



REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

Report on the Proceedings of the

Gambia National Agricultural Investment Programme (GNAIP)

Business Meeting

Held at the Sheraton Hotel

From 4th to 5th November 2010

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Day 1

1.0 Introduction

This report presents the outcome of the proceedings as well as the discussions and reactions of the 2 days business meeting held at the Sheraton Hotel. The business meeting was organized to review and validate the consultancy report of Gambian National Agricultural Investment Programme document. In attendance were a broad representation of the national and international and regional development community (AU, ECOWAS, FAO and the Spanish Agency for Development), government, donor partners, NGOs, civil society organizations and the private sector. This business meeting is one amongst a series of consultative meetings/forums held so far to produce an acceptable and fundable GNAIP document. Thus given its importance in the overall transformation process of the ANR sector as it is aligned with the sector strategy, Vision 2020 and its contribution to attaining the MDGs especially goal number one, the business meeting was conducted from the 4th to the 5th of November 2010 and was focused on the following objectives:

1.1 Objectives of the Business Meeting

- To create awareness amongst the government ministries, the private sector, NGOs and donor community and the civil society about the GNAIP.
- To provide participants the opportunity to participate and clarify issues/concerns and provide ideas/solutions where necessary in a bid to improve the GNAIP document prior to its finalization.

1.2 Background to Gambia National Agricultural Investment Programme (GNAIP)

The Gambia National Investment Plan (GNAIP) is the medium-term (2011-2015) strategic plan of the Government of the Gambia (GOTG) designed in a bid to achieving the vision of the agriculture and natural resources (ANR) sector and food security in the country within the framework of the New Partnership for Africa (NEPAD) Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). It is designed with the ambit of the lofty goals of the vision 2020, and henceforth, supports the realization of main national strategic programmes such as the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper II (PRSP II 2007-2011) and the ANR sector policy framework 2010. The proposed interventions flagged in this document are expected to lead to the realization of at least 8% growth in the agriculture sector and this combined with rapid increase in non-agricultural growth may stimulate the level of growth needed in the sector to transform the country's rural economy hence reduce poverty.

As explained, the GNAIP follows a consultative and participatory manner right from the grassroots at village level to the highest policy body at the national level through district, regional and national level. At the international level, similar consultative meetings were convened with other regional economic groupings such as the ECOWAS and CAADP.

1.3 Opening Ceremony – Chairperson – Permanent Secretary 1, Ministry of Agriculture

The affairs of Day 1 morning session was chaired and moderated by Permanent Secretary 1, Ministry of Agriculture. Prior to taking over his chairmanship duties, Mr. Marong requested all invited guest to observe a minute prayer. In his opening ceremony, he reminded the gathering that we are now in the process of transforming agriculture as enshrined in Vision 2020. Therefore this business meeting is convened to validate the GNAIP document which all of has before us. He describes the GNAIP as a very important undertaking as we will be seeing from various presentations. To this end, the chairperson invited FAO Resident Representative to deliver his remarks to the GNAIP business meeting.

1.4 Remarks by FAO Country Representative

The FAO Resident Representative after recognizing the presence of all the delegates, invited guest and Honourable Ministers, pay tribute to The Government of the Gambia for her firm commitment to and priority it gives to issues regarding the development of agriculture. This is evident because the business meeting organized in collaboration with her partners such as the World Bank, ECOWAS, AU, NPCA and FAO to mobilize funds for the financing of the GNAIP is a clear testimony of governments commitment of agricultural development. Eradicating poverty and hunger is the first among the MDGs thus none of the MDGs can be met without first addressing food security and economic development. Strengthening the agriculture sector will not only improve access to nutritious food to 75% of the poor who live in the rural areas development countries but will reduce rural poverty. Therefore it pays to invest in agriculture than in other sectors. This phenomenon is holds true in majority of developing countries especially those experiencing declines in rural poverty coupled with rapid agricultural growth.

In spite of these facts, share of Official Development Assistance (ODA) to agriculture has been observed to be declining from 17% in 1979 during the green revolution to a low of 3.5% in 2004. Financially, it drops from USA\$ 8 billion in 1984 to USA\$3.5 billion thus representing a decline of 45%. However in recent years, investment to agriculture in developing countries has improved as ODA to agriculture has rose to 5.5% in 2007. African countries are also following suit. To this end, World Leaders 2009 meeting of the G-8 in L'Aquila committed USA\$20 billion over a period of 3 years for the development of agriculture. This gave birth to the GAFSP as a multilateral funding mechanism which is supposed to implement the pledges made at L'Aquila in July 2009. In support to the L'Aquila declaration, FAO initiated a process to assist select countries, including The Gambia in identifying and developing food security focusing on investment concept notes.

In July 2010, the GNAIP was prepared by a technical team comprising of the Government officials, FAO staff national and international consultants with participation of from the AfDB and WFP through stakeholder consultations and an expert group validation.

The GNAIP is a concerted effort to response to the CAADP goals. It has set parameters for the agricultural sector in the country. The GNAIP is build upon and aligned fully with the existing policies namely, The Gambia's Vision 2020, PRSPII (2007-2011) and the ANR policy (2006-2015).

According to the FAO Country Representative, the GNAIP is therefore Gambia's gateway for the transformation of the Gambian economy and thus the success of today's business meeting is crucial. In view of this, I am confident that the issues brought are enough to justify for the donors to gather here to make the financing of the GNAIP a dream come through.

1.5 Remarks by the Representative of the ECOWAS Commissioner for Agriculture

Mr. Aness Aubee deputizing for the President of the ECOWAS Commission H.E. Ambassador James Victor Gbeho conveys his sincere gratitude to H.E. Shiekh Professor Dr. Alhaji Yahya A.J. Jammeh President of the Republic of the Gambia for the warm welcome accorded to her during our stay in the West land of The Gambia. Mr. Aubee continued that everybody is aware of the country's initiatives and resolve to lay the foundation for a genuine agricultural revolution not only for your country but for the entire West African region as well.

Ever since, the process of development of ECOWAP – the regional agricultural policy was launched; the Commission undertook make this sector as one of the cornerstone of our regional integration. To adopt and implement the policy is tantamount to initiating structural changes over a period of 10-20 years. The quality of the process that has led to today's business meeting has become a benchmark for ECOWAS in terms of collective development, multi-stakeholders negotiation, and partnership with farmer organization, private sector, and civil society and development partners. However, this process is far from

perfect but I am happy to see this policy being advocated by all stakeholders who consider it “their policy” and not of the ECOWAS Commission.

The priority investment plan we are going to discuss over the next 2 days were developed based on thorough expertise. There are two elements to bear in mind, (1) the development of agriculture scenarios and modeling works based on the exploitation of all information and knowledge. I must register my deepest satisfaction that for the first time, we have been able to identify for the entire primary sector the investment requirements needed to attain the Millennium Development Goals and achieve the agricultural growth rate needed to achieve economic and social development. The development of investment plans, whether at the national or regional level, compels us to shift from our project-based approach to sectoral approaches. This requires a true revolution in the governance of the agriculture sector; and we are all aware that it is a process which will take some time. This takes nothing but change of behavior across all stakeholders and our technical and financial partners. In this effect, they have put in place both national and regional coordination mechanisms and more importantly, development partners have pledge to align their support on their national regional choices. At this juncture, allow me Chairperson to acknowledge specifically the Spanish cooperation and partners assuming the difficult lead role at the national and regional levels. Mr. Aube call on all partners who intend to invest alongside us to level off the field for them and get involved in the coordination process.

