



CAADP Technical Networks – Initial Convening and Launch Crowne Plaza Hotel, Upper Hill, Nairobi, Kenya 2nd and 3rd September 2016

Meeting Concept Note and Program

1) Background – Technical Networks

The Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, AUC-DREA and the Nepad Agency are developing seven (7) technical networks that will support the implementation of CAADP, and specifically, the Malabo Commitments. Technical Networks will be communities of practice drawn from organizations with the track record, technical capacity and resources to develop mechanisms and provide tools to support the implementation of specific Malabo Declaration content areas. These organizations will already have a portfolio of relevant solutions and tools; or the capacity to develop these in partnership with others. Technical Networks will provide training and technical advice in specific content areas to country and regional agriculture sector governance entities on policies, priority interventions and good practices that can accelerate achievement of national, regional and continental agriculture production, productivity and food security goals related to Malabo and CAADP.

More specifically, technical networks will provide, among other services:

- Best practice or state-of-the-art methods/tools in specific technical areas
- Targeted training and other capacity development support as appropriate & demanded
- Technical advice responding to specific queries/challenges – e.g. links to specific technologies/innovations
- Occasional situational analyses as needed
- Facilitation of continuous learning and sharing
- *A focus on:* policies, priority interventions and good practice

Operationally, Technical Networks are expected to be thematic technical groups that will borrow heavily from principles of Communities of Practice (CoPs); their objective will be to harness knowledge; package and channel these best practices and thinking to build the capacity of relevant CAADP implementing agencies to support implementation of CAADP. The Technical Networks will be largely demand-driven, responding to the needs identified by CAADP implementers. They will be proactive in identifying and analyzing the gaps that require their support. They will not always wait until CAADP implementers seek help.

Up to seven (7) technical networks, loosely based on Malabo Commitment areas and the IS&R Strategic Action Areas are being developed:

1. Agricultural investment financing
2. Nutrition and food security
3. Agricultural research and extension
4. Agro-industry & value chain development
5. Markets and regional trade
6. Resilience, risk management and natural resources management
7. Knowledge Management, policy analysis and accountability for results

2) Progress in Technical Networks

The African Union is partnering with PICO-EA, Africa Lead and USAID to support the development of these Technical Networks at the initial stages. It is expected that many other partners will soon join the effort. Significant progress has been made in identifying organizations that could be part of the networks. After an expression of interest call, many organizations applied electronically for membership. These organizations have made a case for membership, describing their capacities, mandates, track records, partnerships and other relevant elements of their ability to be players in teams of organizations. These applications have been analyzed and evaluated by the project task team for suitability on the basis of a set criteria. The process of admitting new membership into Technical Networks will hence proceed organically as Technical Networks identify and co-opt organizations.

3) Initial convening and launch

Having identified the membership for Technical Networks, the project team has organizing a formal kick-off event to start them off. The initial convening and formal launch meeting is planned for **2nd and 3rd September 2016 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel** in Nairobi. In the run-up to the launch meeting, the project team has initiated some conversations (over Phone, Skype and email) with selected network membership to discuss and notify them of plans. The initial convening is designed to start the off with an agenda and an appropriate sense of urgency and relevance. The initial convening will also allow the Technical Networks to bond and identify operational modalities.

4) Specific objectives of the initial convening and launch meeting

- a) To bring together (physically) members of all the networks (7) for the first time to bond and reflect on the role they will play:* we are cognizant of the fact that the Technical Network members may not be familiar with each other or the relevant work that each member organization may have undertaken. The meeting will be an opportunity to share the experience and capacities of member organizations within a network.
- b) To reflect on current membership and assess who may be missing and must be included:* Whereas organizations that have expressed interest and meet some minimum standards have been invited to the initial convening, it is expected that some key players may be missing. The meeting will reflect on the landscape and identify important gaps in membership with a view to approaching organizations that should be included in the membership.
- c) To help members achieve a common understanding of what the Technical Networks are expected to deliver and agree on an initial agenda or terms of reference and work plan:* The Technical Networks will debate, discuss and agree on an agenda, a minimum set of deliverables and joint actions over the next 3-6 months

