

Farmers Speak Out:

The Vision and Recommendations
of Africa's Farmers' Organizations
for the Comprehensive Africa
Agriculture Development Program



Enabling poor rural people
to overcome poverty



Cover:

This new crop of peppers was grown with the help of a small-scale irrigation project in the village of Launi, Aguié, Niger.

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Foreword

The African Union has targeted an agricultural growth rate of 6 per cent in the agricultural component of the New Economic Partnership for African Development (NEPAD). Achieving this goal, and reducing by half the number of persons who suffer poverty and hunger by 2015, would require involvement by farmers' organizations in the development and implementation of agricultural policies. Producer organizations play a central role in the agriculture and rural development sector as strategic partners.

In effect, in order to address the regional and international challenges of agricultural development policy and governance they face, African farmers' organizations have grouped themselves into regional networks to interact with regional economic entities. Over the past years, the regional networks have been working towards the establishment of a platform to dialogue with the African Union and the agricultural programme, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) of NEPAD, prepared in June 2002.

Farmers' organizations believe that realizing Africa's potential for agricultural development means effectively internalizing the process of preparing and implementing agricultural policy. This paper addresses the perception by Africa's farmers' organizations of NEPAD's agriculture programme. It summarizes the results of a consultative initiative involving African producers' organizations, donors, and African regional organizations.

Partnership with smallholder farmers' and producers' organizations is in line with the first objective of IFAD's Strategic Framework, to strengthen the capacity of poor rural people and their organizations. IFAD's most significant ongoing contribution to the NEPAD process, and to preparations for implementing the CAADP, is to enable poor rural people and their organizations to voice their needs and participate in policy dialogue that affects their well-being and their future.

I wish to thank the Italian Government for financing these consultations. Using these supplementary funds, IFAD has supported consultations among national and sub-regional farmers' organizations to enable them to agree on a common vision for African agricultural development. Based on these consultations, delegates were prepared to represent the perspectives and priorities of farmers at a series of CAADP regional implementation planning meetings held by NEPAD in 2005.

I would also like to thank FAO for facilitating the consultations between different platforms and the NEPAD. IFAD supported the regional farmers' organization in Western and Central Africa, ROPPA to prepare the final version of the document "Farmers Speak Out: The Vision and Recommendations of Africa's Farmers' Organizations for the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program" that has been prepared for publication and dissemination.

I am pleased to present the final version of the document conveying the common vision for African agricultural development of African producers' organizations. I hope you find value in this publication.

Mohamed Béavogui

Director
Western and Central Africa Division

Acronyms

A-SA	Agriculture South Africa
AfDB	African Development Bank
AGOA	African Growth and Opportunities Act
AU	African Union
CAADP	Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme
CEMAC	Central African Economic and Monetary Community
CCUS	Central Cooperative Union of Swaziland
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
FUM	Farmers' Union of Malawi
GDP	Gross domestic product
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
KENFAP	Kenya National Farmers' Union
NAFU	National African Farmers' Union
NCFU	Namibia Commercial Farmers' Union
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NIP	National investment programmes
NNFU	Namibia National Farmers' Union
OAU	Organization of African Unity
RFP	Regional focal point
ROPPA	Network of Peasant and Producers' Organizations of West Africa
SADC	Southern African Development Community
WB	World Bank
WTO	World Trade Organization
ZCFU	Zimbabwe Commercial Farmers' Union

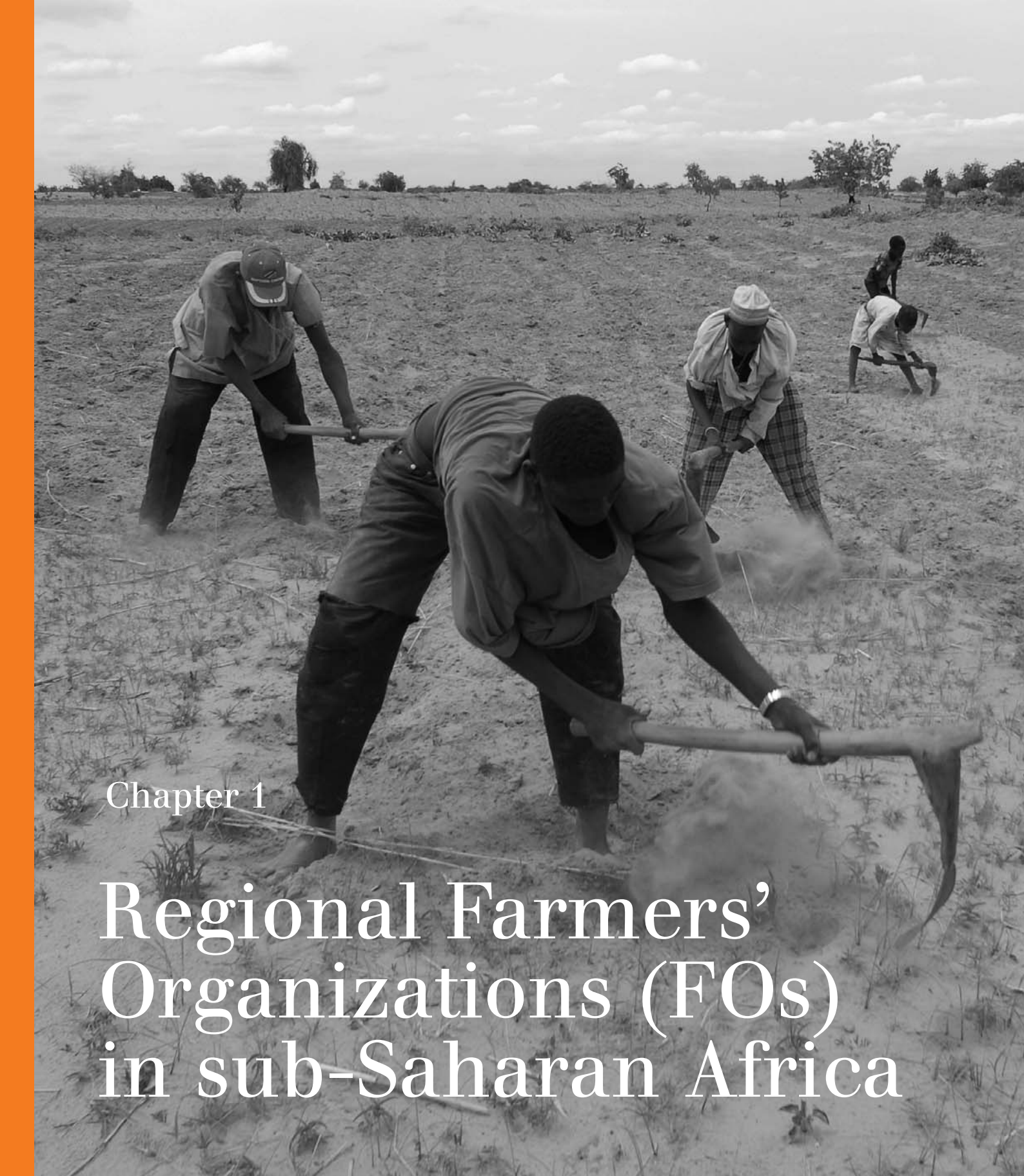
Introduction

Given its focus on supporting the role of farmer organizations in both implementation of its financed programs and in sharing this experience in policy discussions, IFAD organized a grant to support farmer organization participation in the New Economic Programme for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) process. More specifically, the grant financed assistance to regional farmer organizations to engage with their Regional Economic Community representatives and to articulate their priorities for smallholder-friendly agricultural development in sub-Saharan Africa.

The following documents the process and results of a series of workshops conducted in 2005 to facilitate farmer organization input to the development of the CAADP process. While five years have passed since the workshops, the recent acceleration of the CAADP process, particularly in the ECOWAS countries, is bringing a renewed focus at the regional and global levels to CAADP. Accordingly, IFAD is issuing the attached annex of the farmer views as they remain central voices and opinions to be taken into consideration in the prioritization of investments and national budgets by governments and partners. Fortunately, the role of farmers' organizations has been increasingly recognized in the context of CAADP, including a central role in Pillar 2 Framework for the Improvement of Rural Infrastructure and Trade-Related Capacities for Market Access, and more explicitly and encouragingly in the central role and partnership in the context of the Regional Agricultural Policy for West Africa (ECOWAP) and the associated ECOWAS Regional Compact.

Beyond its direct significance for the CAADP process, the consultative process, reported herein, represented the first joint activity among regional networks of farmer organizations. It was followed by further continent-wide advocacy activities leading to the planned creation of a Pan-African Platform of Farmers' Organizations and Producers (to include the farmers' network of the Maghreb) in 2010, and the proposal for formal recognition of this platform by the African Union and NEPAD.

IFAD continues to support the central role of farmers' organizations in Africa – both through a continental program of capacity support funded by the European Commission, as well as through subregional and country level grants and project activities. It is IFAD's firm belief that inclusive, efficient and effective agricultural development in Africa depends on ensuring the capacity of and space for smallholder farmers to engage the process both as private sector actors and as policy advocates, drawing upon their direct experience and needs. Equally important is to ensure the role of farmers' organizations in facilitating direct feedback from farmers to the national and regional monitoring and evaluation to ensure that policies and investments are working to empower poor rural women and men to develop the skills and organizations they require to achieve higher income and improved food security. In this regard, IFAD intends to maintain and expand its support to farmers' organizations over the coming years, and to support their participation in the agricultural development dialogue at the local, national, regional and global levels.



Chapter 1

Regional Farmers' Organizations (FOs) in sub-Saharan Africa

Historical Background

Different forms of organization and groupings of farmers is an ancient phenomenon in Africa, and the traditional forms of groupings for mutual help in the village level still exist in local communities. The modern and juridical concept of farmers' organizations was created in the colonial era and has taken various forms under different contexts provided by the state. The most common form of farmers' organizations has been that of a development instrument employed for the implementation of government policies that often were biased towards certain crops and regions of production, which in turn was reflected in the uneven development of producers' organizations.

Since the first years of independence and, more significantly, in the 1970s, numerous organizations started to work in support of rural communities with development objectives, creating, for instance, rural credit systems or promoting commercial gardening. The projects were usually implemented by an organization of villagers formed for this purpose, which led to the creation of a great number of autonomous farmers' organizations.

