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NANTS Agric Advocacy Series

NANTS-Agric/MDD/Report

REPORT
of the
Maputo Declaration Dialogue
on
AGRICULTURE



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Endorsements:



...putting Our Money where our mouth is!

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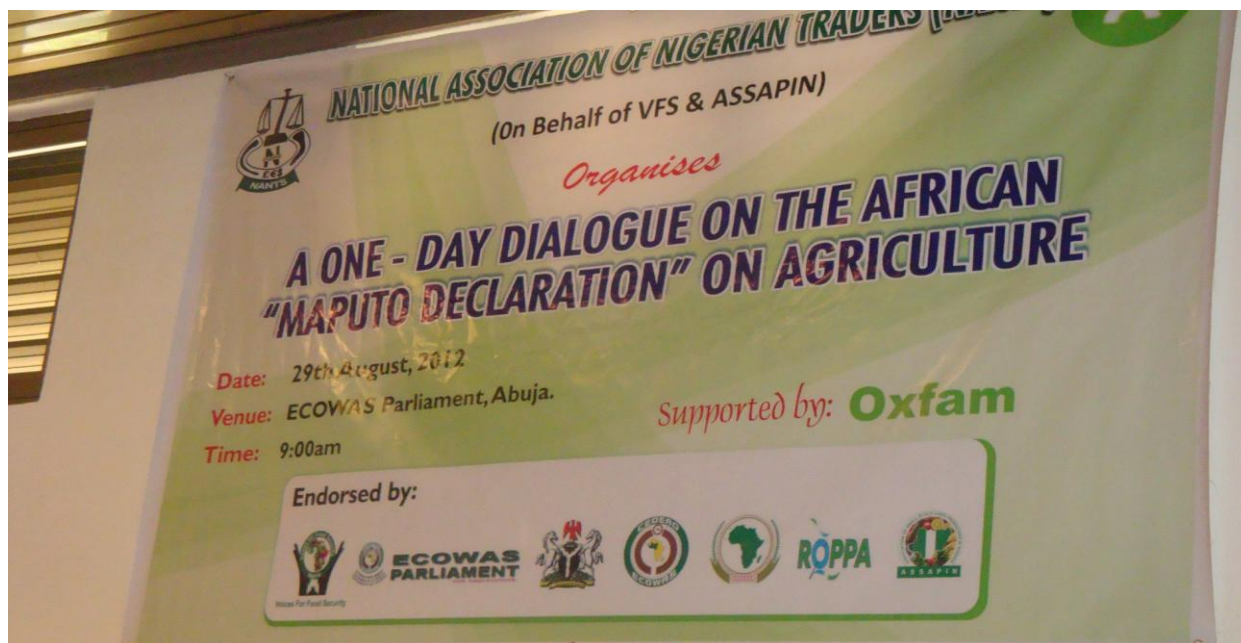
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Endorsements for the "Maputo Declaration Dialogue"

REPORT OF THE ONE DAY DIALOGUE ON THE MAPUTO DECLARATION ORGANISED BY NANTS AND PARTNERS

Abuja, Nigeria - 29th August 2012



From Left to Right: Hon. Mohammed T. Mongono (House Committee Chairman on Agriculture); Senator (Dr) Abdullahi Adamu CON (Chairman of the Occasion - Former Governor of Nasarawa State and National President of AFAN); Dr Sunday Uhiene (Director in-charge of CAADP at FMARD); Representative of the SG- ECOWAS Parliament; Mr Ibi Ikpoki - Representing the EU; Dr Ernest Aube - Director, representing the ECOWAS Agric Commission.

1.0. Background to the Dialogue

1. In Maputo Mozambique (July 2003), African Heads of States and Governments of the African Union (AU) endorsed a Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa popularly known as the 'Maputo Declaration' and also adopted the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) framework. One of the cardinal components of the Declaration is that African countries will allocate and implement increases in spending on agriculture to at least 10 per cent of their annual budgets by 2008. According to the Declaration such increase in budgetary allocations to agriculture was to give live to the CAADP with the goal to help African countries reach a higher path of economic growth through agriculture-led development, which eliminates hunger, reduces poverty, food and nutrition insecurity and enables the expansion of exports.

2. Such attention to agriculture was based on the strategic importance of the sector to economies of African states. For example, in Nigeria, agriculture is the largest sector in terms of its share in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (over 40%) and employment as it employs two-thirds of the country's labour force and provides about 88% of non-oil earnings. More importantly, majority of Nigeria's poor live in the rural areas and depend on agriculture for their livelihood. This scenario is about the same across the countries of Africa.

3. While progress is being made in terms of increasing budgetary allocations to agriculture in some African countries, some others like Nigeria have unfortunately fallen short of the 10% Maputo Declaration commitment over the years (except for 2008 when Nigeria struck up to about 12%) and it is generally observed that annual allocations to agriculture in these non-responsive countries are insufficient to galvanise growth and development impact intended through CAADP. To illustrate the impact of the underfunding on the sector, an analysis of the 2012 Nigeria's federal budgetary allocation to agriculture shows an abysmal less than 2% of total allocation to the critical sector. With such poor level of investment, it is evident that Nigeria is too far away from the Maputo commitment and this may obviously portend negative implications for food security and failure of government's Transformation Agenda centred on Agriculture. The resulting budget deficit in agriculture budget allocations further draws down the sector and compels the economy to be more dependent on food imports to the detriment of the local producers, Small Scale Farmers (SSFs) and the overall economy. This conclusion is based on the fact that the country's spending on agriculture is one of the most important government instruments for promoting economic growth and alleviating poverty especially in rural areas.

4. There is need to raise voices from public and private sectors towards supporting increased allocation to agriculture and specifically to SSFs, and also for corrective measures from the Parliament in designing appropriations skewed towards job creation using agriculture which is Nigeria's comparative advantage sector, as well as to effectively monitor disbursement and track implementation of budgetary allocations and finally to influence compliance with the minimum 10% of national budgetary allocation as demanded by the Maputo Declaration.

