Issue 272 February 2011 English Edition

NEPAD Impact
Championing awareness on NEPAD implementation

NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency
The official electronic monthly newsletter of the NEPAD Agency

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CALENDAR

28 Feb 2011 – 3 Mar 2011
Maputo, Mozambique
3rd Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop (GFETW)

7th CAADP Partnership Platform (PP)
23 Mar 2011 – 25 Mar 2011
Yaounde, Cameroon

IEA Energy Training Week 2011
4 Apr 2011 – 8 Apr 2011
Paris, France

Africa's Future Education
6 Apr 2011 – 9 Apr 2011
Johannesburg, South Africa

World Economic Forum
3 May 2011 – 5 May 2011
Cape Town, South Africa

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The NEPAD website's video and photo gallery have been updated with new interviews and pictures.

Some of our latest updates include:
Talking Africa interview with Prof. Aggrey Ambali

The AU/NEPAD African Action Plan Infrastructure Priority Programme 2010 – 2012

You are all invited to subscribe to the RSS feed for updates.

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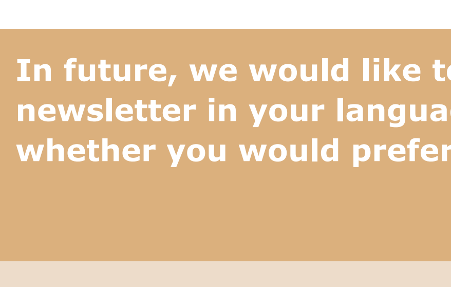

(l-r) President Ali Bongo, Premier Meles Zenawi, AUC Chair Jean Ping and NEPAD Agency CEO Ibrahim Mayaki at the 24th HSGOC

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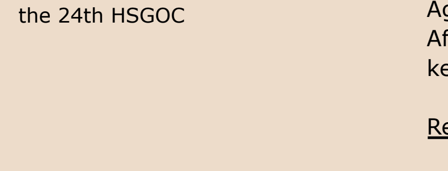

(l-r) Jay Naidoo, Chair of GAIN board and Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO of the NEPAD Agency at the signing event

GAIN signs with NEPAD a milestone agreement to fight malnutrition in Africa

The aim is to develop a five-year joint programme which fully integrates nutrition security into the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)

Addis Ababa, 23 January 2011 – The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), are proud to announce that they signed a Memorandum of Understanding which will significantly contribute to reduce malnutrition in Africa. The agreement was co-signed today in Addis Ababa during NEPAD's steering committee between Jay Naidoo, chair of GAIN Board and Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO of NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency.

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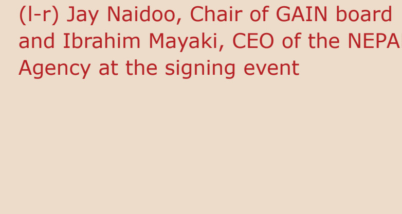

Africa prioritises infrastructure…

At the 24th meeting of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee, African leaders put the focus on programme delivery

29 January 2011, Addis Ababa – "The next decade provides the opportunity for better performance and results on the NEPAD agenda at the programmatic level. That will mean giving the NEPAD Agency the necessary means and resources to fully deliver," said Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia at the start of the 24th meeting of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC).

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Africa: Serious about food

By Jaspreet Kindra – IRIN News

Johannesburg, 6 January 2011 (IRIN) – The record prices of staple grains in 2008 made investment in agriculture an attractive proposition for countries exporting as well as importing food. The African Union (AU), with its mix of producers and buyers, has been steadily gearing up for self-sufficiency.

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In his remarks at the 41st Edition of the NEPAD Steering Committee and also at the 24th meeting of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC), Mayaki presented reports that focused on the achievements being made in the roll-out of NEPAD projects and programmes in critical areas such as agriculture, health, capacity development and infrastructure.

Some of the key highlights in this regard included:

- 23 countries have so far signed up to the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme;
- the NEPAD High-Level Sub-Committee on Infrastructure which comprises Heads of State and Government from South Africa, Algeria, Benin, Egypt, Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Rwanda and Senegal, is already identifying key regional projects for implementation;
- success has also been recorded in the area of education through a project on 'training of teachers and educators in mathematics' – the project which was kick-started in Kenya is to be replicated in other countries;
- the setting up of the rural futures programme on agriculture and poverty in rural areas;
- advancements have also been made in the setting up of a continental regulatory framework on pharmaceutical markets through the 'African Medicines Regulation Harmonisation (AMRH)'.