As the structural adjustment policies of the 1980s were introduced, the authorities in charge of agricultural development saw their working space reduced. Liberalized farmers' organizations partially occupied their place but without receiving accompanying measures to support their emerging role. Various associations and structures that evolved from "liberalized ex-cooperatives" spurred many of today's farmers' organizations; in order to strengthen their capacity to serve their members, they have subsequently moved on to form national platforms (such as the *Comité National de Concertation et de Coopération des Ruraux* (CNCR) in Senegal in 1993, *Concertation Nationale des Organisations Paysannes* (CNOP) in Cameroon in 2000, and the Union National Farmers Federation in Uganda in 1992). As the national farmers' federations and organizations in various African countries have grown stronger, they have often gained a recognized position as a partner in the design and implementation of development programmes, and in the national policy dialogue on development policies related to agriculture and rural development.

Since the 1990s, FOs started to get organized at regional levels as a response to the accelerating global dimensions of the key challenges confronting family agriculture like those associated with regional integration and trade liberalization. In Africa, national FO federations have been formed to be better positioned in the political dialogue with the emerging regional economic communities (ECOWAS, SADC, COMESA and CEMAC). The principal FO networks in sub-Saharan Africa, representing the key national FO regroupings in the countries of their subregions, are *Réseau des organisations paysannes et de producteurs de l'Afrique de l'Ouest* (ROPPA) in Western Africa; East African Farmers Federation (EAFF) in Eastern Africa; the Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU) in Southern Africa and *Plateforme Sous-régionale des organisations paysannes d'Afrique Centrale* (PROPAC) in Central Africa. These regional networks are increasingly working with a certain autonomy based on membership contributions and they are entirely directed by representatives elected by the members. Through the affiliated national platforms, they represent Farmers' Organizations from 30 sub-Saharan African countries and millions of small farmers – ROPPA alone represents 45 million farmers in West Africa. Above 40% of the membership base of the four networks are comprised of women farmers and organizations of women producers.

Network of West Africa Peasant and Agricultural Producers' Organizations (ROPPA)

ROPPA, created in 2000, is the network of the national FOs from ten¹ of the fifteen ECOWAS countries; it maintains regular coordination with some of the largest national organizations from the other three countries – namely Nigeria, Ghana and Sierra Leone. It represents about 45 million small producers, cattle farmers and fishermen, to whom the national organizations deliver advice, support and diverse services for the promotion of their activities and to raise their profile in policy deliberations.

ROPPA's objective is to strengthen the capacities of African FOs to defend the interests of their members and to influence the policies linked to agriculture, rural development and food security. It aims to achieve this through (i) promotion of values of competitive and sustainable agriculture based on family farming and agricultural producers; (ii) support to the formation and structuring of producer organizations in each country; (iii) training and informing the agricultural socio-professional organizations based on sharing the experience of their members and those of other development actors; (iv) promoting inter-African solidarity; and (v) representing the farmers' organizations and agricultural producers in subregional, regional and international levels.

ROPPA is actively advocating the interests of small-scale and family farming in the subregion and at the international level, aiming to promote agricultural and commercial policies that would benefit all producers. It has a fundamental role in supporting national organizations' initiatives and in strengthening their capacities. ROPPA has also assumed a coordinating role in various pan-African activities undertaken jointly by the African regional FO networks.

ROPPA's partnership with ECOWAS, reinforced during the elaboration and adoption of the ECOWAS Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP) in 2005, has since been reflected in the regular engagement of ROPPA in the implementation of the Policy. ROPPA leads the elaboration of the component of institutional strengthening of the Regional Programme on Agricultural Investment (PRIA). ROPPA has also been engaged in the process for the definition of sensitive products for ECOWAS region during the Economic Partnership Agreements.

SACAU - Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions

SACAU was formed in 1992 as a federation of national farmers' unions, and its membership is open to all organizations within southern African countries that represent farmers on a voluntary basis, as well as those that are autonomous, farmer-governed and independent of political parties. Currently, there are thirteen members of SACAU from Botswana, Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In addition, the organization has a memorandum of understanding with a national FO in Mozambique.

SACAU has a track record of promoting regional collaboration and understanding among the leaders of farmers' organizations and the farming community in the SADC region. It supports national FOs in their dialogue with national governments and other

¹ Benin, Burkina-Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Togo.

stakeholders to promote the well-being of all farmers, and promotes the overall viability of agriculture in the region. SACAU has already positioned itself as a major player in the agricultural development of the region by facilitating development support and providing appropriate information to FOs, and by providing a platform representing the farmers on regional, continental and international agricultural policy issues.

SACAU is recognized by both the SADC and COMESA as the representative of farmers at the regional level. A memorandum of understanding was signed with COMESA in January 2006, and SACAU is currently negotiating a formal agreement with SADC. Furthermore, the organization is actively involved in CAADP processes, working closely with NEPAD. In recent years, SACAU has focused on strengthening its network and the services it can provide to its member FOs with support from different donors. The experiences have proved that it is strategically positioned to engage in effective and demand-driven capacity building support with its members. In May 2008, the President of SACAU was also elected as President of International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP), the largest international world farmers' organization representing 600 million farm families.

EAFF – East African Farmers Federation

EAFF is a non-profit, non-political and democratic network of farmers of the Eastern Africa region formed in 2001, although exchanges among its founding members date back to 1994. Currently there are 12 member organizations of EAFF from Burundi, DR Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda, and it accounts for approximately 570,000 farmers. EAFF advocates the concerns and interests of all farmers in the region, with an aim of enhancing regional cohesiveness and socio-economic development of farmers. The federation also aims at promoting regional integration through promotion of trade and networking, strengthening information exchange between and within country producer organizations, facilitating farmers' market options, and rationalizing the product distribution and commodity pricing in the region. It implements various programs to benefit its members in partnership with development partners and institutions.

PROPAC – Plateforme Sous-régionale des organisations paysannes d'Afrique Centrale

PROPAC, created in 2005, is the principal platform regrouping national organizations from the 10 countries of the subregion Central Africa, formed by CEEAC and CEMAC². It accounts for approximately 35,000 members of which more than 52 per cent are female. The member organizations vary from professional groups active in agro-forestry and other rural activities to social groupings, such as organizations of young rural entrepreneurs or indigenous minorities.

² Cameroon, Congo Brazzaville, Gabon, Republic of Central Africa, Chad, DR Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Burundi, São Tomé and Príncipe, and Angola.

PROPAC aims at reinforcing its institutional position, development of the member organizations' capacities, increasing the competitiveness of small-scale farming and promoting specific interests of family farmers in the elaboration, implementation and evaluation of development strategies and policies that are relevant to rural regions in Central Africa. Recent achievements of PROPAC have been its participation in the elaboration of the Regional Programme on Food Security (*Programme Régional de Sécurité Alimentaire*, PRSA) with CEEAC public authorities and its admittance in the Administrative Council of West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/WECARD) and participation in the elaboration of CORAF/WECARD's strategic plan 2008-2015.

Of the four networks, PROPAC is the most recently formed and still facing challenges in occupying a space in regional agricultural dialogue that has, until recently, been dominated by NGOs. Still, it has already succeeded in forming alliances with the other regional FO networks and some development partners.

Women Farmers and Regional FOs

Considering the gender issue, it should be considered that women account for over 40 per cent of the four regional FO networks' membership. In all four networks there is a commitment to increase the participation of women in the FOs' decision-making processes and to provide them with capacity building to advocate their concerns. Particularly interesting programmes to promote women's participation have been developed, for example, by some members of PROPAC (the Cameroon national platform). ROPPA has established a specific space for women to exchange experiences and formulate proposals to submit to ROPPA's executive committee (the *College des Femmes*). Exchange of experiences among the women members of the four regional networks offers interesting perspectives, since the experiences are very complementary. The creation of women's producer organizations has often been, besides seeking better income, an attempt to gain social recognition in a male-dominated society. Producer groups made up by and directed by women are often among the most dynamic ones. These enhanced economic activities of the women have multiplied impacts as women tend to invest the additional income to the well-being of their families and community.

Collaboration among Regional FOs

The four regional FO networks have taken significant steps to build up their collaboration over the past five years. In 2003-2004 they undertook a consultative process aimed at formulating an African farmers' vision of the agricultural component of NEPAD (CAADP), the results of which are reported here. This first major exercise was followed, in 2006-2007, with a collaborative exercise aimed at developing autonomous farmers' organizations' assessments of the impact of environmental protection agencies (EPAs) on smallholder

agriculture and food security. Four regional assessments were prepared and presented to the respective regional economic commissions and a synthesis document was presented to the ACP Secretariat in December 2006. The efforts of the regional FOs networks were highly appreciated both by the four RECs and by the ACP Secretariat, which integrated a representative of the regional FOs into the Expert Group charged with preparing positions on the EPAs for the ACP ministers. On May 2008, the four networks met in Addis Ababa to exchange information and find possible solutions to the food crisis. In this meeting the decision of creating a “Pan-African Platform of Farmers’ Organizations and Agricultural Producers” was accepted by the four networks in order to tackle the continent-wide crisis caused by high food prices and its implications to food security.



Chapter 2

The Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Program⁵

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⁵ This profile of CAADP draws directly from documents issued by the NEPAD Secretariat Agriculture Unit:
<http://www.nepad-caadp.net/>

Background

The New Economic Programme for Africa's Development (NEPAD) arose from a mandate given by the AU to the Heads of State of Algeria, Egypt, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa to develop an integrated socio-economic development framework for Africa. The resulting framework was adopted by the OAU in July 2001. NEPAD is anchored on the determination of Africans to extricate themselves and the continent from the malaise of underdevelopment and exclusion in a globalising world. NEPAD's overall objectives are to

1. Establish conditions for sustainable development (peace and security; democracy and good political, economic and corporate governance; regional cooperation and integration; capacity-building);
2. Encourage policy reforms and increased investments in priority sectors (agriculture, human development, infrastructure, environment);
3. Mobilize resources (increasing domestic savings and investments; management of public revenue and expenditure; Africa's share of global trade; foreign direct investment).

The specific agenda for agricultural development was endorsed by Heads of State and government, as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) in the African Union Maputo Declaration on June 23, 2003 in Maputo, Mozambique. CAADP's main objective is to help African countries achieve higher economic growth through agriculture-led development – thereby eliminating hunger, reducing poverty and food insecurity, enabling the expansion of exports, and supporting environmental resilience. CAADP is a common framework, reflected in a set of key principles and targets, to guide country strategies and investment programmes; stimulate and support policy dialogue and review, organizational and capacity development, (regional) peer learning, private sector engagement and agriculture-related entrepreneurship development and growth; and facilitate greater alignment and harmonization of efforts of development partners, international and local institutions, knowledge centres and think-tank institutions.

The African Union Maputo Declaration specifies two key intermediate targets:

- Pursuit of a 6 per cent average annual agricultural sector growth rate at the national level; and
- Allocation of 10 per cent of national budgets to support the agricultural sector.

