



AFRICAN UNION



NEPAD

Implementing the CAADP Agenda through RECS and member countries



**Organisation of
Regional Implementation Planning Meetings**

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1. Background and Context

There is strong pressure to move the CAADP process beyond the political commitment and framework stage to start implementation on the ground. The Secretariat has been working on an implementation roadmap over the last few months and is now ready to take the process to Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and their member countries. The note provides a brief overview of the roadmap and describes in more details the organisation of the Regional Implementation Planning (RIP) Meetings, which constitute a critical element of the implementation process. The roadmap, as well as the process underlying it, reflects the respective roles of: (a) the NEPAD Secretariat as a facilitator and a mobiliser of resources and expertise and (b) the RECs and member countries as primary implementers. Both emphasise the Secretariat's role in linking African countries to the investment resources and technical expertise that are required to implement the CAADP agenda. The main value addition of the Secretariat's activities are the following: (i) use of NEPAD's political capital to facilitate access by African countries to a substantially larger pool of investment finance and technical expertise than they could mobilise individually and separately; and (ii) facilitation of benchmarking and mutual learning and exchange across countries in order to accelerate the spread and adoption of successful development models and best practices.

The implementation roadmap defines an action-oriented process which, by March 2005, would produce investment options and institutional arrangements that would allow: (i) RECs and member countries to prepare investment projects and (ii) development partners to plan for long term financial assistance. The main four steps of the roadmap are the following: (a) specification of major actionable programs and initiatives based on the CAADP Pillars; (b) definition of a strategy to mobilise a limited number of lead financial partners for each of the programmes and initiatives; (c) identification of major centers of expertise, international as well as regional and national, as lead technical partners; and (d) organisation of 4 regional implementation planning meetings to agree on rules and procedures for country and regional-level project preparation, in-country resource mobilisation, access to funding by development partners, coordination and governance, and program/project performance review. The present note deals with the last step. More information on the other three steps can be found in the Secretariat's report on CAADP implementation and food security (attached), which was prepared for the 3rd African Partnership Forum in Washington DC in October 2004.

2. Schedule and Sponsorship of Regional Implementation Planning (RIP) Meetings

There's broad consensus that the most critical factor in moving towards effective coordination by RECs and direct implementation by countries of the CAADP agenda is the need to ensure empowerment and establish ownership at the regional and national levels. In addition to the process-centered objective of establishing ownership, the RIP meetings also have a technical objective, which is to bring about agreement on the main components of the CAADP investment programs and initiatives for each region, including resource requirements, detailed implementation action plans, coordination arrangements, and target launch dates.

A series of 4 RIP meetings are scheduled as follows:

- East and Central Africa in 3rd week January 2005. The lead regional co-sponsors are COMESA and ASARECA;
- South Africa in the 3rd week of February. Given the absence of a strong regional research body in Southern Africa, NEPAD and FARA will explore the possibility of entering into an agreement with a CGIAR center to act as a co-sponsor with SADC and provide technical coordination support while a regional organisation is identified and strengthened to take over down the road;
- West Africa in the 1st week of March. Lead regional co-sponsors are ECOWAS, the Conference of Agricultural Ministers of West and Central Africa (CMAWCA), and CORAF;
- North Africa in the 2nd week of April. Co-sponsorship arrangements for North Africa are being finalised by the Secretariat.

All meetings will be co-sponsored by NEPAD and the G8, together with the respective RECs, and lead sub-regional research organisations (SROs) that are identified above.

3. Main Tasks and Expected Outcomes of the Regional Planning Meetings

For the purpose of guiding the RIP meeting deliberations, the Secretariat is preparing a Program Implementation Concept Note for each of the programs and initiatives. Each note focuses on two main tasks: (i) in-depth but concise analysis of the main issues and challenges in the sector or development policy area that is targeted under a given program/initiative; and (ii) review of the lessons and experiences among African countries, as well as outside of the continent where relevant, in dealing successfully with such issues and challenges.

