

CATALYZING ACTION & AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION IN AFRICA: TAKING THE PULSE OF CAADP

QUESTION AND ANSWER TRANSCRIPT

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Robert: Yeah, thank you so much, Augustine, for those comments. I'll probably cut down our conversation so that we can save some time to have some feedback and listen to some questions from those who are listening to us. But I do want to ask one last question around the biannual review, and particularly the mutual accountability, and I think it also one of the topics that many of those who are listening and sending in messages about, and asking questions.

But I want to start by just asking each of you to help us unpack this idea of mutual accountability. In general, it seems like we are trying to achieve collective input and so we are using some kind of shared metric system, and we are being accountable to each other. And but many people do not understand exactly what we mean when we say mutual accountability in CAADP. And I want to start with you, Fatmata, in just a minute.

This is actually commitment number seven. The heads of state sat down. They made commitments covering very specific content areas, I could call them, like resilience or hunger and so on. But the seven commitments, sounded a little different like something our accountability to each other, mutual accountability to actions and results through our results framework. And a lot of people are looking at Africa and saying, that's interesting.

So Fatmata, what does mutual accountability mean to you? Can you help us unpack this idea from your standpoint and if you could do so like in a minute or so.

Fatmata: Oh, not to reinvent the wheel, with whatever I'm like thinking all kind of school

Fatmata: ...Accountability is the same at the continental level. It's about you and I agreeing that I will do this, you will do that, and time after time we see back to reflect. We'll see whether we agreed to do, we have done. So I took a decision, I will provide with you agreed to provide that and we are agreeing within a timeline and quickly check to see what progress we have made towards our commitments. That's the simplest explanation I can give you. Thank you.

Robert: Thanks, thanks Fatmata. Augustine, do you have a different take on this? What? What does it mean from where you sit? Or do you have any additional points on mutual accountability within the context of CAADP? If you could say something in a minute.

Augustine: Yeah. Can you hear me?

My take... My take on the matter is very simple. Going back to what CAADP good for. CAADP wanted to bring a new way of business in agriculture. This was back in 2003. And this was in the context of the new partnership for Africa's development. And there was

an agreement, that the time has come for Africa to take leap. But Africa was also of the view, that we speak on, we continued... we needed to continue to work with the partners in a mutually effective manner where people are held accountable to what the committee do and they resolve that they achieve.

CAADP in the agricultural sector that was what it was supposed to be. But for the first, most probably, three years of CAADP, we were going through the issue of accountability in the context of the but after some point that concept kind of started to be diluted.

Now we the be are the notions of holding partners mutually accountable. I've come back to the fold but how much mutual is this accountability, is the question that we may at some point would like to address. For the time being, we see African countries agree to pause, to track progress, and report on what the committee do, their performance. Is it now with the new VR, the new types of that we're looking at how to establish easily measurable indicator for the other partner, for the loan partners. Almost had opportunity, wasn't there for me to do, and how much I do walking the talk. So this is now the time of mutual accountability in the context of CAADP.

Robert: Thanks. Thanks, Augustine, for that and I'll finish this with the biggest, the defining of mutual accountability review. Ernest, again in a minute, what... do you have a different angle to it, mutual accountability?

Ernest: I think the mutual accountability that is the mission here, I've attempted to implement it in the core of action... accountability to action and results.

Robert: Okay, Thank you.

Ernest: Hello can you hear me?

Robert: We can hear you

All right. But we did get at least your first point about it being being accountable for action and results. So it's not just accountability for results but also for actions that need to build results. And I think we are running short of time but I'm hoping that we could somehow go over, for a few minutes, just because we started a bit late, and then that will allow us to address some of the questions that have come in. And want I keep to this topic and ask about data quality.

So the whole topic of mutual accountability within CAADP is also driven by the biannual review. And we have questions coming in from some of our listeners, asking about the quality of the data. Some of them said, yes, that the experience has been that in some cases is poor quality data or lack of data. And this has affected the reliability and the

confidence with which we look at this results and [ideas 00:07:47]. And I just want to come back to you, Ernest, and find out whether you have a response to this challenge of quality of data.

