

GREAT

GOVERNANCE REGIONAL INTEGRATION ECONOMICS AGRICULTURE TRADE

insights

Food and nutrition security Inclusive partnerships

Charting the way
for a new decade
of CAADP

Ibrahim Mayaki,
CEO, NEPAD

From investment
principles to
action

Gerda Verburg,
Chair of the
Committee on
World Food Security

European farmers
and African food
security

Phil Hogan, EU
Commissioner for
Agriculture and Rural
Development

COMESA fully
behind CAADP
Vision 2025

Sindiso Ngwenya,
Secretary-General,
COMESA

About GREAT *insights*
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Editorial

The role of agriculture is key for sustainable development, well-being and structural transformation. But it cannot be addressed in isolation: a more holistic approach is needed. Improving food and nutrition security worldwide, and in particular transforming agriculture in Africa, requires not only more effective and consistent policies and investments, but also the scaling up of inclusive multi-stakeholder partnerships, within as well as across sectors and thematic areas.

This is one of the key messages that emerged over 2014 which was the International Year of Family Farming, the African Union Year of Food Security and also saw the second only International Conference on Nutrition organised by the FAO and WHO, as well as the launch of the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture at the UN Climate Summit.

In Africa, the continent worst affected by food and nutrition insecurity, the Malabo Declaration, adopted in June 2014 by the African Heads of State and Government, similarly charts the way forward for a new decade of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), the major policy process in Africa for food security and sustainable agriculture. The Declaration goes beyond agricultural production and productivity, and seeks to promote a more inclusive and holistic approach. It introduces a new set of concrete goals to be reached by 2025, including on regional agricultural trade and the involvement of non-state actors, given that national markets and governments are insufficient to bring about all the needed transformations for African agriculture.

The international community, including ECDPM, focuses on these dynamics which are unfolding within a continuously evolving global context. Growing attention in particular is being devoted to the linkages between agriculture and nutrition, climate change, structural transformation and regional integration, as well as the role of smallholder farmers and other stakeholders in achieving food and nutrition security. Producing more is important, but not enough: food systems should become healthier, in the northern and southern hemispheres alike. They should become more sustainable, resilient and be better connected and integrated, including at the regional level (so important in Africa) and across sectors and thematic areas. Climate-smart agriculture is also emerging as a possible game-changer, potentially contributing to both global food security and the fight against climate change. Another driver of global debates is the role of small-scale farmers as they produce over 70% of the world's food needs, but their importance is not fully recognised by all.

In this context, public-private partnerships (PPPs) - a very fashionable buzzword - can play a critical role. But turning PPPs into an effective operational approach to food and nutrition security is another story. There is still a lot of mistrust between public and private actors and PPPs successfully involving both local and foreign, as well as small and large private operators, are not easily developed and implemented. In Africa, tensions are increasing between African smallholders - who believe producing organic food via multi-cropping is the solution for better food and nutrition security - and foreign companies - who tend to believe only large-scale mono-cropping can produce enough food, with fortification providing the supplements for improving nutrition. Also questionable is whether most PPPs are commercially sustainable, with most examples of PPPs being pilots, strongly motivated by corporate social responsibility, and whether these models can be upscaled to serve base-of-the-pyramid consumers in a profitable and sustainable way. Finally, there are growing concerns about the risk that donors' initiatives to involve investors from their own countries in African agriculture PPPs are used as self-interested economic diplomacy at the expense of sustainable development objectives.

This special issue of GREAT *insights* covers partnerships for food and nutrition security through those three lenses (and three parts): latest developments in Africa and within CAADP, the evolving global context, and the role of the private sector in ensuring such partnerships are really inclusive.



Dr San Bilal (Editor), Head of Economic Transformation and Trade Programme, ECDPM



Francesco Rampa (Guest editor), Head of Food Security Programme, ECDPM



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Charting the way for a new decade of CAADP

ECDPM's Francesco Rampa interviews

Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO of NEPAD

The Malabo Declaration by the African Union Heads of State goes beyond simply calling for increased investment in agricultural production and seeks to promote a more inclusive and holistic approach to transforming African agriculture. Efforts to implement the Malabo Declaration therefore need to address the broader economic policy environment for African agriculture.

Francesco Rampa: What do you think are the major innovations, from the continental perspective, of the Malabo Declaration, and what is the NEPAD Agency's vision for making it a reality?

Ibrahim Mayaki: First of all, it should be recalled to which level of ambition and challenges the Declaration of Malabo is driving us. It is a request for agricultural transformation that our leaders have directed to us with specific objectives in terms of results and impact, whereas the Maputo Declaration in 2003 was more insistent on means (10% of public expenditures to agriculture). It also goes beyond the problem of agricultural production since aspects of trade and revenue are therein clearly expressed. The strategy that has been developed can no longer simply be aimed at committing more investment, which was in fact the substance of the efforts made during the first ten years of CAADP and that was realised relatively successfully. Actually the energy so far has focused on the remobilisation of African states towards inclusive and better planning in agriculture resulting in the design of more than 40 investment plans, some of which were carried out at 100% with significant results. And we have learned a lot from this process. It is now clear that where the results are most evident is when financial reinvestment is accompanied by a clear vision of the state's role in the revitalisation of the private sector by creating an economic environment that stimulates initiatives, particularly by conducting transparent and foreseeable policies, and at the same time by regulating the market in order to deal with market failures, in particular in the area of risks management which is so important and harmful at all levels of the agricultural value chain. The consequence is that our strategy and roadmap for implementing the Malabo Declaration should primarily address the issue of economic policy for the agricultural sector.

The Malabo implementation strategy and roadmap has defined four thematic areas of priority action. The NEPAD Agency, through its experience and reflection on development issues, has progressively elaborated its own philosophy on key drivers of success with an economic approach. We already had the opportunity

to develop this in our publication, *African agriculture: transformation and outlook*. Each of these four areas aims at transforming agriculture, in the context of sustained inclusive growth, hence we consider Africa should focus on the following: (i) enhancing support to smallholders towards sustainable intensification in order to facilitate their transition into modern family farms. Actually we consider family farming as the cluster of players with the highest potential for increasing productivity from its present level and for creating activity with an efficient use of limited natural resources; (ii) strengthening the position of farmers, women and youth in the value-chains and promoting preferences for regional markets. To take advantage of the growing domestic market and reduce food dependency, a regional preference strategy is essential. It should consist of promoting customs unions at Regional Economic Community level and a functional free trade area as well as a kind of infant industry strategy for gradual integration into global markets; (iii) increasing the resilience of livelihoods and systems not only through coping and adaptation mechanisms at production level but also by promoting risk and shock reduction measures particularly aiming to improve the functioning of markets. The transformation of agriculture and the building of resilience must integrate a comprehensive approach, including regulation of relationships between stakeholders and marketing institutional arrangements that promote balanced contractual relationships within the value chains; (iv) improving the management of natural resources through increased participation of the local communities for securing equitable access to opportunities and for enhancing fair distribution of the wealth that will be created.

Our vision is not far from that of promoting a policy of food sovereignty which would articulate the benefits of a higher level of regional integration and rational use of opportunities offered by global markets.

A direct consequence of the change in the approach towards the implementation of economic policy is that we will use all the prerogatives given to us as a development agency. We cannot limit ourselves solely to supporting processes at country or regional level as we used to do mainly during the last ten years of CAADP. We must be

able to provide technical expertise to the discussions that any economic policy proposal provokes. I just offered the NEPAD vision. It will not impose on countries, but without doubt it needs to be debated. And for us, one of the key players of the political dialogue and who must become the catalyst of debates and decisions on matters of economic policy are farmers themselves. They will be the main actors in economic transformation and we know they are ready to address the issues just presented. So you see that from theoretical questions on economic policies we must take into account the sector's political economy. Since this GREAT's theme is on inclusive partnerships, you understand that from our point of view, partnership is mainly fostering the voice of stakeholders who will be actors of the transformation and need to reinforce their voice in the change of game rules.

In that regard, the systemic capacity strengthening objectives of the Malabo implementation strategy and roadmap gives a framework for dealing with relations of key stakeholders to economic policies. The NEPAD Agency will accord greater importance to the political economy of CAADP implementation. Accordingly, particular attention will be paid to farmers' capacities in light of the emergence of strong private players in the agricultural sector. Efforts will also be made to strengthen the capacity of African parties to interact proactively among different sectors within Africa and with the global players.

FR: What are the linkages between the Malabo roadmap and the CAADP Results Framework 2015-2025?

IM: We must recognise that, at first sight, the Malabo Declaration and the CAADP Results Framework can appear as concurrent documents. This could be seen as quite normal because both reflect a revival of the CAADP agenda driven by the same actors but on different terms. To be more precise, I would say that the Malabo Declaration is the political translation of the reflection process conducted over two years by the CAADP stakeholders in the exercise called "sustaining the CAADP momentum", of which the technical product was the CAADP Results Framework. The Malabo Declaration is fed from the Results Framework development work that was a collaborative effort involving technical partners and, to a large extent, the stakeholders of the agricultural sector. Conversely, the Results Framework has been amended to reflect the way the ministers and heads of state stressed issues such as trade and nutrition, to give only two examples.

In fact, the Results Framework was built by establishing three levels of indicators, the third being specifically dedicated to technical institutions in charge of supporting CAADP actions. Somehow the statement of the Malabo Declaration speaks also to this level when reaffirming the values and principles of CAADP and first and foremost participatory working methods. The second level sets specific targets for actions that embrace sectors contributing to the transformation of agriculture. This is the heart of the expectations raised by the Declaration. But the Declaration is also situated at the highest level of ambition by placing agricultural development in the broader context of the structural transformation of our societies. This is expressed in the goal of eradicating poverty and hunger.

The Malabo Declaration thus gives additional weight to the Results Framework that is becoming our

benchmark document for the next decade. It must also become the reference document for all, to which partners in particular will align in the same spirit as they did towards the CAADP Compact at the first stage of the CAADP with the testimony of a common commitment towards African goals in the agricultural sector. We also hope that partners will own the Results Framework by aligning their monitoring and evaluation systems to this document for the actions they undertake in support of CAADP, and also use it until 2025 as the yardstick to take stock of this support.

FR: What are the key challenges and opportunities that implementation of the Malabo roadmap is likely to encounter during 2015?

IM: First we need to understand that it is not because almost all countries have established their investment plans that the CAADP task is completed. CAADP is a way of working and promoting dialogue within countries. External partners have helped us to achieve this and their support is still important. But we must also admit that when engaging on economic policy issues, there is no doubt that Africans need to assert improved leadership. We have always said that we have common goals with partners in terms of transformation of agriculture, but different responsibilities: arbitration on economic policy issues will be African while decisions will be fed by knowledge and science produced by all. As such, the work done by ECDPM that adds to the common good is most welcome and appreciated.

Our second challenge is to mobilise stakeholders internally. I have already mentioned the complexity of reconciling the sometimes conflicting interests of the various components of the private sector. But we also have to learn to work better between sectors. Agricultural development is not solely the responsibility of ministries of agriculture. The challenges of increasing productivity must be addressed in a more systemic and multi-sectoral way, by handling together the issues of education, finance, environment, trade or industrialisation among others. On some of these policies, the regional level is essential. That is why as from now we are strengthening our cooperation with RECs.

The third challenge is likely to be that of assisting individual countries to develop their national CAADP Results Framework in the very spirit of Malabo where a particular commitment has elevated mutual accountability at a level where it has not been before. Succeeding in operationalising this commitment would demand more stakeholder engagement at national level and as a consequence, more facilitation and advocacy on our part. We stand ready to do this as in the past. ■

Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Planning and Coordinating Agency, head-quartered in Midrand, South Africa. Between 1996 and 1997 he was successively appointed as the Republic of Niger's Minister in charge of African Integration and Cooperation and Minister of Foreign Affairs. In November 1997, he was appointed Prime Minister of the Republic of Niger, a function he held until January 2000.

This interview was conducted by Francesco Rampa, Head of Food Security Programme, ECDPM.



COMESA fully behind CAADP Vision 2025

ECDPM interviews Sindiso Ngwenya,
Secretary-General of COMESA

The Malabo Declaration implementation strategy and roadmap is a key guiding document for realising the 2025 Vision on CAADP. The participation of all key stakeholders, not least of all Africa's regional economic communities, will be crucial to ensuring its successful implementation.

Francesco Rampa: How does COMESA intend to implement the Malabo Declaration implementation strategy and roadmap at the regional level? In particular, what concrete initiatives will COMESA undertake to promote the Malabo Declaration targets of tripling intra-African agricultural trade by 2025 and establishing and/or strengthening inclusive public-private partnerships for at least five priority agricultural commodity value chains with strong linkages to smallholder agriculture?

Sindiso Ngwenya: As you are aware, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) places immense importance on agriculture as a lead sector in our region's integration agenda. COMESA's overall mandate is to attain regional integration through trade and investment. Evidently, the mainstay of our economy as a region is agriculture. Therefore, trade and investment in agricultural products and services within and beyond the region is important for us. Increased production and productivity in the sector are also key. We see the private sector playing a critical role in advancing the growth of the agriculture sector and the economy in general.