Speaking a year after the 14th African Union (AU) Summit decision on the integration of NEPAD into the AU and the establishment of the NEPAD Agency, Dr Mayaki revealed that the NEPAD Agency had completed the adoption of AU rules and that emphasis was now on the implementation of programmes.

African leaders, civil society and media in attendance at the Summit, welcomed this progress and were also keen to engage with the NEPAD Agency on the expectations for 2011. Consequently, the 16th AU Assembly agreed on a number of specific important steps and decisions based on the 24th HSGOC Summit recommendations.

Highlights include:

- the reaffirmation of the mandate and status of NPCA as the technical body of the African Union based on the 14th AU Assembly Decision;
- recognition of the progress being made by the NEPAD Agency in the adoption of the AU rules and regulations for Human Resources and Finance systems and the recent setting up of the NEPAD Coordination Unit in the Bureau of the Chairperson of the Commission;
- the endorsement of the programmatic activities and priorities as contained in the NEPAD Agency reports and the outlook for 2011, especially noting the efforts at result-based performance and concrete progress in programme and project delivery;
- recognition of the commendable work done and progress so far recorded by the High-Level Sub-Committee of 8 countries on the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative with South Africa as Chair and also the endorsement of the criteria and prioritised projects and champions selected to drive implementation thereof;
- recommendation that 2011 be used as a year for reflection on the success and challenges of NEPAD, especially as it marks the tenth anniversary of NEPAD.

Evidently, there is clear recognition – from the African leaders, civil society, the media, academia and the development partner community – that the work of the NEPAD Agency is heading in the right direction. However, it is also clear that a lot more still needs to be done with regard to programme coordination and implementation.

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Addis Ababa, 23 January 2011 – The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), are proud to announce that they signed a Memorandum of Understanding which will significantly contribute to reduce malnutrition in Africa. The agreement was co-signed today in Addis Ababa during NEPAD's steering committee between Jay Naidoo, chair of GAIN Board and Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO of NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency.

In Africa, one in four people suffer from malnutrition, twenty-five percent of children are undernourished and forty percent are stunted. Fifty-three percent of pregnant women in Africa are anemic. "Malnutrition is costing millions of lives, in particular women and children. It also prevents millions of people from contributing to the Continent's growth and development," said Jay Naidoo, chair of GAIN Board. "It is directly linked to achieving the MDGs, including poverty reduction, child mortality, maternal health, AIDS and many other infectious diseases." It is estimated that countries lose up to 3% of GDP due to malnutrition.

"We know solutions exist to reduce malnutrition through a number of simple, targeted and cost-effective interventions," said Jay Naidoo. "The critical window of opportunity is the 1 000 days of life, from conception to two-years-old. Fortified staples, the promotion of breastfeeding, and complementary foods after 6 months of age, are some of those interventions available to help break this cycle of malnutrition."

"Since malnutrition has multiple causes, improvement requires multi-sectoral action across the food security, agriculture, social protection, health and educational sectors," said Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO of NEPAD. "This poses a significant delivery challenge for national governments. Although tested, affordable and effective interventions are available; implementation has not yet reached scale."

The aim of this agreement is to develop a five-year joint programme to support national investment programmes which fully integrate nutrition security into the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and which help to harmonise CAADP and nutrition interventions.

NEPAD and GAIN have collaborated since 2003 on the development of CAADP and the NEPAD Nutrition Lens. In September at the MDG Review Summit in New York, a new international framework for tackling malnutrition, the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Roadmap, was widely endorsed by implementing agencies and donors. The SUN approach reflects a shift in global awareness, which acknowledges that a major inhibitor to reaching the MDGs is poor nutrition, which is particularly important to the Millennium Development Goals 1, 4, 5 and 6. A major focal point for action is the 1 000 day window from conception to two years of age.

With this agreement, GAIN and NEPAD will assess existing policies, practices and capacities in agriculture, nutrition and food security. GAIN and NEPAD will take the lead in engaging private sector, donors and national decision makers and coordinate action in expanding access to more nutritious food.

