

Towards the development and implementation of CAADP regional compacts and investment plans:

The state of play

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1. Introduction

Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in Africa increasingly recognize the value of regional initiatives to boost agricultural development and strengthen food security. In the past few years, regional approaches to agriculture have gradually picked up speed. In the context of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), several regions in Africa have embarked on a process to develop and implement regional CAADP compacts and investment plans. This note gives a brief update on progress that has been made in the different regions, for the occasion of the 9th CAADP Partnership Platform in Addis Ababa on 24-25 March 2013. It can be seen as an update of a series of ECDPM Discussion Papers published in 2012, which give a more detailed overview of regional CAADP processes in COMESA, EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD and SADC (available at www.ecdpm.org/dp128).

2. Overview of regional CAADP progress

Regional CAADP compacts and investment plans are under development in COMESA, EAC, ECCAS, IGAD and SADC. ECOWAS is the only REC with a regional CAADP compact and investment plan, which it is currently implementing.

In October 2012, the **Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)** adopted a roadmap on how to move toward a regional compact and investment plan¹. The roadmap was developed in consultation with representatives of member states, regional farmers' organisations, the NEPAD Planning

¹ COMESA. 2012. CAADP Regional Stakeholders Meeting "Advancing the CAADP Regional Policy and Investment Framework". 4-5 October 2012, Lusaka-Zambia

and Coordination Agency (NPCA), the African Union Commission (AUC) and development partners. It describes both the process to finalise the regional policy and investment framework as well as the types of partnerships to be built for their implementation. In line with the CAADP principles, COMESA seeks to mainstream relevant existing and emerging regional initiatives into the CAADP process. In this light the CAADP Unit of the COMESA Secretariat engages with other relevant divisions within the Secretariat and specialised regional agencies, to ensure coherence and create synergies. The roadmap furthermore confirms the twin-track approach of developing a CAADP compact and investment plan at COMESA level, while enhanced cooperation in specific areas (e.g. production and value chain development) will be pursued together with EAC and SADC in the tripartite context. The roadmap also includes analytical work required to inform the investment plan and an agreement to establish a regional CAADP coordination group for development partners at COMESA level, in order to strengthen alignment and harmonisation of development partners' support. To ensure effective implementation of the roadmap, the capacity of the COMESA CAADP Unit has been strengthened in 2012 through the recruitment of a CAADP Regional Process Facilitator and a Policy Analyst, funded by the CAADP Multi-Donor Trust Fund.

The **East African Community (EAC)** developed a regional Food Security Action Plan and other initiatives geared towards regional agricultural development. This was done outside of the CAADP framework up until August 2011, when the EAC agriculture ministers mandated the EAC Secretariat to start the regional CAADP compact process. Existing initiatives are to be integrated into the compact. To deliver on this mandate, the EAC Secretariat developed a roadmap for the regional CAADP process in August 2012, which has been approved by the EAC Council of Ministers. The roadmap contains an ambitious timeline to develop a compact and investment plan by early 2013 but no formal documents have yet been produced. To address capacity constraints of the Agriculture and Food Security Department of the EAC Secretariat, a regional process facilitator was recruited early 2013 with the support of NPCA.

The **Southern Africa Development Community (SADC)** initiated a process to develop a Regional Agricultural Policy (RAP) in 2008. For a long time the RAP and CAADP were considered to be two separate frameworks, but this perception has gradually shifted. It is expected that the SADC Council will endorse a 'CAADP-compatible' RAP in April-May 2013. This should be followed by the preparation of a regional CAADP investment plan later this year.

The **Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)** launched the process of developing a regional CAADP compact in January 2012. A team of regional experts was recruited to support the IGAD Secretariat. It has organized and facilitated consultations with national stakeholders in all IGAD member states on the priority issues to be addressed in the regional CAADP compact. A regional consultative meeting with Non-State Actors followed in October 2012. It is important to note that this initiative is being developed simultaneously with the IGAD Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI), a scheme aiming at ending drought emergencies in the Horn of Africa by developing a mid- and long term response to current and eventual future crises. The specifics of how these parallel initiatives will jointly contribute to the goals of the IDDRSI are yet to be fully clarified.

