Walking the TALK

A Snapshot of Country and Regional Experiences, Good Practices and Lessons Learnt in African Agriculture and CAADP since 2003

NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

AGRA	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
ASIP	Agriculture Sector Investment Plan 2
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
EAC	East African Community
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
EAFF	Eastern African Farmers Federation
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAP	ECOWAS' regional agricultural policy
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FISP	Farm Input Subsidy Programme
MAF	Mutual Accountability Framework
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
NAIP	National Agriculture Investment Plan
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NPCA	NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency
ODA	Official development assistance
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
PPPs	Public-Private Partnerships
PROPAC	Sub-Regional Platform of Farmers' Organisations in Central Africa
REC	Regional Economic Community
RFO	Regional Farmers' Organisation
SADC	Southern African Development Community
TFPs	Technical and Financial Partners
UMA	Arab Maghreb Union
UEMOA	West African Economic and Monetary Union
UMNAGRI	Maghreb and North African Farmers Union
WFP	World Food Programme

Foreword

When African leaders and Heads of State met in June 2014 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, they adopted the ***Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods.*** The Malabo Declaration is a recommitment to the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), which will drive Africa's agricultural transformation and food and nutrition security agenda in the 2015-2025 decade.

We have learned a lot from CAADP as a continental framework, which has become a powerful tool for advocacy and guidance on agricultural transformation in Africa. Prior to 2003, agriculture was not perceived as a top priority in development planning on the continent and in official development assistance (ODA). As such, agriculture on the continent suffered as a result of considerable disinvestment. Today, we can attribute agriculture's rise to the top of the development agenda to the advent of CAADP. The adoption of CAADP by African Heads of State and Government in 2003 provided Africa with the platform it needed to reposition agriculture as an engine for transformation on the continent.

As an African-owned inclusive initiative, CAADP provides impetus to the need to address food and nutrition insecurity, as well as unemployment, particularly of youth and women. To date, 50 out of 54 countries on the continent are using the CAADP structure in their agricultural planning.

CAADP has also become a recognised brand, adopted by a wide range of constituencies, including development partners, farmers, members of civil society and private sector participants. Importantly, CAADP, with its 10-year Results Framework and comprehensive set of key indicators, is an efficient tool to foster alignment of defined priorities defined by Africans and their international partners.

CAADP implementation support therefore aims to catalyse transformation of Africa's agricultural systems and stimulate increased and sustainable agricultural performance in member states to boost economic growth and inclusive development.

The NEPAD Agency stimulates and facilitates sharing information and knowledge on experiences with CAADP implementation across disciplines and sectors through various initiatives. These include peer networks, which contribute towards building informed and empowered communities. It is within this context that this publication documents and facilitates the sharing of CAADP experiences after its first decade of planning and implementation within countries and, importantly, across regions.

This document is a celebration of national, as well as regional efforts and achievements, showcasing a panorama of good practices and experiences that will help intensify the transformation in Africa's agricultural sector that is already underway. Most of all, it also promotes active participation by citizenry, enhancing mutual accountability and ensuring that future initiatives build on good practices and successes already realised.

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About CAADP

The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) is Africa's policy framework for agricultural transformation and wealth creation, ensuring food security and nutrition, as well as facilitating economic growth and prosperity for all. It was endorsed by the African Union (AU) in Maputo, Mozambique, in 2003 as an integral part of a New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) programme. The commitment to a minimum 10% national budget allocation and 6% annual growth of the agricultural sector are two important components that best provide a synopsis of the Maputo Declaration.

Today, 42 countries have signed the CAADP Compact, a detailed agreement between government and all the other stakeholders in the agricultural industry, establishing processes to plan, reform and chart the way towards boosting agricultural growth.

Under CAADP, African countries aim to raise agricultural productivity to at least 6% annually and commit a minimum of 10% of their national budgets to the sector.

At the African Union Heads of State and Government Summit, which was held in 2014 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, a decade after CAADP was initiated, countries recommitted to the principles and values of the process.

The principles and values that informed the implementation of CAADP in the first decade are still valid and will continue to guide the process through to 2025.

Goals and targets for the next 10 years established in the ***Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods (2015-2025) :***

- Recommitting to the principles and values of the CAADP process,
- Committing to enhancing investment finance in agriculture,
- Upholding the 10% public expenditure target,
- Operationalising of the Africa Investment Bank,
- Committing to end hunger in Africa by 2025,
- Committing to halving poverty by 2025 through inclusive agricultural growth and transformation,
- Committing to boost intra- African trade in agricultural commodities and services,
- Committing to enhancing resilience in livelihoods and production systems to climate variability and other shocks, and
- Committing to mutual accountability to actions and results.

What is a **CAADP Compact** - The CAADP Compact is a multipartite document that assists in the harmonisation, streamlining and prioritisation of agricultural sector developmental initiatives. As such, it (a) establishes the parameters for long-term partnerships in the agricultural sector; (b) specifies key commitments on the part of government and development partners; and (c) clarifies expectations in agribusiness and farming communities. These imperatives will ensure successful implementation of the overall national strategy to transform agricultural industries. As the materialisation of an agreement, the CAADP Compact confirms the goals and priorities that countries have established for their agricultural sectors. This is carried through to determining the types of partnerships and assistances that are needed to achieve these goals and agendas.

The ultimate purpose of a CAADP Compact is to: (i) increase the effectiveness of planning and execution of government efforts, as well as the delivery of external assistance in the agricultural sector. These (ii) provide a robust framework under which assistance can be bolstered to help meet the short- and long-term investment needs of the sector.

What is a **National Agriculture Investment Plan** - The Investment Plan builds upon the goals and targets stipulated in the CAADP Compact. It translates the sector challenges and opportunities into clear objectives and strategies and suggests specific interventions. Importantly, the sector programmes outline strategies for the development of key investments and present robust strategies that detail how each of these areas will contribute to the realising the sector goals.

What is a **Technical Review** - The purpose of the review is to enhance the quality of agricultural development and increase effectiveness of domestic and foreign development assistance for agricultural growth, food security and reduction of hunger and poverty in countries. It aims to ensure that every possible action is being taken to achieve the objectives and targets established by countries.

What is a **Business Meeting?** The Business Meeting is a high-level forum, initiated by Governments, where in-country stakeholders and partners, interact with an AUC-NEPAD lead technical team to:

- Consider the outcomes and recommendations of the AUC-NEPAD Technical Review Exercise as contained in the Technical Review Report of the Country Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plan;
- Renew the commitment made at the signing of the CAADP compact, while providing a platform for clarification and agreement on the form and extent of financial and technical support on implementation of the plan;
- Agree on common elements of the roadmap to address (i) incorporation of agreed Technical Review recommendations and stakeholder comments and (ii) proposals for financing and implementation arrangements for funded programmes and extra resource mobilisation for programmes that have not yet been financed.

1 Introduction

It is estimated that 44%of the population of sub-Saharan Africa is under the age of 16 (with close to 200 million people aged between 15 and 24)[1], making it the youngest region in the world. However, this large pool of youth has not demonstrated an appetite for farming. This is despite the potential employment opportunities the agricultural industry is able to create. Four out of every ten of those unemployed in sub-Saharan Africa comprise youth. In addition, 70% of these young people live in rural areas where they are confronted by significant challenges in accessing education, land, credit, skills development initiatives and other assets and resources that support economic growth and opportunity.

Agriculture remains the primary employment growth sector for most African countries, and it is therefore critical that more opportunities are created for young people in the entire production and marketing value chain.

Experts believe that growth in the African agricultural sector will reduce poverty by twice as much as any other industry. With the biggest share of the world's available arable land, Africa is now repositioning agriculture as an engine for economic transformation. At present, the sector contributes about30%of gross domestic product in most countries. Agriculture therefore remains critical to economic growth and the creation of jobs.[2] Equally important, a vibrant agricultural industry plays a pivotal role in ensuring national food and nutrition security.

CAADP is the African Union's long-term strategy to improving food and nutrition security and increasing earning potential in Africa's largely farming-based economies. This improvement is being achieved by transforming the way in which agricultural strategy is being defined and executed at both national and regional levels, while enhancing the quality and efficiency of agricultural programmes.

