



Women First Run, 6th March 2010 Addis Ababa, Ladies from both EU delegations in Addis

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LINK!



INSIDE THE AFRICA - EUROPEAN UNION PARTNERSHIP



Lettre d'information de la Délégation de l'Union Européenne auprès de l'Union Africaine

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DEAR READER, CHER LECTEUR,

Ce septième numéro de LINK! propose un coup de projecteur sur l'agriculture et la sécurité alimentaire, deux thèmes chers à l'actuel Président de l'Assemblée de l'Union africaine, le Président de la République du Malawi Ngwazi Dr Bingu wa Mutharika. Leur portée est également soulignée par la Commissaire Tumusiime de l'Union africaine, qui rappelle le niveau croissant de l'insécurité alimentaire.

L'Agriculture représente en effet une source importante de revenu et de subsistance, employant plus de 70 % de la population africaine dans les zones rurales. Pourtant, les systèmes de production et de distributions sont souvent encore défectueux. L'insécurité alimentaire dépend de plusieurs facteurs - certains sont naturels, d'autres sont liés à des conflits, à l'instabilité politique, à la mauvaise gouvernance et à des problèmes de santé. Les problèmes de sécurité sanitaire des aliments suscitent une préoccupation croissante, et posent un défi majeur tant pour les gouvernements, les donateurs que pour la société civile.

To be able to benefit plainly from trade in agricultural products countries have to meet Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) standards. This still represents a major challenge for the majority of African countries, where daily experience shows that there are still significant

gaps to be filled, notably in accompanying the positive trend taking place in meeting food safety standards. In this regards, EU Commissioner for Health and Consumer policy, John DALLI, highlights the commitment of the European Union to help reinforce the institutionalization of food safety policies across Africa.

Une production alimentaire ainsi que des systèmes de distribution et de préparation déficients peuvent mener à une mauvaise qualité et hygiène alimentaire et multiplier ainsi le nombre de maladies d'origine alimentaire. Celles-ci sont la cause directe de maladies et de décès affectant les plus vulnérables (enfants, femmes enceintes, personnes âgées et les personnes atteintes d'autres maladies comme par exemple le VIH/SIDA). Elles altèrent considérablement la santé et le bien-être, et constituent une charge supplémentaire pour les systèmes de santé, les foyers, les communautés et également pour le business en Afrique. Les maladies d'origine hygiène alimentaire affectent la subsistance des agriculteurs et d'autres acteurs de la chaîne alimentaire, surtout lorsqu'elles aboutissent à l'isolement des denrées et à la diminution de la confiance et de la demande des produits agricoles.

It is in this context that the EU is fully committed to do its utmost to support African counterparts in their endeavour to improve food safety procedures across the continent. We are in particular coordinating, jointly with the AU Commission's Department for Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA), the implementation of the programme "Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) Africa". Our aim is, first, to help prepare reference documents and related guidelines; second, to accompany the African regional and national authorities in the application of the documents to enhance an increased mutual recognition between competent authorities; to facilitate the adoption of common food hygiene inspection methodology; and to promote a common certification scheme as an initial step towards frameworks compatible with international (Codex) standards. Overall, this will have a positive knock-on effect of on intra-African trade.

Ce numéro de LINK! présente quelques-unes des réalisations accomplies en matière sanitaire et phytosanitaire dans le cadre du partenariat Afrique-Europe, pour 2009 et 2010. Il révèle le besoin d'harmoniser les cadres législatifs comme pilier de l'intégration régionale, du fait notamment de l'importance que revêt l'agriculture pour les économies africaines. L'Europe est l'un des marchés les plus intégrés pour ce qui est des produits agricoles, elle a donc beaucoup d'expérience à partager dans ce domaine.

Koen Vervaeke

Chef de la Délégation de l'Union Européenne
auprès de l'Union Africaine

ENTRETIEN du mois

"African culture believes a lot in sharing and when you share, you have to ensure that you are sharing wholesome foods that are safe to eat, and not giving unsafe food to your family, neighbors and customers."

Interview with Rhoda Peace TUMUSIIME, AU Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture.

What is the State of Food Security in Africa?

