CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO JOIN TECHNICAL NETWORKS TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MALABO DECLARATION COMMITMENTS ACROSS AFRICA

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1 PURPOSE

This call for Expression of Interest, issued by the African Union Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA) and NEPAD Agency, seeks applications from organisations interested in becoming members of Technical Networks that will be available to support the implementation of CAADP and, in particular, the Malabo Declaration commitments.

2 BACKGROUND

The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) was adopted by the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government in Maputo in July 2003 to improve food security and nutrition and increase incomes in Africa's largely agriculture-based economies. Over the subsequent 10 years (2003-2013), the Maputo Declaration that launched CAADP became a rallying call and coordinating framework for continental efforts to galvanize agricultural development. The CAADP Maputo Declaration is attached as Appendix 1.

To mark 10 years of CAADP, 2014 was declared the African Union Year of Agriculture and Food Security. The Year of Agriculture provided an opportunity for countries, regional communities and continental bodies to reflect on the achievements and lessons of CAADP and to plan for the future. The reflections and deliberations culminated in the 2014 African Union Heads of State and Government's adopting the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated African Agriculture Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods. The Malabo Declaration made seven specific commitments and defined set goals and targets defining CAADP implementation and African Agriculture agenda for the next decade and beyond. The Malabo Declaration on CAADP also endorsed the CAADP Results Framework as instrument for: planning; tracking implementation of the set goals; monitoring and evaluation; strengthening mutual accountability and learning amongst stakeholders. (See Box 1 for a summary and Appendix 2 for the complete Malabo Declaration).

The CAADP Malabo Declaration aims to reinvigorate and sustain the CAADP momentum started by the CAADP Maputo Declaration. It places special emphasis on implementation, results and impact, building on the achievements of CAADP's first ten years. The Malabo Implementation Strategy and Roadmap (IS&R), released in January 2015 identifies a specific set of strategic actions that together would help achieve the changes required at the national, regional and continental levels to attain the Malabo commitments. These Strategic Action Areas (SAAs) are formulated to facilitate and guide, but not prescribe, options for practical actions that will deliver results and impact in support of the CAADP 2025 vision and goals (see Box 2).

> **Box 1: The 7 Malabo Declaration Commitments**
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> 1) Re-commitment to the Principles and Values of the CAADP Process
> 2) Enhancing Investment Finance in Agriculture
> 3) Ending Hunger in Africa by 2025
> 4) Enhancing Agriculture's Contribution to Economic Growth and Significant Poverty Reduction (by at least half)
> 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) Mutual Accountability to Actions and Results

The CAADP Results Framework (as aforementioned, Figure 1 is a summary), outlines expected

results and impacts and specifies benchmarks and milestones for Africa's agricultural transformation. This is the tool that is being used to prioritize, align and select initiatives, activities and technical networks aimed at bringing about the desired transformational change and for assessing the contribution of activities toward that goal.

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Box 2: The IS&R Objectives and Strategic Action Areas

Objective 1: Transform agriculture and ensure inclusive growth, focusing on the following four themes:
1) Double productivity and increase production in a sustainable manner
2) Enhance value-chains, markets, trade
3) Enhance resilience of livelihood systems
4) Strengthen governance of natural resources

Objective 2: Strengthen systemic capacity for transformation by supporting targeted actions on:
1) Capacity for planning
2) Policies and institutions
3) Leadership, coordination, partnerships
4) Knowledge, skills, agricultural education
5) Data and statistics
6) Institutionalized mutual accountability
7) Investment financing

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Underlying the CAADP implementation support is a realization that it is imperative to identify continental sources of knowledge and capacity that can be tapped into by Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and African Union Commission (AUC)-level policy making and programming organizations. CAADP considers technical capacity development a key element in the achievement of Africa's agriculture aspirations. The process of developing Technical Networks to support capacity enhancement for agricultural development is a response to this central CAADP imperative.