5. It is for these needs that National Association of Nigerian Traders (NANTS) and her partners- Oxfam international; the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; the West African Regional Peasant Farmers Organization – ROPPA; ECOWAS Commission for Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources; the AU Commission's Department of Agriculture and Rural Development; the Voices for Food Security (VFS) Campaign and the Association of Small Scale Agro Producers in Nigeria (ASSAPIN), etc organized a one day dialogue on the subject matter of increasing budgetary allocation to agriculture in compliance to Maputo Declaration.

2.0. Participation

6. The dialogue was attended by about 80 participants drawn from various shades of endeavour including the Nigerian Presidency, ECOWAS Commission, AU Commission, ECOWAS Parliament, the Economic Management Team (EMT) of the government of Nigeria, Ministry of Finance- Budget Office of the Federation, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Trade and Investment, Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Export Promotion Agencies (NEPC & NIPC), Members of Parliamentary Committees on Agriculture, UN Agencies, ROPPA, IFAD, FAO, Oxfam International, IFPRI, NEPAD, African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF), Le Hub Rural – Senegal, The Nigeria Governors Forum (NGF), T.Y. Danjuma Foundation (TYDF), Actionaid Nigeria, and, Farmers Associations such as the All Farmers Association of Nigeria (ALFAN), Association of Small Scale Agro-producers in Nigeria (ASSAPIN), Voices for Food Security (VFS) Campaign, Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD), Civil Society Coalition for Poverty Eradication (CISCOPE), other CSO Stakeholders, and the media.

3.0. Dialogue Objectives

7. The objectives set for the dialogue included the following:

- Canvass for improved budgetary allocation to Agriculture, especially for SSFs and producers.

- Reinforce the allocation of 10% of national budgets to the agriculture sector as a veritable instrument for growth, poverty reduction and food security.
- Mobilize for the commitment of governments and partners to ECOWAP/CAADP Compact while also making Nigeria's National Agricultural Investment Plan (NAIP) and the Agriculture Transformation Agenda work as development strategies for the poor.
- Galvanise stakeholders' commitment to effective tracking and monitoring of agric budgets, allocations and projects.

4.0. Dialogue Proceedings

4.1. Opening Ceremony

8. The Dialogue was chaired by the Distinguished Senator Abdulahi Adamu, former Governor of Nasarawa State and Chairman of All Farmers Association of Nigeria. The opening ceremony was graced by eminent persons and panellists representing the ECOWAS Parliament, the ECOWAS Commission for Environment and water Resources, the EU Commission in Nigeria, the Chairman- House Committee on Agriculture, the Senior Special Assistant to the President on the House of Representatives, the Desk Officer in charge of CAADP at Federal Ministry of agriculture and Rural Development, representatives of Actionaid and Oxfam International, representative of farmers organizations, etc

9. In his opening remarks, the chair eulogized NANTS for seeing the urgent need to revive agriculture through increased allocations as well as bringing together all that matter in the business of appropriation ranging from the Executive, the Parliament, the farmers themselves, civil society as well as media in the business of advocacy and mobilization. He noted that if agriculture must take up its revered but forgotten position as a growth propeller in Africa, then the dialogue must be taken as a serious business. He regretted that governments across Africa appear to have abandoned their people and importantly their rural communities by forgetting the agric sector and impacts on the people. He therefore called on participants to give full attention and concentration to the goals of the dialogue. The chair then welcomed the participants on behalf of NANTS and declared the Dialogue formally open.

4.2. Welcome Address by NANTS Secretariat President

10. NANTS Secretariat President, Ken UKAOHA welcomed participants to the dialogue which he described as a collaborative effort of NANTS and other

partners such as Oxfam International, the VFS and ASSAPIN, ROPPA, ECOWAS Commission and the ECOWAS Parliament. He informed participants that its focuses are (i) how to make governments across West Africa and Nigeria in particular to allocate a minimum of 10% of their annual budgets to agriculture in line with the Maputo Declaration; (ii) how to understand and influence ECOWAS and member states to fast track the implementation of the ECOWAP and their commitment in CAADP; and (iii) how to mobilize farmers and civil society including media in the monitoring of Africa's agric budget which NANTS is spearheading.

11. The NANTS Secretariat President noted that the lack of sanction mechanisms was perhaps partly responsible for the failure of many countries including Nigeria to comply with their AU and ECOWAS commitments not only in agriculture but also in almost every other instrument signed unto by member states with the objective of reducing and eventually eliminating poverty in the continent. He highlighted some of the agric related interventions and strategies of NANTS especially amongst its Small Scale Farmers (SSFs) members, to include microcredit support/access, grain banking, market information services, small scale technical support, and farmer capacity building, research and policy advocacy, etc

12. He commended the federal government of Nigeria for home gown policies in the sector as in the Transformation Agenda such as the cassava bread initiative and appealed to government to 'match words with action' in allocating more resources to agriculture especially through the 2013 budget process which is currently ongoing. He called for ECOWAS member states governments' greater commitment to the Maputo Declaration and the CAADP framework to guarantee agriculture development, food security, jobs for youth and poverty eradication.

13. Looking into the future Mr. Ukaoha informed participants that the dialogue will become an annual event based on country by country regional agriculture budget analysis and how well they fare on the Maputo Declaration. He hoped that this would rather serve as a motivation to African leaders towards allocating increased percentages of budgets to the critical sector of agriculture. He further challenged all agric stakeholders to be focused on achieving the Maputo Declaration benchmark, arguing that there is no justifiable reason to fail in improving the livelihood of Africans especially SSFs.

4.3. Remarks from Partners/Supporters

4.3.1. Remarks by Oxfam

14. Mr Abdullazeez, the representative of Oxfam, informed participants that Oxfam was extremely happy to be part of the dialogue especially because Maputo Declaration and the CAADP framework for agriculture development are crucial to its global 'GROW' Campaign. He hoped that deliberations will be useful and purposeful to move the agriculture sector forward.

