

DR Congo Launches CAADP Process

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) early this week (7 June) Launched The Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program (CAADP) process. The process, was Launched by the Congolese Vice Prime Minister HE Simon Bulupiy Galati, who is also Minister of Posts and Communication. COMESA was represented at the ceremony by Assistant Secretary General (programmes) Mr Stephen Karangizi. Also present was Maitre, Major Kasimba Ngoy Minister of Lands DR Congo who represented the Minister of Agriculture who was unable to attend due to prior national commitments. Different coordinating partners also attended.

The Launch, held at the Vinus Hotel, Kinshasa, DR Congo was followed by a two days workshop, which among other things involved, preliminary "stock taking" of existing programs and projects, provided inputs to strategies for implementation and identification of existing gaps and required investments. The workshop, that brought together different stakeholder was sponsored by USAID, Kinshasa.

Launching the process Mr Simon Galati, reiterated DRC's commitment to COMESA, and promised the implementation of the CAADP as soon



Mr Karangizi addressing the opening session.



ASG Karangizi welcomes the Congolese Vice Prime Minister HE Simon Bulupiy Galati, at the official opening of the CAADP launch

as possible. Speaking at the same ceremony, COMESA Assistant Secretary General Mr Stephen Karangizi said that the convening of this CAADP workshop as a symbol of the commitment, by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo, towards ensuring that agriculture takes a leading role in enhancing economic growth and poverty reduction in the country. He added that, DRC will join many COMESA countries that have since been implementing CAADP. Six Member States have signed the CAADP Compact. These are: Rwanda; Burundi; Ethiopia; Swaziland; Uganda and Malawi. Zambia and Zimbabwe are expected to sign soon. Among these countries, some have already designed their National Agriculture Investment and Food Security Plans, which are meant to inform investment programmes that will generate results on the ground. Mr Karangizi informed the participants that In some countries such as Rwanda and Malawi, resources have been mobilised and other member States, Including Sudan, are also advancing in their processes

The process having been launched it is expected that DR Congo will start preparation for the actual signature of the CAADP compact. The preparation

will involve among other things, The identification of short term and long term strategies, programmes and projects, organized along the CAADP Pillars, make the foundations for a revised framework for investment targeting a minimum of 6% agricultural sector growth.

To initiate full implementation of CAADP at both regional and national level, CAADP compacts (agreements) have to be signed between the Country in question, COMESA and its partners (CAADP) has provided an Africa vision and strategic framework to support and guide national Governments in planning . On the occasion of this Launch Mr Karangizi on behalf of the COMESA Secretariat congratulated the DRC Government, particularly the Ministry of Agriculture, for taking a bold step in embracing CAADP and its process, "in order to achieve economic growth and poverty reduction in this country, in line with the Millennium Development Goals" adding that The COMESA Secretariat is pleased to be a part of this significant occasion, which signifies the commitment of the DRC Government to the restoration of agriculture in DRC and also as part of the wider COMESA regional integration agenda.

Agriculture is a priority to DRC. COMESA Promises Support

2 **T**he Minister of lands of the DR Congo Maitre Kisimba Ngoy. This week reiterated the importance of agriculture to DR Congo. This was when the COMESA Assistant Secretary General paid a courtesy call to the Minister on Tuesday 8 June 2010 at the Ministry of Lands in Kinshasa, DR Congo. Mr Karangizi was in the DRC to participate in the Launch of the CAADP Process of DRC. Minister Ngoy pointed out that DR Congo had never experienced such level of commitment to agriculture before. He added that there is a serious need to involve the private sector and farmers if the desired agriculture development is to be achieved. "The government can support, the government can subsidise, but big private farmers are needed for the success of agriculture" emphasized Major Ngoy.. In the same meeting Mr Karangizi pointed out that apart from agriculture COMESA was supporting DR Congo in other area including climate change which indeed falls within the framework of CAADP. He promised



Minister of lands of the DR Congo Maitre Kisimba Ngoy receives ASG Karangizi in his office

full support of COMESA in engaging partners. Regarding CAADP implementation, Mr Karangizi pointed out that the participation of the Vice prime Minister at the launch of the process is a testimony of DRC's commitment to the process. He advised that following the launch it is better to move faster so that within the year the Compact is signed, an investment plan done and implemented." We have a programme with EU to help farmers directly in agro diversity and food security that could be taken advantage of" said Mr Karangizi. He added that apart from EU and USAID, COMESA has also

engaged other partners such as the Africa Development Bank and the world Bank to support agriculture in the COMESA region.

Mr Karangizi emphasised the potentials that DRC has" DRC has a massive natural resource potential, which includes vast arable land and an abundant water table. DRC has the potential to feed, not only its people but, the rest of Africa. This potential must be recognised as such, and exploited for the benefit of this economy and that of, its people". Said Assistant secretary General Karangizi.

COMESA /UNCTAD discuss future collaboration on ASYCUDA



From left to right : Mr. Alioune Ciss (UNCTAD ASYCUDA-Africa Coordinator), Mr. Sindiso Ngwenya (COMESA SG), Mr. Fabrice Millet (UNCTAD Senior ASYCUDA Coordinator), Mr. Stephen Karangizi (COMESA ASG(P))

Late last week (4 June) The COMESA Secretary General Mr Sindiso Ngwenya with the support of the Assistant Secretary General (Programmes) Mr Stephen Karangizi, received a delegation from UNCTAD comprising the UNCTAD ASYCUDA Programme Senior Coordinator, Mr. Fabrice Millet, and ASYCUDA Regional Coordinator, Mr. Alioune Ciss, the two organisations discussed the achievements and challenges of the ASYCUDA system implementations in the COMESA region and map the way forward for future collaboration.