He concluded his speech by by saying that we are now half way the journey. I have already said it that everything is not perfect but we can no longer afford to spend years on developing plans, making commitments at international for a without our people witnessing spin-off effects. Immediately after the Abuja Conference, ECOWAS embarked on the co-financing of regional programmes. I therefore wish to remind all of us here that we should not return from this Banjul meeting with a wait-and-see attitude. This business meeting is a serious investment for the Gambia, ECOWAS, the Africa Union Commission, NEPAD and partners.

1.6 Remarks by AU Representative Dr. Janet Edeme

Dr. Janet began in her opening remarks, conveyed the greetings from the Africa Union Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, H.E. Mrs. Tumusiime Rhoda Peace. She also registered her appreciation to the Government and people of the Gambia for the warm hospitality accrded to her since her arrival in this beautiful city called Banjul.

This business meeting marks the culmination of a highly consultative and participatory process which began a little over two years when the Government of the Gambia initiated the preparation of the GNAIP in response to the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) which was endorse in Maputo, Mozambique in July 2003 by the African Heads of State and Governments as a continental response to addressing the multi-sectoral challenges facing the agricultural sector.

Mr. Chairperson, may I inform you that the Africa Union Commission is pleased to note that the GNAIP is fully aligned with CAADP principles, processes and mechanisms hence the 6 major programmes of the GNAIP are also fully aligned with the county’s national goals of vision 2020 as well as to support the realization of other national strategic programmes. This would be shown today when a presentation on the GNAIP document is made.

The GNAIP as we are reliably inform is a five year plan and has been estimated at USA\$296.7Million. Other existing projects and programmes being implemented by Government or other donor partners will also directly support the investment plan. When this is taken into consideration, the estimated funding gap is approximately USA\$201million.

Notwithstanding, we are all aware that the full implementation of the GNAIP will contribute towards reducing poverty improvement in national and household food security and thereby improve the livelihood of the people. It is in the light of this that the African Union Commission calls on the development partners, the private sector, micro-finance institutions and all other potential sources of funds identified within the investment plan to strongly commit and fulfill any pledges made in the course of the implementation of GNAIP.

Dr. Janet wrap-up her speech by commending the work that has been performed by the Independent Technical Review Team which according to her contributed significantly in enhancing the quality of this GNAIP document which if fully implemented would enhance the country's economic growth, reduce poverty through an increase in the agriculture sector and national economy.

1.7 Remarks by the Minister of Finance

The Minister of Finance Mr Abdou Kolley underscored the importance of the agriculture sector in the countries socio-economic development. Statistics have revealed that agriculture is the only sector that employs over 70% of the economically active population of the country. Since our challenge is to reduce poverty, then this statistics means we still have a challenge hence, the need to change our approach by shifting from subsistent agriculture to commercialize agriculture. In order to improve on our income generating activities, we must also focus on value addition and marketing. I also want to assure the private sector that agriculture is a viable venture that you can invest for higher returns. I am reliably informed that the GNAIP is a process that started sometime ago. Minister Kolley thanks the development partners especially the regional economic groups such as FAO, The Kingdom of Spain, ECOWAS and the AU.

1.8 Remarks by the Deputy Minister of Agriculture

The honorable Minister of Agriculture Mr. Kalipha Kambi thanked the gathering for their participation. He continued to that the gallant team of consultants for a job well done. In his opening statement, he underscored the importance of this document before us and challenged all those present to critically review the document and come up with valid comments that would help the consultants to incorporate even though the document is in its final stages. Before I conclude, I would like to extend sincere thanks and appreciation to all our partners, who relentlessly continue to collaborate as well as provide both technical and financial support to our steady efforts to grow this country into the food basket of the Region. I also want to take this opportunity to thank all those who participated or contributed in one way or the other towards the successful outcome of the GNAIP/RAIP process. My special thanks go to the team of National Consultants, members of the successive Taskforces, support staff, whose sacrifice, dedication and commitment have been very instrumental in the successful conclusion of this whole process. On that note Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen I now have the honor and pleasure to declare the Gambia National Agricultural Investment Plan's Business Meeting officially open. May Almighty Allah guide us through very successful deliberation.

2.0 Session2: Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Economic Planning and Industrial Development

2.1 Outline of the Processes Leading to GNAIP Preparation-Mr. Abdou Rahman Jobe PS11, MOA

The Gambia NAIP (GNAIP) was prepared through a highly consultative and participatory manner. The aim was not only to produce a document that is only of good quality, but also that a wide spectrum of stakeholders (government agencies, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector) have ownership of it.

1. The first step (July 2008) in the preparation of the GNAIP was the formation of an inter-departmental Taskforce to identify consultants and key stakeholders, and manage the process of preparing the document. The Taskforce comprises of the following institutions- Ministries of Trade, Industry and

Employment, Agriculture, Finance and Economic Affairs, the former National Agricultural Development Agency (NADA) now Department of Agriculture, National Agriculture Research Institute (NARI), Gambia Horticultural Enterprise (GHE) (representing private sector), and Action aid The Gambia (representing NGO).

2. The Task Force selected a team of consultants (baseline consultants) who prepared various reports based on the six thematic areas of the ECOWAP/CAADP for the preparation of the GNAIP. The consultants were supported by various government agencies, non-governmental organizations, the socio-professional groups, and development partners, who were organized into six teams. In line with the structure of the RAIP, the GNAIP preparation team consists of six teams, each focusing on one of the six sub-programs of the RAIP. Furthermore, each team is headed by a team leader assisted by a consultant. As the team leaders were drawn from institutions, their selection was based on the relevance of the theme to their institution. The team leaders were responsible for coordinating the work of the teams. The team members, in collaboration with the Consultants and team leaders were responsible for collecting and reviewing relevant data and documents and preparing the investment program for their sub-program.

In some cases, the teams were further divided into sub-groups to cover the various components of the sub-program. For example, the team covering the development of agricultural chains and market promotion was split into three sub-groups: one to handle the development of food processing chains, one sub-group to handle strengthening of regional operator support services, and the third sub-group to handle the section on promotion of intra-regional and extra-regional trade. The reason for this is that some sub-program components call for distinct competencies and skills.

3. Once the composition of the various sub-groups were decided upon, the consultants embarked on gathering data and information needed to prepare the sections they were assigned to write. The draft contributions of the various teams were presented and discussed in a two-day retreat aimed at enriching the drafts, and ensuring consistency in the contributions. The teams further revised their draft reports based on feedback from the retreat, and the Task Force. The reports were submitted to the ECOWAS Commission as requested.

4. The revised team reports were merged and further edited by the lead consultant to ensure consistency in data presentation, and identify gaps in information and data. The consultancy was subjected to national validation workshop, which gave stakeholders an opportunity to strengthen their ownership of the document before being finalised.

5. The second component of the process involved modelling work, which delay the completion of the process earlier than expected. Getting the right competence and data set for the modelling was a challenging work for the team. In this process, we must commend the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), based in Dakar, Senegal, International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) Ibadan, Nigeria, and the Central Bank of The Gambia for supporting the modelling work. The same team (IFPRI and IITA) in collaboration with the Taskforce worked on the briefs and brochures that you have in your folders.

2.2 Presentations of the Six Programmes by the National Consultants

There was a marathon and overwhelming presentations of the 6 programme areas that were by the team of national consultants as follows:

2.3 Programme 1: Improvement of Agricultural Land and Water Management

This programme is anchored on the following objectives as indicated below:

(a) General Objectives

The programme objective is increased food security, income generating capacity and nutritional status of the farmer beneficiaries especially women and youth through the use of sustainable land and water management practice for the cultivation of 25,000 ha of land.