Under CAADP, Africa's governments have further identified four continent-wide entry points, or pillars, for investment and action in pursuing increased and sustainable productivity in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and livestock management. Specifically these are

- Pillar 1 – Extending the area under sustainable land and water management;
- Pillar 2 – Improving market access through improved rural infrastructure and trade-related interventions;
- Pillar 3 – Increasing food supply and reducing hunger across the region by increasing smallholder productivity and improving response to food emergencies;
- Pillar 4 – Improving agricultural research and systems to disseminate appropriate new technologies and increasing the support to help farmers adopt them.

Although continental in scope, CAADP is implemented through integrated national and regional efforts to promote agricultural sector growth. The focus of these efforts is the national level roundtable process that focuses on

- Exploiting synergies and inclusive, evidence-based discussion on socio-economic bottlenecks and deciding appropriate action on those matters;
- Identifying gaps in donor funding needed to achieve agreed priorities;
- Initiating work to monitor and evaluate CAADP's progress at the national, regional and continental levels;
- Aligning state policies with regional priorities and the four pillars;
- Developing long-term commitments to finance agricultural investment programmes that are aligned with CAADP principles and targets.

At the core of the CAADP approach is the conviction that Africa's development challenges can only be sustainably addressed by Africa's own commitment – both political and in terms of domestic resources – and concerted action through inclusive approaches and partnerships among African stakeholders.

Status of CAADP Implementation

CAADP implementation can be assessed according to three, key indicators:

- Countries that have achieved the CAADP target of 6 per cent average annual growth in agricultural production.
- Countries with more than 10 per cent of national expenditure on agriculture.
- Countries that have signed CAADP Compacts as the result of a national roundtable process.

As of 2007, progress in terms of agricultural growth and budget expenditures was promising. Eleven countries had exceeded the 6 per cent growth target – over twice the number in 2003 – and at least four countries were over 5 per cent. In terms of budget expenditures on agriculture, the number of countries with expenditures over 10 per cent of total had increased from three in 2003 to eight in 2007, with 16 other countries having annual budget expenditures for agriculture over 5 per cent of total.⁴

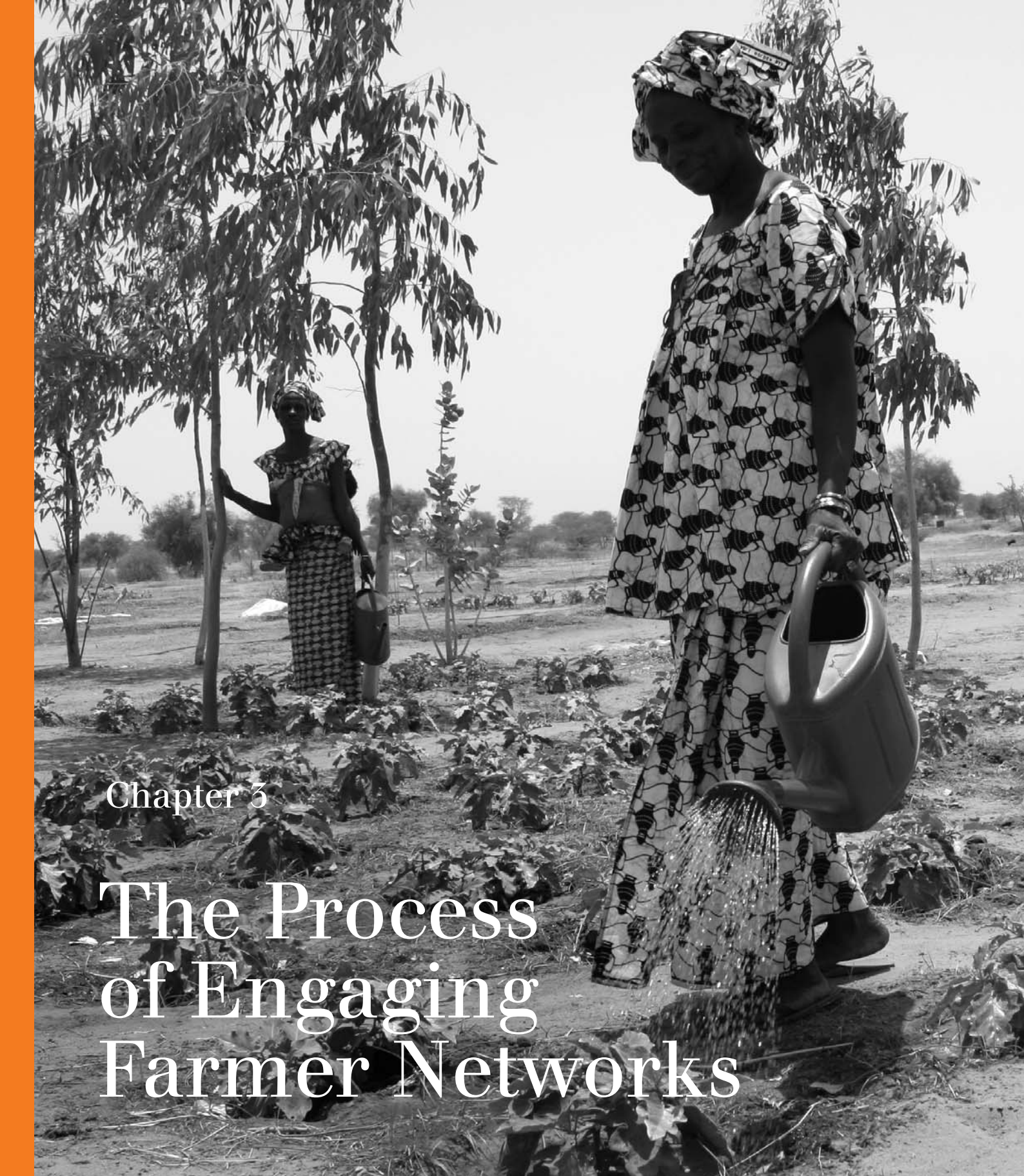
Progress with the roundtable process was initially less encouraging. Initially there were significant weaknesses, identified by NEPAD itself, in terms of communications and coordination with member-states, regional economic communities and stakeholders like farmers' organizations, the private sector, NGOs and donor partners. Accordingly, there was little momentum in support of the roundtable processes at country level so that from 2003 to 2008 only one CAADP Compact was concluded – in Rwanda in 2007 – and even in this case there was initially limited follow-up or commitment of additional support from either Government or its technical and financial partners. At the same time, the Rwanda experience did highlight the importance of the roundtable process to mobilize the active engagement of the Ministry of Finance and other complementary ministries critical to the agricultural development agenda.

⁴ Fan, Shengen; Babatunde Omilola and Melissa Lambert: *Public Spending for Agriculture in Africa: Trends and Composition*. ReSAKSS Working Paper No. 28, IFPRI, Washington, D.C. April 2009.

More recent experience in Western Africa has highlighted potential for the CAADP approach to mobilize activities at the country and regional levels in support of agricultural development, and, in particular, the important role of RECs. In 2008 the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) took on the leadership for support of the CAADP agenda among its member states, helping to coordinate understanding of the objectives and process, mobilizing and coordinating technical analysis and capacity support and encouraging donor engagement. The result was the completion of the roundtable process and signing of CAADP compacts in nine countries by the end of 2009. In addition, based on its 2007 agricultural policy (ECOWAP), in November 2009, ECOWAS signed its own regional compact with stakeholders, including farmer organizations, the private sector, NGOs and technical and financial partners in order to support regional priorities such as food sovereignty and improved integration of regional markets for agricultural inputs and products.

By the end of 2009, in addition to Rwanda and the nine West African countries indicated above, CAADP compacts had been signed in Burundi and Ethiopia for a total of 12 countries.

The experience to-date suggests that while progress has been uneven in terms of both country and RECs taking initiative to implement the CAADP process, as well as specific agricultural growth and expenditure results, there is growing momentum, particularly as anticipated increases in funding available for agricultural development in Africa are aligned to support CAADP implementation. In any case, maintaining and accelerating this momentum will clearly depend on translation of priorities into practical investment programs and financial support which demonstrate results on the ground for farmers.



Chapter 3

The Process of Engaging Farmer Networks

Methodology

The approach adopted was based on the goal of broader participation and the will of African producers to contribute to preparing and implementing NEPAD's agricultural policies. This methodology centres around four major thrusts, which are examined below.

Within the overall management of the process, the continent's subregions were identified and the concept of regional focal point (RFP) adopted. For each subregional bloc, the RFP was tasked with coordination of the process at the subregional level. The RFP belongs to a regional framework (network or institution) that groups together producers' organizations and is considered representative from the point of view of both being established in the country and its partnerships with other producers' organizations in the region. For the West Africa subregional bloc, the RFP is the Network of Peasant and Producers' Organizations of West Africa (ROPPA). The Central African subregional bloc is represented by the focal point of Cameroon's peasant organizations, which led the process. The Kenya National Federation of Agricultural Producers (KENFAP) represents the Southern and East Africa subregional bloc.

At the beginning of the process, a communication plan was adopted in line with the objectives being sought and the need for effective management of the consultation process. Information visits were organized by RFPs with the support of consultants. Through these visits, the national authorities and civil society organizations were briefed on NEPAD's scope and issues in Africa's rural development. As a result, the focal points were able to obtain the support and participation of institutions and subregional stakeholders in holding consultative workshops. The consultants involved in this work helped implement the plan by preparing summary notes of one page or more setting out the basic concepts and fundamental arguments of producers with respect to NEPAD's agricultural policy.

As indicated, each subregion has completed its own consultative process through the subregional workshops. These included West Africa (workshop at Niamey, Niger, from 24 to 26 June 2003), Central Africa (workshop at Yaoundé, Cameroon, from 9 to 11 July 2003) and East Africa (workshop at Nairobi, Kenya, from 24 to 26 July 2003). In Southern Africa, a consultative workshop took place at Lusaka, the Zambian capital, from 20 to 22 January 2004. The subregional economic unions that ensure coordination of NEPAD's initiatives collaborated on workshop preparations and proceedings.