This document highlights some of the experiences, good practices and challenges in agriculture facing countries since the adoption of CAADP. It features experiences in CAADP and agriculture from 2003 to 2016. This publication provides synopses of country and regional experiences. Challenges and opportunities in the agricultural sector are provided from the perspectives of regional economic communities, regional farmers' organisations and selected countries from North, East, West and southern Africa. The document has benefitted from the work of members of the CAADP Network of Journalists and drawn quotes from CAADP Focal Points in some countries, as well as direct input from countries

1 African Union - Youth at the AU website http://www.africa-youth.org/
2 Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), Africa Agriculture Status Report 2015

2 Snapshot of Some Regional Perspectives

2.1 Arab Maghreb Union (UMA)

UMA is a political and economic grouping that aims to harmonise development plans and trade among five countries of the Maghreb, namely Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania. Some 65% of the population in this region resides in urban areas and about 28% is less than 15 years in age. All five countries do not have favourable climatic conditions and only about 23% of the land arable with the balance being mostly desert. However, agriculture has been acknowledged as one of the pillars of the region's economy. Agriculture has an important socio-economic role to play with regards to food security, its substantial contribution to gross domestic product and its share in foreign trade. Modernisation of the sector is therefore considered critical. However, one of the biggest challenges to developing the true potential of the industry is the legal status of agricultural land and limited water reserves in the region. Agriculture uses about 85% of available water but only about 10% of agricultural land is irrigated, while the rest relies on rain, making the sector extremely vulnerable to climatic changes. With about 90% of the land susceptible to desertification, the region has embarked on measures to combat this threat.

2.2 Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)

COMESA signed its Regional CAADP Compact in November 2014. It comprises 19 member states, namely Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. These countries are all at varying stages in the CAADP process. The regional economic community developed a communications strategy to reach out to various stakeholders ranging from government and the private sector through to farmers using custom messaging systems. They focus on targeting women, the youth and small holder farmers who have, in the past, been excluded from communication. COMESA is also increasing monitoring and evaluation activities to garner evidence of the positive impact and results of CAADP interventions. Importantly, the communication strategy has to ensure they are well informed about the Malabo commitments and expectations. This is in line with the Malabo Declaration requirement for biennial reviews of countries to monitor adherence to targets.

2.3 East African Community (EAC)

The EAC is the intergovernmental organisation of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. It aims to develop policies and programmes to improve cooperation among the partner states for their mutual benefit. Agricultural production has generally been declining in the region since 2003. Regional interventions are under way to change this scenario, including the development of a Strategic Plan on Agriculture and Food Security. However, there are a host of challenges, including weak legal and regulatory frameworks, inadequate resources, high input costs and low levels of beneficiation. One of EAC's current projects is a US Aid-funded programme using mobile technology to provide farmers with real-time market prices, complemented by the implementation of a Common Market protocol which will allow free movement of goods, capital and services.

2.4 Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)

ECCAS' regional compact was signed on 10 July 2013 and the Regional Investment Plan is also in place. ECCAS aims to promote regional economic cooperation in its 11 member states, namely Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and São Tomé and Príncipe. Central Africa has enormous agro-pastoral and fishing potential, however, countries in the sub-region do not have food and nutrition security and remain dependent on costly imports The CAADP process is therefore crucial for the development of a vibrant agricultural industry in the region. Although all 11 states have signed a Compact, CAADP is still not well known to the public or properly appreciated by some policymakers. Fortunately, the ECCAS' communication strategy has helped raise the profile of the CAADP process. It is now being acknowledged as the policy framework for agricultural growth and transformation among member states. Meanwhile, ECCAS is also now recognised as the implementing partner for agricultural activities in member states and the region, giving it high visibility and credibility. Despite this, the region is still confronted by a number of challenges. These include the need to reinforce capacities, poor commitment at national government level to the process, as well as instability and insecurity related to conflict and socio-political crises in a few member states.

2.5 Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

During the 2008 food crisis, the 15 ECOWAS' member states, including Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde Islands, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo, resolved to accelerate the development of agriculture. In November 2015, they celebrated the 10th anniversary of their common regional ECOWAP/CAADP agricultural policy. The adoption of the ECOWAP/CAADP was followed by the Regional Compact of 2009 and the attendant Regional Agriculture Investment Plan for 2011-2015. A new compact has been finalised for signature by the respective parties and will frame stakeholder engagements in the second generation of CAADP in the region. In terms of the first cycle of ECOWAP/CAADP, the majority of countries have not achieved six per cent growth, with only four out of 15 having allocated a minimum of 10% of their national budgets to agriculture as agreed in Maputo. There has, however, been a progressive increase in the allocations and more funding by the private sector. Some of the challenges the region faces include climate change, limited food security, unemployment and lack of youth involvement in agriculture.

2.6 Eastern Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF)

The EAFF unites 22 farmers' organisations, cooperatives and commodity associations from 10 countries in Eastern Africa and aims to be a functional regional knowledge hub for their development. As a representative of farmers' interests and concerns, the federation hopes to have a greater impact on policymaking in the region. The EAFF has developed an agri-business plan to commercialise five staple commodities in the region, including maize, rice, cassava, potatoes and livestock. It has also developed an agri-business tool that facilitates cross-border trade, price trend analysis and trade training manuals to assist farmers. EAFF hopes to move at least 20% of its members towards collective marketing of produce in its new strategic focus on developing entrepreneurs.

2.7 Maghreb and North African Farmers Union (UMNAGRI)

UMNAGRI is a regional professional organisation representing seven national farmers' organisations in North Africa, namely Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia. It represents the values, integrity, initiatives and interests of farmers in North Africa. UMNAGRI aims to establish a common agricultural market in the Maghreb, encourage intra-regional trade and cooperation, while helping to surmount hurdles in the agricultural sector. Its programmes focus on the adoption of a common plan against desertification, the protection of the environment and the sustainable management of natural resources. Priorities under its 2017 Strategic Plan include the strengthening of institutional and organisational capacities, creating a regional agricultural observatory, improving the quality and productivity of agricultural products and establishing an agricultural marketing strategy. It also intends research the impact of effective communication on farmers.

2.8 Sub-Regional Platform of Farmers' Organisations in Central Africa (PROPAC)

PROPAC is a regional grouping that unites national farmers' organisations from 10 Central African countries. They include Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and São Tomé and Príncipe. PROPAC is also a member of the CAADP ECCAS regional steering committee. PROPAC aims to harmonise the strategies and actions of national farmers' organisations in the region to address their concerns regarding agricultural and rural development. The ECCAS region varies in terms of terrain, languages and even types of farming. It has taken this into account in developing a communications strategy to reach public and private sector stakeholders, as well as farmers with bespoke messaging. Importantly, PROPAC has placed emphasis on training women and youth, while radio, television and various social media platforms are used to disseminate success stories and share agricultural knowledge in the region. PROPAC is also creating a platform to exchange and share information via mobile telephony. Some of the challenges faced by PROPAC include lack of capacity in the farmers' organisations and inadequate communication infrastructure in rural areas.

2.9 Network of Farmers' and Agricultural Producers' Organisations of West Africa (ROPPA)

The Network of Farmers' and Agricultural Producers' Organisations of West Africa (ROPPA) was initiated by farmers' organisations and agricultural producers throughout West Africa. It comprises 13 member national farmer organisations from Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Bissau Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo, as well associated member farmer organisations in Cape-Verde and Nigeria. Since its inception in June 2000, in Cotonou, ROPPA has defended and promoted the interests of family farms, a key component of West Africa's agricultural, forestry and pastoral production. It promotes solidarity in the farming industry by recognising the rights, roles and identities of all categories of agricultural production in each member country.

2.10 Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU)

The Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions is a regional farmers' organisation representing the common interest of farmers in southern Africa. It is based on membership, the core of which is open to national general apex farmers' organisations in southern African countries.

This membership comprises national general interest apex farmers' organisations. These organisations should represent farmers on a voluntary basis, be reasonably representative of farmers in the relevant southern African country; are autonomous and legitimate farmer controlled organisations, are independent of political parties, and share common values and principles with SACAU. SACAU only interacts with farmers through its members consisting of 17 farmer organisations in 12 countries in southern Africa, including Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

3 Snapshot of Country Reports

3.1 Benin

Date signed CAADP Compact:	15-16 October 2009
Date CAADP Business Meeting held:	6-7 June 2011
Budget allocation for agriculture:	11,71% (2015)
% contribution of agriculture to GDP:	On average 32%

Agriculture has always been important in Benin, but after independence, the country's farming sector seemed to stagnate. Rural poverty increased and there was an exodus from these areas to cities and other countries. Following the 2008 world food crisis, the government subsidised the importation of basic foodstuffs, particularly rice, by reducing tariffs and focused on rejuvenating its agricultural sector by mainly providing farmers with free seeds and fertilizer. Benin's National Agriculture Investment Plan (NAIP), drafted in 2009 is linked to the Strategic Plan for Agricultural Renewal (PSRSA), which was adopted by the government in 2011.

Today, agriculture contributes about 32% towards total gross domestic product (GDP), more than 60% of the country's export earnings and employs about 70% of the country's population. The state's vision is to harness the huge potential of its agricultural sector to achieve sustainable food and nutrition security, support economic and social development and reduce poverty. This will be achieved through efficient production, sustainable farming management and ensuring competitiveness, as well as access to markets.