(b) Specific Objectives

- Increased rice production through intensification and area expansion;
- Reduce poverty by increasing the income generating capacity of vulnerable groups (youth, women and landless);
- Create employment opportunities and reduce rural urban drift and/or migration;
- Year round vegetable production that enhances the income earning capacity and nutritional status of benefiting communities;
- Increased food production geared towards import substitution;
- Develop 24,000 ha for rice and 1, 000 ha for vegetables

The programme is further subdivided into 3 sub-components as follows:

i) lowland development for rice production;

- water retention and land improvement;
- pump and tidal irrigation; and
- seasonally saline tidal swamp improvement

(ii) Irrigation for horticulture and upland crops;

- *Cluster Market Africa* - solar power generator, overhead tank and drip irrigation system;
- *Community Village* – solar power generator, overhead tank and small ground reservoirs with taps;
- *Small-scale Village* – small portable solar power generators and small ground reservoirs;
 - *Small-scale Surface Irrigation* - low-lift diesel pump and open channels for distribution

(iii) Capacity building of support services institutions.

Activities

Activities earmarked for the implementation of this component are:

- Swamp development;
- Horticulture scheme development including the provision of watering facilities;
- Establishment/reactivation and development of farmer organizations,
- Training of beneficiaries in method and result demonstrations for targets-base yield achievement
- Provision of initial production support;
- Support for foundation seed productions
- Professional training and development;
- Upgrade data collection and analysis facilities;

Expected Outputs/Outcome

- 24000 ha of lowlands developed:-
- 10000 ha natural depressions (minimum annual yield – 2mt/ha)
- 5000 ha run-off inundated flood plains (minimum annual yield – 2mt/ha)
- 3000 ha back swamps (minimum annual yield – 2.5mt/ha)
- 500 ha pump irrigated schemes (minimum annual yield – 10mt/ha)
- 2000 ha tidal irrigated schemes (minimum annual yield – 8mt/ha)
- 3500 ha seasonally saline tidal swamps (minimum annual yield – 2mt/ha)
- Annual production of 70,000 metric tons of paddy added to the national food basket;
- Aquaculture production adopted in irrigated rice schemes;
- Tenure security for beneficiaries assured;
- Farmer organisations developed and functional
- 1000ha developed for horticulture

- 64 commercial farmers (160ha);
- 1,440 young farmers (360ha);
- 2,880 women farmers (360ha);
- Six Regional Agriculture Directorates (120ha);
- Capacity of Government service institutions for effective implementation enhanced

Implementation Arrangements

- MOA will be the lead agency supported by MOFWRNAM, MOFEN, MOLGL, Private Sector Operator (Harrafi, Kanillai farms, etc) and NGOs
- Regional Directorates supported by Service Units will oversee and implement the programme at field level;

Beneficiaries and Budget

- Vulnerable groups across the country especially the women farmers as well as the youth and landless;
- Commercial farmers;
- The overall programme budget is USD82.77 Million

2.4 Programme 2: Improved Management of Other Shared Resources

Objectives

- The cardinal objectives of this programme is to improve livelihoods and food security, and reduce poverty of populations that depend on The Gambia's other shared natural resources (including rangelands, forests, fisheries, parks and wildlife) through sustainable management and use of these resources

The programme has four sub components which are summarized as follows:

Sub component1: Management of Rangelands and Organization of Transhumance

It is estimated at a cost of (US \$3, 240,533). The objective of the sub component is to protect and sustainably manage the rangeland resources, fight rampant bush fires and control transhumance to better manage incidence of disease epidemics

Issues

- Rangeland resources often characterized by poor drainage, rocky topography and low soil fertility
- Rangeland occupies 40 percent of country's total area (60% of which used for pasture practicing transhumance)
- Transhumance of livestock (particularly cattle) is practiced in order to increase access to pasture and water especially during the dry season
- However, the process exposes livestock to increased incidence of disease epidemics
- Limited disease surveillance systems in the country (inadequate number of qualified veterinarians, production specialists, insufficient logistic support, and lack of adequate funding for drugs and vaccines)

In spite of all this, the country has high potential for improving rangeland resource management to improve production of feed resources (animal feed gardening, production of forage crops, utilization and preservation of crop residues such as groundnut hay)

Key Programme Activities are:

- Development of pastoral infrastructure and management of transhumance
- Regulatory and health provision
- Disease control and surveillance
- Capacity building
- Feed resource production

Expected Outcomes

- Enhanced management of pastoral infrastructure and control of transhumance
- Greater awareness and adherence to harmonized regulatory and health provisions
- Improved control of prevalent diseases through strengthened disease control and surveillance systems
- More effective and efficient institutions and improved performance of human resources
- Improved production and management of feed resources

Target Beneficiaries

The targeted beneficiaries will be about 15,000 smallholders owning livestock, and institutions that control transhumance and manage surveillance systems

Subcomponent 2: Sustainable Management of Forest Resources (US\$ 6, 236, 789)

Objective

To ensure that forest resources are conserved, preserved and exploited in a sustainable manner to combat desertification, build resilience to effects of climate change and improve soil and water management, all of which result in improved livelihoods particularly for those depending on these resource

Issues

- Forest resources including mangroves cover from 350,000 ha to about 505,300 ha (43 percent) of the country
- Current forest policy envisages that 30 percent of the total land area covered by forests, and that 75 percent of this should be sustainably managed by communities
- State forest is the largest proportion (78 percent) of forest coverage, with community and private forests covering about 17,487 ha only, though increasing
- Forest products include timber, palm oil, wild fruits, honey, woodcarvings and fuel wood, the latter providing nearly 90 percent of all household energy needs
- Forests also provide important potential revenue sources through eco-tourism, forest-based enterprise development including wood and non-wood products, and habitats for wildlife and fish
- Forest areas have been degraded by overgrazing, exploitation for fuel wood, timber and non-timber products, by bush fire, extensive cultivation and drought

Key Programme Activities

- Management of state, community and private forests
- Agro-forestry development
- Community-based enterprise development
- Institutional strengthening and human resources development
- Research and information exchange

Expected Outcomes are as Follows:

- State, community and private forests are sustainably managed
- Area under forest cover is increased with improvement in diversity of fauna and flora
- Forest resources are conserved, preserved and exploited in a sustainable manner to combat desertification, build resilience to effects of climate change and improve soil and water management
- A strengthened Department of Forestry more efficiently managing the national forest resources

Target Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries include 1,500 communities living in the peripheries of demarcated and gazetted forests, as well as 20 communities that will be engaged in agro-forestry activities

Subcomponent 3: Ensuring Sustainable Management of Fisheries Resources (US \$ 26, 803,519)

The objectives of this sub component is to sustainably manage fisheries resources in order to contribute to food security and foreign exchange revenues, and to build resilience to climate change through adoption of adaptive and mitigation measures.

Issues

- The artisanal fisheries produces the bulk of the fish resources
- Industrial production remains largely underdeveloped
- Fish provides the cheapest form of protein and supplies about 40 percent of the total animal protein consumed in the country
- The sector's performance is marred by foreign dominance, low use of suitable fishing technologies
- Absence of a fisheries port and lack of sufficient industrial on-shore facilities (fish factories) to encourage landing of high value fish catches
- Inadequate fish handling and storage facilities and poor distribution and marketing systems
- Despite these challenges, the sector has great potential for contributing to national socio-economic development, providing sources of income, employment – including for youth and women, animal protein, foreign exchange earnings

Key Programme Activities

- Management of capture fisheries and particularly avoiding endangered mammalian species and by-catches using appropriate fishing methods
- Fisheries infrastructure development
- Aquaculture development
- Capacity building
- Youth participation

Expected Outcomes

- Enhanced sustainable fish production capacity
- Reduced post-harvest losses
- Increased market access and information on fishery products
- Increased aquaculture production including commercial aquaculture farms to complement capture fish production
- Improved performance of the Fisheries Department providing quality services
- Increased collaborative research and information exchange among national and international research institutions
- Increased number of Gambian youths participating in the fisheries sector

Target Beneficiaries

The would-be beneficiaries are Fisheries Department and more than 200,000 industrial and artisanal fishermen and young women processors (42% of whom are non-Gambian and well integrated) engaged in the sector.