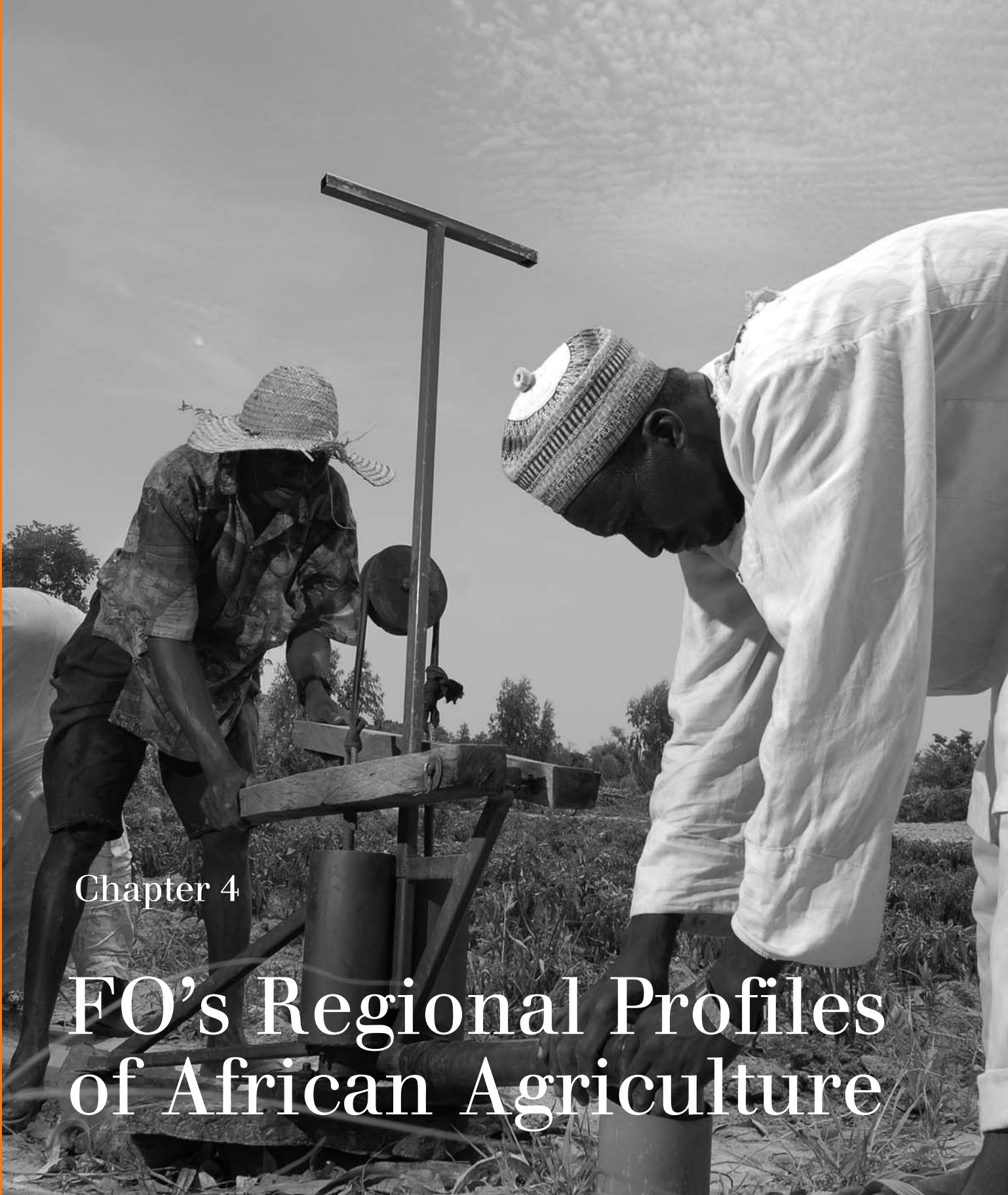
In each subregional bloc, the consultative workshop provided an opportunity to discover NEPAD: its visions, strategies and programme orientations. Following in-depth discussion and debate and expert presentations on the agricultural profile of each subregion and the nature of agricultural policy implemented by States and economic unions, participants reached agreement on NEPAD's strengths, current weaknesses and the conditions necessary for achieving its agricultural and rural development goals. The workshops also gave participants the opportunity to agree on policy platforms, incentives and measures to create an enabling institutional environment for NEPAD's agricultural programme.

The subregional consultative workshops have allowed farmers' organizations to state and validate their positions on NEPAD's agricultural policy to representatives of States and

regional economic communities. Final declarations, adopted unanimously upon completion of each subregional workshop, record the consensus reached by all participants.

The wrap-up meeting took place at Pretoria, South Africa, from 23 to 25 February 2004. The intention was to share and discuss the analyses and proposals generated by subregional workshops. This meeting provided an opportunity for a dialogue with the NEPAD Secretariat around increasing involvement by farmers' organizations, the private sector and African civil society generally in NEPAD's implementation. The wrap-up workshop also served as an occasion for leaders of the farmers' movement over the entire continent to agree on common positions vis-à-vis national and regional authorities and their development partners, for the design of favourable agricultural policies that protect the interests of African populations.

Resource persons were mobilized to support consultations throughout the process. Each RFP had access to the services of a consultant who provided methodological support for the consultative process in the region concerned, as well as for document preparation. To support the subregional consultants, and to ensure the overall consistency of consultations carried out in the various regions, a senior consultant was appointed to define the overall methodology and teaching approach and supervise implementation. The senior consultant was also tasked with preparing and facilitating the final wrap-up workshop and assisting with finalizing action plans to be carried out by farmers' organizations at the regional, subregional and national levels. A technical unit responsible for preparing programme proposals based on subregional and interregional agricultural policy platforms was also supervised by the senior consultant.



Chapter 4

FO's Regional Profiles of African Agriculture

Subregional agricultural profiles

Each subregion issued a final declaration upon completion of its workshop summarizing the results obtained. Much of the work done consisted of preliminary presentations and discussions on the essential features of the agricultural and rural sectors. These contextual profiles will subsequently serve as the basis for evaluating proposals and programmes under NEPAD's agricultural policies.

West Africa

In this part of the continent, agriculture consists mainly of family farming – both for profit and family subsistence. Family farms produce more than 90 per cent of agricultural output, employ more than 60 per cent of the population and control more than 95 per cent of agricultural land, according to a number of studies.

Family farms practise mainly subsistence agriculture, which is essential for feeding rural families. Any surplus production is sold at local markets. This is the core of small-scale processing activities that generate additional family income which is used for other rural economic activities. Family agriculture is also the main source of supply of staple foods and artisanal products in urban centres. However, a clear trend has been observed in recent years, as local natural resources are depleted, for family farming to be increasingly unable to meet the needs of rural and urban populations. The countries of the Sahel, for instance, import a rising share of staple foods. This importation causes changes in eating habits, volatility in national economies, and contributes to perpetuating poverty.

The extensive nature of family farming, combined with demographic pressures and ill-advised policy choices, have had a devastating effect on soil, leading to serious losses in productivity and land disputes. The over-exploitation of forests has led to high levels of desertification and impoverishment of soil and wildlife. Recurring drought associated with deforestation and extensive agricultural methods is causing silting and drying up of watercourses in plains and valley bottoms. In this context of steadily declining local resources, many rural youths see no future in their villages or in agriculture and dream only of leaving the country, or at least of moving to urban centres. Off-farm activities are becoming the main source of income for a growing number of farmers. Conventional credit systems are structurally unsound and lead to farmer indebtedness: long-term financing is non-existent and taxes on input prices push up the cost of farm credit, reducing farmer creditworthiness.

Central Africa

Agriculture in Central Africa is characterized by low crop productivity and poor yields. Roots and tubers are the main staple foods grown, and production is declining as cultivated areas remain limited in size. With regard to cereals, e.g. maize, millet, rice and sorghum, land areas planted remain stable, but yields have fallen due to degraded soil, drought, deteriorating plant stock and rudimentary cropping techniques.

With respect to legumes, the countries of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) have not achieved production in sufficient quantity and quality,

although many of them have the capacity to grow most of these products. Production is currently not meeting demand from a rapidly growing urban population (the population in some towns in CEMAC is growing at 10 per cent and even 15 per cent per year, for an estimated 52 million people, of whom 59.7 per cent live in rural areas).

Economic adjustment policies and market expansion, linked to globalization, have largely determined economic policy, and thus agricultural and food security policies have had to adapt to this new context, while support for traditional policy instruments – subsidies, import restrictions, protection for domestic markets – was far from unanimous.

Clearly, given the macroeconomic constraints, agricultural policy is not perceived as a budget priority. This considerably limits the development of rural infrastructure, research, dissemination of technology, and support and advisory assistance for producers. Added to these constraints are the weakness of investment (both public and private) and arbitrary enforcement of rules and regulations, which weaken agricultural policies.

Finally, producer support structures are inadequate in the face of the expected new role of agricultural policy. Functions and themes have evolved towards preserving and restoring the environment, respecting norms and standards of food quality and health, and poverty reduction – a host of themes and orientations that extend beyond the traditional sphere of agricultural production. However, the public sector institutions and ministries responsible for agriculture are often not able to take up these new challenges, their staff lacking the required training and information while also suffering from insufficient financial resources. The resulting deficits place major constraints on modernizing agricultural policy.

East Africa

In this part of Africa, family farming prevails, albeit with generally larger-scale operations in terms of both area and capital. However, smallholders contribute the major share (some 80 per cent) of agricultural production and food security. Agriculture remains the main activity for most of the population. Family farms are more highly developed here than in other regions. They produce much more food destined for domestic consumption and export. But they occupy just one third of arable land, using 70 per cent of the active population. The remaining two-thirds of the subregion is arid land, giving rise to food insecurity and dependency. There are a number of root causes that exacerbate the state of food insecurity here: natural disasters, conflicts and the dramatic rise in population.

Eastern Africa belongs to an area characterized by high levels of poverty and malnutrition. Some 70 per cent of the population live in rural areas and make their living from agriculture. During the 1980s, the countries of East Africa brought in reforms to boost staple food yields, raise produce quality and diversify exports. There are seven countries seriously affected by food insecurity, with 150 million inhabitants together, of which 70 per cent live in arid and semi-arid areas. In this part of Africa, more than 42 per cent of the population is underfed.

The consultations initiated by producers' organizations provided an opportunity to reach agreement on the subregion's major challenges and issues. The exchanges of views led to a number of results, including a commitment by participants to ensure sustainable food production, build capacity within their organizations, continue to participate in

formulating policy, promote small enterprises for greater value added, and seek integration among the region's producers through dialogue, networking and trade. Producers' organizations undertook to work together on lobbying and partnership strategies with regional economic blocs.

Southern Africa

In most of the countries in Southern Africa, agriculture is the main economic activity. Aside from South Africa, where agriculture contributes to just 10 per cent of GDP, it employs 70 per cent of the population and contributes between 24 per cent and 45 per cent of GDP in the other Southern African countries.

Most of these countries have a semi-arid climate with less than 10 per cent arable land. This part of the continent is periodically subject to natural catastrophes, such as drought and flooding. Irrigation may be an appropriate solution to bring food security and sustainable development to the subregion.

The importance of agriculture in Southern Africa is clear. Available statistics (from 1990) indicate that the rural populations of Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia, respectively, represent the majority of the overall national population (between 75 and 87 per cent) and that they derive a large proportion of their incomes from agriculture; however, malnutrition persists in these countries. Economic integration appears to be progressing through the Southern African Development Community (SADC) established in 1980. Its member countries differ in terms of land availability, economic potential, type of agriculture practised, rate of economic growth and share of agriculture in economic development.



