

**Africa Regional Perspectives
on
Policy Priorities and Practical Measure to
Expedite Implementation in Agriculture,
Rural Development, land, drought,
Desertification and Africa**

Presentation by the
Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
at CSD-17

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Agriculture and rural development Continued

- ☒ Develop and promote adequate public and private investment and access to rural infrastructure, health, education, agricultural inputs
- ☒ Enhance access to all sustainable types of energy for agriculture and rural development and act regionally to optimize energy resources use and expand investment in the energy sector
- ☒ Significantly expand and promote agricultural research, extension services, access to appropriate and affordable technologies and enhance access to markets for small-scale farmers
- ☒ Define core areas for 10 per cent budget allocation and establish comprehensive mechanism to monitor progress
- ☒ Improve and/or promote trade opportunities through fair global trade and regional integration

A. Status, priorities and emerging issues

- ☒ African remains world's most impoverished region despite recent high economic growth rates experienced by countries
- ☒ Africa RIM in 2007 reaffirmed poverty eradication, peace, security, good governance key to meeting MDGs and achieving sustainable development
- ☒ Agricultural production poor or shrinking in most countries
- ☒ Increasing frequency, and severity of droughts
- ☒ Large parts of continent facing or prone to land degradation and desertification
- ☒ Given the importance of agriculture to poverty reduction and Africa's sustainable development, the central policy strands for CSD 17 are:
 - ✓ Sustainable agricultural and rural development
 - ✓ Secure and equitable access to productive land resources
 - ✓ Mitigating the impacts of drought and combating land degradation and desertification

2

2.0 Land

- ☒ Scale up land reform/land policy by implementing the pan-African framework and guidelines for land policy and land reform
- ☒ Provide sufficient national budgetary resources supplemented by fund set up by AUC to facilitate Framework implementation
- ☒ Establish equitable, consensual policies and coherent new legal frameworks incorporating a plurality of forms of tenure that secure property rights for rich, poor and women
- ☒ Adopt and promote effective strategies and policies for management of pastoral lands to ensure harmony with sedentary farming and to achieve sustainability
- ☒ Promote appropriate and secure land tenure systems to facilitate access to adequate housing, shelter and basic social amenities
- ☒ Extend the coverage of cadastral systems and accessible land registration and documentation procedures
- ☒ Develop African centres of excellence in land policy, tenure and management to supply the knowledge and expertise necessary for the implementation of new land policies and development of land institutions

**B. Policy Options and practical Measures to
Expedite Implementation**

1.0 Agriculture and rural development

- ☒ Align and provide development assistance within Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Framework
- ☒ Development partners to work with national governments and the private sector to meet the required level of investments in agriculture and rural development
- ☒ Explore and/or widen financing opportunities agriculture development
 - Micro-credit facilities
 - Cooperatives
 - Carbon financing

3

3.0 Drought and desertification

- ☒ Systematically integrate, priorities identified in the National Action Programmes to combat desertification (NAPs) and other sustainable land management (SLM) processes into national development programs and involve all stakeholders in activities
- ☒ Strengthen capacity for developing integrated programmes aimed at promoting synergies in the implementation of the UNCCD, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and United Nations Framework Conventions on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- ☒ Provide dryland areas with increased access to appropriate and affordable agricultural technologies, affordable credit facilities and links to markets
- ☒ Develop and improve the information base on drought and desertification
- ☒ Ensure adequate commitment for the implementation of 10-Year Strategic Plan and Framework to enhance the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the related decisions adopted at Eighth Session of the UNCCD Conference of Parties
- ☒ Strengthen institutional arrangements and human resources capacity to provide effective leadership for coordination, planning, monitoring and championing of drought and desertification programmes at the regional, subregional and national levels

6

Inter-Linkages

Gender equity and women empowerment

- ☒ Mainstream gender issues into social and economic analyses and poverty reduction strategies and actions and provide technical training for women and girls

Financing for development

- ☒ Increase support by the development partners, including through meeting their pledges for development financing as agreed particularly in Rio (1992), WSSD (2002), Monterey (2002), the World Summit on Development (2005) and various G-8 Summits
- ☒ Integrate capital flows policies into national economic development policies by providing incentives for both domestic and foreign investments that have large positive impacts on wealth and employment creation

7

4.0 Africa

- ☒ Promote collective efforts with dynamic political commitment towards achieving regional integration, expanding opportunities for investment that increase African incomes
- ☒ Expand capacity-building, including technical and financial assistance to AU, regional economic communities (RECs) and countries
- ☒ Support and consolidate the trend towards peace, stability and democratization
- ☒ Build on the emerging structures and practices and consolidate progress recorded in the area of political governance and administration
- ☒ Sustain high growth rates to financially empower countries to alleviate poverty.

8

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION

9