Subcomponent 4: Sustainable Management of Parks and Wildlife Resources (US\$ 954, 048)

Objectives

To develop and sustainably manage and conserve Gambia's biological resources in wildlife protected areas for current and future generations

Issues

- There are seven managed gazetted National Parks/Protected Areas (almost 5% of total land area of the country)
- Inadequate scientific and technical information

- Weak human resource capacity and limited staff experience
- Financial constraints and poor organizational structure
- Limited facilities and equipment
- Absence of private sector participation

Key Activities

- Improvement of national parks/protected areas (include improvement of physical structures in parks and protected areas)
- Creation of conducive environment for development of community and privately managed parks
- Research and capacity building
- Ecotourism development
- Institutional strengthening and human resources development

Expected Outcomes

- Efficient management of National Parks/Protected Areas for the retention of biodiversity
- Increased stakeholder participation in sustainable park and forest management notably in community and privately managed parks
- Research undertaken that provides relevant results for sustainable management of endangered species (dolphins, sharks, sea turtles, etc) and development of the sector
- Conservation and maintenance of ecosystem services particularly through ecotourism development
- Enhanced institutional capacity and skills of Wildlife Department personnel

Target Beneficiaries

The 52 communities living in peripheries of national parks, private sector operators, Department of Parks and Wildlife Management and other relevant institutions involved in the management of biodiversity

2.5 Programme 3: National Food and Nutritional Security (NFNS)

Objective:

To improve national and household food security and adequate nutritional levels, including during periods of disaster, with attention to targeting the most vulnerable groups and households of rural and urban communities

Sub Components are:

- Food Security Sector Institutions (FSSI);
- Food Security and Nutrition Information System (FSNIS);
- Social Protection for Vulnerable Groups; and
- Disaster Risk Management

Key Programme Activities

- improving FSWG and FSTF capacities in coordination and operations to better inform and oversee food security (FS) policy and programmes;
- *FSNIS* :The MWG on early warning systems led by DWR will be expanded and strengthened;
- *Social Protection for Vulnerable Groups* : build on ongoing initiatives while promoting new ones, including surveillance survey to determine locations of vulnerable groups
- NDMA capacity will be enhanced to carry out its core functions in guiding national disaster preparedness, response and mitigation;
- Strengthening Disaster Management Committees (DMCs) at local levels, followed by gradual capacity building to develop disaster contingency plans and carry out preparedness interventions.

Implementation Arrangements

- FSSI Activities will be undertaken mostly at central levels, however support will be provided for country-wide sensitization as well as selective regional and global forum, ;
- FSNIS Activities will be implemented sequentially, based on needs assessments, ;
- SPVG Activities will be implemented through partnerships with village health clinics , MOHSW, NaNA, FAO, MOBSE and NGOs.
- DRM activities will be implemented through a sequenced approach starting with increasing NDMA performance through training and materials support, and building activities at central level in parallel with decentralized activities.

Expected Outcomes

- FSSI : revitalized and improved institutional and operational performance of coordinating bodies responsible for overseeing national food security and nutrition;
- FSNIS: a strengthened national FSNIS providing comprehensive, accurate, timely and widely disseminated information;
- SPVG: a reduced individual and household risk to food insecurity and malnutrition supported through improved livelihoods and targeting.
- Strengthened organizational and coordination effectiveness of National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA),
- Enhanced decentralized country-wide disaster management operations to build community and household resilience and broaden coping strategies to disasters and risk.

Beneficiaries

- FSSI: members of the FSWG and FSTF, estimated at around 40 line ministries and counterparts and communities in urban and rural areas;
- FSNIS: government departments who provide and directly use FSNIS (e.g. DWR and Planning Services in DOA);
- SPVG: gender, youth, and household vulnerabilities. DRM: NDMA staff high-level National Disaster Management Governing Council members (8), members of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Management (24 members) and policy-makers.
- NDMA staff, high-level National Disaster Management Governing Council members (8), members of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Management (24 members) and policy-makers;
- RDMCs (7) as well as members of local Disaster Management Platforms countrywide (around 70 planned).

Budget

National Food and Nutritional Security (NFNS) (USD45.13 Million)

2.6 Programme 4: Sustainable Farm Development

Objectives

- To increase and sustain agricultural production and productivity growth through people-centred learning processes

Sub Components

- **(i) sustainable farm management;**
 - (i) farmer field schools;
 - (ii) watershed conservation; and
 - (iii) research and development
- **(ii) land use suitability and land tenure security;**
 - (i) land suitability classification; and
 - (ii) land tenure

- **(iii) capacity building of support services and farmer organizations;**
 - (i) capacity building of farmer organizations; and
 - (ii) Capacity building of support services.

Activities

- Establish and operationalise farmer field schools
- Provide required resources for implementation of skills learnt (loans/grant)
- Organise and train village communities on erosion control and agro- forestry techniques
- Conduct Agro-Ecological base research and develop appropriate sustainable on-farm practices.
- Conduct land resource survey and develop guidelines for sustainable use
- Conduct studies on current tenorial practices and recommend improvements on land tenure policy
- Establish and develop farmer organisations.
- Train apex body of farmer organisations on organisational management
- Develop human and material resource base of implementing Institutions (DWR, DOA, NEA, NARI, ,Local Government Authorities)

Expected Outcomes/Outputs

- 6,000 Farmers trained in sustainable farm management techniques (integrated pest management techniques, soil and water conservation techniques and/or conservation agriculture, and integrated soil fertility management technique)
- 3000ha provided with contour bunds to reduce soil erosion and valley siltation
- Recommended sustainable on-farm management practices for each agro-ecological zone available and adopted
- Land use suitability and classification documented and available to beneficiaries
- Land tenure policy reviewed and updated and tenure security assured
- 60 Farmer organisations established and strengthened annually
- Capacity of support service institutions enhanced.

Table 1: Expected Outputs

Crops	Area	2009 yield (Mt/ha)	Target yield (Mt/ha)	Production (Mt/ha)
Millet	90,000	0.894	1.4	126,000
Maize	50,000	0.871	1.6	80,000
Sorghum	16,000	0.832	1.0	16,000
Groundnuts	100,000	0.978	1.2	120,000
Upland Rice	70.000	0.890	2.5	175,000

Implementation arrangement/responsible agencies

- Led by MOA supported by MOFEN, MOLGL, and NGOs
- Regional Directorates supported by Service Units will oversee and implement the programme at field level;

Beneficiaries

- 66,000 households or about 46 percent of the population involved in agriculture (including the vulnerable groups)

Budget

- The overall programme budget is USD18.66 Million

2.7 Programme 5: Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation

Objective:

- GAIP is effectively implemented with adequate funding, supported by an enabling environment for facilitating well-coordinated successful operations and monitoring in order to achieve expected results. The programme is further sub divided into 4 sub component seen below:
 - (i) Institutional Arrangement and Coordination;
 - (ii) Financing Mechanisms;
 - (iii) Monitoring and Evaluation; and
 - (iv) Implementation Capacity Building.

