

## **AUC-NEPAD's 'Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme': Progress and Challenges in Partnership Development with the North**

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The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) is Africa's framework for agricultural renewal and advancement in food and nutrition security. CAADP endeavours to chart a new path of agricultural transformation through upholding a consistent and mutually reinforcing sets of values and principles including country ownership and leadership, evidence- and outcome-based planning and monitoring, engagement of non-state domestic actors, realisation of intra-regional complementarities, strong alliances and partnership development with technical and financial partners at all levels. CAADP envisages effective engagement with a hierarchy of African political and technical institutions in translating the above ideals into practice. Although CAADP is continental in scope, its operationalisation is expected to reflect realities and capacities obtaining at country and sub-regional levels.

A fundamental feature of the CAADP process is the demand it places on international development partners to embrace this new dispensation and paradigm shift in agricultural development programming. In the same vein, CAADP challenges the status quo within Africa, where policy making is often undertaken behind closed doors - to the utter neglect especially of civil society and its organisations. Thus, in principle, the CAADP framework provides a fertile ground for the implementation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action in Africa's agricultural sector.

The CAADP framework has progressively demonstrated its value addition in terms, among others, of broadening the consultation bases for agricultural policy making in Africa. Development partners have attempted to respond to the clarion call for harmonisation and alignment through organising their own constituency around the CAADP agenda and, to a degree, reorienting their respective agricultural development cooperation strategies towards the CAADP vision. African institutions have also endeavoured to deepen the leadership role expected of them through instituting a range of organisational innovations. Yet, challenges remain both among the different tiers of the donor community as well as within African institutions/governments in entrenching deliberative policy making and broad-based agricultural programming. These challenges include limited inter- and intra-agency information flows within the donor community about their expected roles in the CAADP process; lack of systematic and coordinated engagement of AU institutions with the international development community; rigidities in donor financing modalities; and lack of sufficient appreciation, by African governments, about CAADP's value addition in partnership development endeavours. These are not insurmountable, though. What is perhaps needed is an assertive African political leadership that upholds inclusiveness, and a donor community that gives sufficient consideration to demand-driven institutional and system development.

025. Can (Pan-)African policy initiatives shape the terms of reference of the donor community.

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