You recall that the 2014 African Union (AU) Assembly of Heads of State and Government in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea (following the AU declaration of 2014 as African Year of Agriculture and Food Security) enabled an evaluation of the achievements of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) for the past ten years. The Malabo Declaration (2014) represented a renewed commitment by our African leaders to the values and principles of CAADP, with emphasis on results and impact and reference to the CAADP Results Framework and CAADP Mutual Accountability Framework.

We in COMESA are keen to contribute towards realising the ideals of the Malabo Declaration. It is for this reason that COMESA has since been a key participant in the design of the implementation strategy and roadmap highlighting specific strategic action areas (SAAs). This strategy was launched in January 2015 by the African institutions together with other stakeholders, on the margins of the 24th AU Summit of Heads of State and Governments in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. I personally

attended the official launch event. I firmly believe that, in seeking to achieve the 2025 Vision on CAADP, the Malabo Declaration will require the participation of key stakeholders such as regional economic communities (RECs), private sector and non-state actors and our development partners, both technical and financial. COMESA will further facilitate the review of existing and new generational National Agriculture Investment Plans (NAIPs) to ensure that they align to Malabo.

While the AU provides the framework for implementing decisions, we, as RECs, coordinate and facilitate implementation in our member states and the region. As COMESA we were glad to have also been part of the recent development of the Programme of Works that seeks to unlock, in more specific terms, the Malabo implementation strategy and roadmap. This was finalised in Parys, South Africa at the end of February 2015.

Indeed, one of the targets as contained in the Malabo Declaration is a focus on tripling intra-African agriculture trade by 2025. To achieve this, COMESA will focus in the next ten years on strengthening its trade facilitation role and look at concretely advancing realisation of the Grand Free Trade Area (FTA) under the Tripartite Framework involving EAC, SADC and COMESA. As you know it is the mandate of our region to enhance integration through better inter- and intra-regional trade and investment. Some of this facilitation includes: harmonisation of trade policies and their implementation; harmonisation of Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary (SPS) regulations; establishment of 'one-stop' border posts; implementation of the Green Pass; energy and infrastructure development; and support to SMEs through the COMESA Simplified Trade Regime (STR). These are but a few of our many initiatives.

Furthermore, COMESA seeks to promote trade corridors while looking to sustain investments through public private partnerships (PPPs). I am particularly keen to see smallholder farmers receiving support towards graduating into agro-processing and value addition, as opposed to being simply producers of raw agricultural commodities. On-farm processing can be facilitated by the public sector through provision of infrastructure such as electricity or alternate energy and good road networks

linking rural farmers to markets. To promote agriculture trade, COMESA will continue to address the impact of climate change as well as non-tariff barriers to agriculture trade such as SPS issues, and to link smallholder farmers to regional markets. Through our specialised agency, ACTESA (the Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa), we will support smallholder farmers to increase their production and productivity and the use of fertilizers; and enhance their access to markets.

Under the Regional CAADP Compact, COMESA will elaborate programmes aimed at advancing trans-boundary commodity value chain platforms. Currently, we are elaborating a dairy value chain platform involving Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya. We shall select another three to four other commodities in the region, going forward.

FR: What opportunities does regional action provide for adding value to action already being undertaken by COMESA member states at the national level in line with CAADP? What specific benefits can such regional action provide to COMESA member states?

SN: The COMESA Regional CAADP Compact was signed on November 14, 2014 in Kinshasa, DRC, with the explicit aim of tackling actions and initiatives that are most effectively dealt with at the regional level in order to strengthen national level efforts. COMESA, in partnership with other institutions including the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM), has launched a process of elaborating projects within the context of the Regional Compact. This will be our focus going forward – to ensure that we strengthen our national CAADP processes for better results and impact.

Among the various opportunities that regional action provides is the availability of a much larger market for all agricultural-related goods and services. The COMESA market has a population of approximately 500 million, and is currently growing at 3% per annum. The combined GDP of our member states is US\$500 billion. Now, at member states' current stage of development and with their limited domestic market size, cultivation of regional export markets is a critical pathway to industrialisation and development for several of our countries in the region. For example, the demand for food in Africa's urban and regional markets is estimated to grow from around US\$50 billion in 2010 to US\$150 billion within 25 years. The cost-effectiveness of regional food supply chains will be based on the efficiency of being able to move commodities from surplus production areas, both across borders and within countries, to consuming areas.

To enhance trade in staples, COMESA is promoting a regional approach to food security by encouraging infrastructure development and harmonised policies that enable the free flow of food staples from surplus to deficit areas.

Furthermore, regional action provides a huge incentive and opportunity for increased attraction of foreign and local investment. Lack of affordable, long term financing has been a chronic impediment to the sustainable growth and development of the agriculture sector in COMESA. In this regard, the decision to establish a competitive COMESA Common Investment Area (CCIA) was proposed in 1998. The ultimate objective of the CCIA is to promote sustainable economic growth in the region through intra-COMESA trade and investment flows as well as by attracting local and foreign direct investment through the region's attractiveness to investment.

The development of the CAADP-inspired Agriculture Investment Plans at regional and national levels is also designed to increase the flow and coherence of agricultural investment.

FR: Considering the slow implementation at national level of some of the regionally agreed policies and protocols for regional cooperation and integration ('slow domestication'), can regional approaches to food security get better traction in COMESA member states and how?

SN: While it is true that there has been slow domestication of some of the regionally agreed policies and protocols, there have been some positive results in countries that have hastened the domestication process. Due to the importance of food and nutrition security, regional approaches to improve the situation have long been appreciated. Currently, the CAADP framework, which is a continental approach, has been embraced by a large number of African countries. In the COMESA region, 14 of the 19 member countries have already actively embraced this framework. The experience of country-level implementation is already giving excellent feedback to the implementation of the regional process. We need to build upon the current successes and the momentum to ensure greater returns.

The 'how', is an important issue. COMESA will continue to use a partnership approach involving national, regional and international stakeholders to ensure coherence in design of programmes and in implementation. Internationalisation, as it were, of the NAIPs through broadening of issues to the regional arena, will continue.

FR: What steps is COMESA taking to avoid incoherence and foster synergies between regional CAADP-related initiatives and national level actions? Given some COMESA member states are also EAC member states, should COMESA and EAC better coordinate their regional CAADP-related initiatives?

SN: CAADP was endorsed in July 2003 by the African Union Heads of State in Maputo Mozambique. Since inception, CAADP implementation has been at both national and regional level. In order to avoid incoherence and foster synergies between regional and national level actions the two processes have been organically and explicitly linked. As earlier indicated, the Regional CAADP Compact is expected to facilitate implementation of programmes and projects that are trans-boundary in nature - that is, most effectively dealt with at regional level to strengthen the national level agenda.

The Regional CAADP Compact adds value to National Compacts of member states by supporting regional actions that cannot effectively be undertaken by individual countries. Member states were the largest constituency of stakeholders during consultations for priority setting of the Regional Compact. In conjunction with other regional actors, all COMESA member states validated the Regional Compact in September 2013, in Lusaka, Zambia. Through this inclusive, consultative and country-led process, COMESA has ensured that the National and Regional Compacts compliment rather than undermine each other.

Concerning the second question, indeed four of the five EAC member states are also COMESA member states. Due to this level of cross membership, the EAC has been an active participant in the COMESA

“There is need for well-organised multi-stakeholder partnerships to mainstream regional programme development.”

CAADP regional processes to avoid duplicity of efforts. Furthermore, when COMESA is providing technical, financial or other support to our member states, cognisance is taken of EAC's efforts in the countries. This is to ensure a coordinated approach in facilitating CAADP implementation in our respective countries and to maximise impact. In the same spirit of collaboration and coordination, tripartite negotiations involving COMESA-EAC-SADC were launched in June 2011. The aim is to establish a Grand Free Trade Area encompassing these regional organisations. The COMESA-EAC-SADC FTA will cover 26 countries with an estimated population of 700 million and a combined GDP of over US\$1 trillion.

FR: What role do you see for inclusive multi-stakeholder partnerships, such as PPP platforms for regional value chain development, in promoting food and nutrition security and sustainable agricultural development in the COMESA region? How can such partnerships promote the interests of the region's smallholder farmers and women farmers?

SN: COMESA recognises the critical role of the private sector in promoting food and nutrition security. Multi-stakeholder public-private partnerships will foster the necessary policy dialogue aimed at improving the policy formulation process in COMESA, as well as institutional linkages and policy reform. Often such platforms bring to the fore the needs of the most vulnerable of society such as smallholder farmers, including women. These platforms would ensure effective agenda setting mechanisms involving the public sector, civil society, non-state actors, farmers themselves, and the private sector in general. A regional value chain approach helps in reducing barriers to entry and formalises the benefits accruing to free trade initiatives.

There is need for well-organised multi-stakeholder partnerships to mainstream regional programme development. COMESA values the current multi-stakeholder partnerships that are involved in the development of the CAADP Regional Investment Programmes in Agriculture. These include actors from the regional dairy value chain in Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda.

FR: What is the specific role donors should play in supporting the regional CAADP Investment Plan? Can companies from donor countries like those in Europe also support COMESA in the promotion of intra-regional trade in agricultural foodstuffs?

SN: The COMESA Regional CAADP Compact identifies priority areas of focus for investment in the COMESA region. We are thankful for the support from all stakeholders who accompanied us throughout the development process up to the signing of the COMESA

Regional CAADP Compact. We are also thankful to ECDPM for your contribution to this process. We do not take the support and goodwill, particularly from development partners, for granted.

At COMESA, we believe that promotion of private sector investment in all key priority areas in the region will contribute to sustainable implementation of the Regional CAADP Investment Programmes. We welcome development partners' support towards building capacity for implementation of our regional programmes aimed at promoting private sector investment in agricultural value chains as a catalyst for tripling intra-regional trade as well as economic growth and transformation. Within the principle of mutual accountability to actions and results, development partners will remain indispensable partners to hold us accountable to the commitments and targets we set for ourselves.

With regard to your other question, we also welcome corporations from donor countries in Europe to support COMESA in the promotion of intra-regional trade in agriculture and importantly to invest in the region. In this globalised economy, and in the context of benefiting from economies of scale, European investors could establish synergies with the private sector in the COMESA region. Our Regional Investment Centre and the COMESA Business Council are ready to facilitate this.

I believe that in the wake of the global crisis, synergies have helped multinational companies to survive through channeling their investments to other regions where perceived risks are low. In the past ten years, seven of the top ten fastest growing economies in the world are in Africa. Three of these are in COMESA: Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia. According to the World Bank & IFC Doing Business 2012 Report on the ease of doing business within borders in Africa, six of the ten best African countries are also in the COMESA region: Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Zambia, Uganda and Kenya. We encourage companies from Europe to explore investment opportunities, particularly in agricultural value chains and foodstuffs in the COMESA region. ■

Sindiso Ngwenya is Secretary-General of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).
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This interview was conducted by Francesco Rampa, Head of Food Security Programme, ECDPM.

Bringing CAADP to the regions

by Sean Woolfrey

There is much that can be and is being done at the regional level to support CAADP implementation and to promote sustainable agricultural development in Africa. Nevertheless, the regional CAADP implementation agenda faces notable challenges.

Implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) takes place largely at the national level through the development by African countries of National CAADP Compacts and Investment Plans. But for CAADP to be effective in promoting food and nutrition security and sustainable agricultural development across the African continent, CAADP implementation at the national-level needs to be supported by actions and policies at the continental and regional levels.

Regional coordination, in particular, is increasingly recognised as key for boosting Africa's agricultural sector. Regional integration and the development of regional agricultural markets are considered particularly vital, as most national markets in Africa are too small to attract the levels of investment required to bring transformational change to the sector. Furthermore, Africa's regional economic communities (RECs) are ideally placed to address the barriers to agricultural trade between African countries that hamper attempts by the continent's agricultural producers to break into new markets.

Regional CAADP Compacts and Investment Plans: The state of play

CAADP protocols require Africa's RECs to develop Regional Compacts detailing areas of joint collaboration and desired investment, and defining the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders. These Compacts are

meant to address obstacles to food security and agricultural development that are transnational in nature. RECs are also tasked with developing Regional Agricultural Investment Plans (RAIPs) to give effect to the Regional Compacts. As of the beginning of 2015, Africa's RECs are at various stages of developing and/or implementing their Regional Compacts and RAIPs.

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) signed its CAADP Compact in November 2014. The process to design the COMESA RAIP was re-launched just prior to that in October 2014 and is currently underway.

The East African Community (EAC) has developed a Draft Regional Compact and is in the process of seeking validation for this draft from national level stakeholders prior to a regional validation workshop.

In Central Africa, the Economic Community for Central African States (ECCAS) adopted its CAADP Compact in July 2013 and validated its RAIP in September of that year. In October 2014, ECCAS Ministers of Agriculture endorsed the RAIP and approved the Regional Agricultural Policy that had been in development since 2008.

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is currently implementing the region's agricultural policy (ECOWAP), which was adopted through the Regional Compact of 2009, and its RAIP for 2011-2015, which was finalised in 2010.

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) developed its CAADP Compact simultaneously with the IGAD Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI), which aims to end drought emergencies in the Horn of Africa by developing a mid- and long-term response to current and future crises. The IGAD CAADP Compact was validated in May 2013 and signed in October 2013, while the IGAD RAIP is currently in development.