(i) Institutional Arrangement and Coordination:

- This sub component will be implemented with an estimated cost of US\$6,135,484
- Implementation of this programme covers the totality of GNAIP implementation with nationwide coverage. The implementation of GNAIP as shown by the organogram will be mainly participatory using the existing decentralized organizational structures for cost effectiveness. The decision making process is not necessarily vertical; implementation of decisions can be made at village level without much interference from the top.
- Main institutions involved in implementing this component - and the overall GNAIP - include: the National Council of Ministers (NCM), the Programme Steering Committee (PSC), the Programme Coordination Office (PCO) and Regional, District, Ward and Village Committees (see Figure below for organogram of GNAIP institutional arrangement). The roles of each of these bodies are briefly described below (For details see Annex 4 - Stakeholder Matrix of Programme

(ii) Financing Mechanism US\$535,500

- A number of funding mechanisms have been identified for possible financing, including domestic and international sources and include:
 - Microfinance Institutions (MFIs):-VISACAs, VISACA Apex established–MOA project funds to constitute consolidated fund - seed money for ADB
 - Public-Private Partnership–Government provided incentives: exemption from customs duty on approved capital equipment, machinery, appliances, furniture and fittings as well as approved quantity of semi-finished products, spare parts and raw materials. Exemptions from sales tax on relevant imported goods, turnover tax
 - Private Sector–currently contributes around US\$20 million and needs to contribute about US\$25 million for GNAIP Implementation.
 - Total of US\$45 million
 - Commercial Banks: numerous Commercial banks with large savings but few offer loans in the agricultural sector due to high risks and lack of acceptable collaterals/securities. Favourable policies could promote their contributing to agricultural development for instance a policy could encourage placing 5 to 10 percent profit before tax into a newly created Fund that would provide financing to GNAIP programmes at relatively lower rates of interest. This idea has worked in the sub-region (e.g. Ghana). The Central Bank of The Gambia could be a lead stakeholder in facilitating the formulation of this type of policy and scheme and in ensuring financial institutions' compliance.
 - ECOWAS Solidarity Fund: This fund is meant to provide financial resources to help support the fight against poverty in member states and strengthen the regional economic and political integration. A Solidarity Fund has been established to provide initial seed money to commence priority activities of national investment programmes. This funding mechanism will be explored for possible financing of GNAIP.

Other Donor Funds: funding sources other than the ones mentioned above (mainly donor partners) – through basket funding – to ease aid coordination – priority of the Government

iii) GNAIP Monitoring and Evaluation

- ▶ A central M&E system would be established in the Planning Services/DOA of MOA, built upon existing M&E systems in projects and service units of DOA. The unit will be strengthened in staffing, office equipment, furniture and mobility for field work.
- ▶ The M&E system will be user-friendly, results-based with emphasis on participatory M&E (PM&E) and designed for lesson learning. Databases would be built upon two broad mechanisms: Management Information System (MIS) and Geographical Information System (GIS). Main steps in setting up the M&E system include:
- ▶ The monitoring system will be aligned with the ECOWAS M&E system using the ReSAKSS to facilitate evidence-based decision making and will use the indicators as provided in Annexes 3 and 5. In addition, periodic programme auditing, continuous dialogue, peer review and mutual accountability of partners will be integral to the M&E system.
- ▶ The estimated cost is US\$1,346,111

2.8 Programme Area 6: Institutional Capacity Building for the Implementation of the GNAIP

- ▶ Capacity of relevant Government institutions including Local Government Authorities is enhanced; and capacity of private sector partners and other partner civil society organizations (CSOs) is strengthened. Activities include undertaking a range of capacity development initiatives based on initial needs assessment, such as long and short course training, technical backstopping, mentoring, exchanges, and organizing networking tours to enable beneficiaries to acquire skills, knowledge and experience. Technical assistance will also be sought to improve technical quality of programme implementation. In addition to human capacity, institutional capacity will be improved through provision of tools, equipment and financial resources.
- ▶ Estimated cost is US\$890,000

Key Programme Activities

- Establish the structures and operating systems necessary for GNAIP implementation which include: establishing the GNAIP steering committee and accompanying management and coordination structures; and setting up planning, budgeting and reporting systems as well as financial management systems and procurement and audit systems,
- Strengthen links between PCO and VISACA Apex.
- Consolidate all Project Credit Lines in the VISACA Apex.
- Consolidate all MOA Grant Aid Accounts in the VISACA Apex.
- Develop a TOR for the study on the establishment and viability of an ADF, including the transformation into a functional Agricultural Development Bank (ADB).
- Conduct the study.
- Act accordingly on the recommendations of the study.
- Identify the information requirements for an effective M&E System and mainstream them into the planning phase;
- Based on the information needs, set up a functional and effective M&E system in DOA Planning Services Unit which is reflective, user-friendly and results-oriented;
- Conduct baseline surveys against which impacts can be assessed;
- Coordinate M&E activities by programmes, Implementing Partners and Service Providers. (including NGOs and private sector interventions);
- Analyze lessons learned from M&E and knowledge management activities and recycle into programme implementation;
- Conduct (where not available) relevant government institutions' needs assessment for capacity building and development;
- Follow and execute the recommendations of the assessments through strengthening relevant Government institutions, incl. training and technical backstopping;

- Strengthen the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of The Gambia and promote collaboration with other institutions in the sub-region and beyond;
- Conduct needs assessment to map out the different capacities for increased private sector and other CSO partners investment in agriculture;
- Carry out training of different cadres of the private sector and other CSO partners on relevant management and coordination skills;
- Sensitize private sector and other CSO partners on the key priority areas of the agricultural sector and those with high returns to investment

Expected Outcomes

- The expected outcome is that all GNAIP programmes are efficiently and effectively supervised and coordinated to ensure achievement of expected results;
- Adequate financial resources are made available in a timely manner to ensure successful GNAIP implementation;
- M&E system provides timely and accurate information for progress monitoring, decision making and impact evaluation;
- Key implementing institutions and private sector partners effectively carry out their functions for GNAIP implementation.

Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries include:

- Government institutions, Implementing partners (IPs) and Service Providers (IPs): e.g MOA, MOFEN, MOFWR, MOF, MOJ, MOLG&L, etc
- Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)
- Private sector
- CBOs
- Small scale farmers (including women and youth) and;
- Medium scale farmers

Programme Budget

Total programme budget is USA\$8.907, 095

2.9 Agricultural Growth and Poverty Reduction by M.K.Cham Director of Planning MEPID

His presentation was devoted on the evolution of agricultural growth during pre-and post colonialism by making comparison to Europe and countries within the sub region including The Gambia.

Concerns

- Does growth in agricultural outputs of a country automatically translate to poverty reduction of the rural communities?

Learning from History

- In the early 1930s, big commercial farms existed in The Gambia; let us recall the Jenoi, the Sapu and the major farms in Kombo. Jenio and Sapu were into rice production and the farms in Kombo were into corn and livestock production.
- These farms were short lived and quickly the system reverted to the subsistence farming and peanut production to feed the industries in UK and rest of Europe. That was the past, what are the differences in the two approaches?
- With the big commercial farms, agricultural contribution to GDP would have been high just like in Zimbabwe, but that would not translate to any improvement in the income of the workers

2. Improvement of water management
3. Prevention and management of food crises and other natural disasters
4. Improved management of the other shared resources
5. Sustainable farm development
6. Institutional capacity building for the implementation of the RAIP

Implementing the GNAIP will require the necessary enabling environment, capacities, services and partnerships. This review provides insights and recommendations that can contribute to meeting this agenda. The Review is presented along with the **five review criteria components**.