4.3.2. Remarks by ECOWAS Commissioner for Agriculture, Environment and water Resources

15. In his speech, the Commissioner expressed goodwill from the President of the H.E. Desire Quaderago and commended NANTS for the visionary dialogue and other efforts made by the organization in Nigeria and Africa such as its research, publications and advocacy on the subject of 'land grabbing' that has negatively impacted on agriculture development in Africa. The Commissioner informed participants that the essence of Maputo Declaration was a 6% growth rate expected on the economies targeted at ultimately leading Africa from a food deficit region to a self-sufficient one. The goal led to the development of CAADP and ECOWAP to operationalize it and also the development of National Agricultural Investment Plan (NAIP) for the 15 ECOWAS member states which ECOWAS spent \$2.6bn to support.

16. He called for compliance by member states in order to address challenges in agriculture including low production and financing while arguing that political commitment was required to do that. He said that given the multiplier effects that such investments could yield, there was need for all stakeholders (public and private sectors) to invest in agriculture and also urge respective governments to uphold the Declaration benchmark.

4.3.3. Remarks by Secretary-General of ECOWAS Parliament

17. **Dr Mohamed Diakite**, Secretary General (SG) of ECOWAS Parliament, welcomed dialogue participants to the Parliament Building and to the dialogue. He informed that the Parliament takes social issues seriously leading it to have dedicated sections for Agriculture, Water, and Environment and collaborates with other arms of governments to review policies such as ECOWAP and CAADP for advancing these sectors. The ECOWAS Parliament is conversant with the Maputo Declaration and has always reminded members to convince their governments to implement the minimum 10% allocation of budgetary resources to agriculture. The SG informed participants that at present the Parliament only has advisory powers and not able to enforce member states' compliance with the Declaration. He however assured NANTS that with the technical depth of her work especially in terms of evidence-based advocacy, the ECOWAS Parliament has already opened up to full collaboration with it in achieving other goals set for ECOWAS and African development.

4.3.4. Remarks from the Nigerian Governor's Forum (NGF)

18. The **NGF** represented by **Alhaji Col SHITTU** conveyed their goodwill to NANTS and emphasized the importance of a dialogue as this in keeping the issues of balanced budgetary allocations on the front burner at all levels. The NGF agreed that some countries that signed the Declaration succeeded while others fell short of its implementation and Nigeria seemingly is among the laggards. The NGF however raised some salient points:

- i. That the difference between national budget and national public expenditure on agriculture must be well articulated; the latter having to include expenditure both at states and local government levels. Therefore, to get the whole picture they must be considered along with federal expenditure to arrive at how well or not the country is doing with the Maputo Declaration
- ii. That there is need to build and enhance absorption capacity of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) which implement agriculture development programmes and projects. Increasing budgetary resources to the sector without a corresponding increase in capacity to utilise them effectively will lead to wastages. It is therefore important to measure whether the sector has demonstrated capacity to take in additional resources.
- iii. That there is need to coordinate agriculture investment in public and private sectors and given the incentives in the Nigeria Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) for instance, both are bound to increase. There is need to have mechanisms for harnessing the increasing investments.

19. While commending NANTS for the worthwhile efforts, NGF concluded with the information that there is a plan to organize agriculture conference in all the states of Nigeria in order to highlight agriculture potentials and campaign for increased agriculture finance, and therefore called on NANTS to liaise with NGF to explore and discuss possible collaboration in this project.

4.4. Goodwill Messages

- i. **T. Y. Danjuma Foundation (TYDF),**
- ii. **African Agricultural Technologies Foundation (AATF), and**
- iii. **All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN)**

Session 2: ECOWAP and Regional Agric Investment Plan (WAIP): the Status of Implementation

Chair: Senator Abdullahi Adamu;

Key Speaker: Dr. Hussaini Abdu- Country Director, Actionaid Nigeria (AAIN), represented by Ifeoma Charles-Monwuba, the Deputy Country Director AAIN;

Panel of Discussants:

- i. Dr Mohamed Diakite - Secretary-General, ECOWAS Parliament;
- ii. Mr Abdullazeez – Oxfam International, and
- iii. Dr. Sunday Uhiene – Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD, Nigeria)

5.1. Chair's Opening Remarks

24. The Chair's background speech centred on the fact that the Maputo Declaration, CAADP, and ECOWAP are all geared towards improving food security and reducing poverty using agriculture as target sector. How well they have fared in terms of implementation and achieving their objective is what the two sessions intend to dwell on.

5.2. Key Presentation by Ifeoma Charles-Monwuba

25. In her presentation, the speaker reiterated the elements of the Maputo Declaration and CAADP stressing that allocating the stipulated 10% of budget resources to agriculture is an imperative for boosting the all-important agriculture sector. She identified that the challenge facing agriculture development stakeholders is finding a nexus between CAADP, 10% agriculture budget and poverty reduction. According to her, poverty is not because people are not working hard enough but a function of sheer positioning and power dynamics and that poverty can be eradicated by simply ensuring proper allocation of resources to sectors that address issues directly affecting the poor and marginalized people in the society.

26. The presenter said that the Nigeria 2012 federal, state and local government agriculture budgets put together, for instance, do not come near the 10% benchmark by Maputo Declaration and called for an increase in the agriculture budget at all levels so that lives of the poor involved in farming can be improved across Nigeria and Africa. She added that Maputo Declaration and CAADP are well designed documents in that they have comprehensive

strategies for improving food security and reducing poverty but the challenge lies with the implementation.

27. She identified policy inconsistencies as one bane of success for the policies. In Nigeria for example, National Agriculture Investment Plan (NAIP) which is a derivative of West Africa Investment Plan (WAIP) seems to have some differences or multiplicity of actions with the Agricultural Transformation Agenda. Such inconsistencies could lead to confused implementation and failure to achieve expected results.

28. She accused NAIP and CAADP of being gender neutral and this is problematic given that women who constitute majority of the farmers do not have access to land and other inputs as do their men counterparts. Similarly, she identified climate change as a challenge that needs to be addressed for effective strategies for food security and poverty reduction. She urged the stakeholders to find appropriate ways of changing the knowledge of farmers about changing climates.