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) never formally launched a regional CAADP Compact preparatory process. Instead, SADC developed a Regional Agricultural Policy (RAP), which, it was eventually agreed, will serve as the basis for the SADC CAADP Compact. To that end, the RAP was endorsed in June 2013 as a fully 'CAADP-compatible' framework. A draft SADC Regional Compact has now been developed, while the SADC RAP Investment Plan is currently being prepared.

Implementing the Malabo Declaration: boosting trade and promoting partnerships

The Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods (Malabo Declaration) adopted by African heads of state and government in June 2014 reconfirmed the commitment of African countries to the principles and values of the CAADP framework. Through the Malabo Declaration, African leaders undertook specific commitments



Woman selling on truck route. Edgar Sanchez-Sinencio, thinkstockphotos.com

to (a) triple intra-African trade in agricultural goods and services by 2025 and (b) promote inclusive public-private partnerships (PPPs) for priority agricultural value chains with strong linkages to smallholder farmers.

Promoting greater intra-African agricultural trade and fostering inclusive PPPs around specific value chains are two mechanisms for supporting CAADP implementation that RECs are already using. Boosting intra- and, to a lesser degree, inter-regional trade in agricultural (and non-agricultural) goods and services is generally a major policy goal of Africa's RECs. In ECOWAS, for example, significant emphasis has been put on promoting intra-regional agricultural trade so as to contribute to regional food sovereignty, an explicit objective of the ECOWAP. Indeed, some view the recently completed ECOWAS common external tariff (CET), which exhibits relatively high tariff protection for agricultural products, as a potential instrument for boosting intra-regional trade in agricultural goods.

In SADC, meanwhile, non-tariff barriers (NTBs) have been identified as particularly significant obstacles to boosting intra-regional agricultural trade, but many of the most pervasive NTBs affecting SADC agricultural trade, such as those relating to transit trade, customs documentation requirements, differences in axle load limits and sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) requirements would be

addressed if existing provisions in the SADC Treaty and SADC Protocol on Trade (and its annexes) were properly implemented. In other words, at least some of the tools for boosting intra-SADC agricultural trade are already in place.

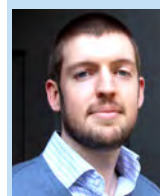
In the area of partnerships and value chains, some RECs are already promoting regional agricultural value chains and the inclusive multi-stakeholder partnerships that are crucial for ensuring that the benefits of such value chains are widely shared. In COMESA, for instance, various initiatives aimed at organising inclusive partnerships around agricultural and/or agribusiness value chains are being explored. The COMESA Business Council's Local Sourcing for Partnership Project seeks to create sustainable partnerships between corporates and SMEs in the food and beverages, hospitality and retail sectors. COMESA is also in the process of designing, as an early deliverable of its Regional CAADP Investment Plan, a sector-specific, multi-stakeholder dialogue platform to mobilise political and business interests in order to address policy constraints on intra-regional trade and investment along regional value chains.

Challenges ahead

These and other regional initiatives, instruments and processes have the potential to contribute positively to efforts to promote the transformation of African agriculture. Nevertheless,

efforts to strengthen the contribution of regional processes and institutions to greater food and nutrition security in Africa and the sustainable development of African agriculture face many challenges. These include: building sufficient capacity in regional institutions, ensuring genuine inclusivity in partnership platforms and avoiding having these captured by narrow commercial or national interests and addressing the lack of coherence that exists between some regional and national initiatives, the tendency by many national policymakers not to prioritise regional dynamics and the tensions that often arise between REC member states when particular national interests are at stake. If regional policymakers can overcome these challenges successfully, then the regional level will be fruitful ground for supporting CAADP implementation and developing policies and programmes to promote food security and sustainable agricultural development in Africa. ■

About the author



Sean Woolfrey is a Policy Officer at ECDPM.

Family farming: feeding the world

by Auxtin Ortiz

Almost half of the world's households depend on family farming for their livelihood. The International Year of Family Farming 2014 had great success in increasing the awareness of this key agricultural approach that provides over 70% of world food production.

2014 was marked by great progress for family farming all over the world. The International Year of Family Farming (IYFF-2014) brought about a number of breakthroughs in the promotion of family farming, smallholders, artisan fishing, pastoralists and indigenous communities. Worldwide, more than 700 institutions and organisations were involved in the IYFF-2014, including farmers' organisations and rural development organisations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), consumers' associations, research institutions, governments and international organisations. The key role played by women farmers and family farmers in the sustainable supply of food was widely recognised throughout the year.

The National Committees were major stakeholders during the IYFF-2014. These platforms, most of them led by civil society organisations, were promoted by the World Rural Forum (WRF) – supported and recognised by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Agriterro and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) – as genuine and pluralistic spaces for dialogue and negotiation on national public policies related to family farming. The activities developed by these committees led to 12 legal and budgetary changes benefiting family farming. More positive changes are expected in the coming months, since 30 similar processes were started during the IYFF-2014.

Family farming for ensuring food supply

Despite differing characterisations from country to country, family farming is commonly portrayed as agricultural, forestry, fisheries, pastoral and aquaculture production that is managed and operated by a family and predominantly reliant on family labour, including that of both women and men. According to this definition, the family and the farm are linked, co-evolve and combine economic, environmental, reproductive, social and cultural functions.

Apart from its exact definition, what no one argues about is family farming's key role in food security, poverty alleviation and biodiversity protection. Over 70% of world food production is provided by family farmers, making family farming crucial to fighting hunger and malnutrition, while around 40% of households globally depend on family farming for their livelihood, which makes family farming important in contributing to stabilising the population in rural areas, preserving historical and cultural values and generating income and consumption.

Small farms have also been shown to be more productive and sustainable per unit of land and energy consumed; the bond between family farmers and their environment makes them a guarantee of sustainable management of natural resources. Moreover, besides being a source of genetic agro-diversity, family farming can ensure the preservation of native seed varieties

and native livestock breeds well adapted to various environments.

An international year to raise the profile of family farming

Despite its importance, the role and potential of family farming as a means to ensure food security is not sufficiently recognised and is neglected in many countries. With the purpose of changing this, an intense campaign coordinated by the WRF and backed by more than 360 organisations was launched in 2009 to promote the declaration of an International Year of Family Farming. This common goal was supported by the government of the Philippines, which presented a draft resolution - co-sponsored by 40 countries - for the declaration of the IYFF-2014 before the United Nations. The UN General Assembly unanimously approved this declaration in December 2011. Civil society organisations continued working and trying to add new drivers in favour of family farming; likewise many governments and international agencies joined the preparations for the IYFF-2014, in dialogue with rural organisations. Fruitful dialogue between civil society, governments and international agencies was generated across the world in order to push the main goal of this International Year: to attain public policies that support the activities of family farmers.

At the same time, the FAO implemented the official programme of the IYFF-2014 in collaboration with governments, international development organisations and

farmers' organisations. Another UN agency, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, also became a key stakeholder during IYFF-2014, promoting the design and implementation of policies and programmes focused on family farming.

National Committees: fruitful assets to boost family farming

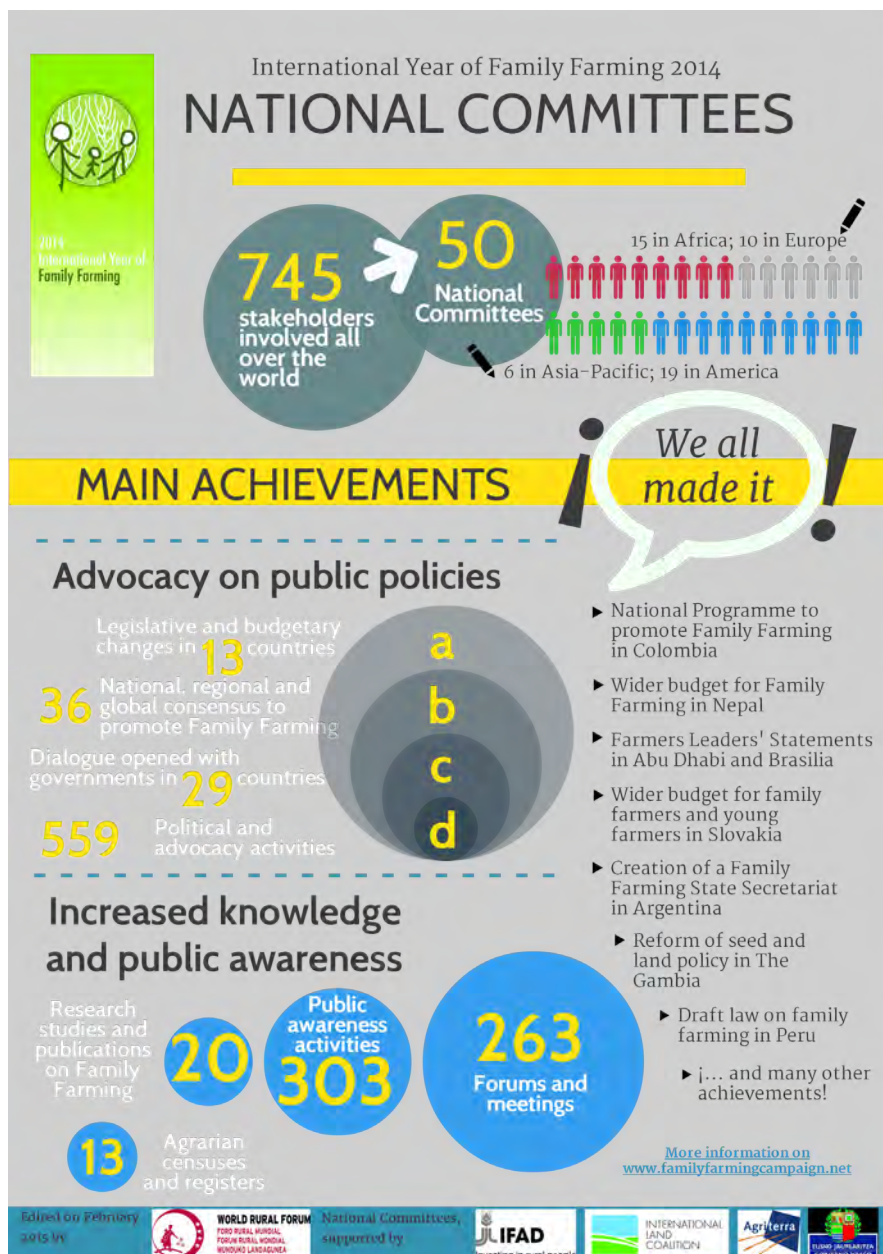
The creation of IYFF-2014 National Committees was promoted by the WRF with the support and participation of other stakeholders from the rural and social sectors, as well as public institutions and international organisations. These National Committees incorporated as many farmers' organisations and other civil society representatives as possible, since civil society represents one of the three pillars required for the creation of an official national committee (national governments and international organisations represent the other two).

By the end of IYFF-2014, there were over 700 different entities (NGOs, farmers' organisations, national ministries, international organisations and research centres) participating in 50 National Committees, spread across five continents. Despite their varying composition, size and level of progress in terms of implementing initiatives, all these National Committees have defended the same overarching vision: to enable their nations' family farmers to feed their inhabitants. Overall the results of the activities developed by the IYFF-2014 National Committees can be described as extremely positive.

Intense consultation, reflection and negotiation within the National Committees resulted in the definition of national goals for the IYFF-2014, the establishment of working plans and the implementation of specific activities.

Promotion and political impact

To begin with, declarations and roadmaps restating proposals to improve national public policies emerging from exchanges between civil society actors were drawn up and presented to the competent



authorities by, among others, the National Committees of Mexico, the Philippines, Ivory Coast, the United States of America, Paraguay and Costa Rica. Other highly pertinent position papers such as manifestos or concept notes were issued by the National Committees of Burundi, Senegal, Indonesia and Zimbabwe.

In parallel to the adoption of these various national, regional and international declarations in support of family farming, new and very specific draft laws emerged within the framework of the IYFF-2014. This is the case in Paraguay with its Decree 1056 including the Presidential Law on public procurement of

food products from family farmers. Similarly, in Colombia, a Family Farming Programme was launched by Ministerial Resolution 267, officially establishing the concept of family farming along with a technical committee for the sector.

In Argentina, the government issued Decree 1030/2014 providing for the establishment of a state secretariat for family farming. In Burkina Faso, the Ministry of Agriculture promised a budget allocation to strengthen family farming during the growing season while the government of Nepal allocated subsidies totalling €78,000 for the promotion of family farming in 2014.



African peasants working on their field, SXCfreeimages.com

All these examples of activities are only a glimpse into the impressive dynamism underlying IYFF-2014 National Committees. As mentioned above, concrete political improvements emerged during 2014 foreshadowing a much more optimistic future for family farming in various countries. Due to this energy, the global image of family farming is also being upgraded everywhere and is attracting attention from governments and the public.

Commitment to family farming continues

Much more remains to be done in order to recognise the true value of family farming as a means to promote food security and sustainable agriculture. In particular, significant political advocacy is still needed to permanently move away from certain paradigms that work against family farmers.

