

Policy Advisory Note on the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, CAADP: Country Implementation Process in Zambia

Background

The Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) is a high level agreement signed by African Union Heads of State. The CAADP forms the main vehicle under the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) to achieve the MDG goal number one: "Reduction of poverty levels in Africa by 50% by 2015" through the promotion of economic growth in the agricultural sector. To attain the necessary growth target of 6% per annum the Heads of State committed a minimum investment of 10% of their annual budgets to agricultural development.

In recognition of the high level international political dimension, NEPAD programmes in Zambia including CAADP are spearheaded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Thus, the political commitment by the Government and the involvement of its diplomatic service will remain vital to move CAADP forward and coordinate its country level implementation with similar efforts in the Southern and East African region through COMESA. The CAADP is designed as a continent wide framework striving to achieve jointly defined indicators and targets by guiding the implementation of national development programmes, peer learning mechanisms and facilitating alignment of development efforts. CAADP is built on four main pillars: improvement of soil and water management, development of rural infrastructure and market access, achieving food security and promotions of agricultural research with institutional capacity building, livestock, fisheries and forestry development as cross-cutting issues.

Analysis and Challenges

CAADP implementation at country level requires political commitment, regional coordination and effective implementation of development programmes. The Ministry of Finance and National Planning needs to be involved in the implementation since the resources for programme implementation have to come primarily through the National Budget execution for the Fifth National Development Plan implementation. Additionally, this Ministry is coordinating the monitoring of development indicators relevant to CAADP targets. CAADP is an agricultural development framework that will be realised through the implementation of national programmes. The Zambian agricultural development

agenda was set in 2005 through the design of the agricultural component of the Fifth National Development Plan (FNPD). Under the FNPD a number of plans are to be implemented that are tying in with the CAADP pillars. The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives as the main implementing body for the FNPD is therefore best suited to complement this process with the CAADP interventions. To foster sector-wide ownership and in accordance with the CAADP principles of partnership and participation stakeholder consultation and consensus building are a prerequisite for successful implementation. Such structures are readily available in form of the Agricultural Sector Advisory Group (AgSAG) and the Agricultural Consultative Forum (ACF).

The immediate challenge lying ahead of Zambia is to institute an efficient and effective CAADP coordination and implementation structure, which will be taken as an indicator for the commitment to this process. Once this arrangement is established round table discussions are to be commenced whose output will be a country compact that serves as an implementation guideline and to solicit additional resources towards CAADP interventions. To effectively implement the NEPAD/CAADP programme in Zambia we propose to undertake the following:

Recommendations

1. The establishment of an inter-ministerial coordination group for CAADP implementation, which should be composed of desk offices from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Finance & National Planning, Agriculture & Cooperatives, Commerce, Trade & Industry and COMESA. The main task of this group should be to facilitate the vertical information flow on CAADP from the Zambian national implementation level to the COMESA regional coordination level and ensure appropriate resource allocation through MoFNP.
2. The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives to assume the leading role in country level implementation of CAADP through the establishment of a CAADP desk (national coordinator) within the Policy and Planning Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. This desk should be a senior level, not below the post of director, considering the fact that the CAADP commitments were made by the Heads of State and Government and on-going country programmes will need constant briefing to the Head of State.
3. This CAADP desk to establish close working relationships with consultative stakeholder institutions, namely the AgSAG and the ACF. The main task of these bodies is to involve all stakeholders and guide the implementation process.