

Rwanda None State Actors Coalition on Agriculture (RNSAA) / CNC Rwanda

Concept note

I. Introduction

The Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) is Africa's plan to boost agricultural productivity and thereby tackle poverty and hunger. As a market-based sector, agriculture includes many Non State Actors such as farmers, agribusinesses, producer organizations, and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

CAADP recognises that to transform African agriculture in each country or region, it is imperative to build broad and inclusive coalitions committed to improving the sector's policies, programming and institutions. State and Non State Actors must work together in partnership. Working in partnership can be a new and unfamiliar way of doing business for State and Non State Actors alike.

The established structures, processes and working cultures are often not conducive to effective participation by Non State Actors. Challenges to effective participation include:

- Ensuring Non State Actor constituencies have legitimate and accountable representation
- Availability of resources for Non State Actor participation ,
- Variable capacity of all actors to jointly create and implement policy ,
- Limited awareness by Non State Actors of the CAADP process and its relevance to them ,
- Access to platforms for ensuring the accountability of State actors, including through Parliamentarians.
- Ensuring a balance of interests, especially for women, grassroots, consumers (food and nutritional security) and the environment

II. Background

In the Maputo Declaration on Agricultural Development in Africa of 2003, African countries had committed to allocate at least 10% of their national budgets to the agricultural sector and pursue 6% annual growth of the sector. Ten years after its proclamation, only a handful of countries have consistently realised that commitment. Rwanda, however, claims to have continuously been one of the African countries that met the Maputo commitments on agriculture. To go into the future post Maputo, further commitments in agriculture were made in the Malabo Declaration on Agricultural Transformation for Food Security and Improved Livelihoods 2014 by African head of states and governments during the 24th Ordinary Session of the African Union Heads of State and Government Summit that took place in Malabo Equatorial Guinea from the 26-27th June 2014. The most critical features of the Malabo Declaration are that it recommitted to the provisions of the Malabo Declaration, while also underscoring the need for more results and actions as well as committing to a robust monitoring and evaluation process to that effect. For the declaration to be implemented by African states, it is paramount for stakeholders to engage the governments to influence the CAADP processes.

The envisaged gains of the Malabo Declaration are good for farmers but only if it will associate farmers to the CAADP implementation process. And for the CAADP process to be successfully implemented it must benefit small scale farmers, farmers' organisations, civil society and private sector. There is a need to be more organised to drive the agriculture agenda in our African states including Rwanda .The only way to engage is to influence the processes from within the onset and be at the top of the agenda at every stage.

Indeed, NSA actors including civil society continue to claim their space in the formulation of country policies and plans for the agriculture sector from constituency level up to the national level. This was a huge debate during the first decade of CAADP, whereby the role of none state actors is still not well defined and taken to consideration seriously according to civil society organizations. The space for Non State actors engagement in the CAADP process has now been formally acknowledged by all stakeholders in the CAADP process, and Non-State Actors need to take up the responsibility of defining and maximizing it. To that end, none state actors in Rwanda are coming together to create a national platform to engage more effectively with the continental and national agriculture initiatives. The platform will coordinate engagements on the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) and the Malabo Declaration 2014 Commitments in the national context, linking

up to the CAADP Non State Actors Coalition (CNC), which is continental coalition that brings NSAs together around issues of CAADP implementation. This process will position NSAs to start organising and engaging right from the grassroots to districts, regional and national levels. “Is there any point to engage at national level when we have no connections from the grassroots where farmers are?” this is the time to speak out for beneficiaries and is time to organise and speak with them. But all these require concerted efforts, time and resources.

To make this happen, there is a need of organizing better and increasing understanding on the processes. There is also a need of supporting NSA on the CAADP at national level by both government and interested partners working in the field of agriculture at national level. This support should again try to link NSA of the national level with grassroots NSA for better contribution to agriculture policy environment in Rwanda and achieving Malabo Declaration.

To deepen engaging the CAADP process at the national level, a convening of NSAs on agricultural development aimed at reflecting on their strategic engagement, initiatives which will benefit small holder farmers. Specifically, Action aid Rwanda with its partners, including CLADHO and TUBIBAMAHORO, are convening a first contact meeting on Friday 2nd September 2016 to gather for the first time in Rwanda, non state actors on agriculture to deliberate on their involvement in the CAADP process.

III. Role of non state actors in the CAADP process

The roles of Non State Actors have 3 vital roles to play within the CAADP process:

Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - improving the quality of strategy setting, policy development and investment planning by providing ideas, evidence, and expertise, - ensuring alignment to the interests of target beneficiaries, - building buy-in and understanding in readiness for implementation
Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - aligning human and financial resources behind priorities - acting as service providers
Accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - holding CAADP partners accountable for delivery on behalf of target beneficiaries

All actors will participate differently. Collective bodies will have a direct role to play in planning and accountability, but are more likely to take a co-coordinating role during implementation. Organisations will be the focus of implementation efforts, but should also have avenues for informing and understanding planning and accountability processes. The producers and consumers themselves may at best be simply aware of the CAADP process, but their interests should heavily inform the agenda

Proposed list of the CNC /Rwanda

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13	Kabera Eric	Private Sector Federation	
14		The East Africa news paper	
15		Youth in agric Forum	
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