On 14 and 15 November 2014, as IYFF-2014 was drawing to a close, farmer leaders from the five continents, along with rural associations, research centres, National Committees and other stakeholders, gathered in Brasilia to analyse the achievements of IYFF-2014, and to agree to give continuity to the work done thus far.

Based mainly on the Manifesto of Brasilia, the global campaign in favour of family farming, peasants, artisan fishing, pastoralists and indigenous people will be extended for ten more years. The main objective of IYFF+10 will be to continue to push

for public policies in favour of family farming. Moreover, this process will focus on three key areas: (i) The promotion of National Committees: These Committees showed their strength throughout 2014, promoting improved public policies in different countries. The IYFF+10 renews commitment towards policy dialogue between farmers' organisations, rural associations, international institutions, governments, research centres and other stakeholders. (ii) Global guidelines for family farming: A widespread participation process will be established in order to develop global guidelines, with the aim of achieving agreement of the international community. As in the cases of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) or the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests, achieving global guidelines in family farming would mean creating a common goal, a shared and universal proposal for the promotion of family farming. The process to develop global guidelines will take into consideration the previously achieved agreements and will address the gaps in these. In this way, the global guidelines will promote family farming in a comprehensive manner. (iii) **Promotion of participatory research:** Due to the important role of research, the IYFF+10 will promote the active participation of farmers' organisations and civil society in

research processes.

Furthermore, the IYFF+10 will also seek to ensure that the Sustainable Development Goals suitably reflect the role of family farming and will promote linkages to the International Year of Soils 2015 and the World Forum on Access to Land in 2016.

As with IYFF-2014, IYFF+10 will always seek the maximum cooperation and spirit of understanding between farmers' organisations, rural associations, research centres, governments and international institutions. This is precisely one of the main lessons learned in 2014: global inclusive campaigns and shared frameworks involving civil society organisations, international organisations, research institutions and governments can provoke positive changes in public policies. ■

For more information on IYFF-2014 and IYFF+10, visit www.familyfarmingcampaign.net

About the author



Auxtin Ortiz is Director General of the World Rural Forum. Previously he worked at the Institute for an Agrarian Alternative.

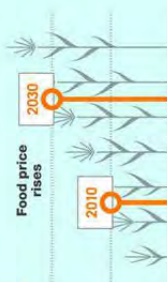
Food Security in Infographics

WHAT'S WRONG WITH OUR FOOD SYSTEM?

Every night **1 in 7 people go to bed hungry**—that's almost 1 billion people worldwide. People are hungry not because there isn't enough food produced but because our food system is broken. In fact, **80% of the world's hungry are directly involved in food production**. We can address this hunger if we support small-scale food producers, tackle climate change and reduce food waste.

CLIMATE CHANGE & FOOD PRICES

The average price of staple foods could more than double by 2030—with more than half of that increase due to changes in average temperatures and rainfall patterns.



HIGH TEMPERATURES

In July 2010, temperatures exceeded 40°C (104°F) in Russia, destroying millions of acres of wheat. Wheat production plunged 30% and the price internationally increased by 85%.



DROUGHT

In 2010, a drought in Ukraine caused wheat production to plummet 20% compared to the year before.



MONSOON

Heavy rainfall and multiple typhoons hit Southeast Asia in 2011, severely affecting 6% of the region's total rice area and driving prices up by 30% in some areas.



WASTE

In both industrialized and developing countries, unacceptable quantities of food are wasted but for entirely different reasons.

HARVEST WASTE

Currently, developing countries waste nearly one third of food supply. With better access to adequate storage, refrigeration and transportation this could be reduced.

DEVELOPING WORLD



CONSUMER WASTE

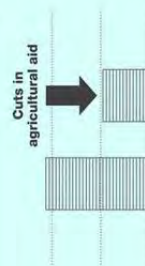
In industrialized countries we, as consumers and retailers, throw away about one third of all food that is produced.

INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD



HUNGER

There have been cuts of more than 50% in government aid to small-scale producers, even though the majority of the world's hungry are involved in food production.



1 IN 7 ON THE PLANET GO HUNGRY

60% OF THE HUNGRY ARE WOMEN

By providing women with equal access to farming resources such as tools, seeds and transport



CHANGE CAN HAPPEN

By investing in small-scale farmers, Brazil reduced the number of people living in poverty by 20 million between 2003-9. We can tackle extreme hunger by helping small-scale producers grow more food more sustainably.



grow
FOOD. LIFE. PLANET.

OXFAM

www.oxfam.org/grow

FAMILY FARMERS FEEDING THE WORLD, CARING FOR THE EARTH

WHY IS FAMILY FARMING IMPORTANT?



More than **90%** of farms are run by an **individual** or a **family** and rely primarily on family labour



Family farms occupy around **70-80%** of farm land

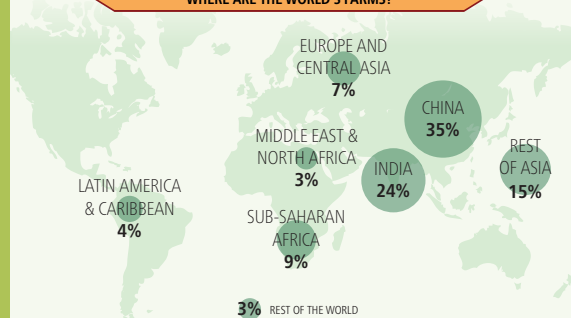


Family farms produce about **80%** of the world's food

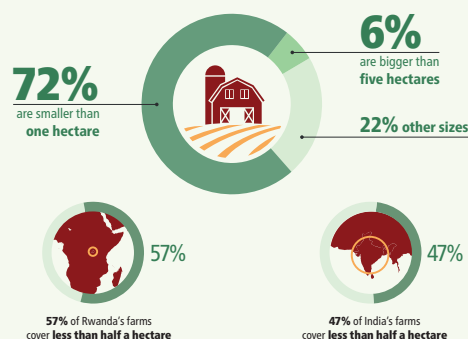


Due to the variety of food they produce, family farmers also strongly contribute to **food security**

WHERE ARE THE WORLD'S FARMS?



HOW BIG OR SMALL ARE FAMILY FARMS?



FAMILY FARMING IS VITAL TO LOCAL ECONOMIES



Family farming represents an opportunity to **boost local economies**



especially when combined with **specific policies** aimed at social protection and the well-being of communities



Largest share of **investment in agriculture** comes from farmers

FAMILY FARMING IS KEY TO SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION



Agriculture is responsible for 70% of global freshwater withdrawals worldwide



Agriculture conserves biodiversity



Agriculture produces valuable ecosystem services

Family farms are part of the solution to the hunger problem

fao.org/family-farming-2014



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



©FAO - October 2014

In this issue we introduce a new feature by collecting some relevant infographics for our readers.

The infographic on page 14 'What's wrong with our food system' was designed for Oxfam, for more information see:
<http://www.oxfam.org/en/grow>

Courtesy of:
www.engineeringforchange.org/

The infographic on the right is courtesy of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations.

For more information see:
www.fao.org/family-farming-2014

Partnerships are essential for ending malnutrition

by Lawrence Haddad

Malnutrition in all its forms has a detrimental affect on society and not all forms are on the decline.

Malnutrition affects nearly every country on the planet. As the recently published Global Nutrition Report notes, almost half the world's population suffers from at least one of the following: stunted growth, low weight, micronutrient deficiency or overweight and obesity. The consequences are staggering. Undernourished children will learn less in school, earn less in the labour market, be more likely to live in poverty as adults and have a greater propensity to diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and heart disease. Being overweight or obese is a risk factor for non-communicable diseases and premature mortality.

All forms of malnutrition constitute a heavy economic burden for society – at the national level estimates are that more than 10% of GDP is lost due to this avoidable condition (from GNR Table 2.1, drawn from Horton and Steckel 2013). And while some forms of malnutrition are (slowly) decreasing (e.g. under 5 stunting rates – low height for age), some are static (e.g. under 5 wasting – low weight for height, women's anemia) and some are increasing (e.g. under 5 overweight, adult obesity).

Combining efforts to combat nutrition

What will it take to address this trend? The “what” is quite well articulated by the evidence, a combination of: (1) interventions designed explicitly to address malnutrition – so-called “nutrition specific” interventions, such as interventions to improve

complementary feeding practices for children after exclusive breastfeeding; (2) interventions designed to make policies and interventions in sectors related to nutrition more “nutrition sensitive”, such as social protection that focuses on the first 1000 days post-conception or interventions designed to improve dietary diversity; and (3) actions, policies and legislation to improve the enabling environment for malnutrition reduction, such as labelling, legislation on the marketing of breast milk substitutes and the publication of indices and data to improve the transparency of financial and policy commitments made to end malnutrition.

The “how” behind the “what” is less well articulated. Combatting malnutrition requires the involvement and coming together of many sectors, disciplines and stakeholders, as malnutrition is rooted in the interaction of multiple causes, such as poor diets, infection and physical inactivity. Underlying these immediate causes are unhealthy food environments, poor care practices for infants, children and adults, weak health systems and unclear water, poor hygiene and inadequate sanitation services. Income increases alone cannot address malnutrition and can actually contribute to some forms, such as obesity.

Levels of interventions

Coherent action across a range of fronts is needed. Coherence runs from coordination through to deep integration. There are no easy recipes and blueprints for “how”.

Such action will be context specific, varying with regard to the nature of particular malnutrition problems, the existing capacity of nutrition champions and their allies, and the political opportunities that emerge. At the nutrition specific level, nutrition programmes need to draw on health services and child development services in a synergistic rather than competitive way, for example by using vaccination days to provide vitamin A supplementation to children under five and by providing pregnant women with the antenatal care, knowledge about feeding practices, and sufficient iron folate supplements they need to ensure their babies have the best possible start in life.

At the underlying level, the agricultural sector needs to find overlaps between profit and health by, for instance, investing in R&D to make fruits and vegetables more affordable to consumers and worthwhile for farmers to produce. Cash transfers could be predicated on health and education related conditionalities such as attendance at prenatal care sessions and keeping girls in school longer. Health systems need to place a greater emphasis on prevention of malnutrition and on early childhood nutrition. Water and sanitation programmes need to pay more attention to practices that prevent babies and infants from coming into contact with human and animal faeces.

At the enabling environment level, ministers of finance and planning need to understand the economic case for investing in nutrition – the

“Combatting malnutrition requires the involvement and coming together of many sectors, disciplines and stakeholders.”



*Malnutrition in India. A child in Khargone district, Madhya Pradesh.
Photo: Arjun Claire EU/ECHO 2013, flickr.com*

median benefit cost ratios of 16:1 are larger than many infrastructure investments (Figure 2.1 in GNR, original source Hoddinott et. al. 2013). Civil society needs to be prepared and able to hold governments to account and businesses must make their structures, conduct and performance as they relate to nutrition much more transparent. Researchers need to keep pushing for more and better data on nutrition, analysing it and publishing it publicly, drawing out actionable implications for the wide range of stakeholders to use. Researchers should work closely with the media to help it report responsibly on the evidence regarding nutrition-related matters.

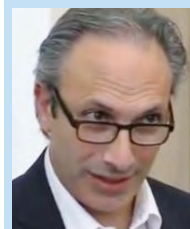
Partnerships are key

How do we support the emergence of the network of coherence that these actions rely on? In short, alliances, relationships and partnerships have to develop and flourish. This requires cultivating and incentivising leaders who can bridge the cultural, administrative and disciplinary boundaries between sectors and administrative levels. Bureaucratic systems must be enablers not barriers to collaboration. More resources need to be pooled and institutional flag waving tendencies reined in. Presidents, prime ministers and state and district leaders need to cut across fiefdoms and bring people together by forging a common vision for all to work towards and by

giving bureaucracies the incentives to work with rather than against each other. Experiences from Maharashtra (India) and Peru show what can be done to reduce malnutrition through establishing explicit high-level political commitment. In Maharashtra this was achieved through a state “Nutrition Mission” – a public declaration of intent by the highest political leader, the Chief Minister, to lead a collective and sustained programme of action to reduce malnutrition (Haddad et al. 2014). In Peru, high-level commitment was driven by a civil society campaign in 2005 to get presidential candidates to sign up to a nutrition charter (Mejia Acosta and Haddad 2014).

I often hear the term “partnerships are overrated”, and it is true that partnerships for partnerships’ sake are more trouble than they are worth. But partnerships that have a clear common purpose and bring together complementary skills with strong, sustained and accountable leadership are likely to succeed. Let’s be clear: malnutrition will not be reduced without them. ■

About the author



Lawrence Haddad is a senior research fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

“All forms of malnutrition constitute a heavy economic burden for society.”

Making climate-smart also people-smart

by Leisa Perch

2015 is the year in which the alliance for sustainable development needs to be inclusive, robust and visionary. In this mix, the role of agriculture is critical to meeting food and nutrition goals as well as those related to poverty, health, education, biodiversity, water, energy and economic growth. Gender and climate change are two conditioning factors likely to shape agricultural futures and in these intertwined discourses, (in)equality shapes the art of the possible.



Mrs Jesca Chaya, a crop voucher beneficiary farmer in Zvishavane District, Zimbabwe, digs holes for application of manure in her field where she practices conservation agriculture.

