

# **THE GAMBIA ECOWAP/CAADP COMPACT**

**TO SUPPORT THE SUCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF  
AGRICULTURE UNDER THE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL  
RESOURCES POLICY AND POVERTY REDUCTION  
STRATEGY PAPER**

## **1. CAADP AS AN AFRICAN OWNED AGENDA AND A SHARED DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) is at the heart of efforts by African governments under the African Union's New Partnership for Africa's Development (AU/NEPAD) agenda to accelerate growth and eliminate poverty and hunger among African countries. The main goal of CAADP is to help African countries reach a higher path of economic growth through agriculturally-led development, which eliminates hunger, reduces poverty and food and nutrition insecurity and enables the expansion of exports. As a programme of the African Union, it emanates from and is fully owned and led by African governments.

It provides a shared framework for strategy planning and implementation, and for partnership and development assistance in the sector. Further, CAADP offers the prospect for political, technical and financial support for countries with plans and strategies that are aligned with the CAADP principles and framework. In aligning with CAADP, countries adopt the Maputo Declaration of: (i) achieving an annual agricultural growth rate of at least 6 percent in agriculture; and (ii) allocating at least 10 percent of the national budget to agriculture. Moreover, the CAADP reflects broader principles of mutual review and dialogue, mutual accountability, and partnership.

In the West Africa region, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has been mandated, at the conference of the Heads of States in Yamoussoukro in 2002, to support and coordinate the implementation of the program. In this context, ECOWAS developed the regional agricultural policy (ECOWAP), which is the framework of reference that provides the principles and objectives assigned to the agricultural sector and to guide the interventions in agricultural development in the region. During 2005, ECOWAS and the NEPAD Secretariat developed a joint ECOWAP/CAADP action plan for the period 2005-2010 for the development of the agricultural sector. The ECOWAP/CAADP agenda supports national efforts to promote agricultural growth and economic development. Therefore, it is proposed to formulate and implement concrete investment programmes at national and regional levels to improve the livelihoods of the populations.

In the case of The Gambia, the focus of the CAADP process is to strengthen and add value to the Strategic Plan for Agricultural Transformation under the Agricultural and Natural Resources Policy (ANRP) and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), which are defined within the context of the national Vision 2020. In PRSP, the Government of The Gambia stresses the essential nature of strong strategic plans in all sectors and calls for the improvement of existing policies and strategic plans. The ultimate goal of the CAADP process in The Gambia is to answer that call for the agricultural sector, by: (i) helping define a coherent long term framework to guide the planning and implementation of current and ANRP/PRSP programmes under the Vision 2020 agenda; (ii) identifying strategic options and sources of growth for the agricultural sector and poverty reduction between now and 2020;

(iii) developing existing and new strategy analysis and knowledge support systems to facilitate peer review, dialogue, and evidence based planning and implementation of agricultural sector policies and strategies. Furthermore, it is intended that the national compact will provide a basis and inputs into the formulation of a supporting regional compact.

## **2. RATIONALE FOR AND USE OF THE GAMBIA CAADP COMPACT**

Building on the Government of The Gambia's Vision and commitment for economic and social development, its PRSP and ANRP on development assistance to The Gambia, the Compact (i) sets the parameters for long term partnership in the agriculture sector; (ii) specifies key commitments on the part of government and development partners; and; (iii) clarifies expectations with respect to the agribusiness and farming communities in order to ensure successful implementation of the GNAIP agenda. Most important among these are sector policy, budgetary, and investment commitments as well as commitments to align and scale up long term development assistance to the sector.

In the GNAIP, the Compact seeks to confirm the consensus around the goals and priorities that The Gambia has set for the sector and the partnership and assistance that are required to achieve these goals. Its ultimate purpose is to: (i) increase the effectiveness of planning and execution of government efforts as well as the delivery of external assistance in the agricultural sector and (ii) provide a solid framework under which assistance can be scaled up to help meet the short and long term investment needs in the sector.