Ernest: Thank you, Robert. We knew from the beginning that the data quality is very, very a big problem. We knew from the beginning because of the self reporting. But the purpose, one of the purpose of this biannual review, is also to strengthen country systems. So why do we have 14 countries have from data systems that can inform different indicators that are captured in this biannual review.

The question will now be, how do we encourage countries to censor their data system, so that when they report, they reports confidently with quality data, number one. Number two, how do we make sure that country's when they report, the report validated reports by all of conduct. So that at least we assure that countries have met their efforts to mobilize everything that at that country level or from different sources.

So number three, we wanted also to increase ownership of the reports. Because I remember from the reports, during the presentation of the reports, in the sum up. Head of were African, where did you come with this data? And only report that was bringing some piece, during the presentation, that the data came from the country, this is the process that we used to collect data from the country, from ministries collected direct level and come up to communion.

I think one of the call of the reports was to certain countries that assisted and we are... as a CAADP opportunity, to make sure that we also respond to this call. Technical partners, different partners, African Union, and countries themselves, together with the support country system, support countries to come with their own data. Thank you.

Robert: Thank you, Ernest, for that. And I think the broader data issues, I think that [within CAADP . I got... earlier on we were having a conversation about compliance with NEPAD and the process and so on. And I liked a lot of your answers. Some of our listeners have also commented on that. And one question that's come up that, I think, would be useful to clarify is whether they, there's any evidence maybe from a study or even anecdotal, to show that when you're compliant, when you follow some of those CAADP processes to the letter, does it reflect in your performance? Is there a way to show that by having compliance, or signing the compact and doing all these other things, it then directly leads to better performance? Could you care to comment on that?

Augustine: Yes. Thank you very much for the question. I think it's a very good one. It keeps coming for the past four years, I think, we've been receiving this. I just wanted to suggest that if you look back briefly, if we leave this study, last year, I believe, showing the journey from and to where we are today. And showing how many countries are really fully

embrace the CAADP. And comparing their performance to the performance of those, which are not in CAADP, or not so fully. And it was a correlation between the current performance today and the tardiness for the countries who reject CAADP or the not so [inaudible 00:12:38] way of embracing the values and principles. Including the fact that, CAADP have to be inclusive. The programs have to be inclusive.

What moves into the night have to be a reflection of national consensus. Countries where we've seen good results or better results, are countries that, one, early adopters of relevant, visible CAADP. That they now have core CAADP but they were doing exactly what CAADP was recommending.

Two, countries with a very strong regional leadership during the duration try to stick to what the committee do. A country with that is fully aligned to the national government plan.

There is not signaling ministry as just another project. In an office with the network is running a project pilot to that one competing. Countries with a very strong in-country coordination among the loan partners and the document. The in-country coordination mechanism open to what stakeholders including.

Country believing in the powerful role of the public sector having a key role to play as a driver for confirmation. Countries believing that unless you begin to put your own resources, to prioritize putting your own resources into making confirmation happen. You will be waiting for the partner to come and do for you, they will set the data, set the direction and not happen the way we wanted it to. There is clear evidence, where was the community if they are established on the matter. As we are talking, I'm trying to retrieve the information so I can share the link with the way we did. Thank you.

Robert: Thank you. Thank you, Augustine. I have several people asking questions around the 10% commitment that started in Maputo in 2003 and whether we have achieved anything with that. As African countries where heads of state sat down and said, "We are gonna put 10% of our annual national budget expenditure to agriculture and rural development." This was in Maputo in 2003 and it was in Malabo in 2014. How well are we doing on this one? And Fatmata, I guess, I just to get your sense from ECOWAS just as a snapshot of Africa.

What's the challenge here? Is that... are we still having arguments about what's in 10% or are the countries that you're dealing with now fully compliant and spending 10% of their budget on agriculture and everything is Hunky Dory? What's the status?

Fatmata: Okay, thank you very much, Robert. I'm from the ECOWAS point, I think one of the challenges we all have is that change of government. So every five years for so we have

new additions. And if you don't hurry up, and go and re-incentivize that government on CAADP process, we are starting all over again.

Well, recently, as recent as April, in land with restock we did a quick analysis, to know where we really are at ECOWAS on the 10%. And from the analysis that was done, we have Mali and Burkina Faso that have actually exceeded the 10%. Senegal and Niger are close, they are around 9 to 9.5%. Sierra Leone is around 6.5% and we have a few countries that are below 4%, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, and Nigeria. But there are also others that are below 2%.