Challenges, opportunities and lessons learnt:

- Budget allocation to agriculture dropped consistently from 2011 to 2014. However, the allocation increased to 11,71% in 2015, just above the CAADP's recommended 10%.
- A 2011 survey showed an increase to 53,9% of the population living on less than one dollar a day, compared to 40,8%in 2009. A total of 36,2% of the population lives below the annual poverty threshold, compared to 35,2% in 2011. The rate of poverty is higher in rural areas than in cities.

Experiences and good practices:

- There was record food production from 2009 to 2010 as a result of more farmers growing cereals because of government's distribution of free seed and fertilizer. The downside was a reduction in cotton production, one of the biggest income earning commodities for the country.
- In 2011, as part of the PSRSA, action was taken to promote six agricultural sectors, namely maize, rice, pineapple, market gardens, poultry and fish/shrimps, with value chains that had been defined through consultations with all stakeholders.

- Agriculture's contribution to GDP has grown over the past five years, mostly due to the gradual increase in cotton production. However, there has not been an improvement in terms of poverty reduction.
- From 2014 to2015, there were small increases in the production of maize, legumes, root and tuber crops and vegetables, while industrial crops grew by 12,88%. Cereal production however decreased by 7,65% due to drought and flooding in different regions of the country.
- In 2010, the government indicated that economic policy would be directed at grassroots and regional development. Actions implemented to achieve this goal include improving basic infrastructure, development of factories to manufacture agricultural machinery, installation of irrigation systems, modernising cotton ginning factories and small-scale food processing and deploying sustainable land management practices.

Revival of the agricultural sector during the 2006-2015 period
by Aline Assankpon

"From 2006 to date, we can speak of the birth of an agricultural revolution that has resulted in significant resource allocation to agriculture. In all, more than 400 billion CFA francs were injected into this sector. The allocation of 11% of the national budget in Benin to agriculture has exceeded the 10% recommended in the CAADP Maputo Declaration in 2003," declares Mr Rufin Orou Nan Nansounon, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.

The revival of the agricultural sector is one of the priority actions for the Government of Benin, which has committed to reducing poverty and food insecurity. As such, a Strategic Plan for the Revival of the Agricultural sector (PSRSA) was developed from the National Agricultural Investment Plan (NAIP).

Implementation of the PSRSA has led to a number of positive initiatives in the country's agricultural sector, of which mechanisation is an important story to tell. Agricultural mechanisation has resulted in Beninese farmers sowing huge cultivable areas. The government has acquired and made available to producers 450 tractors with the necessary attachments and accessories.

"This will encourage production and increase cultivated land which has been well below 20% of arable land," says the Minister of Agriculture.

It is also reported that since 2012, 70 000 young people have been recruited on different rice growing areas in Malanville and state farms throughout the country.

However, in Banikoara (the Beninese cotton basin), the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries has identified some major challenges that first need to be tackled to improve its agricultural revival initiatives. These include mitigating the adverse climatic effects. In 2015, for example, the drought had a negative impact on agricultural production. Focus also needs to be given to effective water management, improving yields and agricultural productivity, the improvement of family farms and the wide promotion of agricultural entrepreneurship.

Maize field in Benin

3.2 Burkina Faso

Date signed CAADP Compact:	22 July 2010
Date CAADP Business Meeting held:	26 March 2012
Budget allocation for agriculture:	11,71% (2015)
% contribution of agriculture to GDP:	About 30% (2012)

Some 80%of the population of Burkina Faso earn their living from agricultural production. It is one of the few countries in Africa (15 out of 54) that has achieved the CAADP target since 2003. Its government has allocated significantly more than the recommended 10%of the national budget to agriculture and water affairs. Although the budget share has been declining in recent years, it remains above the 10%threshold, standing at 14% in 2015.

Despite this, agriculture receives little budgetary support compared with the country's mining industry. Most of the agricultural budget is directed towards the cotton industry as the number one income earning crop for a country where farmers remain poor. In addition, public expenditure analysis shows a strong reliance of agriculture on external funding. This funding accounted for an average of 71% of total expenditure for agriculture and rural development from 2006 to 2015. Agricultural growth has also declined considerably in the last few years from 5,8% before CAADP was adopted in in 2003 to 3,6%in 2014. This underperformance is to be addressed by Burkina Faso's National Programme for the Rural Sector (PNSR), which has been operating since 2010. From 2011 to 2015, the main projects to receive funding under the PNSR were water control, subsidising inputs and equipment, the promotion of non-timber forest products, better deployment of agricultural research, promoting food security and support for access to markets.

Because it has complied with the CAADP requirements, the country also received $37,1-million to support the expansion of the Agricultural Productivity and Food Security Project (PAPSA) to advance activities to promote the adoption of high performing technologies.

Challenges, opportunities and lessons learnt:

- Despite increased investment, agricultural growth has been declining from an average of 5,8%from 1995to 2003 to 3,6 per cent from 2004 to 2014. In addition, food insecurity and malnutrition rates remain high.
- A large percentage of the budget allocation is directed to the cotton industry and not to the entire agricultural sector.
- Climate change and variable weather conditions provide major challenges to the development of a buoyant agricultural sector in the country.

Experiences and good practices:

- There was growth in the production of cereals and cash crops between 2002 and 2013.
- Farmers have received support in the form of free seeds and fertilizer, as well as access to mechanised farming methods.
- Burkina Faso has also seen improvements in the sustainable development of agricultural water, including the development of nearly 25 000 hectares of lowland, irrigation projects and grassroots training on irrigation techniques.
- There has also been improved productivity, competitiveness and animal vaccinations in the livestock sector. A major step forward was the development of a factory that can produce 100 000 tonnes of cattle feed per year.
- Access to potable water in rural areas also increased from 63%in 2012 to 63,5% in 2013. However, there is a noticeable divide in water allocation considering some urban areas have an 86,2% access rate to this resource compared to rural areas.
- Land security also improved through the national policy on land tenure in rural areas that was adopted in 2007.
- Field schools in the country also help farmers with production problems, facilitate knowledge sharing and create opportunities within the agricultural sector.

Zaï or how to harvest two tonnes per hectare on arid land
by Idrissa Konditamdé

In Korsimoro, in the North Central region of Burkina Faso, producers grow crops on land previously abandoned for their extreme aridity. This has been achieved through the adoption of 'zaï', a unique arid soil recovery technique.

In the North Central region of Burkina Faso, the "land of upright people" where soil is dry, farmers have adopted this technique with significant success. Zaï comes from the word "zaïégré" in the Mooré language, meaning "get up early and hurry to prepare one's land". It is a farming technique where pits are dug in the soil to capture water and collect compost to restore degraded dry-lands and increase soil fertility. Compost or fertilizer is placed in the pits before planting.

Rasmané Ouédraogo is head of Zitiougo, a town in rural Korsimoro in Sanmatenga province in northern Burkina. Some years ago when he did not know zaï, he had to leave his land fallow, or was forced to slave away through entire seasons, only to harvest very little. However, his story is very different today.

"Before I knew the zaï technique, I would only harvest 700 kilograms per hectare. By adopting zaï, these days I harvest two tons per hectare."

His remarks are corroborated by Ms. Lucienne Korogo, President of the Union of Women in Zitiougo. “Zitiougo was formerly neglected, but through zaï it has become a source of wealth,” claims Korogo.

“Compost is the zaï of what water is to the plant,” states Faith Rasmané Ouédraogo , Head of Zitiougou and follower of this technique. Rasmané asserts that zaï also changed his life as now he is better able to feed his family and generate surplus crops to sell.

Terrain préparé avec la technique du zaï

Tiges de sorgho blanc produits grâce au zaï sur un sol jadis abandonné pour son aridité

Zaï – increasing yields

3.3. Cameroon

Date signed CAADP Compact:	15-17 July 2013
Date CAADP Business Meeting held:	13-15 September 2015
Budget allocation for agriculture:	5% (2015)
% contribution of agriculture to GDP:	17,7% (2013)

Despite being an oil producing country, agriculture remains the backbone of Cameroon's economy and therefore a potential engine for growth and poverty reduction. Yet, investment in agriculture has ranged from as little as 3,1% in 2005 to five per cent in 2015, with growth in the sector now standing at about four per cent. Some $3-billion in public funds will be invested into agriculture between 2014 and 2020. The funds are for the four main ministries dealing with the rural sector, namely Agriculture and Rural Development, Environment, Forests and Fauna and Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries. Investment by the private sector brings this amount to almost $29-billion. This is in line with the projection earmarked in Cameroon's Growth and Employment Strategy Paper 2010-2020, which aims to consolidate the country's development plans. If administered correctly, this budget will allow Cameroon to make significant progress in the development of its agricultural sector. Projects include investment in production chains, improvement in food and nutritional security, modernising production infrastructure in rural areas, improving access to financing and organising the management and development of natural resources. Investment will also go towards reinforcing the capacity of people involved in agricultural development and reducing income poverty, while increasing access to safe drinking water by 2020.