According to the World Food Program, by 2009 Africa had about 212 million undernourished people (an increase of about 44 million from 1990) while some 388 million lived on less than \$1.25 a day in 2005 as compared to 295 million in 1990. Reports also indicate that more than 600 million people go to sleep without food every day.

This is happening despite wonderful past efforts and progress that has been made in agricultural research and development. This means we haven't done enough. We are aware of the fundamental problems that lie ahead in this regard, mainly the ever increasing world population who require to be fed from the less-than growing food production, changes in climate and associated risks to farmers, soil degradation and volatility of agricultural prices that often send wrong the signal to farmers.



AU Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, Rhoda Peace TUMUSIIME.
Photo: EU to the AU

As the African Union what are you doing to respond to this state of affairs?

In 2003, the Heads of State and Government agreed to collectively respond to this state of affairs and adopted a Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) as a framework that guides African countries to respond to poverty, food security, hunger and malnutrition concerns in Africa. Recognizing that this was not moving fast as it was supposed to, Heads of State and Government made decisions and declarations by committing to devote 10% of national budgets to agriculture and to ensure an annual growth of 6% in agricultural production by 2015, as a way to reaffirm their commitment to respond to food insecurity in the continent

How are you linked to the global food security initiatives?

In July, 2009 in L'Aquila, Italy, leaders at the G-8 together with heads of international and regional foundations endorsed a global initiative to respond to challenges of food security, hunger and malnutrition. The initiative aimed to focus on supporting country-led plans through a comprehensive approach in responding to food security challenges. The G-8 called for strategic and coordination support of multilateral agencies with a sustained commitment of financial resources.

You are also aware that in an effort to strengthen support to the most vulnerable, the September 2009 G-20 meeting in Pittsburgh, further called for an urgent and sustained funding and targeted investments to improve long-term food security. The meeting, after welcoming the food security initiative announced in L'Aquila, called on the World Bank to work with interested donors and organizations to develop a multilateral trust fund to scale-up agricultural assistance to low-income countries.

At the World Food Summit on Food Security in 2009, world leaders assembled in Rome and pledged to take urgent action to eradicate hunger from the world. The Heads of State and Government adopting a declaration, agreed to undertake all necessary actions required at national, regional and global levels and by all States and Governments to halt immediately the increase in – and to significantly reduce – the number of people suffering from hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity.

For Africa, the G-8 identified Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program CAADP as an effective vehicle for ensuring that resources are targeted to a country's plans and priorities. Similarly, the G-20 noted that the establishment of the trust fund should focus on and finance plans similar to those being developed under CAADP. The World Food Summit in Rome also recognized and pledged support for CAADP as an example and framework through which support for agriculture and food security could be coordinated.

So we consider these pledges to work with Africa through CAADP as serious commitments at a global level and the Africa Union Commission associates herself with these global promises.

What are you doing as the African Union to ensure that your member states benefit from this process and respond to your hunger concerns?

The African Union, working with key institutions such as NEAPD Planning and Coordinating Agency have translated decisions on agriculture into actions. Since the adoption of CAADP in 2003 by the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government, the African Union institutions and governments have registered

notable progress in the implementation of CAADP. Political commitments to CAADP have continually been reaffirmed by AU Heads of State and Government as demonstrated by the adoption of relevant decisions and declarations. High level meetings (conferences, summits, etc.) have been convened over the last few years in which issues of strategic significance to accelerating CAADP implementation have been debated by relevant African Ministers as well as by the AU Heads of State and Government where decisions and declarations have subsequently been adopted.

These series of high level events provided opportunities for the AU Heads of State and Government to reaffirm their commitment to supporting agriculture development through accelerating CAADP implementation; and as a regular mechanism to track progress in implementation of their decisions taken previously as African Union Commission (AUC) reports regularly to the Ordinary Sessions of the AU Assembly on follow up and implementation of the decisions and declarations.

How about at country level?

In a resolve reaffirmed by the July 2009 summit and other decisions, the AU institutions managed to mobilize member states to embrace CAADP principles and engage in strengthening the country led processes signified by the country round table process. As part of this process, 14 member states have signed their CAADP Compacts, a basis for good and evidence-based planning, predictable and quality investment design, accountability, transparency, efficiency and implementation focusing on results. These compacts bring in different forms of engagement that recognize the roles of different actors. They provide for alignment towards a common vision and purpose. They help to bring consensus at policy level with one clear strategy for alignment of country and donor efforts. This is what African Heads of State and Government have signed on.