So you can get a regional picture, ECOWAS is weak in Nigeria. We are only at 4%. [ECCAS 00:16:50] has resolved Nigeria with about five point of thing. So we are trying to get we have been about in incentivize the countries. So we do re-incentivization when governments change or there are a few countries that have owned and agreed and are committed to the 10%. And there are few that we are battling with them to really understand why it's important because it was the commitment in 2003. So as [ECCAS 00:17:32], a lot of effort is being made and I think, just in May, the first week of May, we came from a few countries where we again had to resell this entire process. Thank you.

Robert: Thank you, Fatmata. So I hear 4%, 5% depending on whether you are Nigeria in or not. And I know that back here in east Africa, in Kenya, it's probably something to do with 2 to 3% and that's not any different from some of our neighbors as well. So I'm wondering, because this is what the call of CAADP success. How these fits with you, Ernest, your audio was a little bit grainy earlier on. Would you, therefore, and now I'm looking at the clock. I think we're gonna stop in less than in about eight minutes. So I'm going to probably ask my final questions. Just to leave time to close up. Would you say, Ernest, that given the totality of the information we have, that CAADP is headed in the right direction? Have I lost Ernest?

Ernest: [inaudible 00:19:04]. Yes. Thank you, Robert. I think we need to also be very positive because we have more than 44 countries which are tiny, they're compact. What is seven countries which reported on the progress of CAADP. We have 20 countries which are on the track to achieve... to achieving Malabo targets by 2025. And you have countries making greater efforts to invest in agriculture. Yes. Not to 10% but if you compare fiscal year to fiscal year, you will see that the budgets to agriculture is, I'll tell, is increasing.

I think that is something to celebrate here, but we need to be aware that we also have a lot of efforts to make. We are talking about 10% but we are not able to really break into mobilizing private sector investment in Africa and this is real essential. And I think, if you check all the seven commitments, the chief area of land needs to be, efforts need to be [inaudible 00:00:20:30] especially commitment on ending hunger. You see that we are still landing that on resilience. So there is much we are achieving, but also I think we

really need to put emphasis on key areas that make [inaudible 00:20:48]. I believe that the infrastructure is in place, the mechanism are already known. It's a matter again working together to make sure that we implemented this Malabo declaration. Thank you very much.

Robert: Thank you. Thank you, Ernest. So basically there's a lot of progress but there's also have challenges and a lot of work ahead. I'll pose the same question to you first, Fatmata, in your opinion, CAADP headed in the right direction?

Fatmata: Yes, Robert, I can see on the screen three questions. And I agree, yes, but Like you said.

Fatmata: Yes. I am saying that, Yes, CAADP is headed in the right direction. But it still needs to be improved at all three levels, that's the continental, regional, and country level. Within the first phase of the CAADP and second phase I think a lot of programs have been made because people have own the process to a very large extent. I think we are there and we have tried to establish a lot of systems and mechanisms because you could see that between 2014 and now, especially during this first biannual review process, we have also been able to establish or re-establish [inaudible 00:22:41] because they resisted before but they were not very formal.

We have our technical network. Before we know that research [inaudible 00:22:49] at all the regional economic block or during the first [inaudible 00:22:54] process. And we can see that we now have these really very formal at the continental level. We are using those team as part for the out processes, for the [inaudible 00:23:03] processes. For the CC... economic modeling or simulation even at the regional level. So we are beginning to have our systems, our structures in place. For me, I think, as long as those ones exist, gradually we will get there. Yes. CAADP is heading in the right direction.

Robert: Thank you very much, Fatmata. Speaking from a Abuja. We are, our structures and processes are in place. We just need to intensify our effort. Augustine, do you agree with your two colleague on this question?

Augustine: Yes, I agree with what was suggested. We have to be positive. A lot of things are happening. What we couldn't do is to drop the ball simply because we keep repeating. I think we have to repeat. The more we repeat the message get across. Are way of contributing that our only process now. Yet we have been courting those country, literally pushing them to integrate for 10 years.