Challenges, opportunities and lessons learnt:

- Cameroon has benefitted from increased investment in supportive infrastructure, such as roads, storage facilities and access to markets to increase productivity and improve competitiveness.
- High staff turnover of government officials is hindering progress with delays caused by the need to acquaint new staff with the CAADP process.
- Agricultural inputs are still costly for the average farmer.
- Although the multi-sectoral approach has mainly been positive, it brings with it negative traits. The very diverse nature of the agricultural sector means that various aspects fall under different administrations, making their coordination rather cumbersome under existing Government arrangements.
- There is still the ardent need to modernise agriculture and production processes in the country.

Experiences and good practices:

- Cameroon has enjoyed improved approaches to the development of its agricultural sector with all relevant stakeholders participating. The four main ministries involved have been working together in the development of their budgetary processes to avoid duplication and improve execution at ground level.
  This effort needs to be amplified and supported to improve coordination of CAADP implementation.

- There is now greater awareness of the need to include ministries on the periphery of the agricultural sector in issues relating to agriculture. For example, the Ministry of Research and Scientific Innovation has the potential to add significant value to developing the country's agricultural industry

Dead and Resurrected
By Arison Tamfu

In the remote Bokwaongo locality of Buea, on the eastern slopes of Mount Cameroon, Mologan Francisca battles with the soil, hurrying to meet weather deadlines for her maize and tea farms. She is a prosperous owner of more than half a hectare of land.

“This farmland is my life,” Mologan said. She has endured an ordeal before progressing to this point. In 2001, she was wealthy, buying cheap farm produce from farmers in the South West region of Cameroon and supplying them with essential sprayers, pesticides and improved seeds at premium prices.

“It fetched me much money – millions,” she said. However, the cellphone shattered the profitable business. “'Mojoko' arrived and taught the farmers how to use the cellphone to know the real prices of pesticides and food crops on the market. Consequently, they ceased dealing with me and my business folded,” Mologan lamented.

The 'Mojoko' she referred to is Catherine Mojoko, founder of Walana Wa Makwasi (Women In Action), a grassroots organisation intended to enhance the agricultural and technological skills of smallholder farmers in the South West region of Cameroon.

“We teach small holder farmers how to make a call and how to send an SMS to get information in realtime using cellphones. For the very first time, they are able to get information relating to planting seasons, know when to apply fertilisers and, importantly, how to bargain with buyers,” Mojoko explained.

Mojoko`s innovation is testimony of the importance of information and communications technology (ICT) in boosting agriculture in Africa. According to Informa Telecoms & Media, Africa is the second most connected region in the world, in terms of mobile subscription with a current penetration of 60% to 65% and the subscription is expected to reach more than one billion by 2016.

“There is a remarkable use of cellphone by farmers in Africa now and that is transforming rural agriculture tremendously,” Bart Sullivan of Farm Radio International said.

However, penetration in rural Africa where farmers operate is below 50%, according to International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

“In terms of broadband, the penetration is extremely low. Governments should focus on ways of increasing access to broadband in Africa at this point,” Maximo Torero of IFPRI said.

Meanwhile, African middlemen are facing awkward times. ICTs have reduced them to subjects and raised farmers to kings. Mologan was smart enough to adapt to the change.

“After the hard times, I decided to join Mojoko`s group and gained technological and farming skills. Now, after using the cellphone for 11 years bargaining with buyers and other farmers to know the prices, my farm production has increased significantly. I am rich again. I was dead and now I am alive,” she enthused.

Notwithstanding the growing interest of African farmers in ICTs, they are handicapped by illiteracy. A problem, Mojoko said “needs to be redressed urgently by sending coordinators to teach them”.

3.4. Chad

Date signed CAADP Compact:	16 December 2013
Date CAADP Business Meeting held:	Planned for 2016
% contribution of agriculture to GDP:	7% (2014)

There are many opportunities in Chad's agricultural sector. Up to 80% of the country's population live in rural areas, of which 54%are young people. Although Chad's agricultural sector has enormous potential for development, it suffers from continuous food and nutrition insecurity due to a number of reasons. These include unpredictable weather, a reduction in soil fertility, a shortage of seeds and fertilizer, dearth of storage facilities, inadequate access to markets, as well as limited financing and rural road infrastructure. Chad has many resources that are good for farming, including arable land and groundwater supplies. At present, there are some 30 projects and programmes under way to improve the situation in the sector. The ministries dealing with rural development are considered a priority and benefit from substantial budget allocations. To improve the overall situation in the agricultural sector, the government has engaged with CAADP, so it can act as a unifying framework for the country's policies and interventions to boost agricultural productivity. The country's National Agriculture Investment Plan was drafted in 2014 and technically reviewed by external experts in 2015 and then cleared for implementation.

Challenges, opportunities and lessons learnt:

- Some of the challenges in Chad relate to persistent food and nutrition insecurity.
- Human and institutional capacities also need to be reinforced.
- Sustainable governance of natural resources and agricultural infrastructure also need to be improved.
- Productivity needs to be increased to reach the six per cent growth target and have a positive impact on poverty.

Experiences and good practices:

- Projects that have had a positive impact in Chad include:
  - Increasing the amount of arable land under use,
  - Strengthening the capacities of producers,
  - Developing hard infrastructure, such as rural roads to improve access to markets,
  - Establishing 213 micro-financing institutions, offering products and services to more than 50 000 people,
  - Strengthening land governance and increasing agricultural production.
- Chad has also seen better coordination of agricultural interventions through quarterly meetings between government, technical and financial partners, known as the agriculture sector working group (ASWG).
- There has also been an increase in funding for the agricultural sector, capacity building of stakeholders and rural development institutions, as well as improved collaboration between all stakeholders in rural development.

3.5. Cote D'ivoire

Date signed CAADP Compact:	26-27 July 2010
Date CAADP Business Meeting held:	12-14 Sept 2012
Budget allocation for agriculture:	4,46 % (from 2011-2015)
% contribution of agriculture to GDP:	About 30%

Cote d'Ivoire is a success story in terms of agricultural growth. Upon independence in 1960, it decided to base the development of its economy on agriculture. Between 1960 and 1975, between 16% and 26% of the national budget was allocated to the sector resulting in an average annual gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate of seven per cent. Despite experiencing over a decade of socio-political instability that started with a coup d'état in 1999, agriculture now generates one third of the country's GDP and employs two-thirds of the active population. Although Cote d'Ivoire allocates only 4,46% of its budget to agriculture instead of the 10% required by the Maputo Declaration, the sector is viewed by experts as key to the country's economic growth. It is the world's top producer of cocoa, cashew nuts, cola nuts and palm oil, and the top African producer of bananas, mangos and dry rubber. Its National Agriculture Investment Plan is mainly based on a public-private partnership and was designed to complement the key national priorities of development and poverty reduction. A detailed investment plan focuses on four strategic objectives, including food security and self-sufficiency, sustainable management of cash crops and exports, private sector investment and agricultural reforms. It is implemented by the ministries of agriculture, livestock and fisheries, water and forests, and environment, and is overseen by various stakeholders.

Challenges, opportunities and lessons learnt:

- There is a need to improve the quality of seeds and seedlings and access to fertilizer, accelerate the deployment of mechanisation in the sector, improve water control and reverse the trend of forest degradation.
- Private investment needs to be stimulated to reinforce government's agricultural investment to 10% of the national budget.
- Sustained results are dependent upon political will and consistent and steady increase in investment in the agricultural sector.

Experiences and good practices:

- Implementation of the NAIP brought a new energy to the sector resulting in a growth in yields and revenue for farmers. Food production increased by 28% while the production of cash crops increased by 14,1%. Revenue from products has also improved, notably for cocoa with a 25% increase in gross income from 2013 to 2014.
- Another positive development was the establishment of management and control bodies and consultation frameworks for NAIP implementation. This was complemented by transferring implementation to the highest decision-making level of government.
- The financing of the operationalisation of the NAIP was another positive step forward.
- Some 1 062 648 jobs have also been created through rural development projects. These projects have provided water pumps, school classrooms, canteens and clinics, as well as electricity to outlying areas of the country. Other improvements include the building of rural roads and irrigation schemes, the development and reform of produce networks and an improved legal framework.

3.6. Kenya

Date signed CAADP Compact:	23-24 July 2010
Date CAADP Business Meeting held:	27 Sept 2010
Budget allocation for agriculture:	4% (2015)
% contribution of agriculture to GDP:	27,3% (2014)

Agriculture is the mainstay of Kenya's economy, directly contributing 27,3% to the country's gross domestic product and accounting for 65% of exports. At the signing of the CAADP Compact in 2010, Kenya's President highlighted the importance of the sector as a key driver for sustained economic growth. Its Agricultural Sector Development Strategy, 2010-2020, establishes the development of agricultural endeavour in line with the CAADP principles. In terms of budget allocation, the government has not yet met the suggested 10% mark. As is the case in several other countries, there is an ongoing debate within the country as to whether this investment was meant for agriculture alone, or whether it also includes related sectors.

