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Communiqué of the East and Central Africa CAADP Nutrition Capacity Development Workshop

February 25-March 1, 2013, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Theme: Mainstreaming Nutrition in National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plans in Africa

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) in collaboration with the East Africa Community (EAC), Economic Community of East African States (ECCAS), the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East, Central and Southern African Health Community (ECSA-HC), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and Development Partners, organised the *East and Central Africa CAADP Nutrition Capacity Development Workshop* from 25 February to 1 March, 2013 at the Serena Hotel in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The success of the workshop was largely enabled by the hospitable hosting by the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives of the United Republic of Tanzania. The workshop benefited from invaluable technical and financial contribution of Development Partners including, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), the World Bank, Partnership for Child Development (PCD), FHI 360 and others.

The motivation for this workshop is the realisation that the agriculture sector does not adequately influence desirable nutrition outcomes, thus the need to integrate nutrition into the CAADP-informed National Agricultural and Food Security Investment Plans (NAFSIPs) of AU Member States. The objective of the workshop was to assist countries with nutrition programme development efforts with a view to ensure nutrition interventions are planned, budgeted and implemented as part of the NAFSIPs. Specific objectives of the workshop were to: 1) identify best practices and approaches for integrating nutrition into the CAADP framework and its processes; 2) increase understanding of available tools, resources, and program experiences for

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mainstreaming nutrition into agriculture; 3) strengthen country-level and regional networks of development professionals and experts contributing to the achievement of CAADP and food and nutrition security goals; and 4) increase understanding of how policy and governance issues need to align for improved food and nutrition security programming.

The expected outcome of the workshop was to improve capacities in the agriculture sector in order to improve nutrition outcomes, thus catalysing desired actions and the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement.

The workshop brought together 19 country teams comprised of 6 to 10 professionals from agriculture, health, education, finance, the private sector, and the civil society from **Burundi, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Chad, Congo DRC, Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda**. Also in attendance were representatives from the African Union Commission, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), CAADP and Nutrition Development Partners, Donors, UN and Non-Governmental Organizations.

The opening session of the workshop was graced by the presence of Honourable Engineer Christopher K. Chiza (MP), the Minister for Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives of the United Republic of Tanzania, who delivered an opening statement. The Chief Executive Officer of NEPAD, Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki also made a keynote address via a video link. FAO Country Representative in Tanzania, Diana Tempelman delivered a speech on behalf of partners. An overview of the workshop was delivered by Ms. Boitshepo Bibi Giyose, NEPAD's Senior Advisor and Head of Food and Nutrition Security, highlighting the purpose, objectives, the business of the workshop and expected outcomes.

Capacity enhancement, experience and lesson sharing presentations were delivered in plenary and parallel sessions by resource persons from international and civil society organizations. Parallel presentations were grouped under four thematic areas, namely; (a) changing consumer behaviours to influence the food system; (b) diversifying local production and supporting local livelihoods; (c) nutrition sensitive value chains; and (d) agriculture-nutrition linkages in an urbanizing world. Knowledge and learning presentations which focussed on coordination, capacity building, costing of business plans, funding facilities featuring the Global Fund for Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP) and case studies were also made and discussed.

Participants discussed and made recommendations for mainstreaming nutrition into their national and regional agriculture investment plans. In dedicated working group sessions, Country CAADP Teams deliberated and summarised their specific nutrition

context, highlighting overall country situation, key nutrition-related policies and programmes in related sectors and major food and nutrition security challenges, which informed discussions. The Country Teams agreed on sets of actions to be incorporated into their country roadmaps to be used as a reference for follow up at both country and regional levels. The continental, regional and international organisations which supported the workshop also elaborated their joint commitments and responsibilities for facilitating and supporting the process of integrating nutrition into CAADP-informed NAFSIPs. Key among the special needs is helping the Country Teams with costing the investment plans, funding gaps, technical assistance for improving the investment plans, mobilisation of financial resources for meeting funding gaps, building capacity, coordination and monitoring and evaluation.

The workshop identified and deliberated on the persistent challenges and limitations that render the wider agricultural sector to not culminate in improving nutrition and food security of Africans. Most prominent among the challenges are: a) weak or absolutely non-existent nutrition capacities in the agricultural, animal resources and fisheries institutions and organs, which mainly focus on production and productivity outcomes rather than food utilisation outcomes (i.e., reduced levels of stunting, wasting, low birth weight and overweight in urban areas); b) limited nutrition-sensitive strategies and actions in agricultural development and investment policies and plans; c) very limited multi-sectoral approach in programming and delivery of nutrition services and; d) limited coordination mechanisms and partnerships in the efforts for reducing hunger and under-nutrition, thus resulting in missed opportunities and general under-performance.

Against this backdrop, extensive deliberations, situation analysis and reflections resulted in a number of key messages and recommendations by participants during concluding sessions of the workshop. Commonly expressed messages were: a) the need to continue work on identifying entry points for integrating nutrition into the agriculture-wide and food security plans at both regional and national levels; b) allocation of resources for nutrition-sensitive outcomes of these plans by both government economic planning institutions and development partners; c) in-country identification of nutrition-related capacity gaps and to ensure nutrition capacities are decisively addressed in the short-term; d) establishment or strengthening of in-country multi-sector coordination mechanisms and building partnerships focussing on nutrition-agriculture sector linkages; e) adequate and intensive support by the African Union Commission, NEPAD and their regional and international partners to the nutrition-agriculture integration processes; and f) establishment of monitoring and follow-up mechanisms and capacities to ensure that the agriculture sector contributes effectively and efficiently toward improving nutrition levels of the population, particularly the vulnerable groups through better targeting across the continent.

In their conclusion, representatives of policy making organizations, namely; the AUC, NEPAD, the East African Community, FAO/UN and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania outlined their respective commitments and plans to the cause of implementing nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food security programmes. A representative of the participants (a delegate from Gabon) assured the workshop of their commitment to the process and the next steps. Also highlighted are the current opportunities for realising the objectives of the workshop. The workshop was informed of current commitments arising from the last two G8 Summits and the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition. Also underscored are opportunities to further pursue the nutrition-sensitive agriculture agenda through forthcoming continental events and platforms, where decisions of AU Heads of State and Government can be garnered for implementation of policies. The workshop was further informed that the 19th AUC Summit declared 2014 as the Year of Agriculture and Food Security and that the main theme of this workshop can be pursued further in the July 2013 marking of the 10 years of CAADP events, and the Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security and International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2). Furthermore, it was learned that the new Commission of the African Union has placed agriculture and food security as second of seven priorities of the post-2013 decade. All concerned were, therefore, advised to not take the matter lightly and to make use of opportunities presenting themselves for scaling up nutrition, drastically reducing hunger, malnutrition and poverty in Africa.