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"Now that the integration of NEPAD into the African Union (AU) structures and processes has materialised, with the establishment of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NEPAD Agency), a new dawn beckons to actualise the NEPAD vision," Zenawi said.

Despite the presence of high growth rates – averaging at about 6 percent between 2004 and 2007 – and the decline of 2.4 percent in 2009 due to the global financial and economic crises, it is now essential that the modest gains made over the past few years in development and governance are consolidated, advised Zenawi.

Addressing the opening of the 24th HSGOC, Ali Bongo the Vice-Chairperson of the African Union (AU) and President of Gabon, reiterated the African leadership's support towards NEPAD and called upon his colleagues to push for the NEPAD High-Level Sub-Committee on Infrastructure that is chaired by President Jacob Zuma of South Africa.

In his remarks, Jean Ping, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, said that 2010 was a crucial year for the AU and NEPAD – especially with the mainstreaming of NEPAD into the AU.

As a result a NEPAD coordination unit has been set up at the AUC to improve the synergy between the NEPAD Agency and the AUC.

On the work of the NEPAD Agency, Ping said the Agency had assisted the AUC and Africa in the preparation of African positions at the global level – at the G8 and G20 engagements concerning the follow-up on global commitments to Africa.

Ibrahim Mayaki, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the NEPAD Agency, presented an activity report that focused on the achievements being made in the roll-out of NEPAD programmes and projects in the thematic areas of: agriculture, climate change and natural resource management, regional integration and infrastructure, human development, economic and corporate governance and the cross-cutting issues of gender, capacity development and information and communication technologies.

"However, there are some challenges that we still have to overcome in order for the Agency to deliver more fully on programme delivery, particularly around the provision of technical and financial resources for the Agency," he added.

A key area that has been identified for delivery is infrastructure – whereby eight African countries on the HSGOC infrastructure sub-committee are working to champion regional and cross-border infrastructure projects in order to attract investments and enhance regional integration. This Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative is based on the AU NEPAD African Action Plan (AAP) and the Programme for the Infrastructural Development of Africa (PIDA). The 24th meeting of the NEPAD HSGOC was held at the margins of the 16th AU Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The NEPAD HSGOC works to provide strategic oversight and guidance to the work of the NEPAD Agency.

Leaders in attendance included those from South Africa, Ethiopia, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Congo, Lesotho, Sudan, Benin, Gabon and the AUC Chairperson.

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Africa: Serious about food

By Jaspreet Kindra – IRIN News

Johannesburg, 6 January 2011 (IRIN) – The record prices of staple grains in 2008 made investment in agriculture an attractive proposition for countries exporting as well as importing food. The African Union (AU), with its mix of producers and buyers, has been steadily gearing up for self-sufficiency.

Shortly after Malawian president Bingu wa Mutharika became AU chair in 2010, he announced a plan to make Africa food secure in the next five years.

Martin Bwalya, head of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), said the AU's seven-year roadmap to put the spotlight on farming so as to promote food security and economic growth, and reduce poverty, had been set in motion five years ago.

By the end of 2010, the agriculture development plans of 18 African countries had undergone a rigorous independent technical review and were being rolled out

Over 60 percent of Africa's people live in rural areas and most depend on farming for food and income. Agriculture contributes between 20 percent and 60 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) to national coffers.

In a document called The African Food Basket, Mutharika spelt out the details of his plan, which requires countries to allocate a substantial portion of their budget to agriculture, provide farming input subsidies, and make available affordable information and communications technology.

This would be possible with the help of a new strategic partnership between countries, donors, aid agencies and the private sector.

CAADP, initiated in 2003, covers all the main aspects of Mutharika's plan, including the commitment to devote at least 10 percent of their budgets to agriculture.

Under the programme, countries draw up comprehensive investment plans that include the four CAADP pillars: sustainable land and water management; improved market access and integration; increased food supplies and reduced hunger; and research, technology generation and dissemination.

"We expect the countries to contribute at least 10 percent of the annual expenditure budget demonstrating local ownership and responsibility," said Bwalya.

He added that while development aid financing remained important, it was also crucial that countries consider measures to attract direct private sector financing to agriculture.