Challenges, opportunities and lessons learnt:

- There is a need for increased political support to accelerate implementation, although the current administration has seen a rejuvenating of the agricultural sector.
- There is a need for improved seed quality.
- Climate change has had an impact on the country's agricultural sector, and government is encouraging climate "smart" farming to mitigate the situation.
- There is a requirement to increase investment into small-scale farming activities.
- A devolved system of government has proved challenging to implementation but a platform is being developed for the two tiers of public sector to collaborate.
  More funds are needed to reach the grassroots levels through the various county governments, which will further stimulate agricultural development.

Experiences and good practices:

- There is an increased number of young Kenyans participating and investing in agriculture. It is reported that there is more being done at the government level to sustain this trend.
- There is also increased media interest in agricultural activities with more content on the sector appearing in mainstream media.
- Sound policies and strategies are in place and there is a multi-sectoral approach to agricultural issues.
- Kenya has also seen an improvement in the use of technology, such as greenhouses, incubators and hydroponics.
- Farmers are now also enjoying a reduction in the cost of agricultural inputs, especially fertilizers, with a fertilizer plant having recently been earmarked for development.

> Ms Rebecca Wahome, CAADP Focal Point in the Kenya Ministry of Agriculture, said at a 'writeshop' in Nairobi in October 2015: "When we spoke of the millennium, we thought it would never come. Now, we think 2025 is far away, but a year-and-a-half has already gone by since Malabo; we have to work fast for success."

It's about changing mind-sets

NAIROBI - “Urban farming is possible and profitable,” Francis Wachira told communication officers and media practitioners who visited his farm in Nairobi City County, Kenya, on 15 October 2015.

Wachira started his farming activities in 2002 on a neglected piece of land outside his home that is owned by the municipal authorities. Every so often he would cut the overgrown grass on the patch until he decided to start growing vegetables for his family. Soon, the vegetable production grew until Wachira started giving them away to his neighbours.

Living right next to a market, Wachira soon started selling his produce and has, over the years, even diversified into animal husbandry. He keeps goats, chickens, ducks, rabbits and guinea pigs, all of which are reared and sold for their meat. Wachira knew that his choice of livestock raised for the food market would be met with resistance but, he persisted in his efforts.

“It's all about changing mind-sets,” Wachira claims. “With rising food prices, I knew that before long people would not have a problem eating broiler chickens, rabbits and guinea pigs. After all their meat is tasty.”

He has since earned himself the nickname 'Rabbit King.' His customers come from different regions of Kenya and he often has to work extra hard to meet their demand. Wachira also reaches out to his community by giving lessons on urban farming. Children and youth have the opportunity to go to his farm for training on various farming techniques, such as vertical gardening. As a result, some of the unemployed youth are now part of the food production cycle in Nairobi.

In addition, Wachira and his family practise climate smart agriculture. For example, they use only organic compost that they make from kitchen bio-waste, vegetation from their own gardens and their own animal manure. “Nothing from the farm is really wasted,” asserts George, Wachira's son.

Communication officers and journalists paid Wachira a visit as part of their workshop on harmonising agricultural messaging in Africa and documenting good practices. The workshop was organised by the NEPAD Agency's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme.

Source: NEPAD Agency

Changing mind-sets through urban farming

3.7. Lesotho

Date signed CAADP Compact: 4 September 2013
% contribution of agriculture to GDP: 7% (2014)

Lesotho is a mountainous country with a limited amount of land that can be cultivated. Almost 80%of its households depend on subsistence farming and a large section of the population receives food aid. As such, the government has prioritised agriculture and food security as a goal in its vision for 2020 in the National Strategic Development Plan. Although Lesotho's investment plan is yet to be validated, its drafting is viewed as a major achievement. CAADP implementation has not yet been implemented however the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS) and Ministry of Health were given priority by government in the 2015/2016 fiscal year. Programmes to boost food security in Lesotho have also already been implemented.

Challenges, opportunities and lessons learnt:

- Lesotho is in the early stages of its implementation of the CAADP process, which leaves room for strategic intervention that will have a positive impact.

Experiences and good practices:

- In the 2012/2013 cropping season, the MAFS introduced an Intensive Crop Production Programme where farmers were given a 50% subsidy for seeds and fertilizers leading to increased yields.
- Agriculture has received priority in the 2015/2016 fiscal year.
- All relevant stakeholders, including farmers' unions and individual businesses, are supportive of the CAADP programme and the benefits it will bring to the agricultural industry.
- Under the Enhanced Integrated Framework, there has also been work on greenhouse technology and mushroom production. A wool and mohair production project will also be introduced to the country's agricultural landscape.

Young farmer survives El Niño-induced drought
by Majara Molupe

BEREA - As 2015 drew to a close, Lesotho was struck by El Niño -induced drought, a situation that left many farmers without even one suitable plot of land to plant vegetables. Effects of the drought are now being felt strongly, four months into 2016. The failed rains had spelt economic catastrophe for most farmers last year as they completely failed to plough. But not so for Rasekopane Rampooane, a young but experienced farmer living just outside Maseru, the capital city. He did not succumb to the phenomenon.

Rampooane is one of the few farmers who escaped the ravaging drought to produce a variety of vegetables during the drought – thanks to the farming knowledge he had acquired earlier on. He once worked in South African farms where he learnt that experienced farmers do not usually remove all the vegetation over the land after harvesting their produce.

"Farmers in South Africa usually till the remnants of the previous harvest's produce under the soil. This adds nutrients to the soil," he says knowledgeably.

Rampooane has also developed his own unique cultivation method. As a principle, he says, he removes all plant stems on the farm and cuts those into pieces before placing them into furrows especially made for the purpose.
"On every cultivated plot, I make furrows and place the plants that I have cut into pieces and bury them underneath. Consequently, I dig plantation lines on the soil before sowing the seeds," he explained.

This experienced farmer said in no time, his seeds speedily germinate regardless of drought conditions.

"I therefore use very little water for my plants," he says.

"In winter, most vegetables wilt due to coldness but my crops become green throughout the year. I apply this simple technology to make my vegetables a success even in hard times. This is how I escaped the effects of drought late last year and earlier this year," he enthuses.

And because of this, there has been an influx of street vendors from Maseru market coming to buy fresh vegetables at his farm.

According to Rampooane this huge population of young people is actually a window of opportunity for the region, and Lesotho in particular, to capitalise on so that rapid socio-economic growth and development could be realised through agriculture.

Farmer in Lesotho survives drought

3.8. Madagascar

Date signed CAADP Compact:	21 October 2013
Budget allocation for agriculture:	6,06% (2015)
% contribution of agriculture to GDP:	15,3% (2014)

Agriculture is an important sector in Madagascar's economy accounting for almost 30% of the country's gross domestic product and employing some 78%of the country's labour force. Most farming in the country is subsistence and the huge climate diversity on the island means that many different types of crops can be grown.

The 2009 political crisis interrupted the drafting of its CAADP Compact. It was eventually signed in 2013 to support the implementation of the Sector-based Programme for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (PSAEP), which will be launched in 2016, together with the National Plan for Investment in Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (PNIAEP). Budget allocation for agriculture grew to 9,65%, which is just below the CAADP recommended amount, in 2008. However, this declined following the political instability to its lowest level in 2013 of just four per cent. However, government funding increased again to 6,06%in 2015. Agriculture is important in the national planning process and involves all stakeholders, including the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (AEP), the public and private sector and civil society. Madagascar aims to optimise the resources available in the country to the benefit of poor and vulnerable populations. This strategy also involves ensuring food security, reinvigorating the agricultural sector and mobilising all participants while paying attention to decentralisation. In October 2015, the Ministry of Agriculture, FAO and the WFP announced that 46% of the population in Madagascar was food insecure because of a significant decrease in agricultural production over the past three agricultural seasons. This is as a result of shortages in rainfall which also impacted the main harvest for 2015.[3]

Challenges, opportunities and lessons learnt:

- There is a need to increase the amount of agricultural land, as well as to protect livestock from diseases.
- Efforts are also underway to combat soil erosion and protect forests.
- The island of Madagascar also experiences continuous bad weather conditions, which means that efforts to establish climate smart agricultural practices need to be given priority.

Experiences and good practices:

- The Programme for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (PSAEP) will be launched in 2016 together with the National Plan for Investment in Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (PNIAEP).
- As the world's largest producer of natural vanilla, farmers in Madagascar are taking steps to create a Fair Trade network on the island.
- A three-year locust eradication programme has helped deal with a plague that affected crops and pastures in 2013 and early 2014.[4]

3 Joint News Release issued on 27 October 2015 by the Madagascar Ministry of Agriculture, FAO and WFP.
4 Joint News Release issued on 27 October 2015 by the Madagascar Ministry of Agriculture, FAO and WFP.