Chapter 5

Farmer's Views and Recommendations

Views on NEPAD agricultural policy

Upon completion of the subregional consultations, a wrap-up meeting was held in February 2004 in Pretoria, South Africa, to enable farmers' organizations to voice their views on NEPAD's agricultural policy. The organizations expressed regret that NEPAD's vision, orientations and strategies had not been sufficiently discussed and negotiated with the major stakeholders: family farmers and their organizations. The approach taken thus far was not consistent with NEPAD's founding principles, which are to mobilize the grass roots and promote African resources and partnerships. Rural people were, therefore, appreciative of this initiative to remedy these gaps.

Farmers' organizations and other organizations of agricultural producers pointed out that the vision, orientations and strategies put forward in the main documents – NEPAD's agricultural programme, regional food security programmes, and CAADP – are not new. The main priorities have remained unchanged since negotiations for and implementation of the structural adjustment programmes in the agriculture sector. These have aimed to increase production, particularly for export, to clarify land tenure rights and facilitate land registration for those who are better off, to gain access to external markets, promote the private sector and entrepreneurialism, and strengthen research and promote technology.

The farmers' and agricultural producers' organizations note that the current international economic environment framing NEPAD's aspirations for African agriculture is characterized by a steady decline in export production despite improved performance on quality. This downward trend is aggravated by

- the development of greenhouse tropical products in Europe and the United States, which compete with African products and are subsidized despite the World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements;
- the over-indebtedness of States, which subjects them to the supervision of financial organizations and their donor countries and limits their room for manoeuvre;
- the increasing dependency on imports of foods not produced in Africa (wheat, beet, oilseeds from Europe);
- the pressures on Africa's natural resources, aggravated by depletion of these same resources in the North; and
- the mass exodus of young people from rural areas in search of new horizons – to the detriment of continuity for tens of thousands of family farms.

Within this context, and in the absence of reliable equitable economic ruling by the WTO, it is impossible for African farmers to compete on world markets. Building African agricultural development upon exports and external markets offers no guarantee that the challenges of feeding Africa's peoples and ensuring that they have a decent and sustainable livelihood can be met.

Vision of the future of agriculture

The farmers' and agricultural producers' organizations called for a vision of the future that will free Africa from famine and malnutrition. They agreed on the vision of a modern, sustainable kind of agriculture that can fulfil the economic, social and ecological functions

of creating wealth, preserving family and national solidarity, and managing natural resources in an equitable and sustainable fashion. This new kind of agriculture must ensure adequate, stable incomes and decent living standards for family farmers and smallholders. It must generate a surplus for export and contribute meaningfully to national wealth creation; additionally, it must provide healthy food to national and subregional populations.

Beyond NEPAD's goals of making agriculture more competitive and more productive, the farmers' and agricultural producers' organizations expressed a vision of modernity that gives priority to the continent's food sovereignty. This vision seeks to restore dignity to African producers and citizens, and development must be sustainable and respectful of African values and culture. This vision rests upon ethical, civic and political foundations. The food sovereignty of populations and nations is critical, and it should not be subject to the fluctuations of global markets or international institutions. The rules and mechanisms governing global markets have until now had disastrous consequences for small and medium-sized family farms, while at the same time degrading the environment and biodiversity.

The farmers' and agricultural producers' organizations share with NEPAD the conviction that integrating regional markets and adopting consistent policies in support of production, communications and telecommunications infrastructure, and pricing and taxation convergence will bring sustainable solutions to the food deficit.

Moreover, although they subscribe to this regional vision of solutions to Africa's food security problems, the farmers' and producers' organizations believe that African agriculture has a political dimension that transcends technical and economic considerations. Accordingly, they question the vision of the future of rural societies in Africa and the terms of a compromise between sustainable agriculture and meeting the food and health needs of populations. The stakeholders, therefore, reaffirm their vision of regional agricultural policies built around family farming.

Areas in which agricultural policies and rural development programmes in Africa should be reformulated

Producers' organizations have put forward proposals for specific areas in which NEPAD's agricultural policy should be reformulated. This means revisiting and fully clarifying NEPAD's vision for agricultural policy. The aim is then to identify economic, social and ecological goals and seek a dynamic compromise between meeting present needs, preserving natural resources for future generations and meeting the requirements of a globalized economy. More generally, the aim is to determine agriculture's role in our countries' long-term development. The farmers' and agricultural producers' organizations have clear ideas in this regard and would like to share and discuss them with partners. Rural leaders in particular would like to exchange views with Heads of State and Government on the future of agriculture and rural development. The NEPAD Secretariat, which took part in this initiative, is to contribute to this end by facilitating such exchanges of views. Decision makers will need to promote, in their own countries, and within the context of regional cooperation, convergent policies that will shape a technical and regulatory environment that favours agricultural development. The vision of agriculture freeing the continent from famine and malnutrition is not compatible with the

infrastructure and institutional framework in which African producers live and work. Rural people commend the relevance of the NEPAD option to intervene in large-scale projects, particularly in regional and subregional infrastructure for transportation (roads, seaways and rivers), telecommunications, and hydro projects in agriculture and electricity. But this initiative to improve the technical environment for agricultural production must be complemented and supported by

- promoting adapted farm credit and insurance systems;
- developing research and advisory assistance systems to meet smallholders' needs;
- revamping land tenure regimes to provide land security to rural landowners, particularly at the village level;
- introducing incentives to encourage young people to stay and invest in rural areas (e.g. guaranteed incomes, quality of life); and
- promoting regional markets for agricultural products.

In this vein, plans also call for the promotion of strategies to mobilize domestic resources (complementing external contributions) for rural finance. The farmers' and agricultural producers' organizations feel that the project to secure food sovereignty for Africa is not credible. The current rural financing structure gives too small a role to mobilizing internal resources and it relies on pooling farm income to benefit other sectors.

The organizations recommend that States, in consultation with rural organizations, pursue diversified strategies to identify and mobilize internal resources for agricultural and rural development. These would include

- setting up a production support fund using contributions from producers themselves (dues payable in cash or in kind) and tax rebates on exports and inputs; and
- improving and strengthening internal financing by farmers' organizations (small-scale savings and credit associations or *tontines*, farmer credit unions).

In addition to raising these "internal" resources, farmers should be supported to gain access to external financing subject to sound management by their organizations.

Africa's agricultural exports policies must be based on the development and effective management of domestic markets. It is clear that NEPAD wishes to make Africa a net exporter of agricultural products, without explicitly recognizing the notion of food sovereignty, which is defined by the continent's ability to feed itself. This has always been the prevailing focus and has always led to failure, leading to an externally oriented model of African agriculture and perpetuation of food dependency.

Accordingly, NEPAD's agricultural policy should promote commercial strategies in concentric circles, aiming to facilitate entry into bordering markets, take advantage of complementarities between production areas and increase the volume of food production.

Various interventions could be considered to this end:

- stepping up trade between regions by setting up wholesale markets in border areas;
- promoting consumption of local products;
- building technical and industrial capacity to make products more competitive in terms of production and packaging costs;
- improving technical capacities for processing agricultural products; and
- applying and enforcing agreements on customs protocols.

NEPAD's agricultural policy should explicitly provide for measures to combat distortions and dumping on world markets. Examples include claims under international agreements at the State level, protection for regional integration spaces against dumping and domestic market protectionism; concerted action to negotiate and monitor international free trade agreements (WTO, Cotonou Accord, African Growth and Opportunity Act – AGOA); categorical repudiation of genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

NEPAD should also promote a partnership charter among rural stakeholders to bring in new practices and procedures more consistent with legitimate governance. Real involvement and participation by farmers' and producers' organizations in implementing NEPAD will call for new means of collaboration and new institutional arrangements within States, subregional economic organizations and the NEPAD Secretariat. They should be based on a culture of mutual respect and consideration and on dialogue and consultation/consensus-building between the State, subregional economic organizations, international partners, civil society and, in particular, farmers' organizations.

Commitments and recommendations by rural people

According to producers' organizations, NEPAD should secure effective accountability of all partners for rural development. Producers' organizations are convinced that, in accordance with the principles of active subsidiarity and optimizing resources and potential for all, achieving the vision and objectives of NEPAD's agricultural policy, as described, above will mean recognizing the role and contribution of each and building balanced, responsible partnerships among all parties.

To this end, the organizations undertake, first, to create and manage their professional organizations and structures according to the principles of transparency, credibility and legitimacy, the underpinnings of any society. They also undertake to strive for the development and professionalization of their organizations by implementing effective training programmes and information systems that provide access to resources and strategic information. They intend thus to forge alliances with other stakeholders around their priorities and objectives. They also propose to implement agrarian reforms, which will secure producers' access and rights to natural resources (such as water and land), the key factors of production, and to improve their incomes.