So far out of the 14 countries that have signed compacts, 12 were in 2009 alone. These countries include: Benin, Burundi, Ethiopia, Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Ivory Coast, the Gambia and Togo. Furthermore, 20 AU

member states are lined up to sign the Compacts by the next July Summit. The signing of CAADP compacts signifies the commitment by member states to develop clear policies and strategies for effective implementation of Agriculture and rural development initiatives that was being referred to by the G-8, G-20 and the World Food Summit.

As part of implementing the L'Aquila decisions and in the context of the resource mobilization and strengthening of partnerships mandate, AU institutions and development partners organized the CAADP Donors and Partners Meeting in September 2009, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to discuss ways in which country donors can support CAADP and ways in which both parties can collectively further enhance quality, transparency and accountability in CAADP implementation. Since then, many country partners have increased support to CAADP and this is accelerating CAADP implementation at country level.

What are the benefits of the programme “Better Training for Safer Food Africa?”

Another key area in which the African Union is putting in a lot of effort is in the area of sanitary and phyto - sanitary-SPS issues. It falls within CAADP pillar 2 again. We have engaged our partners the EU for support with standards of food safety. Within this program, tools have been developed to harmonise food hygiene inspection procedures and authorization of food production establishments for food safety. More than 300 “train the trainers” have been trained throughout Africa between 2009 and March 2010. The training and workshops will continue until the end of this year. This Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) tool will not only facilitate but will also accelerate domestic regional and international trade, thus ensuring that safe food can easily move from high density production areas

to those who do not have. African culture believes a lot in sharing and when you share, you have to ensure that you are sharing wholesome foods that are safe to eat, and not giving unsafe food to your family, neighbors and customers.

On another front, it is estimated that by 2020 50% of foods available on the African markets will be in processed form. Safe processing adds value to food including longevity of shelf-life, reduction of post harvest losses, can reduce chemicals and enhance nutritional value and specifications for consumer preference. Above all, by processing, risks arising out of microbial and physical spoilage are controlled.

A declaration has just been endorsed to reduce post-harvest losses from the current 46% to 4% by 2015. This declaration was endorsed during the high level conference on Agri-business and Agro-processing held in Abuja, Nigeria on 10th March 2010. Complying with international standards for safe food was highlighted as key in ensuring that processed foods will be safe.

These policy changes and improvements are not as expensive. Africa's own resources can be leveraged to finance these policy changes. Just take an example of Africa's estimated annual agricultural import bill of some US\$20 billion at the time of the Abuja Summit which is now closer to US\$33 billion. Importing food with US\$33 billion means that Africa is donating not only labor and financing employment abroad, but also stimulating investments elsewhere. These resources could be leveraged to finance Africa's reforms and food safety and security concerns.

STATEMENT BY COMMISSIONER JOHN DALLI

Within the European Union, sanitary and phytosanitary issues - encompassing animal health and food safety - are areas in which there have been significant achievements over the years. The EU has evolved into a highly integrated marketplace where food products must be safe irrespective of origin and European citizens are central in the minds of policy-makers.

From distinct national systems with little uniformity in legislation or controls, costly checks at national borders and cumbersome official certification, significant barriers to trade in food products were once rife. The change to a harmonised sanitary and phytosanitary regime, fine-tuned over a number of years, has been policy and market driven and involves an ever-evolving legislative framework coupled with

are becoming ever more central to trade with other nations and to regional integration within Africa itself. However, in many African countries today, there are still highly fragmented SPS rules, varying enforcement levels and insufficient compliance. This does not give consumers, both in Africa and abroad, the confidence they need. Improving standards and continuing the work underway towards better African regional integration will help to create a truly dynamic market for foodstuffs originating in Africa that can be eaten anywhere in the world. The inclusion of an SPS chapter in each of the Economic Partnership Agreements being negotiated should help to promote integration and intra-African trade, however there is more that needs to be done to create appropriate levels of legislation, to improve veterinary and official inspections and to eliminate burdensome border checks.