3.9. Malawi

Date signed CAADP Compact:	19 April 2010
Date CAADP Business Meeting held:	28-29 September 2011
Budget allocation for agriculture:	19,4% (2014)
% contribution of agriculture to GDP:	10% (2014)

Mainly an agricultural country, Malawi has consistently invested more in the sector than the recommended 10%, with its 2014 figure at 19,4%. However, the budget allocation to agriculture has not always translated into the recommended six per cent growth in the sector. Malawi's investment plan, known as the Agriculture Sector Wide Approach (ASWAp), focuses on three areas, namely food security and risk management, commercial agriculture, agro-processing and market development, as well as sustainable agricultural land and water management. The fertilizer subsidy programme started in 2004/2005, and has resulted in increased yields in the first six years. For the first time in many years, Malawi registered surplus harvests after the introduction of the Fertiliser Subsidy Input Programme (FISP), with the average being 1,2-million metric tons.

Challenges, opportunities and lessons learnt:

- Agricultural diversification and climate smart agriculture are essential to mitigate the risk associated with climate change..

Experiences and good practices:

- Increased productivity and production has resulted in food self-sufficiency in the first six years of FISP.
- FISP has contributed to increased farm incomes and therefore a reduction in poverty in the first six years.
- Engagement of the private sector through public-private partnerships has proved to be essential in the agricultural sector.
- Other good practices in Malawi include the uptake of nutrition-sensitive agriculture production, intensified use of certified seeds and the increased use of drip irrigation.

Wonders of Malawi's potholing farming system
by George Mhango

Mable Msukwa, 20, is one of many people who have reservations about the long-term benefits of government subsidies for fertilizer. She is studying at a Development Aid from People to People (DAPP) college in southern Malawi, which trains primary school teachers to teach in rural areas while equipping them to help develop the communities they will work in.

"Fertilizer depends heavily on good rainfall. If Malawi experiences a drought, then the whole fertilizer project, pegged at $113-million this year, would be a flop," she said.

This is why Msukwa is advocating for the climate smart potholing system through Farmers Clubs championed by the DAPP.

Potholing essentially involves cultivating crops in holes that have been prepared with manure or compost rather than spreading the inputs in furrows across the land. The system traps water runoff, improves water retention and helps to prevent soil erosion.

"Since DAPP offered us training, we are able to stand on our own due to the potholing system. We don't depend on fertilizer, but manure and water pumps," said Luka Black, a local farmer.

The programme has proved to be cost-effective with big increases in the value of the crops farmers harvest year-on-year compared to the investment in the programme.

"The pumps are locally made and installed close to gardens. With this potholing system, I plant maize and any other crop during the winter and rain-fed seasons. I transfer this knowledge each time there is a school holiday," said Msukwa.

Research by DAPP shows that since the introduction of the model, the average production has increased by 24 per cent. The system has the blessing of the Malawi government because it is a low-cost farming model with tangible results, even without the use of fertilizer.

3.10. Mauritania

Date signed CAADP Compact:	27-28 July 2011
Date CAADP Business Meeting held:	20-21 March 2012
Budget allocation for agriculture:	6,8% (2014)
% contribution of agriculture to GDP:	3,9%

Agriculture is one of the main pillars of Mauritania's economy, contributing 3,9% to gross domestic product, providing 86% of the country's rice requirements and employing 60%of the active population. The fact that 77% of the poor population is rural adds to the importance of agriculture in the country. Although Mauritania is an arid country, it does have the potential to increase its agricultural land. As such, the country's government is creating an environment that favours the development of the agricultural sector. These initiatives include a National Plan for Agricultural Development 2025 (NPDA) and a Strategy for the Development of the Agricultural Sector (SDSA).These are complemented by short- and medium-term measures developed around the farmer, as well as women and youth. Steps to be taken include intensifying and diversifying produce, encouraging investment, promoting competitiveness and sustainable management of natural resources. Plans are underway to improve the quality of agricultural services, ease of procedures and formalities for access to land ownership in rural areas and developing agricultural insurance, while providing access to credit, seeds and means of mechanising the industry.

Experiences and good practices:

- Improving access to water is crucial in Mauritania. Current projects geared at improving resources include installing irrigation system on 14 951 hectares (ha) of land. A total of 9 729 ha have already received irrigation, while the Aftout-Es-Saheli water-supply project with its 55 kilometre canal, will eventually irrigate 16 000 ha. There has also been a focus on improving water circulation through measures, such as weed clearing.
- Water issues also include improved control of the resource through the rehabilitation of dams and dykes, the calibration of backwaters, as well as studies into the possible construction of barrages.
- The country has also implemented advisory support programmes for oasis horticulture, including research into improving and conserving local plant varieties, prevention of diseases, as well as irrigation and streamlining the production process, including packaging, storage and processing.
- Mauritania has also diversified production to include vegetables and cereals, such as wheat for better nutrition and economic outputs.
  In the wheat industry, incentives have been introduced for investors in production, agricultural inputs for farmers have been subsidised and disease-control measures have been implemented. In addition, there has been inclusion of wheat importers and manufacturers and improved research into determining wheat varieties that provide the most potential.
- In terms of market gardening, there has been an increase in available land, the introduction of irrigation, the supply of equipment and inputs, including seed potato, onions and other crops, as well as facilitating the sale and conservation of products.
- Mauritania is also developing an agro-industry based on public-private partnerships. A sound example is the launching of a project that combines both the growing of sugar cane and creation of a sugar processing plant.

3.11. Mozambique

Date signed CAADP Compact:	8-9 December 2011
Date CAADP Business Meeting held:	12 April 2013
Budget allocation for agriculture:	9% (2015)
% contribution of agriculture to GDP:	22% (2014)

Agriculture is key to Mozambique's economy, accounting for almost half of its gross domestic product and employing a large percentage of the active population. In addition, it has great potential with significant unused arable land at its disposal. Despite 16 years of civil war that ended in 1992 and catastrophic weather conditions, it has made much progress in developing its agricultural industry. The development of the Agricultural Strategic Plan (2011-19) was followed by the approval of a five-year investment plan. Since then, progress has been made on CAADP implementation. The five-year government programme (2015-2019) prioritises competitiveness in the agriculture sector and infrastructure development, such as roads, bridges and electricity. However, some aspects, such as land conflict in the northern regions, dry spells and floods have slowed down the progress that was achieved during the policy drafting period. Nevertheless, there is awareness of the need to increase local agricultural production and reduce food imports.

Challenges, opportunities and lessons learnt:

- Food insecurity is an ongoing challenge in Mozambique.
- The implementation of CAADP has lost some momentum.
- There is tension between the need to produce food for export markets and production for local consumption.
- One of the lessons learnt in Mozambique is that there is need for greater political will to develop the country's high agricultural potential. This is considering that it is competing with other sectors, such as the extractive industries.

Adding value to bananas
by Charles Mangwiro

The Mozambique Farmers Union (UNAC) is calling for government incentives in the banana industry in a bid to uplift the local community through job creation, skills training and the introduction of new technology.

Bananas are part of the staple diet of families in Mozambique, as in many other African countries that grow the fruit, but are also an important source of income for small holder farmers.

"We need small processing factories so that we can produce jam, juice and banana chips," said Emilia Fancisco Jo, a member of UNAC.

Because of the bulky and fragile nature of fresh bananas and the long distance to the market, farmers don't make a big profit.

"We invest a lot of money in transportation and storage and it is common for farmers to discard or feed bananas to animals during the harvest season, " said another UNAC member, Jose Mateus.

The union said adding value to bananas can help to reduce loss and increase the income earned by farmers and other players in the value chain. Several projects throughout the continent were presented during a Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) family forum on "Strengthening the ability of Farmers Organisations to Effectively Advocate for the Interests of family farming and small-holders".

A farmer group from Uganda, the Tigebura Rural Producer Organisation, spoke of their cooperative which makes wine from bananas. It said the juice produced when the bananas are cooked is mixed with wine yeast, citric acid, sugar and maize flour and left for two days in a pot. Then it is poured into a jerry can with an airlock for 14 to 30 days.

Projects like this one could create many jobs, especially for young adults who make up the bulk of the Mozambican population.

Experiences and good practices:

- Of late, there has been increased interest in CAADP following successes in other countries.
- Mozambique also increased its budget allocation to agriculture in 2015 to nine per cent.