29. In a critical reflection on the budget process, she charged the Legislature to ask questions about the synchronisation of the Executive's budget proposals to the CAADP, Maputo Declaration and NAIP and in addition pointed out that the Parliament needs to ensure that allocated resources are enough to implement the frameworks, arguing strongly that it will not be wrong to base national budgets on the frameworks since they have been signed unto as a guide in the first place. She also queried the role of Non State Actors (NSAs) such as NGOs, organised SSFs groups and cooperatives as well as the Media in engaging with the budget process - are they asking the right questions about relationships between budgets and government policies and programmes? She urged NSAs to 'Follow the Money' through monitoring of the appropriations arguing that an unmonitored expenditure is likely to be abused and an effective monitoring mechanism will lead to greater budget impacts in the agriculture sector. She therefore commended NANTS for evolving this action of budget tracking and monitoring on these essential real sectors of the economy.

30. The presenter called for peer review at all levels of implementing the CAADP and NAIP and cited states, nations and regions as examples. While arguing that there is need for holistic efforts she identified some areas for special attention as follows:

- i. creative incentive for guaranteed markets so that SSFs do not lose much through wastes;
- ii. value addition to make seasonal products sustainable and ensure that SSFs have income all year round;

- iii. access to credits for SSFs by increasing their availability, farmers' awareness of them, removing barriers associated with providing collaterals, and making language of communication friendly;
- iv. use and promotion of organic fertilizers instead of the commercial inorganic ones for greater yields;
- v. the restoration of extension services;
- vi. resisting land grabbing tendencies despite incentives from Europe and Asia;
- vii. the need for infrastructural development such as roads so that SSFs can easily convey produce from rural communities to better markets; and
- viii. support to SSFs by developing and making seeds resistant to climate change available to them.

31. She concluded by saying that if government and indeed all stakeholders play their roles adequately, Maputo Declaration and CAADP are veritable mechanisms for getting people out of poverty.

5.3. Panel Discussant 1: -Dr Mohammed Diakite (Secretary-General, ECOWAS Parliament)

32. The Discussant's point of emphasis was that the agriculture sector cannot be considered in isolation, but that agriculture is cross cutting with other sectors such as roads, water and power and these are sometimes not properly coordinated. For example there is need for good networks, and production and marketing of agricultural produce on timely basis. Furthermore, irrigation facilities are needed and some are capital intensive apart from requiring fund for maintenance. All these add to agriculture budget and therefore the 10% allocation of budget resources to agriculture as in Maputo Declaration needs to be critically examined in terms of sufficiency.

33. The Discussant also raised the issue of value addition through processing industries to preserve perishable produce and make them competitive in the market. He identified other challenges facing the SSFs in the region including climatic factors such as droughts and infrastructure such as roads. He cited the example that if roads were good within the region, food can move freely in the Sahel than depending on food aid. The issue of trade and free movement of people and goods is worthy of mention to say that the ECOWAS region has a long way to go on that front. According to him, moving from Nigeria to the Gambia has been challenging as authorities pose bottlenecks that hinder movement of agricultural produce.

5.4. Panel Discussant 2: -Mr Abdullazeez (Oxfam Nigeria Office)

34. The importance of agriculture to the economy cannot be over-emphasised especially for countries like Nigeria where 88% of non-oil revenue comes from the sector which employs 66% of the labour force and contributes over 40% of the GDP. The specific role of SSFs becomes significant when we consider that 90% of the local food consumed in Nigeria is produced by SSFs. Given this background, asking for 20% of budget resources for Nigerian agricultural sector investment is not superfluous. The meagre and beggarly 2% allocation for agriculture in 2012 as not acceptable, therefore what is actually required is government commitment.

35. Commenting on climate change challenge raised by the key speaker, he described the challenge as real as it has become impossible to predict rainfalls anymore and farmers need to know and fairly be certain about climates so that they can plan their activities. He challenged SSFs present at the dialogue to recognize the power they wield and form strong pressure groups and cooperatives under the guidance of NANTS that would assist them with the capacity to have access to market information and have a voice to influence policies. He drew dialogue participants and NANTS in particular to the need to shift and intensify advocacy efforts to states and local government areas where not only do resources abound but they also hold tenure over arable lands.

36. The role of infrastructure such as roads (especially feeder roads) which are bad and impassable during rainy seasons was also highlighted. He also pointed out that multiple taxation points between farms and markets also discourage farmers. He concluded that Oxfam made contributions through its campaign for multi-sector contribution, gender-enterprise market (women empowerment) market governance and facilitating an enabling environment for strong private public partnership. He again extolled the commitment of NANTS as a voice that must be heard and the partnership it shares with Oxfam in addressing agriculture and livelihoods in Nigeria, and Africa as a whole.

5.5. Panel Discussant 3: -Dr Sunday Uhienne (Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Nigeria)

37. He commended previous speakers for a thorough analysis of the issues and expressed confidence that Africa can move her people out of poverty. NSAs are encouraged to take ownership of CAADP where governments have failed and drive the process for achieving the goals reporting that Africans showed capacity for self-development through the formulation of CAADP. CAADP is about having self-sufficiency and then surplus food for global export and that through the potential of research and development; we can improve on all the challenges and achieve our collective aspiration.

5.6. Discussions on Sessions 1 and 2

38. Most comments following the panel discussions tended to make the following points:

- i. Issues relating to agriculture indeed cut across other sectors but those have their budgets exclusive of that of agriculture. Considering that rural roads, little dams, small markets and other infrastructures are needed by SSFs for meeting food security demands the budget of agriculture is supposed to be consequently increased so that they can be adequately attended to.
- ii. For Nigeria's 2012 federal budget of N4trn, allocating about N79bn to agriculture is dismal and a far cry from the standards set in Maputo Declaration and with this trend, there is no way the country can achieve the goals set for agriculture as a vehicle for realizing the economic transformation expected. The government needs to accept responsibility for the failure to have reached the Maputo Declaration target nine years on and therefore should move away from shifting responsibility but begin to address the erroneous allocation frameworks.
- iii. Monitoring the amount that is allocated is very critical to ensure that there are no leakages in the system. 'Following the Money' is what SSFs and NSAs need to do as a contribution to improving budget performance. Given the regime of Freedom of Information (FOI) in Nigeria for instance, and the new era of publication of annual budgets and monthly allocations to states and local governments, accessing information for budget tracking is not therefore as challenging as previously was.
- iv. SSFs do not get adequate revenue for their produce through what appears like middlemen's conspiracy against them using poor pricing. Another form of conspiracy is the silence of NGOs in not reacting to violations of the Maputo Declaration. They ought to lead advocacy by writing Memos, organizing non-violent rallies and street matches to the Legislature (without abuse of persons) during budget process to draw attention to the Maputo Declaration.
- v. Farmers need to organize strategically and aim to make their voices heard. Related to this is the point of leadership of farmers' association which is to be held by real farmers not 'portfolio', city or political

