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Editorial

Dear readers,

Effective horizontal and vertical communication is one of the goals of the "Development Partners' Coordination Group"/DPCG. With this first DPCG Circular we intend to spread information on our main approaches and discussion points on CAADP support to a wider range of relevant stakeholders and to facilitate a lively exchange on CAADP-related topics.

Taking into account new implementation challenges arising from the 2014 Malabo Declaration and acknowledging that CAADP is Africa's foremost policy framework for agricultural transformation, wealth creation, food security & nutrition, economic growth & prosperity for all, DPCG feels the urgent need to further strengthen information exchange, particularly amongst the continental, regional and national levels as well as among current and towards new development partners. This circular addresses first and foremost actively

involved stakeholders in CAADP implementation and aims at a stronger linkage between the continental, regional and national levels.

Donors and development partners have strived for harmonization and coordination since the beginning of CAADP in 2003. They met initially as "Development Partners Task Team" (DPTT) under the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (GDP) in 2006. In January 2016, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) took over the chair of the now called DPCG from the European Union and defined its priorities for CAADP support and policy dialogue with the African partners.

We hope that this first circular attracts your attention and interest and contributes to deepening the vertical and horizontal exchange between CAADP stakeholders. Any feedback on this circular as well as input for editions to come is most welcome.

DPCG Chair and Secretariat

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News from CAADP

In the coming weeks, Kigali/Rwanda will be the place of accumulated CAADP steering, management and science outreach. On the one hand, AUC, NPCA and the RECs will meet in June for their **Annual Joint Coordination and Planning Meeting** where the priorities of this year's CAADP support will be reviewed and discussed internally. Following this session, an extended **CAADP Expert Meeting to operationalize the NAIPs Appraisal and Formulation and Biennial Review Coordination Mechanism** is scheduled, comprising CAADP experts from the AUC, NPCA, RECs and key partners that have expressed interest to support the processes. They aim at laying the ground for the forthcoming appraisals of National Agricultural Investment Plans in a critical number of member states as well as the forthcoming biennial review process, with a first report in January 2018.

On the other hand, the **7th Africa Agriculture Science Week**, organized by the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) will meet from 13-16 June, with topics relevant for CAADP such as the side event "Action planning for demand-led capacity development for country implementation of the CAADP and Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa – Part 1" or high-level panel discussions as "Mobilising Science, Technology and Innovation to realise the goals of CAADP, STISA and the African Development Bank's "Feeding Africa" Initiative".

In order to fulfil support delivery on the Malabo commitments, **AUC-DREA is following an institutional restructuring** process to enhance institutional capacity. This is part of a broader reorganisation of the AU Commission. A draft organogram is yet to be endorsed by the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government. Furthermore, discussions around the reorganisation of the CAADP-Team at AUC-DREA are on-going: the idea is to form thematic clusters which would then be responsible for specific topics, like agribusiness, food security and nutrition, climate change, etc. The designated CAADP-coordinator at AUC-DREA is Ernest Ruzindaza.

Additionally, **NEPAD Agency underwent an organisational change** process, which led to a new organogram with four core investments programs. The CAADP Implementation Support Project is part of the investment program "Natural Resources Governance ". The designated head of CAADP is Augustin Wambo Yamdjeu.

On-going CAADP processes with DPCG involvement

New "Guidelines for CAADP Country Implementation under the Malabo Declaration"

In the light of new implementation challenges arising from the Malabo commitments, new CAADP Implementation Guidelines were launched by NPCA and validated by the Permanent Secretaries at the 12th CAADP PP in Accra. To reflect the changes in the CAADP agenda, the guidelines incorporate a perspective beyond agriculture, a stronger emphasis on implementation, delivery and results and a renewed look at how to stimulate private investment and private sector growth. They are based on the CAADP Results Framework (CAADP RF), the Malabo Declaration Implementation Strategy and

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Roadmap (IS&R) and the Malabo Programme of Work (PoW). One important new element related to these guidelines is the establishment of a biennial review process at which performance of each individual country is measured and progress is reported every two years against the various targets drawn from the Malabo Declaration.

CAADP Partnership Architecture Review

NPCA commissioned a review of the current CAADP partnership architecture and an appreciation of its efficiency, effectiveness and impact which was finalized in January 2016. The review is based on a comprehensive survey amongst key CAADP stakeholders and formulated recommendations on how to improve the partnership architecture, taking into account the structural elements CAADP Partnership Platform, Business Meeting, Development Partners' Task Team (now DPCG) and Agricultural Sector Working Groups. The results of the review are currently discussed amongst the concerned stakeholders in order to adapt the partnership system to new challenges and to improve its performance.



Financing CAADP Support under Malabo

Against the background of the ending of the Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) I on December 31, 2015, AUC and NPCA asked Development Partners to contribute to a structured overview of financial and technical support flows into CAADP in order to better plan, steer and monitor. DPCG is in close exchange with AUC and NPCA to improve transparency and negotiation processes in regard to CAADP implementation support.

News from DPCG Members

This space offers DPCG members to announce CAADP related actions from their side, like new support activities, outcome of CAADP related meetings or new partnerships engaged.

Recent and upcoming events

Kick-off Meeting in Bonn/Germany, 12th February 2016

The German chairmanship was officially launched at a kick-off meeting in Bonn on February 12, 2016. Participants included African institutions such as NEPAD Agency, donor organisations (EU Commission, The Netherlands, The World Bank, USAID, Canada, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation) as well as development partners (FAO, World Food Programme, Global Donor Platform on Rural Development, IFPRI, ECDPM). The meeting served to mutually exchange new information, to discuss

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current challenges with the African partners, particularly in the context of implementing the new Malabo Declaration, and eventually to define priorities for the German chairmanship.

DPCG Meeting at the 12th CAADP Partnership Platform in Accra/Ghana, 12th April 2016

The second meeting of DPCG in 2016 took place back-to-back with the CAADP Partnership Platform in Accra/Ghana in April 2016. It dealt on the one hand with internal issues, like organisation, communication and adaptation of DPCG's self-concept (donor framework) and on the other hand with technical topics. Technical topics included the new CAADP Implementation Guidelines, the main outcomes of the MDTF evaluation by the World Bank, the follow-up on the CAADP Partnership Architecture Review commissioned by NPCA and the future CAADP financial architecture. 28 persons participated at the meeting, representing 17 different DP institutions.



Upcoming CAADP related events

- 12-13 June 2016: Joint AUC-NPCA-RECs Planning Meeting on CAADP Coordination, Kigali/Rwanda
- 13-16 June 2016: 7th Africa Agriculture Science Week and FARA General Assembly, Kigali/Rwanda
- 14-17 June 2016: CAADP Experts Coordination Meeting, Kigali/Rwanda
- 10-18 July 2016: 27th AU Summit, Kigali/Rwanda
- July 2016: EU and AU Ministers of Agriculture meeting/The Netherlands
- 5-9 Sept 2016: African Green Revolution Forum, Nairobi/Kenya
- 8-10 Sept 2016: 2nd Africa Rural Development Forum, Yaoundé/Cameroon
- 17-22 Oct 2016: Committee on World Food Security, 43rd meeting, Rome/Italy
- 18-20 Oct 2016: ReSAKSS Annual Conference, Accra/Ghana
- 7-18 Nov 2016: UNFCCC COP 22/Morocco

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