

**The First TICAD V Ministerial Meeting**  
**05 May 2014**  
**Plenary 2 “Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security”**  
**Chair’s Summary**

Plenary 2 was co-chaired by the World Bank and the African Union Commission on the theme of “Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security”. It was opened by brief introductory statements by co-chairs and panelists, and then opened for discussion by participants.

The introductory statements by Gregor Binkert of the World Bank, and Anthony Mothae Maruping, AUC Commissioner for Economic Affairs, highlighted Africa’s efforts to boost agriculture and agribusiness and the challenges of ensuring food security and ending malnutrition on the continent. Emphasis was placed on the importance of public and private investments to increase the number and productivity of farmers, especially women and youth. To this end, political commitment, and appropriate legal, policy, regulatory and coordination mechanisms are needed to transform agriculture into a profitable business. This is the general theme underlying Africa’s celebration of the Year of agriculture in 2014.

Vice Minister Eto, Senior Vice-Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan, underscored Japan’s support for agriculture development, particularly with regard to increasing rice production, a business approach to smallholder farming, and development of livestock and fisheries. He also emphasized the importance of a value chain approach and responsible agriculture investment. Minister Lazard Essimi Menye, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Cameroon, stressed the need for expansion of practical research and adoption of new technologies, especially for climate-smart agriculture.

Key points raised during the discussion included the following:

Improved agricultural production and productivity and expanded agribusiness are essential for sustained economic growth and food security on the continent.

Africa must imperatively adopt innovative technological expertise to add value to agricultural production, following the example of other countries. Investment in technological knowledge and vocational training thus remains a fundamental requirement, and should be a major objective of cooperation under TICAD.

The TICAD process should support Africa's efforts, especially through CAADP, which provides an effective framework for agricultural development on the continent. Collaboration should also encourage exchange of good practices and experience sharing, through South-South and triangular cooperation.

To help achieve the targeted 6% annual growth in the agricultural sector, the TICAD process should promote agro-industrial development, and expansion of agribusiness, while at the same time empowering farmers to improve rural livelihoods and overcome poverty and malnutrition.

Significant progress has been made as a result of good policies, which should be continued and expanded. Attention should be given to reducing barriers to agricultural trade, which would assist both commercial and smallholder farmers.

To accelerate growth of the agricultural sector African countries and development partners should increase productive investments in agriculture, encourage private sector participation, and focus on capacity development.

Women play an important role in agriculture, and the specific constraints faced by women farmers and traders should be recognized and addressed.

Expansion of innovative financing mechanisms and risk insurance would help reduce the constraints faced by agricultural producers, including access to inputs.

The session renewed the commitment of African countries, Japan, and other and development partners, to continue to improve agriculture productivity, strengthen agribusiness and enhance food security on the continent. Japan's assistance to agricultural development was recognized and appreciated.

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