I don't like you say, wow, we didn't know how good CAADP was. Now with the VR, with what countries are gained from the Maputo process. We are in the stronger position today to say that we are going that in the way to go. I believe that the is a very good framework, it is was the very powerful framework to compare alignment vis a vis

external player coming to support action on the ground. But also to force the government to make sure that what you tried to do in our work is fully responding to what is contained in your own plan.

So it's something that's very powerful. That use the platform also to rally in a very positive manner or the key player or the people in. In quite a few countries we didn't have that before. CAADP has made it possible and it is in our interest now to apply the funding or the lesson that we've learned so far. Make sure that we continue to get out the process. So to me is an important tool. It's just a matter of making sure that we continue to keep it alive. We continue to bring on board innovations that are emerging. That's all.

Robert: Thank you very much, Augustine. On that very positive note CAADP is alive and kicking. We just need to intensify effort. And I want to thank you Augustine Fatmata and Ernest for your responses and for the fascinating conversation we just had. We couldn't get to so many questions that we needed to cover because time as always is limited and we had some technical challenges at the beginning. But this has been a wonderful experience for me personally and I want to thank all those who joined the conversation or listening in with the lots and lots of feedback that we've received. These have been quite useful, I believe for everyone. The conversation continues beyond these in other forums so we'll continue for a question. I'd like to hand over to my colleague, Shannon Pebble, whom you met earlier on a full closing remarks.

Shannon: So much to everybody for your active participation and especially to our panelists from all over Africa. I think we can all agree we only really scratched the surface today. So one of our main objectives of this conversation was to find out what are some of the specific technical topics and other issues that are of interest to our stakeholders. So I think, we've got a lot of those already identified. I think what we'll try to do as part of Africa Leads learning series over the next few months is address and dive deeper to some of these things. We were just discussing internally as a team, right here, maybe what we're talking about is a blog post specifically answering some of the questions that have come through. One of the other colleagues here on the chat box that actually maybe we could do a three part series. So we might look at other webinars.

I think, the main thing is that we wanted to get everybody on the same page as a basis for discussion and it looks like we've done that. So what you've got on your screen right now are a couple of resources that were launched last week at CAADP. I encourage everybody to go to these links. The first one is what we're calling the Biannual Review Toolkit, but really what it is, is the data that was produced as part of this process and available in an online interactive, user-friendly format. So you can actually go online, filter by country, filter by other things you're interested in, download PowerPoints. It's a

much more user friendly, accessible way to kind of interact with this data for your own purposes.

The second one is what's called a knowledge compendium and it's about Malabo domestication itself, so that process that Augustine was describing and we were talking about earlier on. So please check out these resources.

The next slide should be about some of the upcoming learning series events that we had anticipated, but like I said, these were illustrative upcoming ideas. I think we've already identified a couple other ones. There was some interest from the audience on the CAADP peer to peer network. We might be doing something to engage other stakeholders in that. Ask the experts sessions are things that we've held in in the past. We might do something on just the Biannual review data itself. Maybe a walk walkthrough of the toolkit. Help people interact, download, ask specific questions, query certain things.

These three we've got up here right now are a little bit self explanatory, but just quickly, Facilitative Leadership coming up in August. This is an approach that we've found is really critical to facilitating these multi-stakeholder dialogue processes and interacting across organizations, across institutions. Institutional Architecture, Assessment, Prioritization and Planning, this is a toolkit of facilitation support tools based on the institutional architecture framework. It's really about strengthening and improving platforms for policy dialogue and evidence based decision making.

And this last one has to do with actually the topic of resilience. We've been working with some of our partners in the arid and semiarid regions of Kenya to collaborate together using collective impact and the collective impact framework for increasing collaboration across donor projects and school government priorities.

So anyway, that's just a bit of... stay tuned for more information on [Argo Link 00:30:26]. Again, thanks everybody so much for your participation. This will only be the beginning.

Julie: Great. And on behalf of USAID and Feed the Future, I'd like to thank our speakers, our panelists, and most importantly, our attendees for engaging so wonderfully in the chat box and for being part of the Agrilinks webinar series. Thank you all and be on the lookout for the post event resources. Have a good afternoon or evening everyone.

Robert: All right, bye, thank you.

Julie: Bye.