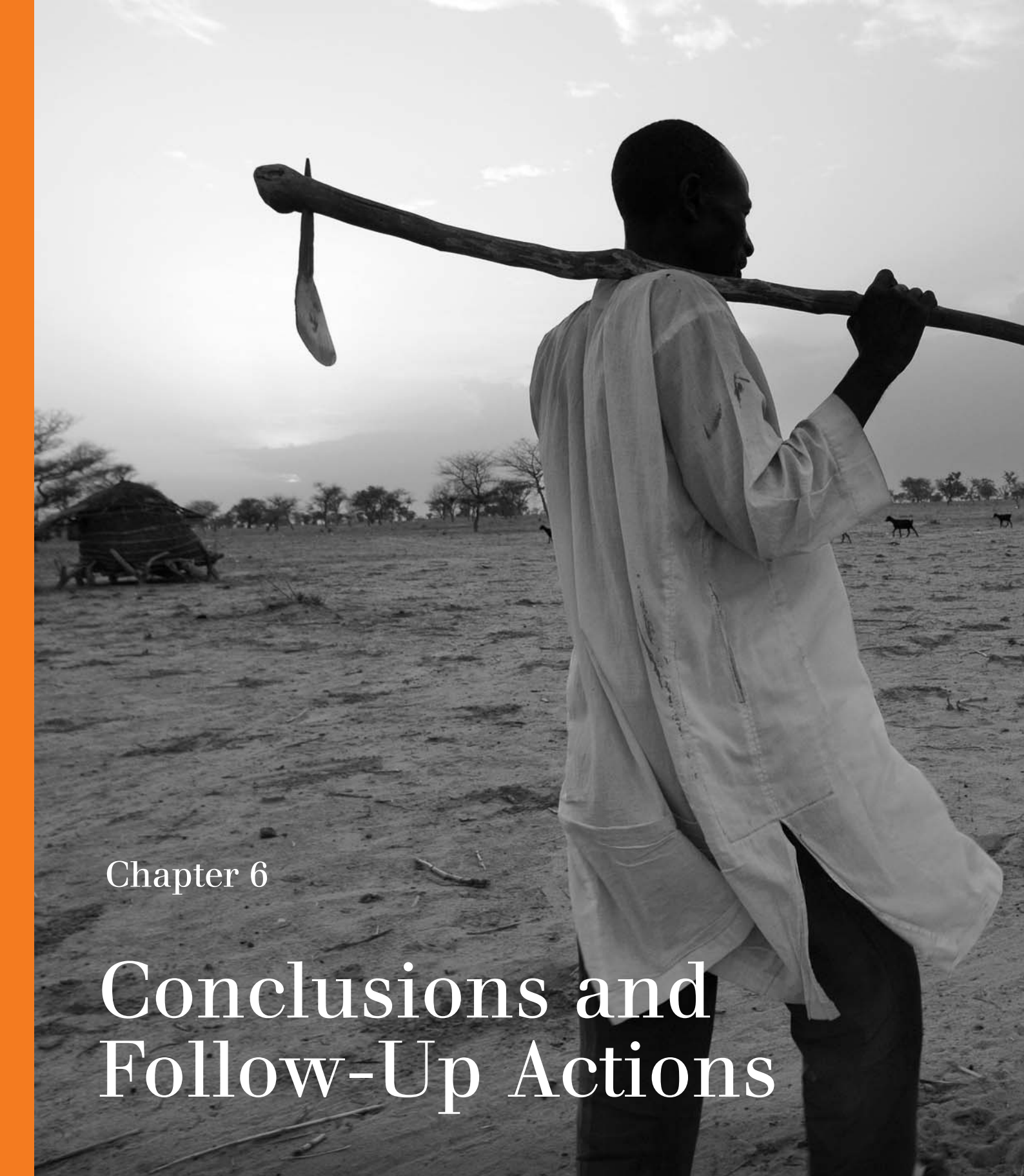
The organizations call upon decentralized authorities and governments to seek and ensure peace and security, putting an end to the wars that paralyze the activities of farmers and producers as well as trade in both countries and subregions. They also recommend that agricultural policy and land tenure reforms developed in consultation with farmers' organizations and other stakeholders be implemented. Public authorities should undertake to increase financing for agriculture and research based on adequate national budget allocations for this sector, which is a key public interest.

The producers' organizations call upon regional economic organizations to promote, via the harmonization of national policies, the development of local, national and subregional markets for their products. They call for the promotion of the free circulation of goods and persons within areas of subregional integration and effective protection for the subregional economic market against mass imports of subsidized agricultural products from more developed countries, mainly in the North.

Producers' organizations urge donors and development partners to expand their collaboration and support for civil society organizations, and farmers' organizations in particular, in the context of their priority action programmes. Priorities for support identified by African farmers' and agricultural producers' organizations are

- organizing marketing networks;
- improving access to development funding;
- strengthening marketing and processing for agricultural products;
- creating border markets in the subregion;
- eliminating tariff and non-tariff barriers in the countries of the subregion;
- drawing up and disseminating agricultural and soil science maps;
- improving access to land for farmers, free circulation of goods and persons, development of subregional farmers' organizations; and
- monitoring by farmers' organizations of NEPAD's agricultural programme (CAADP) and related agricultural development initiatives.

It was recommended that other sectors of African civil society examine the proposals closely and enter into a dialogue with rural people to shape a shared vision of a prosperous, equitable and peaceful Africa. This vision transcends the development of agriculture to encompass the modernization of our societies overall.



Chapter 6

Conclusions and Follow-Up Actions

Conclusions

This consultation on NEPAD agricultural policy was initiated and conducted by representatives of sub-Saharan Africa's farmers and rural producers. In several respects it offers an example of active participation by multiple actors in preparing proposals on NEPAD policies. The process illustrates how the majority of Africa's population can be involved in making policy choices and in projects that affect them and their prospects for future development.

The farmers' and agricultural producers' organizations that gave this mandate represent the vast majority of Africa's populations, whose livelihood depends on agricultural and rural activity. This social group is the hardest hit by the nutritional and environmental crisis sweeping the continent and the tendency for poverty to become a rural phenomenon. Nevertheless, the process was opened to other State, non-governmental, public and private actors. A special effort was made to gather and take into account different points of view and to involve a large segment of the populations concerned in discussion on issues affecting them.

Regarding NEPAD, farmers' organizations confirmed the widespread perception that the initiative – despite its importance – is not well understood among rural populations. Its success will depend on effective ownership and leadership by citizens generally, and rural producers in particular. It also emerged from deliberations that NEPAD cannot succeed unless African governments and economic operators make effective contributions to its financing.

Priorities among the policy and strategy objectives pursued by the farmers' and agricultural producers' organizations for agriculture and rural development relate to promoting family farming through rural and economic development policy, seeking food sovereignty, preserving the identity of farmers, and defending the agricultural profession against the threat of globalization. Contrary to liberal approaches that favour opening agriculture up to world markets, participants emphasized

- promoting a modern, sustainable form of agriculture that can play social, economic and ecological roles;
- guaranteeing family solidarity, equitable access to resources and sustainable development of natural resources;
- providing decent incomes for work undertaken by rural people; and
- contributing to wealth accumulation by supplying raw materials to industry and placing agricultural surpluses on domestic, subregional and national markets.

The strategies envisaged by farmers' organizations to achieve these objectives call for **modernizing family farming, as the crucible of solidarity and driver of progress in sub-Saharan Africa**. It constitutes the core and heart of African society. Complementary strategies call for applying the findings of agricultural research, providing appropriate financial services, and securing State support for production, research, credit and protection for national markets and crops.

However, it emerged through discussion at the workshops that solutions to agricultural and rural problems can only be found in the context of consistent, well-integrated national and subregional policies. Such policies should also take into account the constraints of the national, subregional and international environments. Rural organizations must at all costs secure the means to participate and influence policy options and mechanisms in these areas.

Follow-up Actions

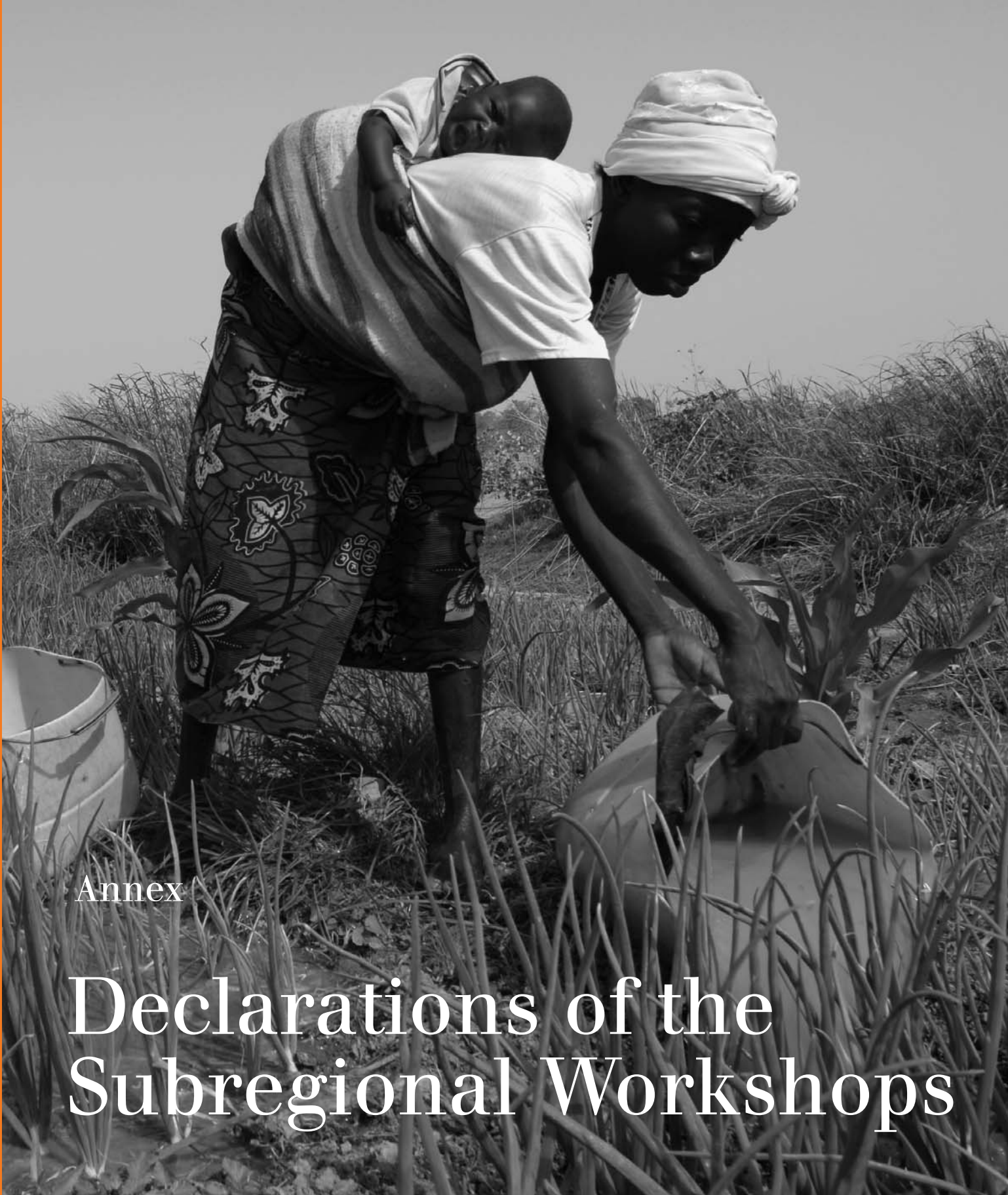
Among the most important recommendations is that of farmers' organizations being effectively involved in NEPAD initiatives. Also, vigorous action to raise awareness of NEPAD among rural people should take place at the national level. To this end, farmers' organizations should position themselves strategically in order to have a central role in this process.

- The activities for follow up on the wrap-up workshop's recommendations are:
- raise awareness of NEPAD among rural people and citizens generally;
- set up national forums for consultations in the countries that do not yet have them;
- support and build capacity among subregional networks; and
- systematize and promote farmers' agricultural priorities in accordance with their vision of development in the context of NEPAD.