In particular, Technical Networks will support Level 2 (focused on growth and transformation in Agriculture) and Level 3 (emphasizing strengthened systemic capacity) of the CAADP Results Framework. It is expected that every two years, African Member States will participate in a biennial peer review of what has been achieved in implementing these goals and plans as part of a continent-wide mutual accountability process.
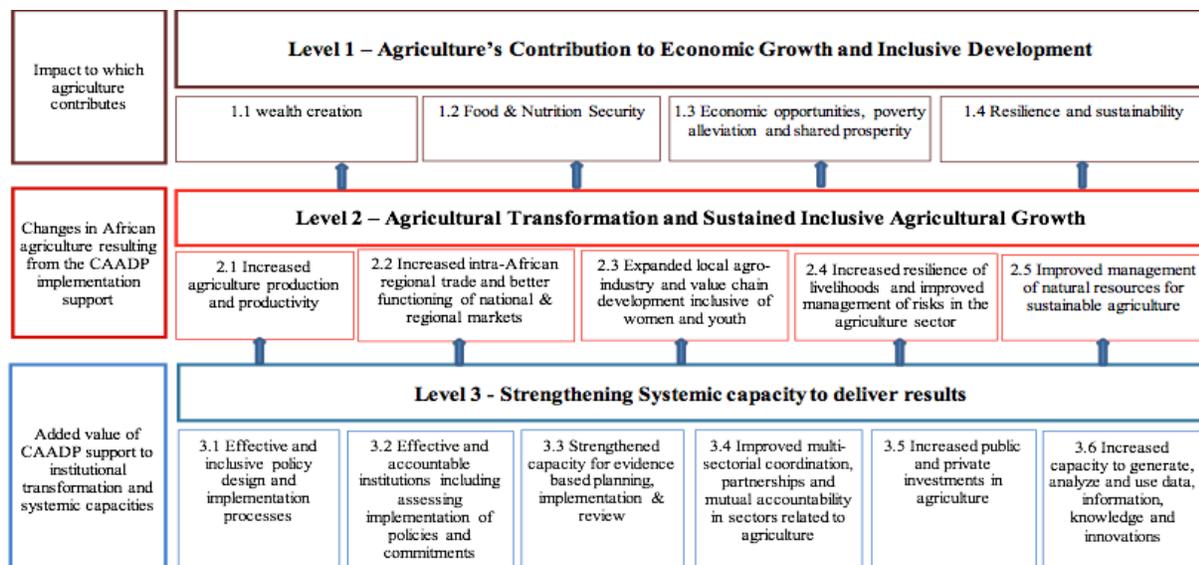

Figure 1: The CAADP Results Framework

3 WHAT IS A TECHNICAL NETWORK?

The African Union is coordinating the formation of a number of Technical Networks that will provide technical support and capacity development to AU Member States and other CAADP implementers. Technical Networks are communities of practice that will develop mechanisms and provide tools to support the implementation of specific Malabo Declaration content areas. Networks will provide training and technical advice in specific content areas to country and regional agriculture sector governance entities on policies, programs and practices that can accelerate achievement of national, regional and continental agriculture production, productivity and food security goals related to Malabo and CAADP. Specifically, technical networks will provide, among other services:

1. Best practice or state-of-the-art methods and tools in specific technical areas
2. Targeted training and other capacity development support as appropriate & demanded
3. Technical advice responding to specific queries and implementation challenges
4. Occasional situational analyses
5. Facilitation of continuous learning and sharing

The Technical Networks will be technical groups that will borrow from principles of Communities of Practice (CoPs); their objectives will be to harness best practice and package and channel those best practices to relevant CAADP implementing agencies to support implementation of the Malabo Declaration. The Technical Networks will be largely demand-driven, to respond to the needs identified by CAADP implementers; the Technical Networks will also take a pro-active approach by identifying gaps that require their support. Up to seven (7) technical networks, loosely based on Malabo Commitment areas and the IS&R Strategic Action Areas, will be facilitated. A summary of the proposed Technical Networks is presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Technical Networks that will be facilitated in support of Malabo Implementation

Malabo Technical Network	Issues that will be covered (indicative)
Agricultural investment financing	Domestic, foreign, private and public investment in agriculture including models & policies for facilitating such investments
Nutrition and food security	Topics in nutrition, policy, multi-sectoral planning and coordination to address nutritional and food security & limit post-harvest losses. Strategic Food Reserves & Safety nets
Agricultural research and extension	The African science and research agenda; and capacity development for research, extension and advisory services. Support needed include strategies and plans for developing requisite ARD capacity, addressing agricultural technology gaps (through research), and capacity and models of extension/advisory services that deliver to farmers
Agro-industry & value chain development	Value addition to agricultural commodities and general agro-industrial development. Value chain (VC) development issues: enhancing functionality of VC through actor linkage, actor empowerment with capacity and information, pricing,