## **3. LONG TERM VISION AND COMMITMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GAMBIA WITH RESPECT TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

The Government of The Gambia long term vision for economic and social development is set out in its Vision 2020 document, developed as a strategy under the PRSP, translated into an operational plan for the agricultural sector through NMTIP/ANRP. As defined under the PRSP, the overall agricultural sector goal is to achieve sustainable economic growth and social development, leading to the increase and diversification of household incomes, and ensuring food and nutrition security for the entire population. The strategic orientations guiding the pursuit of the above goal and related objectives in the agricultural sector are defined in the National Agricultural and Natural Resources Policy and include:

- Food and nutrition security through the creation of an environment favourable to income generation and the implementation of nutrition and food security interventions.
- Modern, professional, innovative, and specialized agriculture, turning farming into a profitable, all year round income generating activity;
- A market oriented and socially responsible agriculture, targeting domestic , sub-regional, regional, and international markets;
- Fair distribution of benefits from all products resulting from the different stages of processing;
- Integrated and diversified agriculture that is friendly to the environment.



#### **4. THE GOVERNMENT'S AGENDA FOR AGRICULTURE GROWTH, POVERTY REDUCTION, AND FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY**

The Government of The Gambia sees a private sector led underpinned by public sector investment, market oriented agriculture as a key element of its strategy to achieve faster, broad based growth in order to realize the Millennium Development Goal of reducing poverty and malnutrition. The overarching goal is the transformation and modernization of the sector. The related specific objectives and underlying principles;

- a) Achieving MDG1 and go beyond that to realize food and nutritional security for all citizens including safety nets for the most vulnerable groups;
- b) The option for market and export oriented strategies to achieve the above goals;
- c) The pursuit of value addition, competitiveness, and quality throughout the supply chain;
- d) The promotion of knowledge-based approaches that promote : (i) evidence based and outcome oriented planning and implementation of policies and strategies; (ii) the use of modern information and communication technologies (ICT) in production, processing and distribution; (iii) the development of biotechnology capacities in research and their application to add value addition across the supply chain; and (iv) the development of human resources to raise policy planning and execution as well entrepreneurship capacities across the sector.

Under the PRSP process, and in line with the ANRP, the Government of The Gambia has defined the following major programmes for the period 2010-2015, which together represent The Gambia's priorities across the six CAADP Pillars.

- 1. Improvement of Water Management
- 2. Improved Management of Other Shared Resources
- 3. Development of Agricultural Chains and Market Promotion
- 4. Prevention and Management of Food Crisis and Other Natural Disasters
- 5. Sustainable Farm Management
- 6. Institutional Capacity Building for Programme Implementation

These are CAADP's six pillars that have been adopted by the programme. Final detailed cost, objectives, and specific sub-programmes are defined in the GNAIP agenda and summarized in the draft round table documents.

#### **5. FORGING PARTNERSHIP FOR THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INVESTMENT PRIORITIES IN THE GNAIP/NMTIP**

##### **5.1 Purpose, Principles, and Modalities**

This compact will support partnerships between the government of The Gambia, the agribusiness and farming communities, and the development partners in the successful implementation of the GNAIP/NMTIP programmes that are specified above, in the medium run, and of subsequent programmes to be defined under the Vision 2020 framework, in line with lines principles, modalities, and commitment agreed herein. The partnership modalities and principles follow the consultative, long term, sector wide strategic planning and sector wide programmatic approach to implementation defined in the ANR policy. Further, within the ECOWAS region the partners supporting the

CAADP agenda are urged to support The Gambia in the implementation of programmes and activities under this compact.

## **5.2 The Government of The Gambia Commitments**

The Government of The Gambia confirms its commitment to promoting long term economic and social development to reduce poverty and achieve food and nutrition security, as identified in its Vision 2020 document and set out its Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. It confirms its Strategic Plan for the Transformation of Agriculture as its framework to achieve the objectives related to the above vision in the agriculture sector through development of the private sector, supported by an active state, trade openness, and continued maintenance of macroeconomic stability. It will endeavour to ensure efficiency and effectiveness in pursuing the implementation of the GNAIP agenda as its strategy to achieve and exceed the 6% CAADP growth target over the next 7 years.