Photo: ©FAO/Believe Nyakudjara / FAO

In order to achieve the ambitious agenda set out by the Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) over the next 15 years, partnerships are needed not only within but also between sectors and thematic areas. This means more than government, private sector, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and individual citizens working together as defined in Goal 17. It means entering a new era of collaborative and cross-sectoral alliances, especially where issues are inextricably linked. Gender, agriculture and climate change are a perfect illustration. They go hand-in-hand, influencing negatively or positively the lives of millions depending on who they are, the resources at their disposal, the time of

the year, the technologies available or the lack of them and the knowledge at the fingertips of critical actors.

Currently, at the global level as well as the national level, these three communities often work within different spaces. Yet, within these spaces, they seek to include more perspectives. Gender has recently been acknowledged specifically within the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) including the recent adoption of the Lima Work-programme on Gender and Climate Change. The Convention still falls short though of a full acknowledgement of agriculture. Land use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) however continue to be active areas of engagement and the UNFCCC's Subsidiary Body for

Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) has reviewed agriculture regularly since 2011. Global gender equality policy embraced environmental issues in the Beijing Plan of Action. However, while gender mainstreaming in agricultural policy and practice has definitely advanced in the last two decades, it still remains at many times more responsive to practical versus more strategic gender needs.

2015 is a year in which these critical elements of the global development agenda are under review and have their greatest chance for being addressed coherently as part of a broader landscape of sustainable development policy. There are three key moments to create momentum: 1) the 20th

Anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action (Beijing +20) taking place in March; 2) the UN General Assembly is expected to approve a new set of SDGs in September; and 3) the UNFCCC COP 21 - expected to be the launching pad for a new global climate deal.

Why gender, agriculture and climate change?

We have found that control over resources remains one of the weakest areas in national policies, particularly in addressing strategic gender needs in the agricultural sector. Research by the RIO+ Centre shows that inputs and gains, credit and labour

are still spaces of unequal allocation of resources and highlights the important role of a governance space which brings policies, people and institutions together more effectively (see Figure 1 below).

There are a number of factors impacting the control over resources in the context of agriculture, particularly agriculture that is under threat from climate change. These are, 1) livelihoods - millions still rely on agriculture as a main source of livelihood, particularly women smallholder farmers; women, in Africa, provide the bulk of the labour for food production but own little land and are sometimes

unpaid for their contributions; 2) availability of resources due to multiple and intensifying demands from all economic actors including the unplanned-for degradation of resources from powerful economic actors to the detriment of others; and 3) enabling frameworks including policies, strategies, legislation and champions who can bring attention to, provide evidence for and negotiate effectively for change.

The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) estimates that more than 800 million people were chronically under-nourished between 2012 and 2014. Recent evidence from work commissioned by the

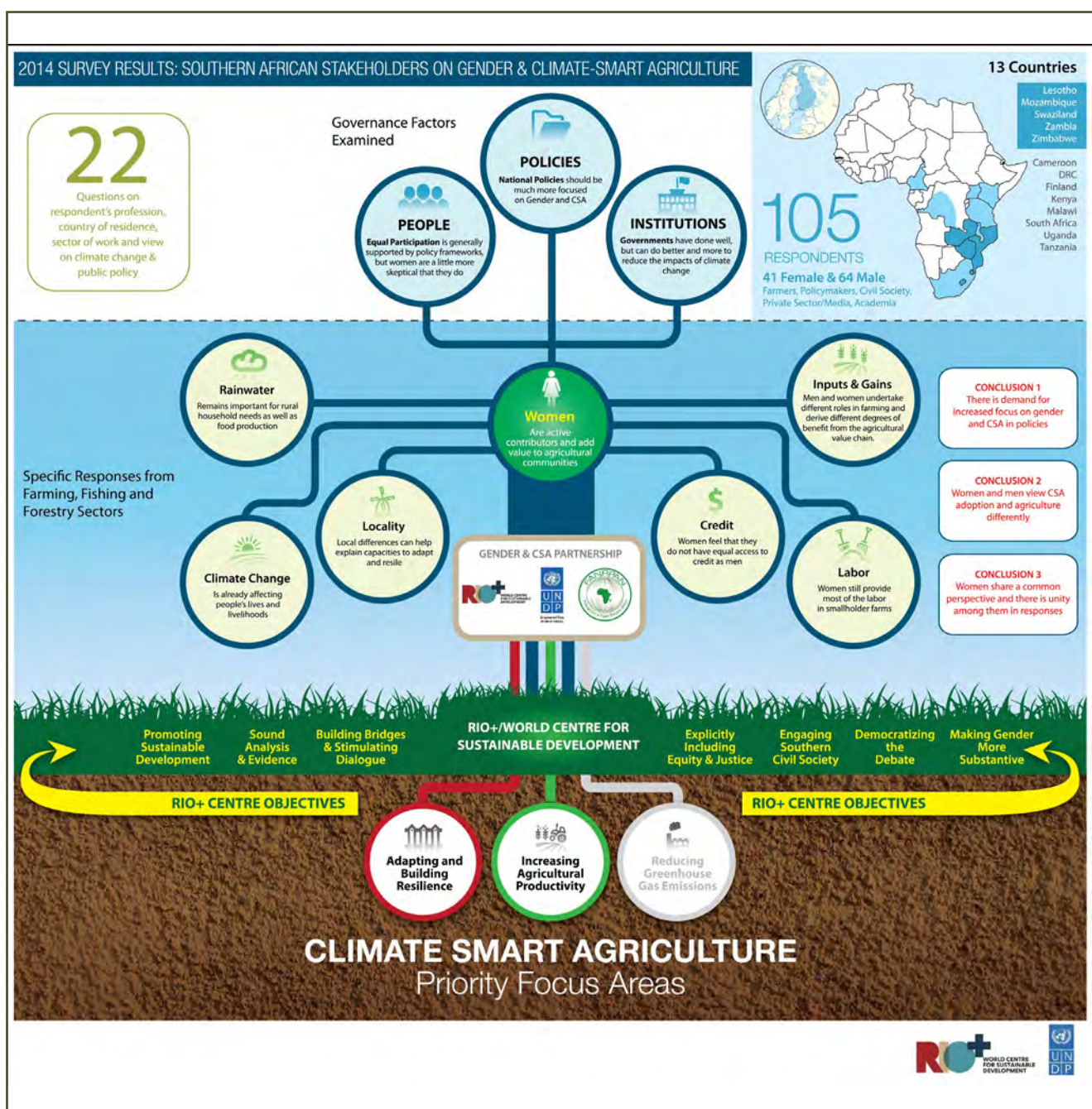


Figure 1. Gender and CSA Infographic, RIO+ Centre and FANRPAN

Copenhagen Consensus Center makes the case even clearer on how enabling frameworks, availability of resources and unequal practices can contribute to cutting the annual 25% of food loss by half, which could feed an extra billion people. Food loss is due to improper storage, poor harvesting and waste in the kitchen.

CSA: a game-changer?

The Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) agenda, which has gained significant momentum since 2010, is a potential game-changer. It is one of a recent trend of sustainable development solutions. It distinguishes itself from traditional agriculture and even other elements of sustainable agriculture by virtue of the triple-wins it sets out to achieve: food security, income and adaptation/resilience and mitigation at the same time. For the FAO that developed the concept, CSA is critical for ensuring food security under climate change. CSA has now generated a Global Alliance for

Climate-Smart Agriculture (GACSA).

Critical too, is the shape of the GACSA. Now comprising more than 74 members, it aims to create a coordinated and inclusive approach, recognising the need for a bridge between sectors traditionally engaged in agriculture. Identifying food security as the point of departure for CSA, priority is given to establishing a wide-ranging coalition and to promoting integration. The three focal areas of the Alliance are knowledge, investments and enabling environments.

With a target of positively changing the lives of 500 million farmers vulnerable to climate change, at its launch the Alliance already included 20 member governments. These accounted for a significant portion of world cereal production, undernourished people and total agricultural greenhouse gas emissions. The GACSA's achievements so far include:

- Enabling local environments for CSA in Africa and North America

through the establishment of the African Climate-Smart Agriculture Alliance (ACSAA).

- Enabling investment structures via the commitment of the International Fund for Agriculture and Development (IFAD) and the World Bank to making their investment portfolios climate-smart by 2018.
- Significant investment in knowledge production through a US\$10 billion commitment by the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) to be invested over the next ten years.

One of the key strategies for the Alliance is to strengthen and enhance public policy frameworks, particularly those related to sustainable agriculture, climate change adaptation, resilience and disaster management policy. It goes on to mention a number of other elements linking policy and action but the people element appears weak. The attention to social policy frameworks



Women farmers selling vegetables and fruit to commuters. EU-funded Swaziland Agricultural Development Project. Photo: ©FAO/Giulio Napolitano / FAO

outside of nutrition, is quite weak.

Some NGOs have expressed similar concerns, in some cases rejecting the Alliance itself. In their rejection letter, more than 100 NGOs cite a number of reasons including (i) no significant advance beyond business-as-usual; (ii) an industrialised approach to agriculture as well as (iii) no environmental and social criteria, amongst other concerns. Thus, the challenge for the GACSA is to make a better partnership amongst its various elements and between the social and environmental agendas, which will influence its success. The space and the need is there, particularly where gender, agriculture and climate policy coherence is concerned.

Minding the social/gender gap

While the GACSA has made a good start, its agenda remains somewhat incomplete. As a global alliance, it needs to be as adaptable and flexible as the policies, instruments and knowledge it will offer members and other stakeholders. In the area of policy, it will need to inspire as well as enable.

In a review of the policy frameworks in five Southern African countries (Lesotho, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe), we found that 50% of policies relating to the agriculture sector made no reference at all to gender. Of eight we were able to access online from Swaziland, there were no references to gender but some to climate change or disaster risk reduction. The linkages that do exist also seem to be one-way. More broadly, there were few examples of backwards linkages in gender policy relating to agriculture or broadly environmental or natural resource management factors.

The next generation of agricultural policies, therefore, will need to be as much people-smart and gender-smart as they are climate-smart. They must be anchored in inclusive as well as sustainable development and must be about action as well as change in the short, medium and long-term. Our

analysis (see also Figure 1) indicates where the GACSA may need to invest more:

- Where to start: credit, labour, inputs, water-harvesting and storage;
- How: moving beyond access to resources towards greater control by women of the resources they need to plant, harvest, sell and reinvest in a sustainable livelihood;
- Which policies: agricultural investment policy, land tenure policy as well as climate policy; undertake gender, agriculture and environment and gender, environment & climate change policies as Mozambique has done; and mitigate and reduce the conflict between influential policy frameworks including mining;
- Prioritising: (i) Different entry points and support structures that need to be made available to men and women. Policy alone is not enough. (ii) Effective tools for a people-smart approach to CSA – in investment, other financial instruments and in identifying and scaling up viable solutions.

The entry-points and strategies will differ between countries and within countries. While Lesotho is strong on participation and weak on tenure, Zambia is strong on decision-making, participation and economic opportunity but weak on institutional culture.

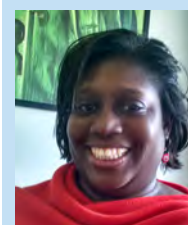
Embedding this type of gender-smartness review has the potential to make CSA fit-for-purpose, extending beyond agricultural futures, and in so doing, better strengthening its relevance to people's ever changing and increasingly variable realities, particularly from COP 21 in Paris onwards. The last eight years show a trend of increasing multi-sectoriality in policy and one which the Paris meeting can capitalise on even as pressures increase for emissions reduction commitments from developing countries. Defining

respective capabilities should be shaped by governance criteria and not just emissions per capita. A more ambitious CSA Agenda, anchored in a whole-of-government and a whole-of-society approach to agriculture, could bring about overdue revolutionary change to the sector, long in the making. The challenge for the GACSA is to leverage its influence for a new global agenda that makes climate-smart synonymous with people-smart. Bridging this divide is the kind of practical inclusive partnership that sustainable development needs in order to succeed.

Note: The research findings in this article relating to Gender and CSA are derived from a series of outputs by the RIO+ Centre in collaboration with the Food Agriculture and Natural Resources Planning Analysis Network (FANRPAN) Initiative, focusing on Gender and CSA in Southern Africa.

More information can be found at <http://riopluscentre.org/2014/12/09/rio-centre-supports-decision-making-on-climate-change-and-sustainability/> The Working Paper – Gender in the CSA Discourse - can be downloaded at: https://riopluscentre.files.wordpress.com/2015/01/wp3_gender-in-the-csa-discourse_final-3.pdf. ■

About the author



Leisa Perch is a policy specialist at the World Centre for Sustainable Development (RIO+Centre), a partnership between the Government of Brazil and the United Nations Development Programme. At the Centre, she works on policy coherence particularly between social and environmental policy, with a focus on gender and sustainable development and inclusive green growth. She is a Lead Author of the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report.



European farmers and African food security

ECDPM's Francesco Rampa interviews
Phil Hogan, EU Commissioner for
Agriculture and Rural Development

The agricultural sector is key to addressing food security and 2015 will be a crucial year for its development.