Africa has the capacity to face up to these challenges and we in the EU are committed to help where we can. It is for these reasons that AU Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, Mrs Rhoda Peace Tumusiime and I will work together to reinforce the institutionalisation of food safety policies across Africa. I am already very proud to see the good work that has been done to date under the programme "Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) Africa". Launched last year, this ambitious programme provides training to African officials and private companies who are responsible for applying international *Codex Alimentarius* food standards – standards on which global – including EU – rules are based. In providing this training, we aim at improving African food safety systems for the benefit of consumers and businesses. This is in keeping with our obligations under the WTO/SPS Agreement. It is also key to trade both within Africa and with the rest of the world.

As the world's largest single market and the largest importer of agricultural products, the European Union takes its responsibility to pass on best practices and to share our experience with Africa seriously. It is essential that Africa too, benefits from the advantages of high food standards, open markets for food products and peace of mind for its consumers.

John DALLI
EU Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy



EU Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy, John DALLI
Photo: European Commission

strong enforcement. With the creation of a single market of 500 million consumers, we now have a powerful incentive for food producers and national authorities alike to ensure better choice, wider supply and safer food all year round. This has allowed for specialisation and its accompanying economies of scale, enhanced export capacities for our farmers and a consumer who is comfortable with the choices he or she makes confident in the knowledge that the food in our supermarkets and on our tables is safe.

Africa is undergoing a similar change.

Given the importance of agriculture to the economy, related sanitary and phytosanitary issues

DOSSIER AGRICULTURE

1. Improving food safety across Africa
2. Improving animal health worldwide
3. The EU Agriculture Policy
4. Focus on

IMPROVING FOOD SAFETY ACROSS AFRICA

The African Union and European Union Commissions are stepping up actions to improve food safety across Africa. Following the December 2007 Lisbon Summit of AU & EU Heads of State and Government both continents have engaged in nurturing ties to improve food safety across Africa. Since April 2009 when the AU Commissioner Tumusiime and EU Commissioner Vassiliou launched a significant training campaign, concrete actions have been taken to strengthen capacities in the Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) fields throughout Africa.



From left to right: H.E. Mr. Aboubaker Al-Mansouri, Secretary of the General People's Committee for Agriculture and Animal and Marine Wealth, (Libya), AU Commissioner Bience Philomina Gawanas, Social Affairs, Former EU Health Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou, AU Commissioner Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, Rural Economy and Agriculture, Mr Jaime Silva, Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries, Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General, World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)

implementation of **seven capacity building activities** worth €10 million under the programme "**Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) Africa.**" The activities target the public and private sectors which play a role in the SPS systems at national, regional and continental levels in Africa.

They consist of

1. Evaluating the performance of veterinary services,
2. Improving the national and/or regional legal framework
3. Strengthening the capacity of laboratory technicians
4. Strengthening the capacity of Chief veterinary Officers,
5. Training the trainers on food hygiene inspections,
6. Strengthening the capacity of small and medium enterprises and
7. Strengthening the capacity of the Regional Economic Communities, AU Commission and specialised bodies.

Seven capacity building activities

The AU Commission (AUC) and European Commission (EC) are jointly coordinating, under the Trade and Regional Integration partnership of the joint Africa-EU Strategy, the

Macro and micro level objectives

The key **objective** of the activities is to support

food security mainly by means of transfer of technical expertise and policy advice in areas of food safety and quality across Africa. The knowledge, expertise and skills transferred are useful to produce and distribute agro-food products compatible with international SPS standards, contributing towards reducing the likelihood of food-borne diseases and related health and socio-economic burden in Africa. At micro level, the activities improve the use of agricultural inputs (fertilisers, pesticides, veterinary drugs, etc) and hygiene practices in the production and distribution chains, as well as animal/product management systems of control and certification, strengthening the competent authorities and producers' associations (small & medium enterprises - SMEs). At macro level, the activities are supporting the gradual integration and competitiveness of the agro-food sector, intra-African trade and strengthening the vital role of agriculture as a whole towards rural development and food security, with positive knock-on effects on growth and employment in Africa.

Harmonising food hygiene inspections in Africa through training.