Uganda, one of the 18 states to undergo the review process, has accounted for about 65 percent of its funding requirements from its own budget.

The AU's development agency, the New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), which runs CAADP, helps countries to mobilise funds.

Is achieving food self-sufficiency in five years a realistic goal? It would be a tough call said Ousmane Badiane, director for Africa at the US-based International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). He noted that the AU had 53 members with varying degrees of agriculture investment, development and needs, and some countries did not have the structural capacity to reach the target of food self-sufficiency for many reasons including civil conflicts.

Going regional
A more realistic option, Badiane said, would be for countries with the potential to improve food production to produce enough to feed their less productive neighbours. This called for expanding regional trade and investment in transportation, including ports, railways and highways linking countries.

AU members have begun to take regional economic integration "seriously", noted Calestous Juma, professor of international development at Harvard University in his recently released book, *The New Harvest*.

He lists regional markets as one of the three opportunities that could fortify Africa's food security against the rising threat of climate change.

There are at least eight Regional Economic Communities (RECs), such as the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the East African Community (EAC) "that are recognised by the AU as building blocks for Pan-African economic integration". However, "regional cooperation in agriculture is in its infancy and major challenges lie ahead".

Regions could become food secure "by capitalising on the different growing seasons in different countries and making products available in all areas for longer periods of time," he wrote.

Both Mutharika and CAADP emphasise the development of regional markets. Mutharika listed 12 regional trade corridors identified by the various RECs and suggested that the AU draw up an institutional framework for each corridor.

Science and technology
In his book Juma lists advances in science and technology as another factor that could propel Africa towards food self-sufficiency, and called for more investment in the creation of regional hubs of research and innovation.

Research is being carried out by groups created under NEPAD, such as the Biosciences Eastern and Central Africa Network (BecANet), which has been leading research on food crops, including banana, teff, cassava, sorghum and sweet potatoes.

More investment in networks, especially agriculture-related ones, could produce far-reaching results.

Subsidies
Underuse of fertilizers has often been cited as a major cause of low production in Africa. Only four countries – Egypt, Malawi, Mauritius and South Africa – have exceeded the 50kg per hectare target set by the AU, Mutharika noted in his plan.

Fertilizer use in Africa accounts for less than 10 percent of the world average of 100kg per hectare. "Just five countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Nigeria) account for about two-thirds of the fertilizer applied in Africa," Juma said.

Mutharika, who promoted the provision of subsidised fertilizer in Malawi, makes a strong case for this approach. At present 19 African countries are implementing various programmes providing fertilizer. Juma sees leaders like Mutharika, who has prioritised food security, as the third factor that could set Africa on the path to food security. The Malawian government devotes 16 percent of its national budget to agriculture.

Yet IFPRI's Badiane sounded a note of caution on subsidies and cited the case of Senegal. After independence the West African country put in place an agriculture subsidy programme in the 1960s that was even more comprehensive than Malawi's. "It had a dramatic effect on agriculture in Senegal, but by 1979 one of its [agriculture] agencies had worked up a deficit amounting to 98 percent of the national budget."

"Carefully managed subsidies, run for a short term, and aimed at strengthening existing markets and agricultural infrastructure, were a lot more effective," he said.

The Rwandan government provided free fertilizer to farmers for four years after 1994. In 1998 it wanted to hand over importing and distribution to the private sector, which unfortunately lacked capacity, so the government continued to procure and import fertilizer, but left distribution and selling to the private sector.

Badiane said that since then aid from financial institutions has helped the private sector build capacity to import, and at least 20 bodies now import several hundred tons of fertilizer.

Way forward
The AU's plans for agriculture also tackle other major issues affecting food security, such as irrigation (only four percent of Africa's crop area is irrigated, compared to 39 percent in South Asia); improving soil fertility (more than three percent of agricultural GDP in Africa is lost annually as a direct result of soil and nutrient loss); post-harvest storage loss (sub-Saharan Africa loses about 40 percent of its harvest per year, against one percent in Europe); setting up databanks to share early-warning information and energy.

There is a high level of engagement between countries on agriculture. "They meet regularly and we support them in building evidence-based information," CAADP's Bwalya noted.

If they stayed the course in implementing CAADP, Badiane said in five years a large number of African countries, if not food secure, would be in a much better position to feed themselves.
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