

Extracts from the CAADP-Donor consultation, Geneva, 11/2006

Blockages inhibiting the progress of CAADP

CAADP's relatively modest progress partly is due to a series of critical issues which have not been addressed so far. In a first analytical step, these critical issues and challenges slowing down the CAADP process were identified from the donor-side as well as from the African side:

Critical issues and challenges from the donor-side	Critical issues and challenges from the African side
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Link and integration of CAADP in other initiatives 2. Internal links and communication in donors not conducive 3. "Alignment" in the context of dynamic objectives and structures 4. Knowledge and information on CAADP insufficient 5. Varying expectations from donors 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information and Communication on CAADP 2. Leadership and championship for CAADP insufficient 3. CAADP as a top-down process 4. Policy review and formulations not credible 5. Need for common indicators and reporting system 6. Incentives for progressing countries

Proposed actions to remove blockages inhibiting progress of CAADP

On the basis of having identified critical issues inhibiting progress of the CAADP process, the next analytical step focused on the proposition of key challenges and actions for the donor-side as well as for the African side:

Key challenges and proposed actions for donor-side	Key challenges and proposed action for the African side
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Donors guide to participation in the CAADP process 2. Establish an Agricultural Information System 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Address capacity weaknesses 2. Get country level processes moving 3. Development of clear messages 4. Communicate clearly what NEPAD expects from donors 5. Strengthen agricultural policy peer review processes of CAADP 6. Use existing champions – although few, there are some

Addressing information and co-ordination failures of CAADP

The CAADP process faces information gaps as well as insufficient co-ordination at the different levels, i.e. continental, regional and national level. Major information and co-

ordination failures were identified as well as options on what donors could do to foster alignment and harmonisation.

Information and co-ordination failures		
Country level	REC level	Continental level
<p>Lack of communication between Ministers on cross-cutting issues affecting agriculture and rural development.</p> <p>Unclear relationships between Governments and donors and between donors at country level.</p> <p>Hierarchical constraints. Who is 'allowed' to do what?</p> <p>Various levels of organisation among private sector and civil society groups – outreach is difficult.</p> <p>Lack of linkages between relief and development perspectives.</p> <p>Capacity issues: Overdependence on a few key Government staff</p>	<p>Lack of or insufficient coordination mechanisms among regional organisations in the RECs.</p> <p>Lack of donor group at REC level.</p> <p>Lack of communication between donors on the regional agenda.</p> <p>It is not clear for donors what are particular regional issues.</p> <p>There is a huge gap of knowledge management – who is doing what and where</p>	<p>Information exchange between APF and CAADP-PP:</p> <p>→ There is little information exchange and coordination between APF and CAADP-PP.</p> <p>The CAADP PP should review and comment the draft APF report, so the timing of the CAADP PP is important</p> <p>The GDPRD does not participate as such at the continental partnership platforms (APF, NEPAD) to help prepare and convene</p>

Propositions for donors on alignment and harmonisations		
Country level	REC level	Continental level
<p>Donors' alignment and harmonisation is about greater allocative efficiency and more effective aid.</p> <p>Staff and time constraints:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donor staff needs to be mandated to promote and explain the principles of alignment and harmonisation with partners. • Donor staff need clear information and encouragement from Head Quarters to engage. • Head Quarter donors and Head Quarters partners: Need for information about 	<p>Donors are not aware that at regional level there are established institutions that could serve as platforms for alignment and harmonisation.</p>	<p>Advise to strengthening the APF Secretariat on support to its activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical support • Where to get information • Whom to address • Background information to compile APF report to feed into policy dialogue • Establish one common set of indicators to monitor process – coordinate with ReSAKSS

Concrete actions and next steps

The critical analysis of the CAADP process concluded by yielding concrete actions and next steps to be taken to take the process forward. These actions and steps refer to individual donors as well as to the Donor Platform Secretariat.

- 1. Assessment of institutional capacity of CAADP-related institutions**
 - **Terms of Reference and carry out the assessment**
 - **Compile recent assessments**
 - 2. Reaffirm willingness to support NEPAD Secretariat and AU Commission**
 - 3. Develop a donor 'guide' to participation in CAADP (see above)**
 - 4. Develop a website for information sharing in partnership with the Secretariat**
 - 5. Negotiate a coherent reporting system with APF Secretariat based on common milestones / indicators and jointly produce reports**
 - 6. Initiative to harmonise the approaches to CAADP by international organisations**
 - 7. Preparation of next CAADP-PP meeting**
 - 8. Support REC and country platforms**
 - 9. Establish donor groups at REC level**
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4.1 Key challenges and proposed actions for the African-side

One group of participants identified key challenges to remove the major blockages of the CAADP process and accordingly identified some actions for the African side.

1. Address capacity weaknesses

One of the reasons for the little progress CAADP made in the past is due to weak capacities of key actors involved in the process – NEPAD Secretariat, the RECs, national governments. If donors want CAADP to succeed, these weaknesses have to be identified clearly and addressed, also with donor support.