- farmers who are more interested in parley with government to win contracts and attendance of international conferences.
- vi. Mainstreaming gender in agriculture budgeting is imperative since women constitute more than 60% of actual agriculture operators in Nigeria. Given some challenges they face such as land acquisition, domestic duties and lack of direct access to productive resources, the budget needs to disaggregate some aspects where men and women may be differently affected.
 - vii. Stakeholders in the Nigerian agriculture need to resist some negative developments against SSFs such as land grabbing and on the other hand galvanise support for the implementation of the national, regional and international frameworks for improvement of agriculture, food security and poverty reduction.
 - viii. The private sector has potentials to support the development of the agricultural economy but given that presently the private sector is more interested in profit-making than structural development investment, there is need for government to keep providing both the enabling environment for growth and financial resources through adequate budget allocation to the agriculture sector.
 - ix. The issues of budgeting for agriculture are beset by political hypocrisy of leaders who are not sufficiently committed to improving the lives of the poor. Diverse governments pay different levels of attention to such issues. As an instance, though the role of appropriating national resources to the sectors such as agriculture is a constitutional mandate of the Legislature, the Executive blackmails it to accept its proposals. There is need for both arms of government to demonstrate equal commitment in achieving 10% budgetary allocations to the agriculture sector and Nigerians should advocate and pray for leaders to see wisdom in developing the agriculture sector.

6.0. Technical Sessions 3 & 4

Session 3: Appropriation that targets job creation and compliance with Ratified frameworks

Session 4: 2012 Nigeria Agriculture Budget: Evaluation and Lessons for 2013.

Chair: Ken UKAOHA, Esq.

Key Speaker: Barr. Eze ONYEKPERE – Executive Director Centre for Social Justice;

Alain SY TRAORE - Head of Division/Acting Director,
Production Chains and Markets, ECOWAS Commission

Panellists: Dr Abdoulaye FEYE - Le Hub Rural, Senegal.

6.1. Chair's Opening Remarks

39. The chair announced that the session is meant to overview the compliance rate of ECOWAS member nations to Maputo Declaration and CAADP using Nigeria's 2012 budget as a case study. He urged the participants to be analytical of the issues and strategize on how to contribute for achieving the benchmarks of Maputo Declaration and CAADP.

6.2. Key Presentation by Barr Eze Onyekpere (Executive Director, Center for Social Justice, Nigeria)

40. The speaker pointed out that the 2012 budget highlights Fiscal Consolidation, Inclusive Growth and Employment generation and the overriding role of agriculture in the economy. Agriculture and its associated activities promote growth in other sectors and therefore the development of the economy is not possible without focus on agriculture demonstrated through budget allocations. The present dependence of the economy on oil and gas to the neglect of agriculture is not only helpless but unsustainable.

41. The Nigeria's 2012 budget promises transformation through private sector driven efforts such as risk sharing with banks; subsidizing interest rates for agriculture loans; reduction/removal of import duties for agro-industrial machines; substitution of wheat with cassava in bread-making; and prohibition of import of cassava, etc. However, as beautiful as these look and sound, the agriculture budget is about 1.67% of the total budget and this presents a lacuna between policy and resource allocation and therefore one can only imagine how the results expected from the sector under the Transformation Agenda will be achieved. Except the resources for agriculture are made to reflect standards such as made in the Maputo Declaration, the country will continue to have unfilled expectations.

6.3. Key Presentation by Alain SY Traore (Director, Department of Agriculture- ECOWAS Commission)

42. The presenter provided an overview of ECOWAS Commission and CAADP to say that ECOWAS is transforming from that of states to that of people. He noted that Agriculture and Food is part of the eight major areas of intervention by the Treaty establishing ECOWAS. He cited an example of ECOWAS programmes in the sector in the policy dialogue with member states to define a regional agriculture policy. But he further observed that ECOWAS member states are partly responsible for low awareness of its programmes and areas of intervention among regional peoples.

43. Further he informed participants that to operationalize CAADP, ECOWAS Agricultural Programme (ECOWAP), the Commission developed Regional Agriculture Investment Plans (RAIPs) and 15 National Agriculture Investment Plans (NAIPs) for ECOWAS member states and that those have further components which when fully implemented will achieve the following objectives with the overall goal to modernize the agriculture sector to achieve food security in the perspective of regional integration:

- i. Promotion of strategic products for food security and sovereignty.
- ii. Promotion of an enabling environment for agribusiness and agriculture development.
- iii. Reduction of vulnerability and the promotion of the access to food for vulnerable population.
- iv. Governance, coordination, steering and M & E of the implementation of the ECOWAP.

44. He informed participants that the Maputo Declaration benchmark is just to ensure that member states budget a minimal amount of resources to achieve 6% growth rate in their economies but that countries can go beyond the 10% allocation of budget resources to agriculture benchmark to fast-track agriculture development in their countries and achieve the objectives of the RAIP and their individual NAIP. According to Mr Traore, ECOWAS Commission invested \$6million to help each of the 15 member countries to develop NAIP and those are additional resources which countries can leverage on for agriculture investments and if any country cites funds as challenges to implementing Maputo Declaration agriculture investments, it is simply saying agriculture is not its priority.