It commits to work towards fulfilling the Maputo decision of the heads of state and government of the African Union of allocating at least 10% of the national budget to the agricultural sector within this period, in order to contribute to meeting the investments required to meet the outcomes in the GNAIP/NMTIP programmes. In this regard, it will work to ensure maximum efficiency and effectiveness of utilization of resources in the sector as demonstrated in line with its broader efforts to strengthen public financial management.

It commits to the dialogue, coordination, mutual review, and accountability mechanisms and modalities specified in its ANR policy and PRSP together with all stakeholders. In that respect, it also commits to carry out the necessary policy, institutional and regulatory reforms to improve the policy environment to support the development of the agriculture sector and the active participation of professional organizations and private sector in the implementation of GNAIP/NMTIP programmes. Government will continue to create an enabling environment to improve access to finance for the private sectors (including farmers).

## **5.3 Development Partners' Commitments**

Considering the 2005 Paris Declaration and the 2008 Accra Action Agenda on aid effectiveness, Technical and Financial Partners commit, collectively, to align assistance for a comprehensive approach that is country led that supports the programmes and priorities identified in the GNAIP/NMTIP agenda and to scale up assistance over the next seven years to help meet investment costs of the programmes defined under the agenda. In this spirit they will also commit, in consultation with the government to provide indications of future aid to the sector on a multiyear basis in order to improve predictability and allow better planning, budgeting, and implementation.

## **5.4 African Union, the ECOWAS and its regional partners Commitment under the GNAIP/NMTIP Agenda**

The African Union, ECOWAS Commissions and their regional partners commit to support the Gambia in its priority programmes that would allow the country to meet the objectives of ECOWAP/CAADP and be on the road to attaining MDG1. In this regard,

they will support The Gambia's national strategies as defined in the GNAIP and NMTIP through mobilizing of political, financial and technical support.

#### **5.5 Socio-Professional organisations**

Given the need to work in appropriate partnerships to realise the goals set in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the professional organizations in agriculture, the civil society and the private sector commit to effectively partner with the government and the people of The Gambia in the implementation of the GNAIP. They will support the production, processing and commercialization of agriculture products to have measurable impact in reducing poverty levels through increase in export and farm incomes in the country, and increasing economic growth.

### **6. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GNAIP/NMTIP PARTNERSHIPS**

Oversight and coordination of the implementation of the above partnership will take place within the Project Steering Committee and Project Steering Management Unit, a taskforce comprising of the various relevant stakeholders would be created to ensure coordination. The emphasis here is placed on improving and strengthening similar existing structures within the Ministry of Agriculture for communication, capacity building, mainstreaming and tapping on the institutional memory which are prerequisites for the successful implementation of the programme. Development Partners Coordination Group (DPCG) and any other body of similar consultative nature to be decided by the DPCG will be formed to ensure proper coordination of the programme.

The Government of The Gambia and development partners will mobilise immediate funding to: (i) start implementation in 2009 of the GNAIP/NMTIP components that are ready or ongoing and need scaling up; and (ii) finalise, in 2009 Government of The Gambia operational investment plans for the remaining components in order to start their implementation no later than 2010. For this purpose, the Government of The Gambia and its development partners will immediately after the round table undertake consultations through the inter-departmental taskforce to commit funding align to the GNAIP with a view to formulating a sector wide approach to the earliest opportunity. The support will be based on the comparative advantage of individual partners.



**BANJUL, OCTOBER 28, 2009**

**On behalf of the Government of  
The Gambia**

**Ministry of Agriculture**



**Ministry of Forestry and  
the Environment**



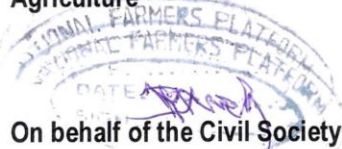
**Ministry of Trade, Industry  
and Employment**



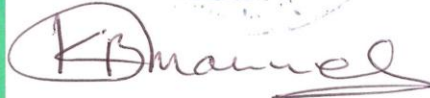
**On behalf of the African Union/NEPAD**



**On behalf of the  
Professional Organisations in  
Agriculture**



**On behalf of the Civil Society**



**Ministry of Finance and Economic  
Affairs**



**Ministry of Fisheries and Water  
Resources**



**On behalf of the Development Partners**



**On behalf of ECOWAS COMMISSION**



**On behalf of the Private Sector**