Francesco Rampa: How can the European private sector support the objectives of CAADP and the implementation of the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods in order to boost food and nutrition security and promote agricultural development on the African continent?

Phil Hogan: In my view it is the agricultural sector that holds the key to resolving food security and banishing hunger by 2025 – the date set by African governments in the Malabo Declaration. Agriculture has to deliver increased incomes across the board, especially for smallholder and women farmers, increased production to feed the growing African population, and do so in a way that conserves the natural resources for future production needs. This challenge – these demands for higher performance of the sector – creates tremendous opportunities for private investment to contribute to and share in the growth. But that has to take place within a stable legal and policy framework; it must be in partnership and not in opposition to farmers in the countries concerned, respecting traditional land rights and local aspirations, and delivering growth, jobs, prosperity and economic prospects for rural Africa. The national policies that have grown out of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) framework over the last 11 years have been evidence-based, subject to public consultation, and developed by the African countries themselves. I welcome the emphasis that the African Union has put on the role of the private sector in building a brand for agriculture that attracts youth and investors. One of several major steps taken in the Malabo Declaration of 2014 has been this recognition of the role of the private sector. It is very much up to us in Europe to deliver.

FR: What role do you see for the use of financing instruments by DG AGRI (e.g. under the Common Agricultural Policy, but also other instruments), the European Commission in general and European member states to promote trade and investment linkages between European and African SMEs in the agricultural sector? Can public initiatives such as Ireland's Africa Agri-Food Development Fund promote food security in Africa?

PH: This is really a question for my colleague Neven Mimica, European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development. The EU and member states are the largest donors to sub-Saharan Africa, and agriculture and food security has been selected as the leading priority sector by far in the current 2014-2020 period – after many years of neglect. I think it is important to keep the sector – its challenges and opportunities – in the limelight so we are not confronted again by the situation during the 2007-11 food price crisis when our resources and energies were committed elsewhere. Out of that crisis came the EU's €1 billion Food Facility for which the EC was given the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Jacques Diouf Award for Food Security, and specifically for helping to reverse the tide of deprioritising agriculture in development policy.

The EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has no scope for expenditure in Africa, but we do have a major constructive role to play in ensuring the essentially non trade-distorting, and non market-distorting, nature of the CAP and the openness of the EU market to African exports. I also have a role to turn to EU agribusiness and underline to our sector the opportunities and responsibilities for contributing to growth in Africa. We are looking at private investment in many forms – including supported to an extent or guaranteed by public schemes – through the European Development Fund and member states' development agencies. There are many successful

“ European agribusinesses have to work in partnership with local businesses. ”

initiatives for agribusiness-farm organisation partnerships, including from our own European Investment Bank, and many others.

An example I am indeed familiar with is Ireland's Africa Agri-Food Development Fund. The Irish government has developed this fund recognising that skills developed and experience gained in the establishment of the Irish agri-food industry could potentially be transferred to assist in the further development of the food industry in African countries. Its aim is to develop partnerships between the Irish agri-food sector and African countries to support sustainable growth of the African local food industry. Specifically, it aims to build markets in African countries for local produce and to facilitate exports to regional and international markets. It is a flexible instrument that can support capital investment, capacity building, technology transfer, business advice or training and mentoring.

Sustainable development in African countries will be largely driven by the private sector and it is these types of initiatives which can encourage the European agri-food sector to develop linkages with Africa for mutual benefits. Sustainable development of agriculture production in Africa is of particular interest to me. Partnership and cooperation is exactly what is needed: investments with African enterprises and in partnership with farm organisations. I think initiatives which seek to build these types of partnerships have a lot of potential.

FR: Where do you see specific opportunities for mutually beneficial engagement between European and African enterprises, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, in agriculture? Will DG AGRI support engagement in these areas and how?

PH: One of the great dangers is to try to impose solutions from outside. European agribusinesses have to work in partnership with local businesses. I favour cooperative investment projects with farmers' organisations. We see too often, in Europe as much as elsewhere, farmers being squeezed by market players with greater bargaining power. That's why farmers' organisations are so important and why agribusiness investment needs to deliver in cooperation with local farmers' groups.

I would like to see a focus on delivering on the trade ambitions of the Malabo Declaration. Tripling intra-African trade by 2025 is achievable and necessary given the current level is widely seen as too low. That requires investment in value chains – one of the pillars of the CAADP policy framework – access to markets, handling,

use of standards, and market intelligence, as well as reducing post-harvest losses through better storage and transport. I am very pleased that Mehmet Eker, Turkey's Minister for Agriculture, is using his country's G20 Presidency to focus on reducing food losses and waste and to give a new political impetus to the G20's work on food and nutrition security, with particular attention on smallholder farmers, youth and women.

There is also a complementary but crucial role for trade facilitation and breaking down barriers. For example, shea butter is produced by some of the poorest farmers in West Africa and sells to some of the wealthiest consumers in Europe. There is an opportunity to increase the returns to farmers through investment and trade facilitation – but the trucks from landlocked Burkina Faso have to navigate up to a dozen road blocks, inspection points and charges before they reach the ports.

All across sub-Saharan Africa we are seeing the political need to create free trade areas, not least the ambitious Continental African Free Trade Agreement. The EU has some experience with the particular difficulties of creating a single market in the agricultural sector and it is clearly this sector that will lead African economic integration.

FR: In the context of the implementation of CAP reform and an increasing emphasis in the EU on promoting European business, how do you intend to ensure policy coherence for development and, in particular, that support to the European agricultural sector does not conflict with efforts to promote food security and sustainable agricultural development in Africa and other developing regions?

PH: I am paying close attention to the development impact of our policy. The CAP has come a long way. After successive reforms, subsidies are no longer coupled with production, we have set export subsidies to zero, we have an agricultural policy which is essentially non-market and non-trade distorting requiring European farmers to be more market-oriented. With 2015 being the European Year of Development, we will use the opportunity to better explain all these aspects, to explain the progress made so far, but also to listen and see if there are other areas we should work on.

Opportunities and security for developing country exporters and for agri-business investors have been greatly enhanced by the conclusion of the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) in all sub-Saharan African regions. After a decade of negotiations has

“Tripling intra-African trade by 2025 is achievable”

successfully concluded, it is essential to see successful implementation, delivering growth and jobs for our African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) partners in the agricultural sector. EU agribusinesses must be made aware of these investment opportunities and take advantage of the stability and guarantees offered by the EPAs.

It is only in our relations with our neighbours and with the ACP that we offer such open terms. The EPAs also set up partnerships on agriculture in which we can ensure policy coordination and deal with any difficulties that arise. In short, these agreements have changed the agricultural relations with the ACP from one of donor-recipient to that of equal partners.

FR: As African countries move closer to establishing single markets at the regional (and ultimately also at the continental) level, does Europe's experience of using the CAP to overcome certain integration-related challenges hold any important lessons for Africa and for African farmers in particular?

PH: The CAP was one of the pillars of the single market. It is very difficult to imagine a single market for agri-food products including countries having different agriculture policies, with different objectives, with different access to resources and incompatible programmes. The single market needs coherent, common policies, common principles, and common objectives. We also had to deal with divergent product standards and hygiene criteria. These are the same issues faced by any region in a process of integration, and nowhere more so than in agricultural products. The rewards are huge: prices and efficiencies for consumers and growth and jobs for the rural economy.

I hesitate to offer EU experience as Africa has already made significant strides and is home to the world's oldest customs union in southern Africa. Regional integration is proceeding rapidly in the East African Community, West Africa and at a continental level towards the tripartite FTA and, ultimately, the Continental FTA.

The EU can assist this process primarily through the regional EPAs. These agreements will assist integration as access to your main trading partner is a logical component of creating regional economic interdependence. Through our policy cooperation measures, we are also willing to share experience of building a single market in agricultural products.

FR: Does DG AGRI, or the EC in general, intend to contribute meaningfully to debates on improving nutrition and sustainable agriculture at Expo Milano 2015? If so, how? What should the legacy of this Expo be for future generations?

PH: We will have a strong presence at Expo Milano with a series of events addressing stakeholders, general public and engaging partner organisations in the EU and Africa. On the agricultural side, we will be very active especially during October, with a focus on food security issues – this being a thematic month also under the European Year of Development. The EU will make a strong contribution to the Milano Charter. 2015 should be a crucial year for development with the expected sustainable development goals of the post-2015 agenda. We will focus our efforts on the contribution the EU can have in areas such as responsible investments in and for agriculture, rural infrastructure, research and innovation, and access to markets - all crucial for ensuring food and nutrition security. ■

Phil Hogan is an Irish Fine Gael politician, and has been the European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development since November 2014.

This interview was conducted by Francesco Rampa, Head of the Food Security Programme, ECDPM.

From investment principles to action

by Gerda Verburg

Investing in agriculture remains the best opportunity to reduce hunger and malnutrition among the 1.5 to 2 billion people worldwide living in poverty. We need to change the way we think about investment in agriculture and food systems to ensure that it benefits those who need it most.

Coordinating divergent views

Food security has multiple dimensions – availability, access, utilisation and stability. Eradicating hunger requires policy action that addresses all four dimensions. Depending on the specific context, actions may be required to increase productivity, promote rural development and incomes, strengthen social protection mechanisms, improve infrastructure and invest in education and health. These multiple actions involve a variety of stakeholders who often have divergent views and goals. The challenge is to improve stakeholders' coordination to enhance the effectiveness of actions to promote food security and nutrition. Such coordination requires an enabling environment that creates incentives for all stakeholders and allows them to participate in policy formulation and implementation. The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) promotes such an environment at the global level.

CFS is a multi-stakeholder committee which has often been referred to as a model for participatory policy development. In this regard, CFS is unique in that its deliberations are the result of consultations and negotiations among all the various actors involved in addressing food insecurity: member countries of the United Nations, UN bodies, civil society organisations and their networks, international research networks, international financial institutions, private sector organisations, and philanthropic organisations.

Changing the way we think about agriculture and food systems

Following the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) in 2012, CFS took up the challenge of developing a set of principles which would promote much needed investment in agriculture to feed a growing population while at the same time ensuring that such investment benefits those who need it most.

The Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems, endorsed by CFS in October 2014, represent a major achievement in policy convergence for the whole international community. Following an inclusive two-year consultation and negotiation process, countries, civil society organisations and private sector associations have reached the first ever global agreement on how to ensure that food security and nutrition are put at the forefront of investments in agriculture and food systems.

The Principles outline how investment in agriculture and food systems should address development challenges such as climate change, gender equality, health and welfare, youth engagement, and access to water, among others. The Principles address all types of investment in agriculture and food systems – public, private, large, small – and in both the production and processing spheres. They provide a framework that all stakeholders

can use when developing national policies, programmes and regulatory frameworks, corporate social responsibility policies and programmes, and individual agreements or contracts. The Principles also outline the roles of all types of investors from states, to business enterprises, to smallholders, who – while dispersed – are in aggregate the world's largest investors in primary agricultural production.

From Principles to action

So what's next? What do the Principles mean for each stakeholder and how do we all work together to apply them and make a real difference in ensuring food security and nutrition on the ground? While the Principles provide the basis for moving forward together, the people responsible for translating global policy into action at the country level need to think through practical steps at all stages of food systems. For example, by moving away from the opinion that 'investment' means buying land, and instead thinking more broadly about investment in agricultural knowledge and technology which can play a transformative role in reducing poverty throughout food systems. Transforming agriculture and food systems means using less land and getting better results from the resources and inputs that stakeholders use.

Changing the way we think about investment also means fostering gender equality and women's empowerment. Despite the fact



Tea picker. Photo: Simon J Turner, thinkstockphotos.com

that women make up 43% of the agricultural labour force in developing countries, they also make up a large portion of the world's poor with estimates as high as 70%. It is only by advancing women's equal access to inputs and services such as land, credit, education, training, innovation, and new technologies that we will be able to break the cycle of poverty.

Promoting youth's engagement in agriculture is another important aspect addressed in the CFS Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems. Approximately 90% of young people live in developing countries where agriculture employs as much as 60% of the labour force. But the majority of youth do not currently see agriculture as a viable career path given the hard work, big risks and the low productivity and income rates faced by previous generations. How can stakeholders work together to harness advances in new technology and new employment areas to attract and enable youth to be drivers of change in improving agriculture and food systems?

One key element to also contribute to sustainable development goals will be harnessing the market potential in agriculture and food systems to spread greater value through the supply chain. Consumers are demanding more responsible investment practices and want to be able to learn where and how food is produced, even willing to pay higher prices for products which meet these characteristics. Companies are starting to recognise that to succeed in the longer term, positive

changes for rural communities must be part of the food system story. The estimated 500 million smallholders worldwide represent an opportunity for companies looking to diversify their portfolio of suppliers, and reduce the carbon footprint. This creates opportunities for smallholders to connect with local and global markets. Smallholders account for more than 95% of agricultural holdings and feed up to 80% of the population in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. Therefore addressing food security and nutrition means identifying partnerships for inclusive growth with smallholder- and family-farmers.

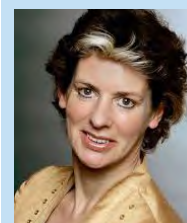
There are many examples of successful partnerships addressing some of the areas stakeholders need to focus on to ensure that agricultural investment contributes to food security and nutrition, but there is more to do. Regional organisations such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) have a key role to play as they integrate the Principles into their own policies, frameworks with member states, programmes, research, outreach activities, technical assistance, and capacity building.