Component 1: Alignment with CAADP vision, principles and strategy elements

Recommendations are as follows:

1. CAADP advocates that countries develop their agricultural growth-driven strategies against the bench mark of 6%. The plan should therefore include a targeting of annual growth rates in share of agriculture to be derived in the planning cycle;
2. The plan needs to express its commitments towards the agricultural growth and development objectives by producing evidence-based and realistic performance benchmarks set against timelines; 4- The plan should also describe the inter-sectoral collaborative arrangements to ensure that the
3. Elaborate framework to realize collaborative within and across state and non-state institutions;
4. Agricultural sector outputs and outcomes do not get compromised by lack of corresponding investments in other sectors say, roads, and energy. Environment, trade and others
5. As private sector development is key to boosting a market led agricultural growth, there is need for the Plan to include a strategy and budgetary allocation for private sector development throughout the program life cycle
6. Using the principle of subsidiarity, will be important for the Ministry to work towards a decentralised systems with increased decision making moved to lowest levels at low cost for effectiveness and efficiency
7. The plan needs to more clearly describe the organization and effectiveness of the agricultural sector working group (ASWG) including a description of representatives/ stakeholders, the regularity of meeting, level of genuine ownership by stakeholders, and progress made to date of harmonized external assistance. The plan should include a description of how future engagement with the working group will be carried out by the government to effectively align stakeholders with the objectives of the GNAIP;

Component 2: Consistency with long-term growth and poverty reduction benchmarks

Recommendations (i):

1. The plan needs to come out stronger on operational mechanisms. So far the Plan is strong on the “what” aspects while weaker on the “how” aspects
2. Will be useful to develop a logical frame for implementation of the program
3. The GNAIP should be careful to expand key agriculture commodities like millet, maize, sorghum and livestock as well as rice in order to address the poverty reduction aspects of commodities’ selection/prioritization.
4. The GNAIP doesn’t seem to include all the running agricultural investment and food security projects. There is a great need to take stock of current existing projects and plan for improvement of performance of those appearing not to be doing well.

Component 3: Adoption of best practices and inclusion of core programme elements – technical variability of the major elements

Recommendations (i):

1. Overall the programmes in the plan need further development including evidenced of best practices in technical approaches that underpin the proposed activities;
2. The impact of the Gambian Land Policy on agricultural development should be addressed in the Plan; This should also consider creating/implementing a Legal and Institutional Framework which will promote land policy in harmony with land use
3. Strategies for improving investment in trade infrastructure, collection, management and dissemination of market information should be given due emphasis; and
4. Access to financial services is lacking and specific measures to support the development of this sector both for producers and agribusiness enterprises need to be more clearly explained for implementation
5. The inclusion of women can be presented in a very relevant social and economic dimension, especially in the sustainable management of natural resources (land and water)
6. The GNAIP, in program 5: Sustainable Farm Development should articulate the management of the risk relating to the implementation of land use suitability and land tenure security; this can be done through an appropriate legal framework.
7. The legal framework design must take in consideration the right of vulnerable people for their food security.

Component 4: Alignment with country commitments

Recommendations (i):

1. The plan needs to better map individual programmes and sub-programmes against compact commitments made by government as a result of the round table process, including the sector strategy and PRS, and captured in the compact. There should also be an overview of the analysis of strategic options reviewed to most efficiently achieve long term growth and poverty reduction targets;
2. The plan does not clearly articulate the policy implications and outstanding policy issues implicit in changing the thrust of agriculture sector development. An assessment of the difficulty and time required to achieve the change and which entity is responsible for leading the change should be addressed in plan
3. Review and update the livestock and fishery policies. These policies among others must protect, streamline investment procedures for increasing productivity. Key stakeholders and actors within these sectors must be involved in the policy review and formulation;
4. The plan should describe how it will support the establishment of effective inter-ministerial coordination and alignment with the GNAIP;
5. The plan should include a description of how future engagement with the working group will be carried out by the government to effectively align stakeholders with the objectives of the GNAIP;
6. Although stakeholder consultation is built into the roundtable process, the plan needs to better describe how consultation will continue throughout the investment plan formulation and implementation process;
7. The overall M&E section of the plan needs to be strengthened. The importance of setting up an effective M&E system for the GNAIP cannot be over emphasized. The plan should better describe how the M&E system will build upon existing capacity and how it intends to strengthen and utilize statistical information and geographical information systems to establish baselines from which progress will be tracked.
8. The proposed results framework should be revisited and indicators chosen that will effectively track not only outputs but outcomes and higher level impacts
9. . Given the strategic importance of regional trade and integration for long term growth, the plan needs to show more explicitly, how the country intends to exploit the opportunities of regional trade, and what activities will be carried out to promote trade across border corridors and Analysis of the benefits and multiplier effects from regional cooperation is needed.

10. Include a conduct cost-benefit analysis prior to the implementation of the program to first justify resource allocation and secondly identify programs that will provide the highest return on investment.
11. Include activities focused on institutional capacity building to first upgrade the knowledge of the staff and increase staff strength to provide extension support services to the farmers
12. Gambia, with the high level of tourism and limited land, attention should be put more on productivity enhancing technologies rather than land surface expansion. The use of intensive production technologies will be recommended for the production of vegetables in Gambia.
13. The activities lack the incentive packages to attract large scale commercial investment in the livestock sector even though it contributes significantly to poverty reduction, income generation, food and nutrition and employment creation. Include activities to strengthen this area.
14. Prioritise the programs and activities, as well as establish sequencing through the development of an implementation plan. In addition, the Government of Gambia may consider prioritising geographic regions based on need, opportunity and/or availability of financing

Component 4.1: Links with existing sector programs/projects

Recommendations (i):

1. Include activities to improve database systems to allow for effective monitoring of growth and impact of agricultural investment programs.
2. Incorporate and show how the activities in the Investment Plan build on the Community-Driven Project; Livestock and Horticulture Development Project and the Gambia Lowland Development Project. These projects already provide good income generating and food security activities.
3. GAMJOB is a plausible program in Gambia. The Plan should link with this program and indicate in quantitative terms how agriculture will contribute to GAMJOBs objectives

Component 4.2: Links to national and regional agriculture sector development plans

Recommendations (i):

1. Include more detail on all the regional agriculture plans that are relevant to its Investment Plan
2. Describe other policy issues related to each of the programs, including the status on required legislation and implementation frameworks, as well as a current assessment of compliance to the policy (as relevant). This will be useful to ensure attainment of the stated objectives

Component 5: Operational realism

Recommendations (i):

1. The plan needs to present a detailed breakdown of incremental costs based on unit costs where available and estimates. The budgeting should link expenditures to outcome and outputs contained within a results or logical framework;
2. The plan needs to include a more exhaustive overview of incremental financing. A financing plan should present a breakdown of costs by capital and recurrent expenditure. The breakdown of existing expenditures and incremental expenditures should be as accurate as possible
3. The financing plan should be comprehensive so that it covers both on and off-budget financing sources, both core sector and related sector budgets, and traditional and non-traditional donors including potential private sector contributions
4. The country must demonstrate how the overall public expenditure budget scale and financing meets the Maputo commitment (10%) and is in line with estimates from analysis of investment needs to achieve necessary growth
5. The plan needs to better demonstrate that sequencing of investments have been properly considered and include a clear explanation of why the particular level of priority has been assigned to an investment area;