- d) *To facilitate members to agree on operational modalities – that is, how they will work together: An important part of the success of the Networks will come from mutual respect, clarity about roles, procedures and leadership. The meeting will help Technical Networks determine the operational modalities that will minimize conflict and sustain smooth intra-network operation.*
- e) *To begin a process of reflection on resource mobilization strategies and long term network sustainability.*
- f) *To formally launch the networks and begin an outreach process to countries, RECS and other CAADP implementers: the formal launch process will be presided over by Her Excellency Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture among other distinguished guests.*

5) Expected outputs of the initial convening

- a) A common understanding of the what, why and how of technical networks
- b) An initial issue summary and draft work plan for each of the 7 technical networks
- c) Determination of the convening organization in each network and any additional membership
- d) Agree on next steps and way forward for each Technical Network
- e) A formal launch, pitched at a suitably high level

6) Meeting process

The initial convening and launch will be a 2-day meeting of about 70 participants split, largely, into two parts.

1. ***Day one and day two half day:*** Technical Network members will focus on technical content and priorities including work planning. The Networks will meet in moderated sessions to reflect and share on the key issues, solutions and existing capacities. They will also discuss operational modalities and logistics.
2. ***Day two afternoon*** The second day in the afternoon will be a formal, ceremonial launch of the networks with representation from AUC, NPCA, RECS and Development Partners.

The whole meeting is expected to be highly participatory and to draw from the creativity and diversity of participants. The meeting will include a balance between plenary sessions and group work designed to extract maximum output.



**CAADP Technical Networks – Initial Convening and Launch
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Upper Hill, Nairobi, Kenya
2nd and 3rd September 2016**

Agenda

Time	Day 1: 2 nd September 2016: Technical Session	Session Lead
7.30-8.30	Arrival and registration	
8.30-10:30	<p>Opening session</p> <p>Welcome Remarks (AUC/Nepad Agency) Opening Remarks (AUC/Nepad Agency/Development Partner)</p> <p>Introductions and Scene Setting</p> <p>Introductions, Process, Objectives, Agenda (Facilitator) Input Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overview of Technical Networks: the BIG idea – why we need technical Networks? (AUC/Nepad Agency) ▪ Technical Networks: How they have been conceptualized and the road ahead (PICO-Eastern Africa/ Africa Lead) ▪ Discussion: Question and Answer session 	AUC/NPCA
10:30-11:00	Tea Break	
11:00-1:00	<p>Technical Networks: Break-out Groups (Separately by Network):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Defining Technical Network thematic agenda, capacity assessment and work planning 	Facilitator + Breakout Groups
1:00-2:00	Lunch	
2:00-3:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Continued group work:</i> Defining Technical Network thematic agenda, capacity assessment and work planning 	Facilitator + Breakout Groups
3:00-4:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Group Report Back and Plenary Discussion 	
4.00-4.30	Tea/Coffee Break	
4.30-5.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Group Report Back and Plenary Discussion 	Facilitator
5.30	Ajourn	

Time	Day 2 morning: 3 rd September 2016: Technical Session	Session Lead
8.30-10.30	Operational modalities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Input Presentation</i> – principles - current thinking on TN operation (PICO-EA) ▪ Q&A Breakout (by TN) to discuss operations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Choosing a convener, ▪ Rules of engagement, ▪ Communication channels ▪ Other operational matters 	Facilitator
9.30-10.30	Tea Break	
10.30-12:00	Operational modalities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Report back from tables ▪ Plenary and additional buzz groups on report back 	AUC/Nepad Agency, Facilitator
12:00-1:00	Next steps, Evaluation, and Closure of Technical Session	Facilitator
1:00-2:00	Lunch	

Time	Day 2 afternoon: Formal Launch of CAADP Technical Networks	Session Lead
2:00-3:00	Gallery Walk: Technical Networks present highlights of their emerging agenda	Facilitator
3:00-4:30	Formal Launch Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Summary presentation of Technical Networks ▪ Speeches by invited guests (AUC/DREA, NPCA, DPs and others) 	Facilitator, AUC, Nepad Agency
5:00-7:00	Group photograph, Tea Break, Cocktail	AUC, Nepad Agency