The aim is also to put in place mechanisms for collaboration and partnership with governments, regional economic communities and the NEPAD Secretariat, and to build capacity among farmers' organizations. The Ad Hoc Committee for Consultations by Farmers' and Producers' Organizations in sub-Saharan Africa, working with the NEPAD Secretariat and the subregional focal points, has been given a mandate to undertake the actions needed to mobilize resources to implement the plan of action while broadening and deepening the consultation process. Rural people would like IFAD – in line with the logic of support underlying this consultative process on agricultural policy – to involve farmers' and agricultural producers' organizations in preparing the medium-term national investment plans (NIPs).

In practice, farmers' organizations are now much more engaged with the CAADP process. As seen in the process overall, however, there is significant variation between countries and regions, reflecting capacity and relationship differences on the part of both the farmers' organizations and governments. The experience of ECOWAS demonstrates the important role which the RECs can play in ensuring the central role of farmers' organizations at all levels of CAADP implementation, based on a partnership relationship.

At the same time, farmers' organizations and RECs have emphasized the need to reinforce the capacities of national and regional farmers' organizations, so that they can realize their potential role as advocates of the interests and needs of family farmers in the process of setting policy and investment priorities, as well as to facilitate feedback from farmers to the national and regional levels on the effectiveness of implementation in supporting Africa's agricultural development objectives.



Annex

Declarations of the Subregional Workshops

I. Network of Peasant and Producers' Organizations of West Africa (ROPPA)

09 BP 884 Ouagadougou 09, Burkina Faso
Telephone: +226 50360825 - Facsimile: +226 50362613
E-mail: roppa@roppa-ao.org - Website: www.roppa.info

ROPPA/ECOWAS Subregional Workshop
“Farmers’ proposals: What kind of agriculture for NEPAD?”
Niamey (Niger), 25, 26 and 27 June 2003

Final communiqué
July 2003

Final communiqué of the ROPPA/ECOWAS Subregional Workshop on NEPAD Agricultural Policy

On 25, 26 and 27 June 2003, the Network of Peasant and Producers' Organizations of West Africa (ROPPA) brought together the farmers' organizations of the member countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for consultations on NEPAD's agricultural policy. Farmer leaders and staff from agriculture ministries in ten West African countries were present: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo.

During the workshop, farmers' organizations reached agreement on agricultural policy proposals and measures to reinforce those included within NEPAD. More specifically, the organizations:

- (i) agreed on the major factors determining food security in the subregion;
- (ii) exchanged views on NEPAD's vision, mission, strategy, agricultural policy programme; and
- (iii) agreed on a common regional policy platform.

The Minister of Water Resources and the Environment, representing the Minister of Agriculture, gave the keynote speech at the workshop. Also present at the opening ceremony were the Minister of Community Development, representing the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for International Cooperation, the FAO Representative in Niger, and many of Niger's leading political and administrative figures. In his speech, the Minister affirmed Niger's commitment to NEPAD and to supporting farmers' organizations in all their initiatives. The Minister's speech was preceded by that of the coordinator for the Niger platform, who welcomed participants and reiterated his support for the ideals pursued by ROPPA. The ROPPA Vice President, speaking on behalf of the President and the membership, recalled the need for West African farmers' organizations to continue to defend family farming at the national, regional and international levels.

Work on the first day took place in a plenary session. Participants agreed on the challenges facing African agriculture and on farmers' perceptions of future NEPAD agricultural policy. The second day was devoted to an in-depth reflection in committees organized by sector of activity, leading up to the formulation of proposals and identifying of commitments to be assumed by farmers' organizations in implementing NEPAD. The last day, also in plenary session, enabled participants to agree on a common declaration, which ROPPA was to submit to Heads of State at the meeting to be held in Maputo, Mozambique, in early July 2003.

The analyses resulting from plenary sessions and committee work pointed out the main advantages of agriculture based on family farming, such as its:

- social and cultural roles;
- importance to food security and maintaining civil peace;
- technical and technological progress in a number of subsectors;
- position in national and subregional economies in West Africa, particularly in creating wealth from exports; and
- product quality and potential competitiveness on regional and international markets.

Nevertheless, the rural leaders at the workshop also recognized the internal and external constraints on the performance of family farms, for example

- inadequate and poorly adapted financing for agricultural investment;
- high energy costs preventing access to water for irrigation;
- degradation of natural resources;
- competition from products imported from the countries of the North and benefiting from disguised subsidies or dumping; and
- poor performance by farmers' organizations in mobilizing domestic financing.

The rural leaders felt that lasting, sustainable progress could only be made if a number of prerequisites were met:

- civil peace;
- an effective democracy, particularly at the grass roots;
- respect for the principles of good governance at every level and for all;
- development of rural infrastructure;
- guaranteed free circulation of persons and goods;
- secure land tenure for all users of natural resources; and
- improved internal governance within professional organizations.

Following the analyses and exchange of views that took place in plenary and committee meetings, the rural leaders adopted the Niamey Declaration whereby the organizations

- state that they are prepared to participate actively in the entire NEPAD operational process;
- detail the commitments they will undertake towards African Heads of State in implementing this new vision of Africa; and
- put forward solutions to the current crisis in West African agriculture, to be adopted so that true and lasting progress may be made by 2015.

The farmers' organizations of West Africa present at the workshop tasked the President of ROPPA with

- promoting this declaration at meetings on NEPAD agricultural policy to be held at Maputo, Mozambique, and elsewhere as appropriate; and
- disseminating the conclusions of this workshop among the farmers' organizations in countries not represented at Niamey.

Finally, the participants expressed a wish that the acting President of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), His Excellency Tanja Mamadou, President of the Republic of Niger, be their interlocutor with his colleagues at the Summit to be held at Maputo, Mozambique, and any other gathering on West African or African agricultural policy.

Concluded at Niamey, Niger, on 27 June 2003

The farmers' organizations of West Africa

Declaration by the Farmers' Organizations of West Africa on NEPAD's Agricultural Programme

Having met at Niamey, Niger, on 25, 26 and 27 June 2003, several days before the African meetings at Maputo, Mozambique, the representatives of the ROPPA platforms hereby submit this declaration to the agriculture ministers and Heads of State of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and Africa.

The farmers' and producer organizations of West Africa commend NEPAD's goal of agriculture that will work to eliminate hunger from the African continent, reduce poverty and food insecurity and boost exports.

To this end, the continent's Heads of State have undertaken to guarantee food security for their peoples by 2015 by ensuring

- food availability and accessibility;
- at least 6 per cent annual growth in agricultural productivity;
- more dynamic local, national and subregional agricultural markets; and
- integration with the market economy by making the continent a net exporter of agricultural products.

The farmers' and producers' organizations have confirmed that the vision, orientations and strategies proposed in the major documents of NEPAD's agricultural programme, the regional food security programmes and the detailed programme for developing African agriculture are not new. The main priorities remain unchanged following negotiations, and the application of agricultural structural adjustment programmes:

- increase production, especially for export;
- clarify land tenure rights to facilitate titling for wealthier farmers;
- access external markets;
- promote the private sector and entrepreneurialism; and
- support research and promote technology.

Africa's farmers' and producer organizations regret greatly that NEPAD's vision, orientations and strategies were not sufficiently discussed and negotiated with the major stakeholders: family farmers and their organizations. The approach followed thus far no longer reflects NEPAD's founding principles: internal mobilization of grass roots, African resources and partnership.

The international economic context of NEPAD's ambitions for African agriculture is characterized by the following:

- Prices for most of our exports are steadily declining despite improvements in quality.
- The cultivation of tropical products in Europe and the United States in greenhouses, benefiting from subsidies from the countries of the North, is eroding our market share.
- Our States' high debt levels make us subject to decisions by financial organizations and their donors, reducing our room for manoeuvre in providing any kind of support for family farming.
- Our dependency on imported foods not produced at home (wheat, beet, oilseeds from Europe) is of growing concern.
- Our natural resources are seriously threatened: will African reserves be available to Africans once the depletion of such resources in the North leads to expansion?
- The mass exodus of young people from rural areas to new horizons jeopardizes the continuity of family farming for tens of thousands of families.

In this context, it is impossible for African farmers to be competitive on world markets, or rely on the World Trade Organization (WTO) for equitable enforcement of fair economic rules. Our pessimism stems from the observation that the WTO has little chance of succeeding where the UN has failed.

Accordingly, building African growth and development mainly upon exports and external markets promise no guarantee that we will be able to meet the challenge of feeding Africa's people, or enable them to earn a decent living.

This is an option that is perfectly suited to the wish of NEPAD's Heads of State to make agriculture a vast sector of economic progress and the engine of economic growth for other segments of our economies.

With this Declaration, the farmers' and producers' organizations of West Africa solemnly undertake and commit, before our continent's peoples and political authorities, to

1. **Sustainably increase our productivity** to ensure availability and accessibility of food, in sufficient quantity and quality to feed our peoples and supply raw materials for industry, Africa's small and medium-sized enterprises engaged in processing local products; and
2. **Organize our professions to improve their performance** in supplying to or procuring for family farms the goods and services they need, in defending their interests and concerns, and in forging critical partnerships with other professions and actors.

In so doing, we look to States and regional economic organizations to make the following commitments:

1. **Ensure fair treatment for agriculture in allocating budget resources:** agricultural development, particularly the kind that will restore our own markets, cannot be financed with external resources that attempt to capture our demand for food. Our dependency must be gradually reduced.
2. **Extend good governance to rural civil society:** our States must leave behind their passive attitude towards the agricultural sector and proceed as in other economic sectors. Organization, administration and management of agricultural professions, even when regulated by law, depend on initiative and decision-making autonomy on the part of farmers and agricultural producers.
3. **Put in place in the countries, subregions and the continent, in the spirit of the NEPAD partnership, instruments and mechanisms of support for private investment by family farms:** experience with agricultural development on other continents shows that support for agriculture is crucial for its development and, in turn, that the sector can underpin national sovereignty. Viable instruments and mechanisms that are attractive to family farmers provide the necessary leverage to ensure NEPAD's productivity growth targets.

Farmers' and producers' organizations, despite the dramatic problems their members may be confronted with – HIV/AIDS, undernourishment, food and personal insecurity, massacres in armed conflicts – remain convinced that sustainable development for agriculture in Africa is an unique historic process that is unlike any other, given differences in ecological and human conditions and timelines.

NEPAD, by opening up a broad space for consultations among the continent's actors and putting them at the forefront, offers great hope.

The farmers' and producers' organizations have contributed greatly to building States and cities through the fruits of their labour. If they are given their rightful place, they will be able to join with States, other actors and the international community to meet the challenges facing our continent.

Consultation and consensus building, dialogue, listening to each other with understanding: these continue to be real values in Africa. If we all – particularly our continent's highest political authorities – live these values we will achieve the status of the nations that are today the envy of all. Nations where people who are hungry can eat, where people who are sick are looked after, where people can travel, communicate and develop in ways that meet their needs.