6. The plan should include results of a public financial management assessment that acknowledges adequate capacities exist within the main institutions identified to implement specific programs/sub-programmes of the investment plan
7. Systemic weaknesses in proposed implementing entities should be highlighted and a capacity building plan built into the investment
8. The country should undertake a beneficiary analysis of the GNAIP and results used to better provide a full description of programme beneficiary characteristics including overall numbers targeted, geographic locations, economic and social status. The results of a beneficiary analysis should also be used to assess potential programme impact, used as a baseline for monitoring and evaluation during implementation and used to undertake a cost benefit analysis; and
9. The country needs to assess the financial and economic viability of proposed programmes within the investment plan. This action is essential to determine the GNAIP's potential impact at the beneficiary, community and macro-economic level. The plan should include an overall programme rate-of-return Also if possible, the country is encouraged to undertake financial and economic analysis of specific programme components and use this programme level analysis to assist with prioritization of program investments

3.0 Reaction of the Civil Society – Farmers Platform

Mrs. Marie Njie Representing the voice of the Civil Society Organization (CSO) revealed her happiness to be part of this business meeting. She cited the space that the Government of the Gambia has given the CSOs to work in partnership towards achieving the vision of the ANR sector food security in the country within the framework of CAADP. Marie Njie reminded the gathering that CSOs has been effectively participating in the CAADP consultative process. The development objective of CAADP is inadvertently corresponds in many ways with civil society's advocacy of having a just society that recognizes food security as right and is committed to improving the livelihoods of its population – hence my participation in today's business meeting.

Mr Chairperson, may I inform that farmer organizations and civil society can effectively contribute to raising awareness and provide information regarding the CAADP process to their constituents. I can assure you that farmer organization can also align their programmes to the CAADP agenda. On top this, the engagement of Civil Society Organization (CSO) and farmer organizations with Parliamentarians, the media and other stakeholders can also enhance accountability of the GNAIP on behalf of the target beneficiaries.

Mr Chairperson, it is also worth to note that much of the farmer organizations operating in the Gambia currently face daunting challenges e.g. funding, capacity, governance and institutional development issues that the CSOs have to grapple with. In spite of these challenges, CSOs continues to complement the efforts of the state in pushing forward for more concerted efforts for the right to food, accountably issues, improve livelihood and other issues impinging on the lives of the vulnerable in the society. In view of this, much has been done by CSOs in the commissioning of research to generate knowledge, conducting advocacy campaigns and other activities aimed at improving livelihoods.

3.1.1 CSOs and farmer organizations relationship with the State

Whereas government recognizes the importance of umbrella organizations such as the National Farmers Platform, the relationship needs to more define. Many a time, people made sweeping statements about the significance to involve the CSOs in state process, however, the process of engagement between line listries here present and CSOs still remains ambiguous. All we need to see is concret and genuine relationship between CSOs and Ministries which is characterized by jointly developing MOUs for programme design and implementation, technical, financial and material support to CSOs mainly in the form of subventions to support the operations of CSOs.

3.1.2 Building CSOs Capacity

Madam Chairperson, to ensure effective participation of the CSOs and farmer organizations, there is absolute need to build the capacity of the representative organizations with their constituents on the GNAIP. Whilst it is clear in the GNAIP document that capacity building in the form of group management is part of the envelop for producer organizations in the GNAIP, we calling for the inclusion of other skills development initiatives such as advocacy, negotiations, presentation skills, knowledge of the CAADP process, gender awareness and policy making process. Capacity building for women farmers to address the challenges of drudgery needs also to be look into.

3.1.3 Awareness Creation of CAADP

Madam Chairperson, it appears that there is general inadequate information about the CAADP and GNAIP particularly at the grassroots level. Hence the need to undertake a massive mass sensitization campaign at national and grassroots level to reach out to the media, parliamentarian other CSOs and farmer organizations. In the light of this, farmer organizations needs to provided with resources to enable them undertake these sensitization activities.

3.1.4 Financing CSOs and Farmer Organizations

To ensure full participation of CSOs and farmer organizations in the area of awareness creation regarding the GNAIP, funds should not only be established but made available for the representative organizations GNAIP related activities. If CSOs are to take equal ownership of the GNAIP, they must be seen to be occupying that central role thus attracting the right resources to effectively boost its participation in the GNAIP.

Distinguished guest, ladies and gentlemen, the GNAIP calls for all inclusive approach. If farmer organizations must live up to expectations of working in partnership with the government so as to achieve the outcomes outlined in the GNAIP, the capacity of CSOs and farmer organizations must be recognized and built. Also strong linkages need to be built not only between the state and CSOs but between CSOs and farmer organizations to ensure proper coordination, mutual accountability and cohesion.

In ending her speech, Mrs. Marie Njie hailed the Finance Minister's speech for Gambia government's intentions to double the budgetary allocation of agriculture. Mrs. Marie Njie was hasten to add that it will also be most desirable to see much of this increase be allocated to agriculture programmes so that the much needed funding gap of the sector be reach. I must once again indicate that the CSOs in the Gambia remains committed to working with the government in achieving the outcomes indicated in the GNAIP.

3.1.5 Reaction of the Civil Society – Mr. Mamour Sey, Radvile Farms

Mr. Mamour Sey argued that the role of the private sector in the plan is more than an operator in:

- Crop production
- Animal husbandry
- Fisheries including aqua-culture and
- Agro - forestry

But instead, it has other important roles as service providers as enumerated below:

- Input supply
- Heavy equipment hiring for land preparation
- Pesticide application
- Output processing, storage, marketing, distribution and
- more importantly financing – financing

3.1.6 The Consultation Process

- Being part of the consultation process is appreciated by the actors

- Need to be broadened to bring in other potential actors
- However each new look of the output of the consultation gives new ideas of what else to do and how better to do it

3.1.7 The Way Forward

Woo for a greater private sector investment in ANR sectors through:

- Concessionary lending rates for sector
- Nurture a new generation of private sector operators through Gamjobs and venture capital
- Process continues as the public devolve more roles to the private in a deeper partnership

3.1.8 To Conclude

The sector is as always a willing partner in development as by nature drawn by gain; financial at best of time but social sometimes.

4.0 General Discussions on the Presentations

Following the opening statements and presentations by various personalities, consultants, donors and the civil society, the floor was open for general discussion for clarifications, questions and answers. Some of the concerns and questions raised are:

1. The role of civil society is not clearly defined?
2. Women play a vital role in agriculture but it appears that they are not properly targeted
3. The document as it is seems to target only the Ministries
4. Is the GNAIP document final or not?
5. If employment in the agriculture is reduce from 70% to 40%, then what happens to the remaining 30%?
6. The funds solicit and banks, is it going to be use to establish and agricultural bank?
7. PS1 of the MOA observed the limited land vis-à-vis as the growing population and continues decline of soil fertility
8. Are farmers being sufficiently sensitized
9. There is need to adopt target-based approach for all our intervention
10. Advocate for the smart subsidy as the case of Malawi
11. Emphasis should on value chain as the chain is stronger than individual bolts
12. There is need for the extension system to influence farmers behavior so as to adopt low external input agriculture
13. Suggestions were made to the Ministry of Trade to consider removing 3% from the 7% sale tax levied on businesses and invest it into agricultural development.
14. The document seems to put emphasis more on the VISACAS while there are other MFIs operating in the country that needs to capture in the document.

4.1 Reactions by Presenters

- The document is somehow final but it is flexible and can still accommodate additional comments
- The funds that has been sought for is not to establish agricultural development bank. Establishment of agricultural bank depends on further study
- Probably, the existing commercial banks e.g. the VISACAS and other MFIs funds can be turn to a agricultural bank
- When agriculture is modernized, you may not need 70% to be employed in the agriculture sector. Instead what you need is 40% of the economically active population (EAP) to be employed in the services sector, 40% in agriculture and 20% in industry.
- There is absolute need for Research and Extension to work closely so as to improve productivity. Thus if we are to realize potentials of agriculture, we have to focus on productivity
- Also there is need to commercialize agriculture by promoting large scale production of major crops such as irrigated rice, g/nuts and maize

- A host of MFIs have been taken on board and they are reflected in the document.

