



**Meeting Summary and Outcomes**  
**“Public-Private Partnerships in Support of the CAADP”**  
**Friday, December 8, 2006, Washington, DC**

**Purpose**

1. This one-day meeting held in Washington, DC gathered decision makers from the African research and international development community, several donor country governments, foundations and global companies<sup>1</sup> to generate input for an ongoing initiative to accelerate successful implementation of the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Program (CAADP), specifically through programmatic engagement of the African regional/local and global private sectors. Private-sector participation is especially important to Pillar Two of the CAADP, which targets improvement of rural infrastructure and trade-related capacities for increased market access.
2. The December 8<sup>th</sup> discussion evolved from the August 31-September 2, 2006 Oslo Conference<sup>2</sup> hosted by Yara International to serve as a public-private discussion platform. The Oslo Conference culminated in a resolution among participants to “take concrete and concerted action toward the development of self-sustaining changes in African agriculture through the use of enhanced approaches to public-private partnerships.”
3. Significant efforts have been undertaken by the African Union (AU) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Secretariat to engage the private sector on the Continental level and within the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in the formation and implementation of a CAADP Pillar Two strategy and framework. The donor development agencies are also engaged in an ongoing effort to work effectively with the private sector. The occasion of the CGIAR Annual General Meetings<sup>3</sup> during the week of December 8<sup>th</sup>, therefore, afforded a good opportunity to bring together these varied groups around the common vision of advancing the CAADP agenda.

**Discussion Summary**

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<sup>1</sup> Participants included representatives from the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of West and Central African Countries (CMA/WCA), COMESA, CGIAR, the Corporate Council on Africa (CCA), USAID, NORAD, DFID, Chiquita Brands, Dunavant, Land O’ Lakes, Mars Inc, Monsanto, Rabobank International, Yara International, the Heinz Center and the Hewlett Foundation.

<sup>2</sup> The 2006 Oslo Conference for a Green Revolution in Africa ([www.africagreenrevolution.com](http://www.africagreenrevolution.com)) was sponsored by Yara International, Rabobank, NORAD and Norfund.

<sup>3</sup> The Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) Annual Meetings attracted over 2000 top decision makers in the fields of agricultural research and international development from developed and developing countries alike to Washington, DC during the week of December 4-8, 2006.

4. The public sector and donors have taken substantial steps in recent years toward increasing coordination within and among their respective groups. The national governments within the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) are moving ahead quickly in their CAADP implementation plans, and representatives of the donor governments have been meeting regularly to harmonize their corresponding support. At this juncture, coordination among the private sector in alignment with high-priority staple and cash crop sub-sectors as laid out by the CAADP can contribute significantly to accelerated African agricultural development.

5. CAADP Pillar 2 in particular is now seeking private-sector input on its intent to increase rural infrastructure and trade-related capacities for improved market access. Given that private-sector engagement in traditional public-sector fora has typically been unsuccessful, this small meeting was called in order to foster discussion toward discerning how and where to coordinate.

6. It was agreed that a framework for engaging the private sector in both policy dialogue and strategic public-private partnerships to support CAADP Pillar 2 is needed.

7. In this context model supply-chain partnerships, both new and existing, will be:

- Aligned with CAADP strategic priorities (which are in turn aligned with national strategies)
- Oriented towards scale
- Long-term in perspective, but short-term and flexible in action
- Providers of a good return on investment for all involved investors

8. In terms of policy dialogue, several specific needs and interests were expressed by the private-sector participants, including:

- Improved infrastructure
- A healthy, better educated workforce
- Rural education, including vocational training
- Access to finance, with more and better tools for risk mitigation
- Renewed soil fertility with smart subsidies for fertilizer and other inputs
- Improved seed for key African crops
- Reinvestment of taxes into the agricultural sub-sectors from which collected
- Direct access by private sector to policy processes at the pre-competitive level
- Improved regulation, contract enforcement and governance

### **Next Steps**

9. Communicate with guidance from Baba Dioum with the NEPAD, regional and national CAADP authorities.

10. Collect and distribute donor and CAADP points of contact at national and regional levels, as well as future key meeting dates.

11. Establish joint donor mechanisms to support CAADP public-private partnerships for action at the regional and national level.

12. Identify and initiate a portfolio of CAADP-specific public-private partnerships. These PPPs should be followed closely as a learning experience.

13. Establish a platform for partnership across these projects. This general committee should only meet until a more strategic method of organization is advised and determined.

14. With participation by 2-3 lead companies, develop a framework in which to engage additional private sector in the CAADP policy process by May for submission to the African Union and G8.

15. Coordinate private-sector discussion fora for the collection of issues pertaining to specific agricultural sub-sectors to then be directed towards the responsible (regulatory) parties.

16. Determine: Does the private sector want a more formal convening group? If so, which private-sector entity will be its convener?

### **Participants**

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