COMESA - UNCTAD relationship, for the implementation of the ASYCUDA system in the COMESA Member States, started some 17 years ago. This long and fruitful collaboration resulted in

the adoption of the ASYCUDA system by 15 COMESA Member States along with Namibia and Tanzania which were COMESA members then. The only four countries that have not adopted the ASYCUDA system yet as their Customs Management System in the COMESA region are Djibouti, Egypt, Kenya and Mauritius.

The Republic of Djibouti s recently requested COMESA and UNCTAD for a feasibility study for possible implementation of the ASYCUDA system in their Customs Administration. ASYCUDA implementation has also a positive impact on other COMESA projects such as the Simplified Trade Regime (STR), Trade for Peace, Cross Border Trading, Trade Statistics, and more recently the development of the Transit Data Transfer Module (TDTM) and its link with

the Regional Customs Transit Guarantee (RCTG) system. Following this fruitful meeting the two organisations agreed to further cement this long and fruitful relationship and plan for future collaboration. Some of the are that shall be explored include-

- a) Collaboration on the current development on the Transit facilitation
- b) Establishment of an ASYCUDA Regional Centre at the COMESA Secretariat in order to enhance capacity in the region.
- c) Availability of the ASYCUDA source codes to the COMESA Secretariat.
- d) Implementation within a COMESA Member State a state in the art ASYCUDAWorld system using electronic signature in a paperless environment, thus paving the way to e-Customs and e-Government.
- e) Have a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two organisations that will encompass all areas of interest between them.

ACTESA to expand trade in natural products

The Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa (ACTESA), a specialised COMESA institution that deals with the promotion of trade in agriculture commodities, will partner with various organizations in the region that work in natural plant products. Among them is the Agri-business in Sustainable Natural African Plant Products (ASNAPP), which has operations in Zambia, South Africa, Malawi, Botswana, Angola and Rwanda.

Accordingly, on June 2, 2010, ACTESA CEO, Cris Muyunda hosted the ASNAPP Zambia Country Director, Bismarck Diawuo, at the ACTESA office in Lusaka, and discussed ways of collaborating and implementing programmes particularly in ACTESA's commodity focus area, forest and natural products. ACTESA's commodity focus areas include; grains and pulses; oil seeds; roots and tubers; livestock and fisheries; forest and natural products and agriculture inputs.

During the meeting, Dr. Muyunda noted that a lot of work needed to be done in the area of forest and natural products in the region.

He said the main challenge was to find markets and industries being developed in the region. He noted that in line with one

of ACTESA's paradigm shifts of working with the private sector, there was need to have regional market players and buyers involved in order to know exactly what their needs are.

"In each ACTESA commodity area, we need the involvement of a regional farmers' organisations, regional technology implementers and regional market players and buyers," Dr. Muyunda said.

He assured Mr. Diawuo that ACTESA would work with them and link them with regional research organizations.

Mr. Diawuo highlighted the importance of collaborating with ACTESA in market linkages, technology transfer and capacity training.

He said apart from working with ACTESA in the area of forest and natural resources, ASNAPP would also like to collaborate with the Alliance in the focus areas of oil seeds, horticulture and agricultural inputs.

ASNAPP aims to expand economic opportunities for rural communities by using world class science technologies, partnerships and business approaches to develop and enhance Africa's competitive advantage in the natural plant products industry.

ICGLR- COMESA- Towards the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding

On 4th June 2010, a meeting was held between COMESA and representatives from the International Conference on the Great Lakes (ICGLR). The objective of the meeting was to discuss areas of cooperation possibly leading to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between ICGLR and COMESA. This proposal for the signing of an MoU was motivated, among other things, by ICGLR's mandate as mentioned in the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region. ICGLR was represented by four (4) Programme staff including the Programme officer for Peace and Security, the Programme officer for Economic Development and Regional integration, the Special Advisor to the Executive Secretary, and the Technical Adviser to ICGLR from GTZ. COMESA was led by the Director of Legal and Institutional Affairs, Mr. Brian Chigawa and his team from the Peace and Security programme.

Welcome remarks were made by the Assistant Secretary General (Programmes) who conveyed his warm greetings to Ambassador Liberata Mulamula, the Executive Secretary of ICGLR. Ensuing discussions were held around areas of cooperation between ICGLR and COMESA. In order to jointly assess areas of cooperation, representatives from the Divisions of Trade and Monetary Affairs, Gender and Social Affairs, Infrastructure, Investment promotion and private sector development took part in the discussions. The two organizations exchanged a draft MoU, with a view to signing one in the near future.

Week in pictures



Mr Sindiso Ngwenya receiving a present from Danish Ambassador to Zambia Mr Thomas Schjerbeck



Part of COMESA management pose with the Meeting with the Danish Parliamentarians after the meeting at the secretariat.



Mr. Felix Masha, Ambassador Nagla El Hussainy, Mr. Belkacem Iratni and Ms Melvis Ndiloseh from AU at COMESA Secretariat.



H.E. Lazarus Amayo Kenyan High Commission to Zambia receiving a farewell from Ambassador Nagla El Hussainy.



Ambassador Nagla El Hussainy presenting a farewell gift to a representative of the out going Malawian High Commissioner.



COMESA staff who participated at the Intercompany relay