Malabo Technical Network	Issues that will be covered (indicative)
	credit, product quality, appropriate technology, policies and organization of last-mile delivery of agricultural inputs and services
Markets and regional trade	Regional and global trade issues (policies, facilitation, barriers, SPS, food safety etc.); Market development (information, infrastructure)
Resilience, risk management and natural resources management	• Resilience and risk management • Climate change mitigation and adaptation (including climate-smart agriculture) • Irrigation and water management • Land issues
Knowledge Management, policy analysis and accountability for results	• NAIPs development and reviews • Mutual Accountability and Biennial Review systems • Measurement, monitoring, evaluation • Strategic planning processes • Sector coordination • Policy analysis • Agriculture Statistics and data management • Knowledge generation and dissemination

4   THE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

This call for expression of interest is designed to solicit interest from organisations for membership into the various anticipated technical networks. Subsequently, on the basis of a set of criteria, initial membership of the networks will be convened and launched to begin working together to address capacity development issues and agree on how they will work together to support these requests.

Below is important information to guide a submission of interest.

4.1 Assessment criteria

In selecting membership of Technical Networks, applications will be assessed according to the following main criteria:

1. *Shared vision* – How strongly does the organization current mission, vision and mandate align with the CAADP principles and approaches?

2. *Technical Capacity:* How strong is the organization in the relevant technical area? What is the organization's current pool of expertise, tools, and knowledge?
    a) Agricultural investment financing
    b) Nutrition and food security

c) Agricultural research and extension
d) Agro-industry & value chain development
e) Markets and regional trade
f) Resilience, risk management and natural resources management
g) Knowledge Management, policy analysis and accountability for results

NOTE: An organization may express interest in participation in more than one technical network. Each such application should be submitted separately.

3. ***Track record*** - What is the organization's track record on delivery of technical capacity development in Africa? What is the relevance and scale of the organization's work? What is the evidence or demonstration of technical expertise (as validated by past performance)?

4. ***Availability of resources and ability to mobilize resources*** – Does the organization have a strong resource base for supporting capacity development in Africa? What is the organization's experience, willingness and ability to mobilize and commit resources to Malabo-related activities? Are there any resources related to Malabo commitments already available or mobilized by the organization that can provide technical support services to countries and/or Regional Economic Communities?

5. ***Willingness to work under a common framework with other Network members –*** How has the organization demonstrated the ability to work effectively in partnerships? How has the organization shared data, information, experiences or lessons learned in the past? Is the organization willing to work under a 'common framework of engagement' and be accountable to other CAADP stakeholders?

6. ***African footprint*** - Does the organization have the ability and expertise to work in Africa, and on African issues? What alliances, regional contacts, and pools of expertise does the organization have in Africa?

4.2 Submitting the expression of interest

1. ***How to submit expression of interest*** - The Expression of Interest is to be formally submitted by filling in an online expression of interest form. The link for online submissions is:

   English version: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EoI_TN_CAADP
   French version: https://fr.surveymonkey.com/r/EoI_TN_CAADP_FR

2. ***Submitting more than one application*** - An organization may express interest in participation in more than one technical network. Each such application should be submitted online separately.

3. *Clarifications and questions* - Applicants may request clarifications or ask questions on the Call for Expression of Interest. Such requests shall be submitted in English via e-mail to:

>Ms. Betty Tole
>Email: betty.tole@picoteamea.org

Answers to all questions will be provided to the Applicant not later than 5 calendar days after their submission, on the Applicant's e-mail address used to submit the questions.

4. *Language* **-** The Expressions of Interest, may be submitted in any of the AU working languages [English, French, Arabic or Portuguese]

5. *Acknowledgement* - After the submission of the application, an acknowledgement of receipt will be sent out to the relevant Applicants via e-mail. The acknowledgement of receipt is not to be considered as an assessment of the quality of submission.

5 Appendix (zipped separately)

1. 2003 Malabo Declaration on CAADP implementation
2. 2014 Maputo Declaration on Accelerated African Agriculture Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods.
3. CAADP Results Framework (CAADP RF)
4. The Implementation Strategy and Roadmap (IS&R)