for agro-processing and access to markets. These include support for PRAI (Principles for Responsible Agriculture Investment); increased investments along the agriculture value chain and in agri-business, especially for women; support for development of agriculture policies and plans; and support for enhanced regional trade in food staples.
- (d) Partners are also focusing on food and nutrition security and strengthening resilience of households and communities to cope with national disasters and climate change. Efforts in this regard encompass support for climate-smart agriculture and adoption of new technologies and techniques; assistance for pastoralism and drylands agriculture; increased investments in nutrition and inclusion of nutrition components in agriculture programs; support to enhance disaster mitigation, management and response capacity; and increased assistance to land and water management. Partners also support social protection and livelihoods programs, including safety-nets and emergency food assistance, in order to promote food and nutrition security.
- (e) Recognizing the impact on farmers and consumers of natural disasters, market failures and price volatility, partners are supporting expanded access to insurance and risk mitigating measures for farmers; climate adaptation mechanisms and weather index insurance; and policy reforms to mitigate risk.
- (f) Support for women farmers and producers is a priority for several partners. Assistance includes mainstreaming gender into agricultural projects; targeting women farmers for training and access to inputs and credit; and strengthening the position of women in agri-business. These actions address specific constraints faced by women in agriculture and agribusiness.
- (g) Fisheries and fish farming are recognized as significant source of employment, as well as food security. Partners are supporting the development of sustainable aquaculture and management of resources, as well as the protection of ecosystems.

3. Key Findings, Gaps and Follow-up Actions

- (1) Africa's efforts to empower farmers and increase agricultural production and productivity are supported by partners.
- (2) All of the areas of focus to empower farmers as mainstream economic actors are supported by partners. Additional attention is needed to rural infrastructure.
- (3) South-South and triangular cooperation could be used to complement other initiatives.
- (4) The TICAD follow-up mechanism will be utilized in most instances to report on implementation.