Field trip to Umbeluzi Agricultural Station (20km southwest of Maputo in the Boane district within the Maputo Province) during training on improving agricultural reporting for the media in June 2015

3.12. Republic of Congo

Date signed CAADP Compact: 10 December 2013
Date CAADP Business Meeting held: 17 November 2015

Following the civil war in the late 1990s, the Republic of Congo had to relaunch its economy and deal with many urgent issues, including those challenges facing its agricultural sector which had lost much of its productive capacity. The government took emergency measures to attain food security as part of a strategy implemented from 2008 to 2013. At the same time, Congo-Brazzaville chose to adopt a free-market economy and redefined its intervention strategy for the agricultural sector. The government is now no longer involved in the production or marketing of agricultural products. Instead, it acts on what it describes as "agricultural pulses" by creating the best conditions for producers and agricultural development initiatives, and by promoting direct foreign financing and public-private partnerships. The Republic of Congo has relied heavily on oil as its main source of revenue, but the government is attempting to diversify the country's economy. It wants to develop agriculture as one of the main economic pillars and increase its contribution to the country's gross domestic product. The government has been working to introduce mechanisation, building the capacity of stakeholders and diversifying the funding of agricultural activities. To achieve these aims, the Republic of Congo has more than doubled the budget allocated to agriculture and has lifted barriers to agricultural trade.

Challenges, opportunities and lessons learnt:

- Progress on improving agricultural productivity and implementing CAADP was hampered by political instability in the early 2000s.
- There is need to diversify the economy to reduce the risk of an overreliance on the oil sector, which accounts for almost 70% of the national budget income.

Experiences and good practices

- More than 3 000 farmers have been trained in different crop production methods and how to speculate on livestock prices.
- A disease destroying cassava production has been eradicated enabling the country to become self-sufficient in this basic foodstuff. There has also been an increase in the production of eggs.
- Other achievements include the financing of several small projects, the opening up of production land by rehabilitating rural roads and waterways, as well as facilitating foreign direct investment into the country's agricultural land.

3.13. Rwanda

Date signed CAADP Compact:	30-31 March 2007; CAADP II signed 10 June 2014
Date CAADP Business Meeting held:	8-9 Dec 2009
Budget allocation for agriculture:	12,1% (2013/2014)
% contribution of agriculture to GDP:	33% (2014)

Largely rural, Rwanda became the very first country to sign its CAADP Compact and moved onto the second phase of the process in 2014. It has consistently reached or exceeded the recommended 10% budget allocation since 2009. Rwanda's progress has been based on the country's vision to transform its subsistence-based society into a knowledge-based and technology-led economy by 2020. The Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources initiated, developed and managed a programme that would transform and modernise the country's agricultural sector to ensure food security and contribute positively to the national economy.

The future strategic goals of Rwanda include rapidly growing production and commercialisation to increase rural incomes and reduce poverty, while moving from food availability to food security, turning farmers into active market players. It is also encouraging collaborative research, as well as focusing on gender and youth, while reforming government's role in agriculture and positioning the country as an exporter in the region. In 2014, it experienced a five per cent growth rate in agriculture, although Rwanda is aiming for 8,5%agricultural growth. This complements its strategy of bolstering its agricultural sector to the point where it contributes 25% towards gross domestic product, and 40%of the land uses modern farming methods by 2020. The government also aims to stimulate private sector involvement in its agricultural sector.

Challenges and opportunities:

- Rwanda needs to modernise its agricultural sector, which plays a key role in increasing food security and reducing poverty. This is viewed as a major opportunity by stakeholders.

Experiences and good practices

- By 2013, agriculture in Rwanda had contributed 12% towards poverty reduction. Rural poverty fell from 61,9% to 48,7%. The reduction was greater in rural areas, thereby reducing inequalities within urban areas.
- Between 2008 and 2013, the percentage of households falling below the minimum food requirement fell from 35% to 21%. During the same period, land used for modern agricultural practices increased from 3% to 20%.
- There has been improved access to seeds and use of fertilizer, as well as the development of a distribution network for these inputs. Irrigation has been installed in drought-prone areas and hillsides have been terraced to cultivate land. Storage capacity has also increased and a cow has been donated to every poor family. The “One cow per poor family” initiative has been rolled out to 250 000 poor households.

- The implementation of CAADP in Rwanda has contributed towards:
  - The notable development of more focused incentive-orientated agricultural policies, improved donor coordination and alignment to country priorities. It has also identified programmes that will produce good results, greater regional cooperation and better peer review and accountability mechanisms.
  - The agricultural sector has also developed a dialogue and accountability framework which deals with strategic issues for the growth of agriculture and increased food security.

One cow per poor family has reached 250,000 households

Crop intensification programme – Losses have been reduced from 35% to 13% for maize and 15% to 5% for rice

3.14. Senegal

Date signed CAADP Compact:	9-10 February 2010
Date CAADP Business Meeting held:	14-17 June 2010
Budget allocation for agriculture:	12,13 % (2015)
% contribution of agriculture to GDP:	Between 12-15% (2013-2014)

Even though much of Senegal lies in the drought-prone Sahel region, agriculture is the driving force of economic development, contributing between 12% and 15% of gross domestic product (GDP) from 2003 to 2014. In 2015, 12,13% of the national budget was allocated to the sector. Since Senegal was impacted by the 2008 world food crisis, there has been strong political will to improve and develop the agricultural sector and achieve food self-sufficiency by implementing the Great Agricultural Offensive for Food and Abundance (GOANA) programme.

In 2014, the government adopted the Emerging Senegal Plan (PSE), initiated by President Macky Sall, as a catalyst for Senegal's economic and social development. The agriculture component of the PSE, the Programme to Accelerate the Pace of Agriculture, is aligned to the objectives of the National Agriculture Investment Plan and has helped fast-track the rate of agricultural growth through priority projects. This includes a programme to create self-sufficiency in rice, which it hopes to achieve by 2017. The government has also undertaken a major programme to renew and modernise agricultural equipment.

Challenges and opportunities:

- They need for a unified programme to plan and coordinate all strategic measures for rural development is key to further enhancing growth in the sector.
- There is also a need for a single framework for intervention by development partners.

Experiences and good practices

The implementation of CAADP and the NAIP has had a direct impact on the mobilisation of resources for agriculture. This has resulted in an increase in production of cereals, milk, eggs and fish, as well as an increase in agriculture's contribution to GDP.

- The holding of annual consultations with all stakeholders, including the state, private sector, civil society and farmers' organisations is seen as a positive move. There has since been the creation of a Group for Social and Political Dialogue (GDSP) to improve participation by non-state actors in the implementation of CAADP.

Hundreds of peanut varieties being tested
by Seydou Prosper Sadio

"Research is fundamental to the composition of the seed varieties," said Dr Samba Thiaw, Director of the National Agricultural Research Centre (CNRA) in Bambey, Senegal during a field visit that officials of the Agricultural Productivity Programme of the West Africa (WAAPP / WAAPP) and World Bank.

Researchers are busy working with farmers to develop new seed varieties for peanuts in Senegal. According to the director of the CNRA, over a hundred new varieties capable of adapting to all agro-ecological zones of the country are being developed.

Research, which involves crossing traditional peanut varieties to create a new hybrid variety, is ongoing. The goal of this initiative is to boost productivity and improve the nutritional quality of the nuts, in terms of oil content, as well as resistance against diseases.

More efforts have been made to improve the maturation cycle of seeds which are suitable to rainfall patterns in different areas of the country. For example, the research station strives to develop new varieties which mature within 90 days.

- Senegal has also seen increased investment by the private sector in agriculture, and measures have been taken to improve the business environment, for example, through the exemption of taxes on agricultural equipment.

Over a hundred new peanut varieties capable of adapting to all agro-ecological zones of Senegal are being developed

3.15. Togo

Date signed CAADP Compact:	29-30 July 2009
Date CAADP Business Meeting held:	14-17 June 2010
Budget allocation for agriculture:	8,2% (2013)
% contribution of agriculture to GDP:	38 % (2013)

Agriculture is a very important sector in Togo, accounting for 38% of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2013 and employing 54% of the active population. In fact, Togo was the first country in West Africa, and the second on the continent after Rwanda, to sign its CAADP Compact in 2009. Budget allocation to the agricultural sector has increased steadily from 5,7%in 2011 to 8,2% in 2013. This increase reflects Togo's willingness to reach the CAADP goal of 10% and also the government's commitment to making the sector more dynamic and stimulating employment.

The National Agricultural Investment Programme and Food Security (PNIASA) has five main programmes. These include the development of the vegetables, livestock and fisheries sectors, research and making knowledge accessible, as well as sectoral coordination and institutional strengthening. The first three aim to guarantee sufficient food for the population, increase traditional exports and develop new crops, promote small- and medium-sized companies and develop inland and sea fisheries. Research and development focuses on improving productivity and adaptation to climate change. Finally, it plans to implement a policy, legal and institutional environment that is conducive to the development of agriculture and achieving food security. The sector continues to make an important contribution to the country's GDP, averaging 40,8% between 2011 and 2013.

Challenges and opportunities:

- The need to increase growth in the agricultural sector and produce value-added products has been identified as both a challenge and an opportunity.

