



AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION

BRIEF FOR THE STDF WORKING GROUP

20 – 22 MARCH 2017, GENEVA SWITZERLAND

INFORMATION FROM THE AFRICAN UNION

The African Union Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA) has developed the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Business Plan and supporting Operational Plan. The document was developed in response to the urgency of ensuring that AU entities and its member states generate strategic results from implementing the key actions outlined under CAADP and obtained in the 2014 Malabo Declaration. The actions will be guided by numerous evidenced-based assessments, roadmaps and implementation lessons which have been supported through CAADP by highlights what must be done in delivering the Malabo commitments and associated targets. To that effects, a programme approach has been adopted as a delivery mechanism, to be implemented by key AU agency actors and member states in accordance with agreed mandates of participating multi-stakeholders. Specifically, the OP will operationalize the Business Plan (BP) by unpacking the different layers of delivery namely; key outputs and activities, the tasks and resources required to obtain the strategic objectives/targets as outlined in the Malabo Declaration for Africa's agricultural growth and transformation.

The OP is available for the commission, including its specialized offices to use in playing the active role of catalyzing and coordinating results-focused activities toward the achievement of the CAADP Malabo commitments. The AU will also use it to mobilize partners' support. While each member country has the main responsibility for the delivery of the Malabo commitments at the country level, the OP also provides a common framework which can be used by other key AU actors/entities for their respective action and work plans. The 7 CAADP-Malabo Result Areas (MRAs) include:

1. Re-Commitment to principles and values of the CAADP process

2. Enhancing Investment Finance in Agriculture
3. Ending Hunger in Africa by 2025
4. Halving Poverty by 2025, through Inclusive Agricultural Growth and Transformation
5. Boosting intra-African Trade in Agricultural Commodities and Services
6. Enhancing Resilience of Livelihoods and Production Systems to Climate Variability and other Related Risks
7. Strengthening Mutual Accountability to Actions and Results

In preparing the OP, the Commission has enriched the seven areas above and has put forth a strategic programme on “Enhanced Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards and Compliance” in support of Boosting intra-African Trade in Agricultural Commodities and Services agenda. The Strategic Context is that inadequate sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards and compliance is a significant impediment to expanded agricultural production and competitive trade, and improved human health in Africa. It is also clear that a vast majority of countries face SPS-related constraints, and, in the light of the ambitious Malabo targets, more so with the ambition of boosting intra Africa and international trade, there is an urgency to address the relevant SPS constraints and formulate sound programmes and initiatives. The Commission therefore aims to prioritize capacity building in the SPS domain. The specific objective is to enhance the SPS capacities of AU member states, including to promote enhanced and harmonized sanitary and phytosanitary, Standards and compliance by member states (including: plant, animal, and human health). The output areas around which strategic actions have been identified include;

1. Strategic Framework, Good Practices, Benchmarks and Tools for SPS; Food Safety and Compliance
2. Establishment and operationalization of a Food Safety Coordination Mechanism for Africa
3. Training modules for enhanced SPS measures/standards, Food Safety and Compliance
4. Demand-driven implementation support to RECs and countries on enhanced food and trade, standards and Safety

The Commission also identified the need to have “strengthened trade negotiation capacity” with the view that current global trend and the marketplace in general and international trade in particular are very crucial to Africa given the ambitious goal to transform and develop the continent. Progress in the region is being increasingly defined by each individual country’s ability to exploit the potential benefits offered by the world econo-

my. However, the comparative advantage of many African economies tend to be in sectors that are the most restricted at the global level. Subsidies to certain sectors by developed countries have also been problematic to the region's potential for success. At the national level, infrastructural and related supply problems hinder the region's competitiveness and limit opportunities. To that effect, the Commission is seeking to strengthen trade negotiation capacity development in order to promote expanded intra-Africa trade. This is also particularly important given the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) processes that are underway. In addition to the ongoing role of supporting the SPS Technical Working Committee in articulating the SPS Annex for the CFTA Protocol, the following are the proposed output areas for the above priority;

1. Strategic Framework, Guidelines, Good Practices, Benchmarks and Tools for Strengthened Agric. trade negotiation; (building on existing frameworks for overall trade negotiation in Africa)
2. Preparation and delivery of training modules for strengthened trade negotiation capacity development in agricultural trade
3. Demand-driven implementation support to RECs and countries on strengthened trade negotiation capacity development
4. Increased number of, and expanded agricultural markets

An initial intervention in applying the PIMA tool in selected African countries, with the aim of rolling out throughout the continent has a great potential to support AUC's SPS initiative. It can enhance the much sought dialogue between the public and private sector in mobilizing the necessary resources and in developing sound and sustainable projects for African countries and also build on the discussions facilitates by the AUC between the two sectors. In this case, applying PIMA tool would fit well with output 1: "Strategic Framework, Good Practices, Benchmarks and Tools for SPS; Food Safety and Compliance"