2. Get country level processes moving

Recent development of the CAADP process towards the establishment of national round tables was welcomed. To operationalize the CAADP process and to make it visible and 'touchable' for African countries, there must be a focus on implementation at country level, supported actively by donors.

3. Development of clear messages

CAADP, being a relatively new approach and a complex process, needs to be communicated to African actors with clear messages regarding its objectives as well as its implementation strategies at continental, regional and, in particular, national level.

4. Communicate clearly what NEPAD expects from donors

There is a series of exhaustive documents explaining what CAADP is about and describing the process whilst implementation. Nonetheless NEPAD has not expressed clearly how the CAADP process could be supported efficiently by donors. There is a need to state what NEPAD exactly expects from donors.

5. Strengthen agricultural policy peer review processes of CAADP

Peer review processes of agricultural policies in the frame of CAADP play an important role to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and relevance of agricultural development interventions. Experiences show that these peer review processes still lack quality in certain aspects, so that they should be strengthened to produce better results.

6. Use existing champions - although few, there are some

A process like CAADP requires rapid up-scaling of successful cases with respect to agricultural development. Although few, there are some successful champions whose experiences could be utilized to promote the CAADP process further. There is a need to identify these champions and to develop a strategy on how to utilize them for the process.

4.2 Key challenges and proposed actions for the donor-side

The working group focusing on the identification of challenges and actions of the donor-side, agreed on two major challenges:

1. Donors guide to participation in the CAADP process

Although there is a number of documents which describe in detail, CAADP's objectives, strategies and planned actions, nonetheless there is a need for a crystallised summary of the key issues and major challenges of the CAADP.

Donors are not able to deal with the amount of information available on the CAADP process. What donors need is a kind of guide focusing on donor's participation in the CAADP process. The guide should indicate major fields for donor engagement, mechanisms describing how donors could engage and needs for co-financing

2. Establish an Agricultural Information System

Planning, monitoring and evaluation of agricultural development in Africa, even in the framework of CAADP, is often based on unreliable data. There is a strong demand of donors to establish a system to get and manage reliable agricultural information. Donors shy investments of programmes and projects which have been designed on the basis of unreliable data.

Following the presentation of the group findings on information failure, new issues emerged which required further clarification:

- ***What is the model of engagement of the GDPRD in the other CAADP-related meetings?***
- ***What is the framework for consultation and engagement in CAADP?***

- *What is the value added by GDPRD to the process – benefits for donors and African partners?*
- *Who are the lead organisations for each CAADP pillar and what is the mandate of these organisations?*
- *Purpose of the CAADP frameworks still remains unclear.*
- *There is little information about the ‘pillar-related’ activities of CAADP, APF and other bodies (even with respect to progress reports).*

5.4 Concrete actions and next steps to be organized by GDPRD

The critical analysis of CAADP was concluded and yielded concrete actions and next steps to be organized by the GDPRD. These actions and steps refer to donors as well as to the GDPRD Secretariat.

Before entering in the plenary discussion on concrete actions and next steps, Andrew Kidd presented a matrix¹ of DFID’s internal organisation around the CAADP pillars linking these with RECs and country level.

Participants discussed if the example is a viable option for GDPRD to develop a similar matrix where all donors place their activities or commitments. The agreement is on developing a similar matrix after having clearer the levels to address – continental, regional or/and national. There are doubts, if there is a necessity to place all activities and information available by donors at country level. It was also agreed on that donors internally find out who needs which kind of information and to facilitate this information to the GDPRD Secretariat.

Another suggestion focused on creating in this matrix links to websites, where relevant and specific information from all donors is placed, instead of committing the GDPRD Secretariat to collect information and set it on a new website that has to be maintained by the Secretariat.

Subsequently to this discussion, donors’ representatives developed the following set of actions and steps:

1. Assessment of institutional capacity of CAADP-related institutions

The capacity of CAADP-related institutions as, for instance, NEPAD or the round tables at country level, is crucial for the programme to generate significant and sustainable impacts. There are bottlenecks regarding the institutional capacity of CAADP-related institutions which could slow down or even jeopardize the progress made up to the moment and the further planning.

- **Terms of Reference and carry out the assessment**
Donors offer to support the elaboration of Terms of Reference for institutional assessments and even to support the carrying out of such assessments.
- **Compile recent assessments**
Donor also offer to compile assessments of institutional capacity already carried out in order to not double efforts.

¹ See Annex 6

2. Reaffirm willingness to support NEPAD Secretariat and AU Commission

There is a need to signal the NEPAD Secretariat and also the AU Commission that donors recognise the importance of the CAADP process and are willing to support the NEPAD Secretariat and the AU Commission in terms of accelerating and improving the implementation of the CAADP agenda.