Over one billion people are still living in extreme poverty, and at least two billion people suffer from malnutrition. The anticipated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will face an annual investment deficit of US\$2.5 trillion in developing countries. Full engagement from all sectors and actors is critical to scale up investment. The business

case and the humanitarian case for investing in responsible agriculture and food systems is there; now result oriented action is needed on the ground, reached through multi-stakeholder cooperation. ■

For more on the *Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems* see http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/cfs/Docs1314/rai/CFS_Principles_Oct_2014_EN.pdf.

About the author



Gerda Verburg is the Chair of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the UN agencies in Rome. Between 2007 and 2010, she was the Dutch Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality.



Turning agricultural policy into food policy

ECDPM's Paulina Bizzotto Molina talks to Fokko Wientjes of DSM

DSM is a global science-based company active in health, nutrition and materials. One of its key focuses is to deliver innovative solutions that nourish, protect and improve performance in food and dietary supplements. Here ECDPM speaks to the Vice President of Sustainability & Public Private Partnerships at DSM.

Paulina Bizzotto Molina: The public sector opinion is strongly in favour of linking the international nutrition agenda and international agricultural agenda. What is your view on this linkage?

Fokko Wientjes: Linking nutrition and agriculture is necessary. Two billion people around the globe don't get the proper nutrients. Malnutrition is a problem even in rich countries like the United States. In Africa it means that many children growing up now will not reach their full physical and mental potential. DSM is the largest producer of vitamins and other nutritional ingredients in the world. We supply the food industry with the ingredients necessary to fortify nutrition. We also do this in Africa. We are investing in Africa and have been talking to many African farmers, food producers and ministers. What I see happening is that African policies focus too much on agriculture to increase outputs, not to meet nutritional needs. I am convinced of the need to invest more in agriculture. It has been underfunded and there is much to be gained, innovation can play an important part.

But my concern is that the current focus is too much on boosting the production of staple foods. Governments want to cut down their imports. The result is that they are focusing on filling people's stomachs but not with healthy, nutritious food. The solution lies in investing in a more diverse agriculture but also in a food industry that can fortify products and extend shelf life. Agricultural policy needs to become food policy. African policies need to change the focus from the producer, calories and output per hectare to focus on the consumer's nutritional needs. People should have access to good and nutritious food. Participating in the World Economic Forum's New Vision for Agriculture initiative I think we can really move the agenda and make the shift from output to quality.

PBM: What is your view on the role of multinational companies working together with the public sector to improve food and nutrition security?

FW: The ingredients for a successful public-private partnership (PPP) are an overall shared goal, complementary competencies, individual accountability

and trust. The divide between public and private is irrelevant. You have to look at what needs to be done, look at the competencies we are missing and find them. Within a successful PPP the difference between the private and public sector is not visible since the group acts as one team.

The public sector can do things private companies cannot. For instance, the public sector, like the civil society organisations, can improve the trust within PPPs. Collaboration between the public sector, either national governments or international organisations, and private companies is essential. We started working together with the World Food Programme. We looked at the quality of food they are producing and providing. They reach 100 million beneficiaries; by means of the partnership we have now improved the nutritional content of the food of 25 million of these beneficiaries. Working together, we can strengthen each other. That makes me proud. But I'm also very humble; the reach of governments and United Nations organisations is so much bigger.

The private sector produces and delivers almost all food. That makes the role of the private sector in addressing this issue essential. 30 to 40% of food is lost post-harvest. If we can extend the shelf life of those products we can win so much. Also, investing in storage and infrastructure can reduce the instability that market cooperatives and farmers suffer from. The role of the private sector is sometimes not well understood, recognised or even accepted. We need to go past pointing at the conflict of interests of the private sector. Everybody has interests. Interests can be managed to get all the arrows pointing in the same direction, but for that to happen there has to be trust. If we can create opportunities and incentives, the private sector will invest. We need big solutions to break the vicious cycle of malnutrition. What we have to do has to be on a large scale. You can start with a pilot but it has to be scalable. We have to stop littering the world with pilots that lack impact and scalability.

PBM: Do you see a role for European public money to stimulate a better engagement of European companies in African agriculture?

FW: There is definitely an important role to be filled by European governments. The advantages of European companies investing in Africa are clear but the risk of doing business is much higher. The returns don't necessarily match those higher risks. This is where governments and donors can help. Seed capital can help in 'de-risking' private investment. It's also a matter of rethinking development. Let's look at how the private sector can tackle some of these problems and see if they can do it better. Not worse or the same, but better. We need to get more out of our development bucks, doing things differently. For that, we need more transparent benchmarks also for the role of the private sector for development, so its contributions can be monitored and improved.

PBM: Does DSM see Africa only as a market in which to sell goods produced elsewhere or does it invest in Africa also to source inputs and produce locally, which could help local value addition and intra-African trade?

FW: At present DSM sees Africa mostly as a market, but an increasingly important one so we have started investing more in Africa for the longer term. While sourcing is not developed yet, in the future we want to source and produce locally, thus contributing to intra-African investment and trade. But this also requires

building the capacities of local private sector, especially smallholders that are now too vulnerable for traders. Strengthening the local food industry is also key to creating a more stable demand. All this can be done via partnerships, direct investments, joint ventures and technology transfer. DSM has already launched research and leadership programmes in Africa. We have asked independent researchers to study the functioning of PPPs as we also need to build better evidence. We are already sharing our experiences, including on projects that failed. It's the only way to learn from them. ■

Fokko Wientjes is Vice President of Sustainability & Public Private Partnerships at DSM and member of the project board of WEF New Vision on Agriculture and of the Global Agenda Council Food & Nutrition Security.
www.dsm.com

This interview was carried out by Paulina Bizzotto Molina, Policy Officer at ECDPM.



Photo: Taken in Kenya by Peter Casier for the World Food Programme. KEN_070_SF_WFP-Thierry_Geenen

Partnering for better quality coffee

by Amos Kasigi

While Uganda is one of the world's largest producers of coffee, the local industry has faced challenges in ensuring the quality of the coffee it produces. Partnerships involving producers and local traders offer one way to address this challenge to the development of a thriving and globally competitive industry.

In Eastern Africa coffee production provides a livelihood for many rural farmers and offers employment opportunities through local trading companies such as The Edge Trading Uganda Ltd. based in Uganda. This company has been in the coffee trading business for over ten years, and provides employment to 11 permanent staff and around 50 additional staff, mostly women, during the two coffee seasons. The core business of the company is to sort and grade the coffee collected from farmers to an exportable class and then to sell the sorted and graded coffee to export companies, which are mostly multinationals. Coffee trading is an integral part of the coffee supply chain and although initially perceived by some as exploitative agents, local coffee traders are increasingly being acknowledged for their role and contribution to coffee marketing and for providing employment, especially to women. Partnerships have been one of the ways we have sought to improve relations with the public sector, while engagement in multi-stakeholder platforms has yielded benefits such as access to market information, linkages with prospective business partners, and opportunities to contribute to policy dialogue.

The Ugandan coffee industry

Uganda is among the top producers of coffee globally. Prior to economic reform in the early 1990s, coffee marketing was the responsibility of the government of Uganda, farmers were organised through cooperatives for the production and marketing of coffee and quality was rewarded with price bonuses. With

the advent of liberalisation however, the industry's dynamics changed. The local market began producing a wider range of products, such as ordinary green beans, value added beans (sorted and graded), unmilled dried beans and processed/milled dried beans, while it also witnessed a corresponding increase in the number of market actors, including foreign buyers, who represented unforeseen competition and introduced price wars in coffee procurement. Cooperatives were dismantled with the erosion of their key role in coffee marketing and quality assurance and this coincided with the beginning of a decline in coffee quality in the country. Cases of exporters paying penalties of up to €400,000 for poor quality beans sold to the European market became common and this served as a great disincentive for exporters. A blame game followed, whereby coffee consolidators and traders in the domestic supply chain were accused of adulterating cherries. This affected the image of local traders and in turn, their prospects for positively engaging in the local coffee industry.

The industry has nonetheless remained resilient over the past decade, even amidst price volatility and economic crisis, poor coffee quality and pressure on farmers to abandon coffee for other crops such as sugarcane and horticultural products. The strong cultural values associated with coffee production in Uganda, the limited capacity of farmers to diversify to other crops, and the continuous fruiting of the crop even with minimal management have been some of the factors that

facilitated the continued production of coffee in the country. Building on the good will of farmers, in 2008 the government embarked on a coffee production programme that included the distribution of coffee seedlings, an initiative that has stimulated interest by commercial farmers in coffee production, which was historically dominated by smallholder farmers.

The role of local coffee traders

The presence of local coffee traders in Uganda is an outcome of the liberalisation process and our roles and functions have been shaped by the trends in the country's coffee industry. A good example is our role in improving coffee quality, a role that has been appreciated across the board. Coffee traders typically serve as an intermediary between producers and market agents, and play a number of roles such as guaranteeing supplies and a market for the exporter and farmer respectively, value addition services through grading and sorting for export readiness, and pre-financing for farmers to ensure supply. Farmers are increasingly dependent on traders to decide on timing, volumes and the prices for coffee beans. To function effectively in this role, we have created supply structures in the different producing regions, and conduct market research on prices, quality, and volumes to inform our decisions and activities. Playing this role is not easy and involves building and sustaining the supply structures amidst significant competition.



Workers of The Edge Trading Uganda Ltd.

Partnering to address quality concerns

The Edge Trading Uganda Ltd. is a member of the Uganda Quality Coffee Traders and Processors Association (UQCTPA) which was formed by the private sector in 2010 to respond to the urgent need to address coffee quality concerns and to improve the competitiveness of the coffee industry in Uganda. The UQCTPA, which includes traders, farmer representatives, primary processors and exporters, provides a platform to engage with the Ugandan coffee regulating authority, the Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA) on coffee quality improvement, and to support the UCDA in ensuring compliance with coffee quality standards throughout the Ugandan supply chain. One of the key accomplishments of the UQCTPA so far has been the countrywide tour it conducted with the UCDA. This was aimed at improving compliance with quality standards and raising awareness about methods to ensure coffee quality and the disadvantages of poor quality produce. Such initiatives to ensure quality are important for developing the local coffee industry as it has been shown that buyers are willing to pay premium prices for good quality coffee.

The issue of poor coffee quality prompted actors to jointly identify common solutions and the partnerships created to address the problem have been commended. Local multi-stakeholder committees have also been created in coffee producing regions to monitor and advise on quality issues, and UQCTPA was at the centre of this development. At the regional level, dialogue and information sharing is facilitated by the African Fine Coffees Association which has attracted participation from coffee producing regions worldwide to network and share experiences and knowledge on thematic areas such as gender, sustainability, and insurance. Regional cooperation may have an important role to play, as regional bulking is increasingly being viewed by private actors in Eastern Africa as a way to consolidate volumes and increase industry competitiveness in the region.

Other benefits of partnerships

Recent developments in the region's coffee industry present opportunities and lessons for small coffee traders in Uganda to diversify their businesses by engaging in production or export activities. Of importance to our company is the opportunity to acquire information and knowledge on global

coffee production and consumption trends through participation in multi-stakeholder forums and also meet prospective buyers and partners offering more 'friendly' coffee trading terms. Although existing multi-stakeholder platforms have emerged as a response to particular challenges, these should consider adopting a more strategic role to continuously identify and respond to challenges in the industry as they emerge in order to remain relevant to the interests of their stakeholders. ■

About the author



Amos Kasigi is the CEO of The Edge Trading Uganda Ltd., a coffee trading firm in Uganda, and the Vice Chair of the Uganda Quality Coffee Traders & Processors Association (UQCTPA).

Smallholders need a seat at the table too

by Shivani Reddy

For agricultural public-private partnerships to be effective, we need another 'P' - the participation of smallholders themselves. Without this, genuine opportunities to transform lives and tackle food insecurity may be lost.

Smallholder farmers are crucial for global food security. Around the world, two billion people rely on 500 million smallholder farms for their livelihood. In recent years, the role of smallholders in key regional and global value chains – for example, in cereals, bananas, coffee, and cocoa - has gained increased recognition. Yet, despite their central role in food production, many smallholder farmers themselves suffer from chronic food insecurity and hunger. Millions more live on the threshold of poverty and struggle to earn enough from their crops to cover the costs of sustainable production, let alone make a decent living for themselves and their families.

Recognition of this situation is encouraging many businesses and aid donors to invest in new models of agricultural public-private partnerships (PPPs). In different ways, these claim to attract new investment and promote changes to the policy environment, while securing benefits for smallholder farmers.

Fairtrade works with businesses to change the way that they trade. We also work with over a million smallholder farmers – typical intended beneficiaries of such PPPs. Our experience is that the right kind of private sector partnerships have the potential to improve, or even transform, the lives of smallholders

and their communities. But trading relationships with smallholders are usually imbalanced: buyers have many supply options (and the purchasing power) whereas smallholders can lack capital, information, and alternatives. Investment in PPPs which fails to adequately consider such dynamics risks further disempowering smallholders and exacerbating poverty.