The **Economic Community for Central African States (ECCAS)** initiated the development of a regional agricultural policy in 2008, a process that is still ongoing. The region officially launched the regional CAADP process in May 2012. The agreed roadmap envisaged the region to adopt a CAADP compact by the end of 2012, followed by a regional investment plan in 2013, both to serve as implementation tools of the region's agricultural policy. A meeting of the regional CAADP steering committee was held on 14-15 March 2013 to guide the preparations of a regional Round Table for the adoption of the regional compact and investment plan. Next, a consultation workshop will be held with Non-State Actors to collect their views on the regional policy, compact and investment plan. The ECCAS Secretariat is also seeking to set up a CAADP Development Partners' Coordination Group at the regional level.

The **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** is currently implementing the region's agricultural policy (ECOWAP) adopted in 2005 through the regional compact of 2009 and the Regional Agricultural Investment Plan (RAIP), finalised in 2010. In recent months, the region has put in place a number of multi-stakeholder task forces on specific themes (e.g. regional food reserves and value chains), in order to identify gaps and develop investment programmes to implement the RAIP and deliver on the objectives of the ECOWAP. Most progress has been made on regional food reserves, one of the key areas of regional cooperation specified in the RAIP, for which support has been mobilised, including from members of the G20. Alignment and harmonisation of development partners' support is promoted through the regional ECOWAP/CAADP Donor Working Group, which generally is perceived by both the ECOWAS

Commission and development partners as a well-functioning and useful platform. To facilitate the implementation of the RAIP, a Regional Agency for Food and Agriculture (RAFA) and a Regional Fund for Agriculture and Food (ECOWADF) will be set up. This aims to address severe capacity constraints of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of the ECOWAS Secretariat, primarily equipped for coordination and monitoring – not implementation – of the ECOWAP/CAADP. The establishment of the Agency in Lomé is at an advanced stage and its operations might start in April 2013.

3. Challenges to address

The approach to regional cooperation and integration differs between RECs, based on the mandate, priorities and overall ambitions of the member states and specific RECs. Nevertheless, they face some common concerns, which include the challenges to ²:

- **Strengthen institutional capacity of regional organisations** to coordinate the development and implementation of regional CAADP compacts and investment plans;
- **Ensure effective linkages between sectors** (e.g. agriculture, trade, natural resources management) to avoid duplication and incoherencies;
- **Articulate the national-regional nexus** to ensure coherence of regional initiatives with national efforts and fosters synergies between the two levels of intervention (in line with the principle of subsidiarity);
- **Ensure continuing engagement with Non-State Actors** in the development, implementation and monitoring of regional compacts and investment plans;
- **Promote alignment and harmonization of development partners** to effectively support regional CAADP initiatives.

Significantly, a push to fast-track implementation of CAADP at regional level came from the first-ever joint conference of AU trade and agriculture ministers at the end of last year. While discussing the importance of ‘Boosting Intra-African Trade as a Key to Agricultural Transformation’, Ministers mandated AUC, NPCA and RECs to institutionalize policy dialogue to realise synergies between the agriculture and trade sectors.

4. ECDPM engagement

The European Centre for Development Policy Management, a “think and do tank”, uses a combination of research, facilitation and partnership building to link policies and practice and engages in a broad range of policy areas relevant to Africa – EU relations, including food security. The Centre particularly supports stakeholders to enhance CAADP implementation at the regional level. To do so, it works closely with a broad range of stakeholders, including REC Commissions and Secretariats; regional farmers’ organisations such as the EAFF, ROPPA and PROPAC; African knowledge centres such as FANRPAN and the CAADP Development Partners’ Task Team. ECDPM’s contributions include, but are not limited to:

- Analysing bottlenecks and opportunities in African regional communities to facilitate the design and implementation of regional CAADP plans and investment;
- Enhancing the business and investment climate for agricultural trade and markets, through better policy dialogue between national governments and the private sector;
- Addressing the political and economic governance dimensions of food security – including the management of natural resources, land, water and energy; participation of stakeholder organisations and consumers;
- Strengthening the capacities of regional organizations and Non-State Actors, e.g. regional farmers organizations in contributing to CAADP.

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² A more extensive description of these challenges and ways to tackle them can be found in the ECDPM Briefing Note ‘Getting ready for take off: Lessons for regional CAADP’ (see www.ecdpm.org/bn38).

ECDPM Briefing Notes

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