

AFDB/IFAD JOINT EVALUATION AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

A CONSULTATION WITH AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS AND OPINION LEADERS

MALI, BAMAKO

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2009

A. Background: A Policy Gap in African Agriculture

1. Agriculture and rural development provides an important route towards achievement of the critical development goals of promoting growth and reducing poverty in Africa. Yet the sector presents a challenging development agenda. Against the backdrop of the food price crisis of 2008, the recent financial and economic crisis highlights the difficulties of ensuring global food security while boosting agricultural productivity and trade.

2. There is wide consensus about the importance of a country-led approach to development. Further, given the sector's complex agenda and highly fragmented aid architecture, there is a need for a well-coordinated division of labour among the many players, based on respective areas of comparative advantage, specialisation and track record. Recent years have seen renewed support for the sector, including the launch of NEPAD's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and the Maputo Declaration of 2003, with the aim of raising annual agricultural growth rates to 6 percent.

3. Although there was a concerted response to the food price crisis there has so far been a lack of far sighted vision and a coherent, widely agreed policy framework backed strong sector institutions at all levels. Bold leadership and political will are needed to address this "policy gap", muster support and push ahead with a common agenda

B. A Joint Evaluation on African ARD Policies and Operations by IFAD and the AfDB

4. At the suggestion of their Presidents, the Boards of the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) requested a joint evaluation of agriculture and rural development (ARD) policies and operations in Africa to be undertaken by their independent evaluation offices. Among others the joint evaluation was intended to help operationalize the new Memorandum of Understanding signed by IFAD and the AfDB in 2007, which sets out the framework of cooperation between these institutions on agriculture and rural development (ARD) in Africa. The final evaluation report will be presented for discussion with the Board in each institution in December 2009.

5. The main objectives of the joint evaluation were to assess the relevance, performance and partnerships of the two organisations in addressing agriculture and rural development in Africa and to generate findings and recommendations which can contribute to further strengthening their individual and collective contribution in this area.

6. In its conclusions, the draft final report of the Joint Evaluation draws attention to the many challenges confronting agriculture and rural development in Africa, and highlights the importance of African leadership in developing clear sector policies and strong institutions to tackle these challenges successfully. The study also recommends that IFAD and AfDB should deepen their partnership in ARD, within the wider partnership around CAADP.

C. The Bamako Consultation Workshop: Rationale and Participants

7. The Joint Evaluation aims, looking to the future, to identify opportunities for progress in agriculture and rural development in Africa and to contribute to better results. The views of senior African stakeholders are vital in launching a debate around key issues, and in obtaining guidance and feedback on the evaluation's findings and recommendations, ahead of the presentation of the final evaluation report to the Boards of IFAD and AfDB.

8. For this reason the Evaluation Offices of IFAD and AfDB are organizing a workshop mainly for African Governments on September 29, 2009 in Bamako, Mali, kindly hosted by the Government of Mali. High-level representatives from selected Governments¹, NEPAD/CAADP, and FARA are invited. FAO and IFPRI would be invited to represent the international community of technical and policy knowledge institutions in the sector. Management from IFAD and AfDB would be invited for the meeting. Mr. Binswanger-Mkhize would contribute as a key contributor to the evaluation. Mr. Seydou Traore, former Honorable Minister of Agriculture from Mali, will be heading the organization of the meeting.

¹ Invited Governments include those from the case study countries of the evaluation.

D. Workshop Objectives and Outputs

9. The objectives of the proposed workshop are:
- (1) To communicate the evaluation's key results and recommendations to African policy makers and obtain guidance and feedback for their finalization;
 - (2) To formulate critical sector issues for the Bank and IFAD that should be addressed with priority in future policy and strategy formulation, in line with their comparative advantages;
 - (3) To generate more widespread interest about the evaluation and acceptance of its results, among the wider community of ARD policy decision-makers across Africa;
 - (4) To identify knowledge management and capacity constraints in ARD in Africa and ways to strengthen them, particularly at country level; and
 - (5) To help build better partnerships with African governments and other stakeholders, within the wider partnership around CAADP.
10. Specific outputs of the workshop would include:
- (1) A set of comments and suggestions to enhance the final evaluation report.
 - (2) An action plan and 'way-forward' on how to enhance partnerships, at country and regional level.
11. The key background paper for the meeting is the Draft Final Report of the Joint Evaluation. The major issues to be addressed and discussed at the workshop would follow from the conclusions and recommendations of the Draft Final Report. The Draft Final Report is based on various intermediate studies and related working papers consisting of i) The changing context and prospects for agricultural and rural development in Africa; ii) A Meta Evaluation of past performance; iii) [A review of partnerships](#); and iv) [An evaluation of business processes and their impact on results](#). These and other reports from the evaluation are available on the joint evaluation website at the following link: <http://www.ifad.org/evaluation/jointevaluation/docs/index.htm>.

E. Provisional Workshop Agenda

Monday, Sept. 28, 2009

20:00 Dinner hosted by the Government of Mali at the Azalai Hotel Salam

Tuesday Sept. 29, 2009

Chairperson: Hon. Minister of Agriculture of Mali

08:00 Registration / Breakfast

09:00 Opening of the session (by the master of ceremony)

09:10 Remarks by Mr. Luciano Lavizzari, Director of IFAD's Office of Evaluation

09:20 Remarks by Mr. Colin Kirk, Director of AfDB's Operations Evaluation Department

09:30 Inaugural opening address by the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Mali

09:45 Coffee break

10:00 Objectives of the session by Mr. Seydou Traoré, AfDB/IFAD Senior Independent Adviser for the joint evaluation

10:15 Main conclusions and recommendations from the Joint Evaluation by Messrs Lavizzari and Kirk

10:45 Plenary Discussion of the Joint Evaluation report

12:30 *Lunch*

14:00 Purposeful partnerships to be chaired by: Mr. Benedict Kanu, Lead Expert, Agriculture Department of the AfDB.

- o Review of key issues and discussion in working groups
- o Presentation by working groups in plenary

15:30 *Coffee/Tea*

16:00 Panel discussion on future directions: One representative each from Government; IFAD/AfDB; and NGO/research institutions chaired by Mr. Mohamed Béavogui, Director Western and Central Africa Division (IFAD).

17:00 Synthesis by Messrs Kirk, Lavizzari, Traore, Binswanger-Mkhize,
Chaired by Mr. Ides de Willebois, Director Eastern and Southern Africa

17.30 **Closing remarks by Hon. Minister of Agriculture of Mali**