Concluded at Niamey, Niger, 27 June 2005

II. Consultative Meeting of the Farmers' Organizations and Producers' Organizations of Central Africa on NEPAD's Agricultural Programme

National Consultations with The Farmers' Organizations of Cameroon
CNOP-CAM - BP. 7445 Yaoundé - Cameroon
Telephone: +237 2234190 - 9825940 - Facsimile: +237 2234190
Email: cnop_cam2001@yahoo.fr

Final declaration of the Yaoundé Workshop
Cameroon, 11 July 2003

Vision and position of farmers on agriculture in NEPAD

Having met at Yaoundé, Cameroon, from 9 to 11 July 2003, in conjunction with the meeting of the African Union at Maputo, Mozambique, we, the representatives of the farmers' organizations of Central Africa (Cameroon, Gabon, Chad, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, São Tomé and Príncipe), have taken cognizance of the NEPAD process and agricultural programme and of the realities prevailing in agriculture in Central Africa. Following an in-depth reflection and fruitful exchanges on the current challenges and assets of agriculture in our region, we hereby submit this Declaration to the Heads of State and government, Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) authorities and our development partners.

We commend Africa's Heads of State for having initiated NEPAD to meet the challenge of African development. We subscribe fully to the principles guiding this partnership, in particular those of accountability for Africans and making the best possible use of our continent's resources.

We share fully NEPAD's vision of eradicating poverty and promoting sustainable development in African societies so that they may guarantee their people food, healthcare, education, ways of communicating among themselves and with the rest of the world, as well as building subregional solidarity. We also appreciate the fact that NEPAD has assigned an important role to agriculture.

Nevertheless, we have observed a number of constraints on the NEPAD process as pursued thus far. We regret that the mechanisms introduced and the privileges granted to public authorities marginalize citizens in general, and farmers and smallholders in particular. We deplore the fact that intellectual experts developed the agricultural programme without any meaningful participation by farmers. We have questions and serious reservations about the true possibility of developing African agriculture in parallel to the liberalization of agricultural trade being advanced at WTO, and the fact that the countries of the North continue to subsidize their farmers and flood our countries with their products.

In view of this, we wish to affirm our convictions and our vision of agriculture and voice the following recommendations.

Agriculture in Central Africa, now, as in the future, must be considered in its broadest sense to include cropping, livestock raising, fishing, forest management and other rural activities. It must

be centred on family farming. This model of agriculture must be developed in Central Africa in the framework of NEPAD, because it offers the advantage of being multidimensional and

- enables Africa to be fed;
- generates income for rural people;
- preserves the environment, in particular biodiversity and ecosystems;
- maintains equilibrium in our rural societies, especially in securing land tenure; and
- produces foods that are in tune with our habits of consumption.

Despite the many constraints to which they are subject, family farms have managed to resist, adapt and persist to this day. **We believe that developing agriculture in Central Africa within NEPAD will improve and modernize family farming.** Accordingly, we solemnly undertake to

- Create national consultative platforms and a subregional organization that will make us strong actors and credible interlocutors for States, subregional organizations (CEMAC, Community of Central African States – CEEAC) and other development partners.
- Overcome our divisions and manage our internal conflicts, gaining strength as a lobbying group through our national platforms and subregional organization.
- Become more professional to make agriculture a noble, dignified and recognized occupation that is rewarding and open to women and young people.
- Develop our farming expertise by exchanging experiences and carrying out farmer-to-farmer training.
- Establish ways of ensuring that the results of this meeting are put into practice.

Conscious of the fact that family farming can only develop with active participation from States, regional organizations and development partners, we call upon them to

1. Develop agricultural policies that favour family farming, with true participation from our organizations, by
 - Designing and implementing food security policies and strategies that value our diverse agricultural products and respect our eating habits;
 - Preventing agricultural products from being considered as simply merchandise in the framework of WTO agreements, and preventing invasion by food surpluses from the North.
2. Endeavour to put in place agricultural infrastructure, in and between the countries, to facilitate and improve production, processing and marketing.
3. Overall, favour the free circulation of persons and goods in Central Africa, particularly in the agricultural sphere, for instance by adopting a CEMAC identity card.
4. Design effective strategies to overcome barriers to farm finance, by resuming subsidies and adopting national and regional farm credit arrangements.
5. Reinvest at least 20 per cent of GDP in agriculture in the CEMAC/Central Africa area.
6. Work to resolve conflicts and keep the peace in Central Africa.

We reaffirm our commitment to becoming responsible actors taking part in implementing the NEPAD process in Central Africa. We thank IFAD for giving us the opportunity to carry out consultations and undertake this necessary process.

We are grateful to the CEMAC Executive Secretariat and the inter-State customs union for their active part in our work.

We thank the Cameroonian Government, through the Ministry of Agriculture, for its support.

We undertake, hereafter, no longer to allow the issues that concern us to be addressed without consulting us, to the detriment of our interests.

Concluded at Yaoundé, Cameroon, 11 July 2005

III. Declaration by the Producers' Organizations of East Africa on the NEPAD Agricultural Programme

This declaration was adopted by the producer organizations of East Africa following consultations on NEPAD's agricultural programme. The objective is to convey the organizations' views on improving food security and reducing poverty in this part of Africa. The Declaration was adopted on 8 August 2003 at Nairobi, Kenya, by

- producer organizations,
- non-governmental organizations,
- technicians from ministerial departments,
- representatives of regional economic organizations, and
- development partners (FAO, regional land management unit – RELMA).

These organizations come from the following countries:

- Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti.

We, the leaders and representatives of producers' organizations in the subregion of East Africa, gathered together in Nairobi, Kenya, to discuss NEPAD's agricultural programme, in order to arrive at a better understanding and harmonize our shared vision.

1. We recognize that the NEPAD agricultural programme has just been formulated and a plan of action drawn up and adopted by the governments wishing to disseminate it. Although we were not consulted on this particular point, our workshop at Nairobi did enable us to reach a shared vision in this regard.
2. We are fully aware of the crisis being weathered by Africa, characterized by worsening economic stagnation with repercussions on incomes and food production and consequences for food security; all are factors in Africa's dependency on the international market.
3. We recognize, following our sessions, the importance of agriculture's role in economic growth in Africa.
4. We are pleased to see the interest espoused by all producer organizations in NEPAD's agricultural programme, as well as the support provided by FAO and IFAD.
5. We recognize the role of producer organizations in seeking to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and the related undertaking to halve the number of people living in poverty and hunger by 2015, through
 - achieving food security,
 - growth in agricultural production of 7 per cent per year,
 - integration and expansion of regional and subregional markets.

We hereby declare that producer organizations are committed to

- Ensuring sustainable agricultural production.
- Building capacity among our organizations.
- Pursuing participation in policy-making.
- Promoting agricultural microenterprises and helping them add value to their products.
- Developing and seeking to integrate producers through dialogue, networking and trade in the region.
- Taking an active role in lobbying.
- Taking an active role in disseminating NEPAD's agricultural programme.
- Forging strategic partnerships with regional economic organizations and development partners.

- Asking our governments to promote an enabling environment for developing sustainable agriculture and protecting natural resources.
- Noting with satisfaction the leadership role played by IFAD and FAO in enabling producers' organizations to gain an understanding of NEPAD's agricultural programme.
- Affirming that this initiative has given much hope to producer organizations.
- Asking our governments to share with us and take ownership of this philosophy in order to check the decline of economic growth in Africa.
- Affirming that we are prepared to work with our governments to achieve these objectives.

Finally, we thank the Minister of Agriculture of Kenya for having inaugurated our work, as well as his colleague the Minister of Planning for having agreed to chair the closing ceremony. We also express our appreciation to the people of Kenya for their hospitality in hosting this event.

Concluded at Nairobi, Kenya, 8 August 2003

IV. Southern Africa Subregional Workshop on the NEPAD Agricultural Programme

This declaration was adopted by the producer organizations of Southern Africa that took part in a subregional workshop on NEPAD's agricultural programme at Lusaka, Zambia, 20–22 January 2004. The programme's objective is to achieve a substantial reduction in poverty and establish sustainable food security in the subregion. The declaration was adopted by

- producer organizations,
- consumer organizations,
- non-governmental organizations,
- governments, and
- FAO.

The organizations are from the following countries:

- Malawi, South Africa, Namibia, Swaziland, Seychelles, Zimbabwe, Zambia.

We, the producer organizations, having gathered together at Lusaka, Zambia, in our capacity as the true representatives of the rural majority in Southern Africa to discuss, understand and participate in the NEPAD agricultural programme:

1. Are fully aware that similar workshops have already taken place elsewhere in our subregion.
2. Recognize that we are meeting to discuss the NEPAD agricultural programme, while a plan of action has already been drawn up by the African Union and arrangements validated for implementing it.
3. Note that institutions such as FAO and IFAD have already adopted strategies to share and disseminate this initiative.
4. Are aware that NEPAD is an African initiative that has received the support of Africans and our development partners.
5. Are pleased to note that NEPAD's agricultural programme calls for reviving Africa's economy and eradicating poverty and hunger, while providing an enabling environment for rural entrepreneurship.
6. Approve the relevant decision by African governments to make agriculture the fourth pillar of NEPAD.
7. Thank the African Heads of State and Government and NEPAD Secretariat, through the Union of Producer and Civil Society Organizations.
8. Thank ROPPA for its contribution to the logistical organization and running of the workshops.

We hereby declare that we, the producer and farmers' organizations, intend to ensure that

- Since the reforms undertaken by our governments to increase production and food security have had an adverse impact on agriculture, new policies and strategies must be adopted to address these issues; such is the case of the initiative for consultation on the NEPAD agricultural programme.
- We support the agreements on agricultural trade to stimulate capacity among farmers in the subregion to participate fully in and benefit by subregional, regional and international trade.
- We support the subregional economic blocs to the extent that their policies are geared to expand the sphere of action for producers in the subregion.
- We make a real contribution to building our organizations through better representation, transparency and good governance, with a view to better serving our members.
- We take part in all activities and programmes aimed at promoting the success of the NEPAD initiative.

Concluded at Lusaka, Zambia, 22 January 2004



International Fund for Agricultural Development
Via Paolo di Dono, 44 - 00142 Rome, Italy
Telephone: +39 06 54591 - Facsimile: +39 06 5043463
E-mail: ifad@ifad.org
www.ifad.org - www.ruralpovertyportal.org



Network of Peasant and Producers' Organizations of West Africa
09 BP 884 Ouagadougou 09, Burkina Faso
Telephone: +226 50360825 - Facsimile: +226 50362613
E-mail: roppa@roppa-ao.org
Website: www.roppa.info



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