The main tasks of the RIP meetings are the following: (A) to review the issues, lessons, and experiences that

- are analysed and presented in the various Program Implementation Concept Notes;
- (B) to agree on best practices to adopt in defining the investment programs;
- (C) to identify the knowledge and operational gaps that need to be covered;
- (D) to draft the terms of reference and establish a work program to fill the gaps and revise the Implementation Concept Notes to produce the final Program Implementation Documents, within a three-month time frame, which will guide investment project preparation and financial assistance planning; and
- (E) to define a governance structure for each region to ensure effective coordination of program implementation and tracking of progress.

Four main fundamental outcomes are expected from the above meetings:

Outcome Number One: thorough review: (a) of issues identified in the concept notes to determine their relevance with respect to regional priorities and realities; and (b) of best practices presented therein in order to determine their applicability and scalability as well as identify eventual operational gaps that need to be bridged. The above review would be carried out against the background of ongoing efforts to address the priorities in each of the program areas. This would not only allow the participants to take stock of such efforts but also to better appreciate the real gaps in meeting the underlying objectives. In other words, it will help answer the questions of: (i) what needs to and can be done to raise investment project implementation efficiency and get more value and impact from current investments; and (ii) how additional resources should be allocated to achieve CAADP objectives and move towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Outcome Number Two: complete endorsement of and commitment to the agreed-on principles and procedures to implement individual programs and initiatives by member countries and RECs. Such principles and procedures would emphasise:

- greater allocation of resources to agriculture by member countries;
- exploitation of regional resource complementarities;
- pursuit of consistency and coherence between national strategies;
- adoption of best practices and benchmarks for policy and strategy design and implementation, and project preparation and implementation.

Moreover, the rules and procedures would specify arrangements for:

- the preparation of investment projects by RECs and member countries
- the access to funding by individual financial partners
- the prioritisation and coordination of national and regional investment programs
- the review of implementation performance by the RECs.

Outcome Number Three: commitment by individual development partners to provide the required long term financial assistance to implement the programs. This would

also include arrangements for coordination of financial assistance and review of implementation performance by the lead financial partners. The commitment by lead financial partners would be with respect to:

- alignment as soon as possible of their ongoing efforts in member countries with the CAADP agenda;
- focus on raising the effectiveness of using their existing development resources to reach CAADP objectives under the main programs and initiatives;
- provision of additional resources to meeting the financing needs of individual programs and initiatives, as implementation progresses.

Outcome Number Four: short term action plan, including identification of an initial set of investment projects that can be processed immediately to launch the implementation phase in each region. Such projects could be based on ongoing efforts and may involve adjustment, refinement, and/or scaling up of such efforts by individual countries and development partners to speed up the implementation process.

4. Key participants

The total number of delegates would be around 200 participants. The anticipated breakdown is as follows.

National delegates: These include:

1. Permanent Secretaries/Director Generals of ministries of agriculture and finance;
2. representatives of farmer organisations;
3. representatives of the agribusiness sector;
4. representatives of NARS;
5. representatives of major banks that currently or potentially active in the agricultural and agribusiness sector.

Regional delegates: They include:

1. participants from the organising REC;
2. representatives from other regional organisations/communities;
3. representatives of regional organisations of farmers and agribusiness groups;
4. representatives of sub-regional research organisations.

International delegates: They include the following:

1. representatives of G8 and the EC;
2. representatives of other bilateral development partners who are lead financial partners;
3. representatives of multilateral organisations: World Bank, ADB, FAO, IFAD, WFP, ECA;
4. representatives of CGIAR Centers and other lead technical partners;
5. representatives of international agribusiness companies.

5. Endorsement of Outcomes and Launching of the Planning Process

At the end of the 4 RIP meetings, a high-level meeting will be organised in Accra on April 20-21, to consolidate and endorse the outcomes of the regional meetings and formally launch the implementation process. The meeting will provide the opportunity to link the regional processes and generate renewed momentum as well as cement commitment around the CAADP agenda.



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