45. Speaking about Nigeria's status with implementing Maputo Declaration standards, he regretted that despite being 60% of West Africa's economy and that it voluntarily signed the framework, it has failed to achieve the benchmark. He cited policy inconsistencies as possible challenges with that and Nigeria not

having a common framework for agriculture development may have led to its missing the opportunity of benefitting from \$2.6 million provided by donors. He concluded by saying that a dedicated ECOWAS Agriculture and Food Development Fund may become operational in January 2013 for promoting NSAs involvement in achieving the CAADP objectives and that organisations like NANTS are welcome to seek it for their work.

6.4. Issues and Comments from Panel Discussants

46. There were several issues raised by participants as concerns and interests. These include:

- i. Matching Nigeria's agric budget with Maputo Declaration shows a deficit of 8.33% and this cannot be acceptable. The situation may have been caused by duplication of MDAs which jostle for scarce resources justifying the rationalization of agencies within the Ministry of agriculture.
- ii. Nigeria should not over-subscribe to the hypocritical ideologies of the Western World which advise developing economies to withdraw the involvement of the state in managing the economy whereas they even subsidize similar aspects of their own economy.
- iii. The unbundled headings in the agriculture budget for 2012 are crafty strategies to make monitoring of the budget implementation impossible. Nonetheless NSAs are supposed to interface with the budget and this should not deter NSAs seeking to engage with the Budget process as they should still find creative ways of getting information to aid their work.
- iv. For 2013, NSAs should support government to rationalize the MDAs; government should increase the overall vote to agriculture to at least 10%; stakeholders should be sufficiently consulted to ensure wider ideas are tapped from every quarter beyond those of the government.
- v. There is need to go beyond immediate food needs to create reserve capacity so that food security is guaranteed and to serve as a permanent market in case of a crisis situation so that people do not begin to consume their 'non-traditional' foods.

6.5. Open Discussions

47. **Bawa Umar, (NANTS Farmer-Member, Karshi)** queried the advice to abandon inorganic fertilizer insisting that for them as practising farmers, such advices were not practicable and that the bigger issue for them is that the 2

bags of inorganic fertilizer allocated to him in previous years and the 4 bags promised him for next season is grossly insufficient given his need of 20 bags. He wondered what to do to fill the gaps for his fertilizer needs?

48. **Shamsudeen Yusuf (Centre for Democracy and Development- CDD)** was concerned about holistic strategies for achieving the social sector transformation, arguing that agriculture and the other social sectors cannot be treated in isolation. There is need for streamlining of the social sectors and appropriate budgeting for overall development.

49. **Peter Egwudah of CISCOPE** thanked NANTS for organizing the dialogue and agreed with the key speaker that Nigeria has become apathetic to making things work and lacks the political will to improve the country. He added that there is no need to hold ECOWAS responsible for Nigeria's agriculture challenges. He stated that as at today, Nigeria has no NAIP and even the Agriculture Transformation Agenda (ATA) is not people-driven with the capacity to implement its plans very low. He commended ECOWAS for moving to that of Peoples but charged them to enforce their policies and programmes as there may not be implementation without appropriate enforcement of the frameworks (Maputo Declaration and CAADP). He finally called on all participants to advocate for increased budgetary resource to agriculture and to channel them through NGOs working with SSFs as the farmers have more confidence in them.

50. **Lady Amerdomey of TY Danjuma Foundation** said the stakeholders are aware of the problems but what is needed is solution to them. As a suggestion, CSOs can mobilise farmers to go on strike if need be to pressure government into action. For example, tomato farmers can withdraw their produce from the market. She called NANTS to lead such actions.

51. **Mabinuori Joshua (a farmer)** commended NANTS for organizing the dialogue and the key speakers for their insightful discuss while noting that part of the challenges is that Nigeria was least prepared for the meeting recently held in Dakar for improving the sector where other countries got money from ECOWAS. He said that notwithstanding the challenges with Nigeria, ECOWAS should review the situation that Nigeria did not benefit from the \$2.6million given its recognised leadership role in West Africa. He challenged Nigerians to organise and make things work for farmers using all available fronts such as NANTS, ASSAPIN, AFAN, Women in Agriculture in Nigeria (WIN) etc. He concluded that even 10% of budget allocation to agriculture won't be enough given the demands on the sector.

52. **Mrs Lizzy Igbine (representative of Nigerian Women Farmers)** noted that from the Governor's Forum speech, they understand the problem but that CSOs

may not have the accurate data on what federal, states and LGAs get for agriculture. Coupled with this is that farmers do not know their rights. She assured that women farmers will work underground to build capacity, create clusters in local communities and states to put governments at all levels under pressure, and women need to be organised to achieve these. She also called for strong M & E of budgets.

6.6. Responses from Key Speakers and Panellists

53. **Barrister Onyekpere** was delighted that people are beginning to ask questions and understand food sovereignty, recalling that government never listens until pressure is mounted on it and hence NSAs and farmers should stop agonizing but begin to organize for implementation of the Maputo Declaration.

54. **Mr Traore** advised SSFs and all participants to insist on their rights as the 10% budget on agriculture includes allocation to federal agencies, farmer groups and NGOs and every one can access it on rights basis. He reiterated that Mr Bawa's perspective on fertilizer is right but organic and inorganic fertilizers should be combined for best results. All the panellists agreed that rights enforcement is important and M & E is critical and that information is basic for M & E.

7.0. Dialogue Conclusions and Recommendations

55. Since countries including Nigeria voluntarily signed the Maputo Declaration and other conventions, such countries should implement the frameworks to address the challenges of food insecurity and poverty in Africa and Nigeria in particular since it is 60% of the West African economy.

56. ECOWAS member states should implement the Regional Agriculture Investment Plans (RAIPs) and 15 National Agriculture Investment Plans (NAIPs) which ECOWAS Agricultural Programme (ECOWAP) developed for member states. When the Plans and all their components are fully implemented will achieve food security in the perspective of regional integration. Given its leadership status, Nigeria needs to ensure that the Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) align with these to ensure convergent focus.

57. Many ECOWAS member states have not met the Declaration stipulations as at 2008, and this may be due partly to lack of sanctions for the failing countries. The most probable net effect is of this non-compliance is failure of agriculture in its role of securing food for West Africans. For instance, Nigeria allocating about N79bn to agriculture out of a federal budget of N4trn in 2012 is not only dismal and a far cry from the standards set in Maputo Declaration but

with this trend, the country cannot achieve the goals set for agriculture as a vehicle for realizing the expected economic transformation.

