



Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)

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UGANDA

WHAT DOES A CAADP COMPACT OFFER UGANDA?

CAADP is a commitment of African countries to pursue a higher path of economic growth through agriculture-led development in order to reduce poverty and hunger in the continent. As one of a set of pledges made by African leaders to take explicit responsibility for the development of the continent, all African heads of state endorsed CAADP at a summit meeting of the African Union in Maputo in July 2003. Africa's ownership of this idea and country leadership in programme implementation are expected to make CAADP different from past, more limited initiatives to bring about substantive growth in Africa's agricultural sector.

CAADP countries are expected to achieve 6 percent growth in the agricultural sector of their economies and allocate at least 10 percent of the national budget to agriculture. CAADP seeks to add value to various current programmes by bringing about fundamental qualitative changes in the way agricultural policies are made and implemented by African countries. To achieve these goals, CAADP aims to stimulate agriculture-led development around four technical objectives:

- Extending the area under sustainable land management and reliable water control systems;
- Improving rural infrastructure and trade-related capacities for market access;
- Increasing food supply, reducing hunger and improving responses to food emergency crises; and
- Improving agriculture research, technology dissemination and adoption.

Some of the key principles of CAADP are the building of partnerships, dialogue, peer review, and mutual accountability at all levels, and exploitation of regional complementarities.

One of the key steps in fostering accountability and partnership is through the drafting and signing of CAADP compact documents at country-level across Africa. Such agreements are developed through broad, cross-sectoral roundtable processes in order to ensure that the CAADP agenda becomes an integral part of national efforts to promote agricultural growth. The compact is signed by key government ministers, representatives of farmers and the private sector, commissioners of regional economic organizations, and the country's development

partners. The compact document outlines those policies, strategies, priority areas, and investment plans, and the levels of resources needed for the comprehensive development of the

agricultural sector in the country on which the stakeholders are in accord and for which they take responsibility.

Uganda's priorities and the CAADP compact for Uganda

This vision of CAADP is in line with and supported by Uganda's own formal visions for national development as stated in both the old master development framework for Uganda, the Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP), and the new National Development Plan now under development. Similarly, there is considerable alignment between CAADP priorities and those formulated under the Plan for the Modernisation of Agriculture, which was developed to guide economic development in Uganda under the PEAP. Emerging policies and strategies for the agricultural sector in Uganda—the National Agricultural Policy and the second Agricultural Development Strategy and Investment Plan—reconfirm the primacy the government of Uganda accords agriculture as the vehicle for sustained economic growth and significant improvements in the well-being of all Ugandans. Given that Uganda's own priorities for agricultural development are already quite closely aligned to those of CAADP, what additional value does a CAADP country compact offer Uganda?

The value of such an agreement is principally in five areas:

First, the roundtable process through which the compact is developed is in its own right an important policy process for the people of Uganda. With support from COMESA, a range of policy research and stocktaking exercises on the agricultural sector was undertaken in order to provide a solid foundation of evidence for discussion on what should constitute the agricultural investment priorities which the government of Uganda should support. Using relatively sophisticated analytical methods, the likely outcomes in terms of economic growth and poverty reduction of different agricultural investment scenarios were investigated. Following initial technical appraisals, these results then are subjected to a

much broader political appraisal in the CAADP country roundtable meetings from which the Uganda CAADP compact will emerge.

In this regard, the National Agricultural Policy and the second Agricultural Development Strategy and Investment Plan, which are now being finalized, have been developed with attention to CAADP principles. As such, the CAADP roundtable process and the signing of a CAADP compact for Uganda will highlight that those two statements of government's priorities reflect the objectives of CAADP in Uganda. These policy statements of government will be subject to close review as part of the CAADP compact preparation process in Uganda, which will serve to more closely define the objectives and expectations articulated in the two and modify them so that they are broadly accepted by all participants in the Uganda CAADP process.

Second, continuing from the first point, the development of the CAADP compact for Uganda redefines CAADP in a manner that is much more appropriate for the Ugandan context, for the ambitions of Ugandans, and the unique possibilities for agricultural development found in our country. CAADP as originally approved under NEPAD and the African Union is a generic statement of priorities appropriate for Africa as a whole. The Uganda CAADP process refines these priorities in light of the specific development needs of Uganda, its farmers, and all its citizens.

Third, the CAADP compact provides an important statement by which the government of Uganda and its partners in agricultural development state their common interests with regards to agricultural development and, ideally, institute the means to attain those interests. As such, the CAADP compact will further define the duties of the government of Uganda to its citizens in assisting them to live healthy, productive, and

creative lives through agriculture, as well as providing a formal statement of the commitments of the government of Uganda to its partners in agricultural development—the farming and agribusiness communities and development partners.

Fourth, the Uganda CAADP compact will serve as an important map to guide how donors and other development partners of Uganda allocate their support to agriculture here and increase it in the longer-term. Donors require such clear statements on a country's ambitions to prioritize the allocation of their aid to the country and to reassure their own constituents as to the appropriateness of how their aid funds were used. Moreover, several key development partners of Uganda are aligning their support to agriculture across the continent to the CAADP framework.

Finally, beyond being a continental and national programme for agricultural development, CAADP also strengthens regional links to foster national agricultural development. Through the

facilitation of COMESA, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, CAADP provides a basis for the formulation of supportive regional policies to enhance agricultural production and trade. As many observers link future success for Uganda's agricultural sector to increased engagements in regional staple food markets, such regional, mutually beneficial initiatives can only enhance the economic prospects for Uganda's farmers.

In conclusion, the contents of the CAADP agenda are an integral part of Uganda's own vision for how the country is to achieve a vibrant, expanding agricultural sector. The development of a Uganda CAADP compact is an important step for the government of Uganda in confirming its commitment to agricultural growth and development and in obtaining strong commitment to this aim from its partners in this process, both in Uganda and elsewhere. While it is just one small step in this long process of development, it is an important one, nonetheless.

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