Experiences and good practices

- Over the four years since its implementation, the PNIASA has contributed to improving food security through the availability of quality food produced nationally. Production of cereal is at 106% of the country's food requirements.
- Initiatives of the PNIASA have also resulted in the creation of jobs in the agricultural and related sectors.
- Togo has also since conducted two studies to review public expenditure in agriculture.

3.16. Zambia

Date signed CAADP Compact:	18 January 2011
Date CAADP Business Meeting held:	30 May 2013
Budget allocation for agriculture:	8% (2015)
% contribution of agriculture to GDP:	About 19,8% (2015)

Zambia has a huge agricultural potential which has yet to be fully exploited. While its economy has grown steadily over recent years, this growth has been driven mostly by mining, construction, retail and manufacturing. Although agriculture contributes about 19,8% to gross-domestic product and contributes about 85% towards employment, poverty levels in the country remain high, particularly in rural areas. The CAADP process is aligned to Zambia's sixth National Development Plan (SNDP), which aims to achieve sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction. It emphasises private sector involvement, with the government's role being the creation of an enabling environment, including policy changes that will facilitate sustained agricultural growth.

Although its 2015 budget allocation is eight percent, Zambia spent more than the recommended 10% on agriculture between 2007 and 2012. More than 60% of this expenditure goes towards subsidised fertilizer and the purchase and marketing of maize. Although the growth rate for agriculture and fisheries has been more than 10% between 2009 and 2012 largely due to favourable weather conditions, and increased use of fertilizer and hybrid seeds, it remains volatile. This is considering that there has been over dependence on rain as opposed to irrigation. Zambia's National Agriculture Investment Plan, which operates from 2014 to 2018, focuses on promoting sustainable natural resource management, improving productivity in livestock, crops and aquaculture, developing market access and services, achieving food and nutrition security and improving disaster risk management.

Boosting agriculture productivity with radio listening clubs
by Doreen Nawa

Florence Mzyeche is an inspiration to many women in her home village of Mphande in Petauke, eastern Zambia, because of her involvement in the radio listening clubs.

"It is difficult to make a living by farming in Petauke just like in many rural areas in the country," she says.

But with her guidance, many women's groups have found a way to cope with drought and high food prices by using new methods of farming.

"If we had used the new farming techniques that I have learnt through the radio listening clubs, I wouldn't be telling you about my misadventures on our farm," says Mzyeche.

The Radio Listening Clubs are a project of Panos Southern Africa (PSAf), a communication for development organisation working in the SADC region. With radio reaching at least 70% of rural households countrywide, it is an efficient and cost-effective way of sharing information.

Elias Mthoniswa Banda, PSAf regional manager for media development and ICTs says, "We work in partnership with community radio stations to increase the reach of agricultural information, enhance farmer participation and give farming families a voice."

Petauke's Explorer station manager, Patrick Phiri, says they have seen a change in the way people farm.

"They know how to plant in rows with the right spacing, and the best ways to manage their farms. We also see that post-harvest handling practices have improved. Many farmers say they no longer store grain on the floor, but on raised platforms and this is as a result of information exchanged through radio listening clubs," says Phiri.

Communities, women especially, are using the clubs to ensure their families' survival. Ending hunger and reducing poverty, especially in rural area, is possible through innovation and information sharing, one of which is by using radio.

Challenges, opportunities and lessons learnt

- Zambia has experienced volatility in production because of poor rainfall. There is therefore the need to move away from rain-fed agriculture to irrigation.
- Increased spending on agriculture and high growth has not necessarily led to reduction in poverty levels. This can be attributed to the fact that most farms are small and do not produce a surplus for sale. Moreover, less than one-third of these farms receive government subsidised inputs.
- Although the Rural Roads Unit has been slowly building feeder roads in some areas, the pace needs to be accelerated to improve the transportation of farm produce and access to markets.
- Small-scale farmers also need to modernise their farming methods to improve production and productivity.
- There is also a need to create value chains with the processing of raw farm produce into finished products.

Experiences and good practices:

- Farming is Zambia is now widely viewed as a business, as opposed to just a subsistence activity.
- There is also improved mobilisation of financial resources and greater development partner confidence in the sector.

Radio listening clubs can play an important role in boosting production

4 Looking Ahead to 2025

There is no more doubt that developing agriculture is vital to the growth and development of the continent. Improving agriculture and the subsequent economic growth will not only guarantee food and nutrition security, but also greater political stability, as well as prospects and prosperity for the continent and its population.

CAADP sets out the framework for this agricultural transformation. Political will and the coordination between the relevant government ministries has had a significant positive affect on the process. Supportive legal frameworks, incentives for investors and the involvement of all stakeholders, including the private sector, also play a meaningful role.

Communication has been highlighted as crucial, not only to better inform countries about CAADP, but to also enlighten the various private and public sector stakeholders and media. Importantly, it provides farmers with information and knowledge that will empower them.

Diversification of produce, especially to accommodate climate smart agriculture, the modernisation of farming methods and developing value chains are some of the other positive steps that countries have taken. They have also conducted research that is linked not only to intellectual pursuits, but also to the immediate needs of the farmer at an operational level while ensuring greater involvement of women and youth in the sector, as well as creating better access to markets. Clearly, having an over-arching and coherent plan of action in line with CAADP principles bodes well for the future of African agriculture. These plans include short, medium and long-term projects and goals, covering all aspects of the sector, as opposed to once-off interventions.

Combined with the “checks and balances” needed to verify efficiency, progress and good governance, as outlined in the CAADP Results Framework, the sector can only grow moving forward.

In recommitting themselves to the principles and values of the CAADP process in 2014, countries agreed to pursue a number of aims that would bring about agricultural growth and transformation for shared prosperity and improved livelihoods by 2025. This will be achieved through the ***Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods (2015-2025).***

Now is the time for all countries to “Walk the Talk” by achieving CAADP aims for agricultural growth, wealth creation, food security and nutrition, as well as economic growth and prosperity for all!

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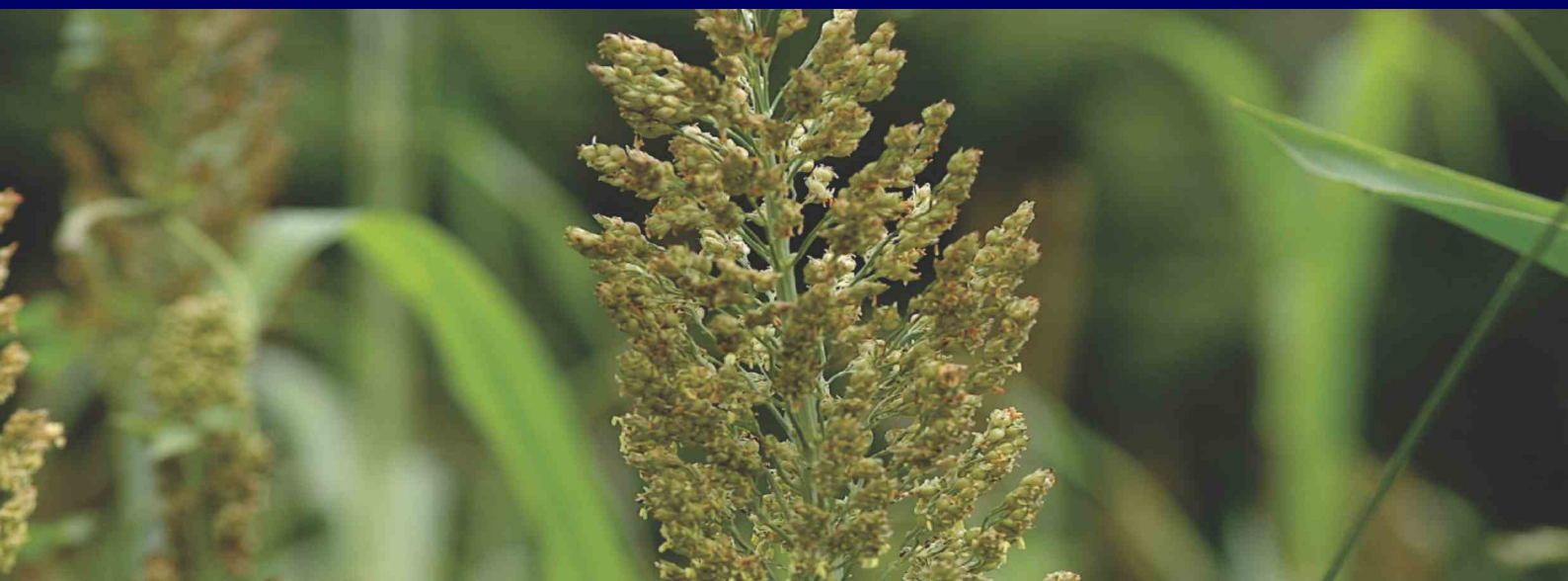
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