58. To get the whole picture and arrive at the judgment of how well Nigeria and other countries are doing with the Maputo Declaration, there is need to different between national budget and national public expenditure on agriculture as implied in the Declaration. The latter includes expenditure both at states and local government levels (in the case of Nigeria) and regions, counties and Districts (in other countries) and such must be considered along with federal expenditure. However when so analyzed for Nigeria, the 2012 federal, state and local government agriculture budgets put together falls short of the 10% benchmark by Maputo Declaration.

59. Poverty is caused and exacerbated by sheer positioning and power dynamics that neglects the concerns of the poor and marginalized people in the society including Small Scale Farmers (SSFs). Poverty among the SSFs can be eradicated by simply increasing resources for agriculture and infrastructure development to address the problems of rural dwellers which will further boost the morale of farmers and of their productivity. Adhering to the 10% Maputo Declaration benchmark by political leaders, will have multiplier effects the entire economy.

60. Public and private sectors investment in Agriculture Sector is bound to increase given the incentives in the Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) and there is need to coordinate those with further development of mechanisms for harnessing the increasing investments in agriculture. Similarly, Ministries, Departments and Agencies which implement agriculture development programmes and projects need to have the MDA's absorptive capacity built and enhanced. It is gross inefficiency to increases agriculture budgets without a corresponding increase in capacity to spend the resources.

61. The Nigerian government is responsible for Nigeria not reaching the Maputo Declaration target nine years on and instead of giving excuses begin to address the erroneous allocation frameworks. Public and private sectors stakeholders have to raise voices supporting increased allocation to agriculture and specifically to SSFs, and also for Parliament to make strategic appropriations skewed towards job creation using agriculture in which Nigeria has comparative advantage.

62. Some more critical areas of agriculture development that requires urgent attention include:

- i. removing bottlenecks associated with collateral issues and making language of communication friendly;
- ii. access to credits for SSFs by increasing their availability, farmers' awareness of them;
- iii. resisting land grabbing tendencies despite incentives from Europe;
- iv. need for infrastructural development such as roads so that SSFs can easily convey produce from rural communities to better markets;
- v. efficient combination of organic and inorganic fertilizers for greater yields;
- vi. the restoration of extension services;
- vii. support to SSFs by developing and making seeds resistant to climate change available to them.
- viii. value addition to make seasonal products sustainable and ensure that SSFs have income all year round; and
- ix. creative incentive for guaranteed markets so that SSFs are sure to sell their produce at attractive prices;

63. Some negative developments against SSFs such as land grabbing need all stakeholders in Nigerian agriculture to jointly and vehemently resist while galvanising support for the implementation of the national, regional and international frameworks for improvement of agriculture, food security and poverty reduction such as Maputo Declaration, CAADP, NAIP and ATA.

64. Non-state actors (NSAs) have opportunity and responsibility to 'Follow the Money' through monitoring of agriculture appropriations. This task is made easier given Freedom of Information and publication of annual budgets and monthly allocations to states and local governments. To leave the expenditure unmonitored is likely to lead to financial impropriety but an effective monitoring mechanism will lead to greater budget impacts in the agriculture sector.

65. There is need for NSAs and farmers in particular to stop agonizing but begin to organize for putting pressure on governments at all levels for implementation of the Maputo Declaration. Such pressure will keep resource allocators and managers of agriculture projects and programmes on their toes in meeting the expectations of the Declaration.

8.0. Next Steps – Follow-up Action Plan

66. The workshop identified and highlighted actions that need to be undertaken arising from the outcomes, and challenged NANTS to take urgent step in leading the process. These include:

- i. **Producing and circulating the Communiqué** of the Dialogue
- ii. **Drafting and documenting the report** and sending to all dialogue participants for further inputs.
- iii. **Publishing the final report in a booklet form** as a necessary advocacy material to be circulated among government, NSAs and Parliamentarians across Africa as well as other relevant stakeholders such as African Institutions and international organizations.
- iv. **Production of budget advocacy briefs** that possibly captures farmers and private sectors thinking on how and composition of an effective agric budgets design that positively impacts on the sector.
- v. **Building the capacity of SSFs and Civil Society organizations in Nigeria and across West Africa to enable them engage in agric budget monitoring and tracking of projects and advocacy** at all arms and tiers of government especially, at the member States and Local Government Areas. This would improve accountability and good governance even at local levels.
- vi. **Conducting 2013 budget proposal appraisal/preview**
- vii. **Publishing African countries yearly allocation** to agriculture.
- viii. **Embarking on advocacy for increased allocation** to agriculture across West Africa.
- ix. **Engaging in Policy Dialogues** and debates aimed at reviewing various agric related regulations/frameworks at national, regional and continental levels.
- x. **Information dissemination and sensitizations** on regulatory mechanisms/commitments such as Free Movement Protocol on agric commodities across the region; access to land and land grab related issues; Regional Agriculture Investment Plan (RAIP), Commitments under ECOWAS Vision 2020; implementation of ECOWAP; regional products certification under the ETLs and CET, etc
- xi. **Tracking the implementation** of agric budgets in Nigeria and ECOWAS.
- xii. **Organizing of interactive session** in collaboration with the Parliament, to review the 2012 Nigeria agric budget implementation and performance to help the National Assembly in pursuing their budget oversight function.

- xiii. **Establishing small scale oriented processing industries** through the support and collaboration with donor/international organizations. This would (i) increase productivity among SSFs, (ii) challenge government towards small scale orientation and design of agric projects, and (iii) reduce the high rate and volume of perishability of agric produce.

9.0. Closing Remarks by the Chair

67. In the final analysis, the work is left in the hands of farmers and NGOs but it is appalling that governments willingly signed the Maputo Declaration and to implement that which was signed is problematic. The Chair announced that for the purposes of holding government accountable, monitoring and tracking budgets, Citizens Wealth Platform has been formed by NSAs to continuously bridge the gap. He notified that NANTS has resolved and taken it upon herself to constantly analyse budgets for Agriculture as well as the Trade and Investment sectors of the economy in order to bring about change. He called on NSAs and donors to team up with NANTS to increase demands for change.