The multiple appeals of PPPs have led to a surge in the number of such initiatives in African agriculture, both at the macro-policy level, and at the project level. Many of these initiatives claim to benefit smallholder farmers. However, there has been relatively little analysis conducted on how successfully agricultural PPPs are engaging with smallholder producers themselves. How far are PPPs incorporating farmers into the design, development, implementation and evaluation of these partnerships?

In 2014, the Fairtrade Foundation set out to assess how a small number of PPPs in Ghana, Malawi and Kenya were engaging with smallholders,

what the farmers' experiences had been so far, and whether there were lessons that could be learned by governments, private sector investors and NGO partners.

No seat at the table

Our research suggested that a number of agricultural PPPs in Africa were paying insufficient attention to the interests, needs and priorities of smallholder farmers. Few, if any, meta-level fora existed which enabled smallholders to sit around the table with representatives from governments, agribusiness companies and other stakeholders and direct the evolution of PPPs as equal partners. Within specific projects, smallholders were often perceived as beneficiaries of the PPP, but were largely peripheral in the management of these initiatives.

In addition, partnerships seemed to be largely driven by pre-conceived ideas amongst governments and donor partners about the requirements of smallholders. Interviews with farmers' organisations in each of the three countries

“Mechanisms to engage smallholders in the design of agricultural PPPs in Africa appear to be weak.”

“Agricultural PPPs do not operate within a vacuum.”



*Malawian farmer in her groundnut plot under conservation agriculture.
Photo: T. Samson/
CIMMYT. flickr.com*

revealed that there was often a disconnect between the priorities established for agricultural PPPs and the smallholders' own priorities for investment.

Overall, mechanisms to engage smallholders in the design of agricultural PPPs in Africa appear to be weak. Smallholders are likely to have limited engagement with PPPs where they lack a strong political voice - unless special efforts are made to ensure this happens.

A failure to listen can exacerbate existing inequalities and make things worse – not better – for the communities such projects are intended to help. In a case identified by our researchers, more than 250 smallholder farmers in Dwangwa, central Malawi claimed they were forced off their land, to make way for a sugarcane PPP that was funded by the African Development Bank and is now under the umbrella of the New Alliance. Some alleged they were beaten by armed police and had their homes destroyed. Another 32 smallholders claimed they were forced off land for an EU-funded sugarcane scheme. One farmer said he was offered just US\$23 compensation for a one-acre plot, while well-connected 'outsiders' linked to commercial interests were allocated land. An EU review of the land re-allocation undertaken for the

Dwangwa sugarcane PPP noted it had a 'negative effect on poverty'. Our study found that it exacerbated inequality with some farmers becoming landless and hungry while others gained from higher incomes.

A number of smallholder communities resisted pressure to convert to the PPP sugarcane schemes. "We don't want to get into sugarcane, we are being forced," said the Chair of the Mkhuto Food Security Club at Kasitu East. "Instead we want practical help with increasing our production through organic methods."

Lack of engagement in the design of agricultural PPPs is particularly evident where PPPs are demand-driven, shaped predominantly by the commercial interests of private sector partners. Lying behind this demand-driven approach seems to be an implicit perspective from government and donor partners that the problems of smallholders are already well understood, and that by inviting smallholders to participate in ready-made PPPs that provide them with opportunities to access inputs, links to markets or credit, they will automatically improve their prospects. However any such assumptions must take into account the specific context of those farmers, such as crops already being produced, food security needs and land use issues.

Arguably, this also requires that smallholder farmers be well organised and ensure that ground-level interests are effectively communicated in the appropriate forum by their representatives.

For agricultural PPPs do not operate within a vacuum. They are framed by the political economy of their location. As such, the likelihood of any given partnership meeting the needs of smallholders will depend on a variety of factors including the existing and preferred livelihood activities of smallholder producers: the strength of local community institutions; security of land rights; existing market participation and relationships; the state of local infrastructure; presence of extension services, etc. There is also the question of how relationships between women and men and power relations at the community level are likely to shape how PPPs create (or deny) opportunities for benefit sharing both within and between households. A failure to adequately consider such factors and tailor PPPs accordingly can lead to partnerships that miss or ignore smallholder farmers' priorities, or in the worst case scenario, actually aggravate local social and economic disparities and inequalities and exacerbate poverty.

Of course, linking to new markets is useful, but an exclusive focus on

the demand-side risks closing down the space for alternative partnership models built on farmers' visions and priorities. For example, in the Ghana Commercial Agriculture Project – a US\$145m partnership between the Government of Ghana, the World Bank and USAID, which aims to increase the productivity of smallholder farmers in the Accra Plains and SADA region – there has only been one occasion, in 2011, when smallholders had an opportunity to express their views about the PPP.

"Being a farmer leader...and having direct contact with other producers across the country and the continent – I think that we should be the ones who add value to reshaping the way a project can work for the benefit of producers," said Chief Adam, President of the Gbankuliso Cashew Farmers' Association in Ghana, a long-established farmer-based organisation in the SADA region's Bole district with nearly 1,000 smallholder members. "This project has come to change and improve the lives of farmers. But you cannot make a change if you do not have people working together," he added, in an interview for our report.

Alongside the concerns, our researchers found some signs of positive progress: a number of civil society representatives were invited to roundtable discussions about Malawi's New Alliance country co-operation framework agreement, although few had taken up the invitation. An EU-funded project delivered by Concern Universal has sought to build the capacity of sugarcane outgrower groups in Dwangwa to represent themselves, and some of the coffee farmers we interviewed in Kenya saw the potential for improved market access as a result of the Nyeri coffee PPP.

The need for a fourth "P"

Agricultural PPPs have the potential to boost productivity, increase market access for smallholders, and ultimately, to improve lives. But there is a real danger of commercial interests alone dominating the choice of priorities. The voice of smallholder farmers is not currently being heard and their actual needs are neglected. If agricultural PPPs are here to stay, the governments, NGOs and businesses involved with them must do more to ensure that smallholder farmers can play an active role in their inception, design and development. We need a fourth "P" – for participation – to make sure that private sector initiatives in agriculture are going to benefit smallholders, not just boost profits for shareholders.

In brief, Fairtrade recommends that PPPs should:

- Establish clear development goals - any investment that aims to reduce poverty, increase food security or contribute to more sustainable livelihoods, should be linked to clear and measurable development goals that are monitored and evaluated against robust and reliable indicators.
- Clarify land tenure – by checking if the relevant government has a functioning land policy and legislation in place, with a view to clarifying arrangements for customary land and understanding the rights for local communities.
- Engage farmers in design and development – building the capacity of farmer representatives, so that they can sit around the table with other stakeholders as equal partners, means the PPP benefits from knowledge of the local context and the farmers' understanding of possible opportunities and risks.

- Be transparent and accountable - information should be provided in local languages and made publicly available. All donor, government and investment commitments should be disclosed during a full stakeholder consultation, which should be conducted over a reasonable timeframe so that it is thorough and meaningful.
- Adopt the highest standards - the highest existing labour, environmental and human rights standards should be applied, in line with the United Nations (UN) Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (Ruggie Principles), the UN Principles for Responsible Investment, and the UN Voluntary Principles on the Responsible Governance of Land Tenure. There should be rigorous social impact assessments to identify and mitigate potentially harmful impacts before proceeding with investment. ■

'A seat at the table? Ensuring Smallholder farmers are heard in Public-private partnerships', the Fairtrade Foundation's study of agricultural PPPs in Africa is available in full at www.fairtrade.org.uk/en/what-is-fairtrade/policy-briefings-and-reports.

About the author



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Talking Points



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Coherent EU external action & the ACP | Universality & differentiation post-2015 | African strategies & the SDGs

Weekly Compass, 6 March 2015

This week's Editor's Pick considers that discussing future ACP-EU relations in a silo is a risky choice. ECDPM looks at how the partnership will fit into the EU's external action. It is the first blog in a series that will feed into an ECDPM study (to be published this summer) to contribute to a well-informed debate on the future of ACP-EU partnership through a 'political economy approach' (PEA).

Another article considers universality and differentiation in the post-2015 development agenda saying translating the universal post-2015 goals and targets into national actions, commitments, responsibilities and accountability that respect national priorities and circumstances is a major challenge.

First 100 days of Mogherini & Mimica | A guide to EU decision making on Africa | Developmental regimes in Africa

Weekly Compass, 27 February 2015

A paradigm shift in international cooperation will need much more than European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica's, first 100 days in office have given. ECDPM's Alisa Herrero Cangas says, "Mimica has shown a few cards in his hand, and its not looking likely he's holding many aces." These cards are – a normative vision on what parties should do; looking to emerging economies only as donors; too much focus on financial contributions; and a recycled EU commitment to the 0.7% Official Development Assistance (ODA) target. The EU has more chances of increasing its political leverage in international development negotiations by putting itself in pole position by bringing concrete commitments on Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) to the negotiation table, rather than ODA pledges with limited credibility. Non-financial means of implementation, in particular PCD, may be a better bargaining chip with emerging economies.

Civil registration & vital statistics in conflict | Linking 'Food Security' and 'Peace & Security'

Weekly Compass, 13 February 2015

One cannot ignore the role of conflict in the genesis of food insecurity. However, the question of whether it is competition for access to limited resources that is causing "food wars" or if it is the conflicts that cause food insecurity, remains open. This conference, hosted by the The Royal Higher Institute for Defence, aimed to bridge the gap between research and policy and to encourage discussions on how to optimise the international food aid system. ECDPM's Francesco Rampa made a presentation on the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) showing how it is an attempt at fully implementing the new approach to development cooperation in the case of food security. It is more about development effectiveness and public private partnership than just aid effectiveness.

The threat of terrorism and election violence | The Comprehensive Approach in the Sahel | Mining Indaba

Weekly Compass, 6 February 2015

The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) is the only continental tool that has the potential to improve all governance aspects in its member states argues Steven Gruzd, head of the Governance and APRM Programme at the South African Institute of International Affairs. But only three (out of a possible 35) presidents attended the meeting of the APRM Forum last week. It will be up to the new chief executive officer of the APRM Secretariat, Professor Adebayo Olukoshi, to demonstrate that there is still energy and drive in the APRM project, and to demonstrate tangible governance results. He will need to strategise how to re-engage the continent's leaders to actively participate. And he will have to raise serious funding to fulfil the APRM's potential aspirations.

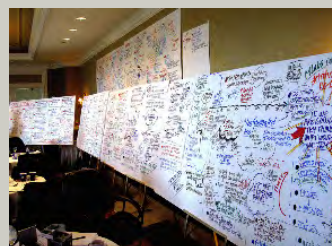
Latest ECDPM publications

Knoll, A; Puppenthal, S G; Mackie, J. 2015. Universality and Differentiation in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. (Discussion Paper 173). Maastricht: ECDPM..



In October 2014, Ireland was appointed by the UN General Assembly as Co-Facilitators for Post-2015 negotiations, along with Kenya. ECDPM produced a new Discussion Paper, financed by Irish Aid, on 'Universality and differentiation in the post-2015 development agenda'.

Seters, J. van, Galeazzi, G., Helly, D., Knoll, A., Lein, B., Rosengren, A., Sherriff, A. 2015. Use of PCD indicators by a selection of EU Member States. Discussion Paper 171. Maastricht: ECDPM.



This discussion paper maps systems to monitor Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) efforts of a select number of EU Member States, particularly their use of PCD indicators. Its aim is to inform endeavours by governments seeking to establish a monitoring mechanism to guide PCD efforts

and strengthen accountability, by reinforcing their capacity to monitor, analyse and report on the development impacts of their own policies on partner countries.

Helly, D., Galeazzi, G. 2015. Avant la lettre? The EU's comprehensive approach (to crises) in the Sahel. Briefing Note 75. Maastricht: ECDPM.



The EU Sahel Strategy very much pre-dated the efforts on the Comprehensive Approach. This Briefing Note argues that the Comprehensive Approach is already being applied to a significant extent in the Sahel: in that sense what already works should be seen as good practice. More structural shortcomings in EU's

external action as well as external variables explain cases of lack of comprehensiveness. In upcoming months the role of the EU leadership in endorsing a new and demanding action plan for the Sahel strategy will be instrumental to ensure coherence.

Frisch, D. 2015. The future of ACP-EU relations beyond 2020: An update of my personal reflections. Discussion Paper 172. Maastricht: ECDPM.



2015 is the year when thorough preparations should start regarding the future of relations between the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group of countries and the European Union (EU) post-2020. A lot of thinking on this subject has already taken place, but more in think tanks than in the relevant

administrations and political fora. The ACP seems at this stage further advanced in their preparatory work than the European side. The EU seems to have waited for the new political actors (new European parliamentarians, new High Representative/VP, new Development Commissioner etc.) to be in place to organise some systematic reflection on this issue.

Mackie, J., Williams, R. 2015. The dawn of the post-MDG era? Challenges for Africa-EU relations in 2015. (Challenges Paper 6). Maastricht: ECDPM.



The year 2015 will bring global development cooperation to a threshold, with both Europe and Africa playing a pivotal role. Long-running global policy processes will culminate in four decisive meetings during the year.

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