5.0 Day 2 of the GNAIP Business Meeting

Day 2 was chaired by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance. In his welcome address, Mr. Cham thanked the Ministry of Agriculture and team of consultants for finally coming up with what we can now call GNAIP that has timeline or a period of 5 years. He also thanked the donors e.g. FAO for providing the technical support and Kingdom of Spain, ECOWAS, the AU and other donor partners for supporting the process which have yielded positive results. To this end, Mr. Bakary Sonko from the MOA was invited to dilate on the financing mechanism of the GNAIP.

5.1 Financing the GNAIP – Mr. Bakary Sonko Representative of the Ministry of Agriculture

Mr. Sonko informed the gathering that the financing arrangements for the GNAIP is well address in the document hence just gave a resume of the financing mechanism which includes the budget per programme and sub component as well as the funding gap. However, Mr. Sonko put more emphasis on for the donors to provide support to the GNAIP office especially in human resource development, adequate staffing, office equipments and funds to run the administrative affairs of the office. Thus the following mechanisms are proposed.

- 19% to be finance by the private sector
- Ministry of Finance to be more aggressive in mobilizing funds
- AU-ECOWAS to strengthen the GNAIP coordination office
- ECOWAS to intensify their resource mobilization strategies
- ECOWAS/AU to strengthen linkages between the GNAIP and the region so as to improve the resource envelop

5.2 Road Map – ECOWAS, Mr. Anest Aubee

First of all Mr. Aubee thank the Government of the Gambia and development partners (FAO, Spanish government, the team of national consultants and CSOs) for putting together this very important document. Having thanked the Government of the Gambia for a job well done, he outlined certain tasks that should look closely into the next ensuring months as follows:

- A report to indicate that the GNAIP document has been subjected to another review workshop/business meeting with partners.
- Ministry of Finance to write an official letter outlining the GNAIP objectives, executive summary and the resource envelop
- The GNAIP document to be sent to Head quarters of all concerned development partners e.g. World Bank, AfDB, FAO, EU, ECOWAS, AU etc and send a copy to their Regional partners.
- A team comprising of government, FAO and other partners to undertake a follow-up from within the Gambia and outside the Gambia.
- Need to do a robust resource mobilization as some donors may be interested to buy-into different programmes of the GNAIP.
- ECOWAS will be convening a regional meeting at Accra, Ghana from the 6th to 8th December 2010 to look at the levels of programme within the 15 member countries.
- The government of the Gambia to send the document to the ECOWAS President and to the AU Commissioner for Rural Economy.
- A letter to be written to ECOWAS indicated ECOWAS to support the government of the Gambia in the area of resource mobilization
- ECOWAS has committed 15% of its resources to the regional programmes.
- ECOWAS to set up the regional agricultural fund
- ECOWAS will go to all the 15 member states and sensitize them on this issue.
- Six countries are already on board under the CORAF programme

Table 1: Way forward Template form

Follow-up Activity	Time frame	By whom	Where	How
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				

5.3 Discussions/concerns/suggestions from the participants

- Concerns were raised as to what contribution are we expecting from the beneficiaries as it is stated in the GNAIP document
- Suggesting to include DOA in the meeting that is proposed between the ECOWAS representative and PS1 of MOA so that CORAF issues can be discuss
- Management of funds should be expanded to M&E to track and report on outputs and
- Suggested to the MOA to continue to work closely with national consultants because the feeling is national consultant's role is still valid.
- Funding is not a problem but having projects that are fundable is always the problem
- MOA should now try to break down the programmes into bankable projects
- We should try to put in milestones so as to minimize our errors
- Representatives from the department of water resources were please to see climate change factored in the document

5.4 Reactions from Government

- Government commitment in agriculture has improved tremendously as Ministry of Finance has double the budget allocation to agriculture from 3% to 6% by 2011
- When projects are developed, milestones will be surely be there.
- A proposal costing 37 million Dollars to fund the GAFSP has been developed and submitted for funding
- Due to lack of poor coordination, we are not always realizing the desired result. As a result of this, we will put in proper coordination once implementation commences.
- NGOs role has been taken on board in all the interventions of GNAIP
- Beneficiary contribution is requirement for most projects taking into account the ownership aspects. However, specific projects determine the type of contribution required for their target beneficiaries. It could be cash in some cases or kind
- There is also a political commitment on agriculture as this has been shown time and time again.
- PS11 MOA has put emphasis for staff of agriculture to work as a team
- If we don't work as team, our resources will not be manage well
- The PS from the Ministry of Finance also underscored the importance of team work
- He observed that there is coordination among projects
- He recalled that many projects failed as a result of lack of coordination

5.5 Reactions from Donors**5.5.1 Kingdom of Spain**

- The Spanish representative has appreciated the amount of work put into the document.
- The Kingdom of Spain has already committed 700 million EUROS to the GAFSP.
- Under the GAFSP, the Gambia is eligible up to 50 million Euros
- Therefore Spain is more than will to support this venture

5.5.2 FAO

- FAO is a development partner who helps countries to address their agricultural problems
- They provide technical assistance, advice and guidance in food security
- FAO has long been associated in with this process e.g. CAADP, GAFSP and GNAIP
- FAO is always ready to provide any technical assistance
- UN Country is watching and studying the document and see where each of the different UN agencies can buy-in and assist.
- FAO TCP is usually a small token but can help address technical expertise e.g. formulation of projects and programmes.
- Lessons learnt in this process is that we have succeeded in using our home grown national consultants
- GNAIP cannot be implemented without the involvement of the civil society
- In the same vein, subsistent agriculture cannot be transformed without the participation of the private sector e.g. Gambia Chamber of Commerce
- WARP to work with PS11 of MOA
- Climate change linking it to agriculture is vital hence ECOWAS has plans to mitigate climate change since it affect agriculture
- There is need to build a synergy to ensure that agriculture buys-in to climate change

5.5.3 Reactions from Concern Universal

- Have the Capacity in pulling proposals together
- Suggested that civil society organizations to be included and work with government

6.0 Vote of Thanks by Baboucarr Njie, CPCU Manager

The closing ceremony was performed by the Deputy Minister of Agriculture Honourable Kalipha Kambi. He reminded all participants that we are completely exonerated because the plan is perfectly done. The document is one of the catalysts that can transform the agriculture sector. It will help to realize the objectives of the PRSP II and strategic plan of the Ministry of Agriculture. This process is the end of the beginning. Mr. Njie indicated that he will not do justice if he fails to that both the national and international consultants. Great responsibility and great scarifies is needed for the implementation of this plan. It is a dynamic document because realities are changing. A lot of work has been put into this document before and now. It was participatory as there was lot of interaction at different level and at different stage. Mr. Njie thanked all those who have involved either by sharing ideas and time spent. He also thanked the development partners who have come far, to support this GNAIP process. The CPCU Manager assured AU and EOWAS that we are in this process together. At this juncture, Mr. Njie on behalf of the President of The Republic of The Gambia Shiekh Professor Dr. Alhaji Yahya A.J.J.Jammeh Mr. Njie thank everybody for their genuine participation and wish the visiting AU and ECOWAS delegates bon voyages.

7.0 Closing Ceremony by the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Honourable Kalipha Kambi

Honourable Kambi delivered in his closing remarks thanked all participants and our donor partners for their participation and support.

Annexes: List of participants