3. Develop a donor 'guide' to participation in CAADP (see above)

Most donors do not have clear how they could participate in the CAADP process. CAADP is being perceived as a very complex process with still unclear expectations towards donors. Donors' participation in CAADP would be encouraged through having a set of well-defined fields of action for donors and simple mechanisms on how donors could participate in CAADP, even in terms of expected investments.

4. Develop a website for information sharing in partnership with the Secretariat

Although there is a lot of information regarding policies and actions related to the CAADP process, yet the access to this information is very limited and some times complicated. Donors propose to jointly establish a website for sharing information about CAADP-related issues.

5. Negotiate a coherent reporting system with APF Secretariat based on common milestones / indicators and jointly produce reports

There is much parallelism of NEPAD and APF with respect to the CAADP process. Donors see the need to harmonise reporting systems of both institutions in order to improve efficiency of CAADP support. NEPAD and APF are encouraged to establish a joint reporting system, based on common milestones and indicators.

6. Initiative to harmonise the approaches of international organisations

Donor countries' ministries and donor agencies have been developing a multitude of different and often competing approaches to agricultural and rural development. This heterogeneity of approaches often hinders donor co-ordination or, in the worst case, even the development of the rural sector at country level. Donors recommend to start an initiative on harmonising existing approaches in order to improve effectiveness and efficiency of donor support.

7. Preparation of next CAADP-PP meeting

Being aware of the importance of the CAADP process for agricultural development in African countries, donors suggest to jointly preparing with the NEPAD Secretariat the next CAADP Partner Platform meeting.

8. Support REC and country platforms

Most donors have not taken action to support Africa's Regional Economic Communities so far. Donors recognise the increasing importance of RECs in terms of economic development of rural areas and suggest supporting these platforms in order to enhance their performance.

The establishment of country round tables as an outcome of CAADP implementation at country level is welcomed by donors as well. Donors offer support for these country platforms.

9. Establish donor groups at REC level

Donors have already established sectoral co-ordination groups at country level. Due to the increasing importance of the RECs, donors see the need to establish donor co-ordination groups at REC level as well.

6 Exchange with African ambassadors

In the course of the discussion the following aspects emerged:

- If CAADP is to become a reality that could be 'felt' in African countries, it needs more funds allotted by donors.
- The GDPRD interprets Rural Development in all its dimensions, not just agriculture, although agriculture is the economic 'motor' of rural areas and is crucial for combating hunger.
- Land tenure issues are of critical importance for agricultural development. Unresolved tenure problems in rural areas are severe obstacles for the economic development of the rural sector.
- The CAADP pillars guide agricultural development in the countries. What is needed is a quality assurance system and capacity building related to the pillars.
- Africa faces many trade-related problems hindering economic development of the agricultural sector. CAADP is still a vision and very general. CAADP has to be implemented at national level to tackle trade-related problems and then focus on the RECs as well.
- GDPRD looks at the modalities of how to connect the donor community with African country level in the context of CAADP.
- Add value to agricultural primary production is a must if African countries want to succeed in trade of agricultural products.
- It emerged the question if all donors and African governments are in the position to create policies that motivate the private sector to invest in agriculture. The involvement of the private sector is seen as critical for agricultural development.

The Global Donor Platform meeting in Geneva came to a number of important conclusions. It would like to bring these to the attention of the members of the Africa Partnership Forum, including African governments, the African Union, NEPAD and donor governments:

1. Donors recognize that they, along with the national governments, the private sector, civil society and foundations, must become more credibly engaged in CAADP. Donors are resolved to play a full part in the CAADP Partnership Platform to help ensure that this body becomes a vibrant, dynamic actor in accelerating progress towards CAADP's goals.
2. Donors are prepared forthwith and willing to support the AU Commission and the Secretariat of its NEPAD programme to help accelerate and improve the implementation of the CAADP agenda.
3. Donors are resolved to improve and streamline communications both within relevant donor agencies and between them, as well as between donors and African institutions at country, regional and continental levels. They will also strengthen the central information-gathering and knowledge sharing capacity of the Global Donor Platform so as to provide all partners a broader and more detailed picture of individual donor priorities and activities at the various levels.

4. Donors recognize the gap between CAADP expectations and current implementation practice and have identified a number of opportunities for coordinated donor action to close that gap. They have a.o. agreed to explore ways of establishing donor advisory groups at the level of Africa's Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to help promote agricultural development within regional integration.

5. Donors are resolved to encourage further work on the definition and development of the four CAADP Pillars to better frame cooperation. They look forward to accelerated CAADP implementation especially at country level, where primary implementation of CAADP is being undertaken, within the context of national development plans (or growth and poverty reduction strategies) and sector strategies.

The member-organizations, Steering Committee and Secretariat of the Global Donor Platform will take the necessary steps to translate these decisions and conclusions into a programme of action and look forward to keeping the AUC, NEPAD Secretariat, Africa Partnership Forum and other development partners informed of their progress.