10.0. Event Photographs



Left to Right: Mrs Lizzy Igbine of the Women Farmers Association; Ifeoma Charles- Monuuba (Deputy Country Director of Actionaid Nigeria; Hon Mongono (House Committee Chair on Agriculture); Senator (Dr) Abdullahi Adamu (Chair of the Dialogue) and others on the high seat.



Members of the High Table during the occasion



From Left to Right: Barrister Oscar OKORO – Secretary, House Committee on Agriculture; and Dr (Mrs) Fortune MADUEHYI-IHUA – Secretary, Senate Committee on Agriculture



Hon. Adeleke Mabinuori – Deputy President of ASSAPIN makes presentation on behalf of farmers



Director of the Nigerian Governors Forum delivering his speech at the event



Left to Right: Barrister Eze Onyekpere of Center for Social Justice; Ken Ukaoha, Esq - NANTS President; Dr Sy Traore - Director of Agriculture at the ECOWAS Commission making his presentation; and Dr Feye Abdoulaye of Le Hub Rural, Senegal during the 2nd Technical Session.





Barr Eze Onyekpere makes his presentation during the 2nd Technical Session of the dialogue



Dr Sunday Iniene - Director in charge of CAADP at the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development making his presentation while the Chairman of the dialogue - Senator (Dr) Abdullahi Adamu listens



Hon Mohammed Mongono - Chair House Committee on Agriculture making his remarks



Dr. Aliou B. Senghore of the ECOWAS Parliament making presentation on behalf of the Secretary-Gen of the Parliament



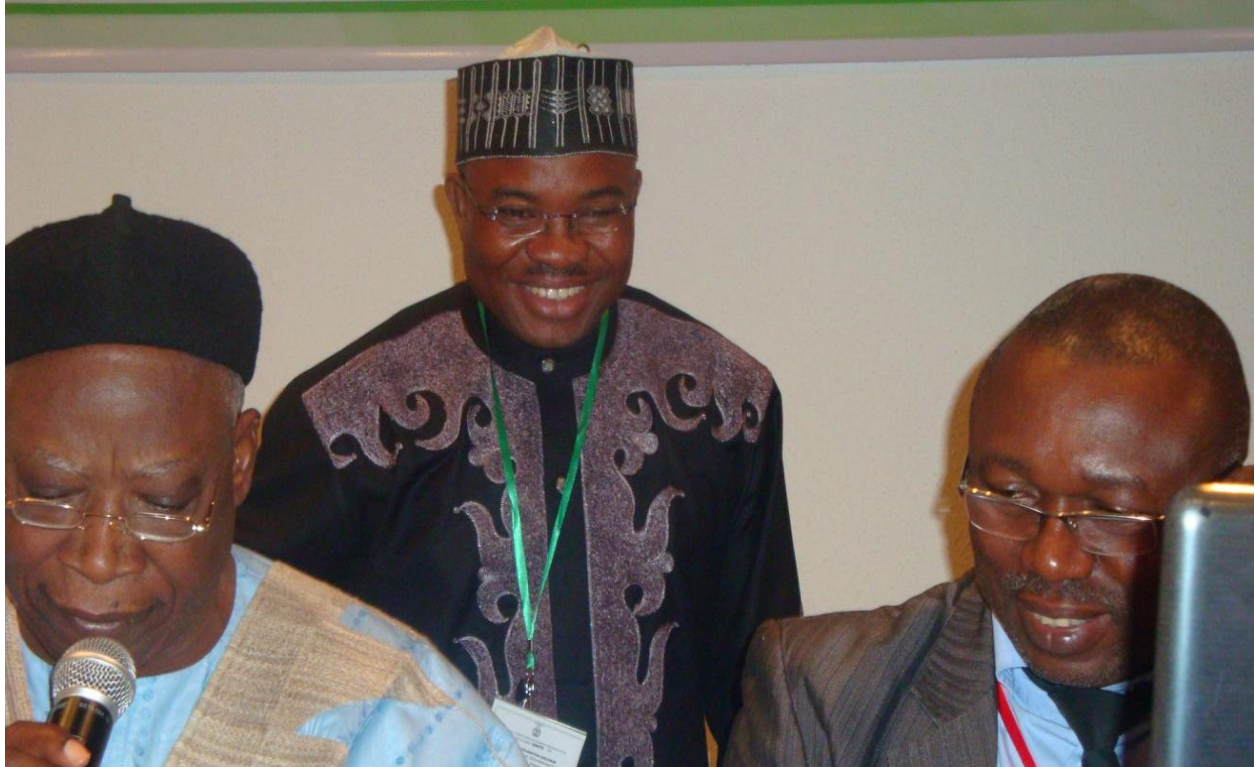
Members of the High table



Hon Sadiatu SANI - Special Assistant to the President on Parliament, and Ken UKAOHA - Secretariat President of NANTS exchanging views



Ifeoma Charles-Muonuba of Actionaid delivering her paper



Left to Right: Senator Abdullahi Adamu, Ken UKAOHA of NANTS and Dr Sunday Ihiene of Fed Ministry of Agriculture



Left to Right: Ibi Ikpoki of the European Union, Ken UKAOHA of NANTS and Dr Ernst Aubee of ECOWAS Commission chatting on budget evaluation issues.



Some members of NANTS Small Scale Farmers captured during presentations



Prof. Prof. Kroabena Gimah-Brempong of IFPRI, Roseline Hemen and Hon. Ajibade Babarola of All Farmers Association of Nigeria - AFAN at the event



Cross section of farmers



Cross section of participants and media



A cross section of small scale farmers and participants at the event



NANTS Secretariat President chats with the Media at the event



Various publications of NANTS on Agriculture displayed for free collection by participants during the event.

For: **National Association of Nigerian Traders (NANTS), VFS and ASSAPIN**

Ken UKAOHA, Esq.
NANTS Secretariat President

11.0. Attendance Sheet

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