Under activity 5 above, regional workshops are being organised jointly by the EC's Directorate General for Health and Consumers (DG SANCO) and the AU Commission's Department for Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA). As a result, a reference document has been prepared and discussed in 2009 by stakeholders (public and private sectors) in each region, aimed at harmonising food hygiene inspections and authorisation of food establishments. A hand-on-work activity is now underway to "train the trainers" with guidelines on how to implement the reference document. Discussions are also underway on the best ways of accompanying the implementation of the reference document as of early 2011. These reference documents and discussions on perspectives will be the subject of reports to come, in the framework of the joint Africa-EU Strategy, to be agreed jointly at expert level and submitted for political endorsement in due course.

For more details on the programme "Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) Africa:"
http://ec.europa.eu/food/training_strategy/index_en.htm

STATE OF PLAY OF THE SEVEN CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES (FEBRUARY 2010)



First BTSF Africa regional workshop regrouping all the West African countries, AUC, ECOWAS and UEMOA representatives in Accra, Ghana (6-10 July 2009)".
 Photo: Commission européenne

Activity	State of play
<p>1. To evaluate the performance of veterinary services – PVS (15 countries)</p> <p>– Follow-up gap analysis of needs and priorities (40 countries)</p> <p>– PVS follow-up evaluation mission to assess and accompany progress e.g. change in legislation, structure, national and international investment, technical capacities, etc. (40 countries)</p>	<p>– 8 PVS evaluation requests are earmarked, 5 of which have been completed (Eritrea, Gambia, Libya, Sierra Leone & Zimbabwe) and 3 still to come (Equatorial Guinea, Somalia & Botswana).</p> <p>– 21 country requests for PVS gap analysis missions are earmarked, with 9 completed (Burkina Faso, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Tanzania, Togo & Zambia) and 12 still to come (Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Uganda)</p> <p>– Official requests for PVS follow-up evaluation are still to be made by African States</p>
<p>2. To improve the national and/or regional legal framework on animal health and food safety (15 countries)</p>	<p>– 11 legislation mission requests planned, with 1 completed (Togo) and 10 still to come (Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, Malawi, Mauritius, Mauritania, Nigeria, Uganda and Zambia).</p>

Activity	State of play
3. To strengthen the capacity of laboratory technicians via twinning (10 laboratories)	<p>4 laboratory twinning projects requests planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – UK - Weybridge, Veterinary Laboratory Agency (parent lab) and the National Veterinary Laboratory of Botswana (candidate lab) – Italy, ISS (Istituto Superiore Di Sanita), Rome (parent lab) and Botswana – BNVL (candidate lab) – UK, Weybridge, VLA (parent lab) and Sudan, CVRL (candidate lab) – South Africa, Onderstepoort, ARC (parent lab) and Nigeria, NVRI (candidate lab)
4. To strengthen the capacity of Chief Veterinary Officers and National Focal Points on international sanitary standards (all African countries).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 11 regional workshops are planned, 3 of which have been held in Yaoundé (September), Tunis (November) and Gaborone (January), and 8 still to come (to be held in Tanzania, Namibia, Ethiopia, Botswana, Tunisia, Mali, S. Africa and Mali), dates to be confirmed.
5. To "train the trainers:" 10 five-day regional workshops to help harmonise SPS frameworks across Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 5 regional workshops held in 2009: 6-10 July in Accra for Western Africa region, 21-25 September in Brazzaville for Central Africa region, 18-22 October in Cairo for Northern Africa region, 23-27 November in Johannesburg for Eastern Africa and Southern Africa regions and 7-11 December in Lusaka for East-Southern Africa region. – 5 more regional workshops are planed in 2010: 22-26 February in Doula for Central Africa region, 15-19 March in Casablanca for Northern Africa region, 19-23 April in Kampala for Eastern Africa and Southern Africa regions, 24-28 May in Bamako for Western Africa region and 14-18 June in Lilongwe for East-Southern Africa region.
6. To strengthen the capacity of SMEs via sustained mission assistance, consisting of sending about 12 experts in about 26 countries in needs for a total of about 1,560 days to work with the beneficiaries to address the deficiencies identified by the EC's Food and Veterinary Office (FVO).	<p>Work has already started in 18 countries: Benin, Botswana, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Egypt, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania & Zambia</p>
7. To strengthen the capacity of the officials of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), AU Commission and associated specialised bodies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 2 training sessions have been held: Addis Ababa (30 March – 2 April 2009) and Dakar (8-12 February 2010) – 1 training to come: Cape Town (11-15 October 2010)

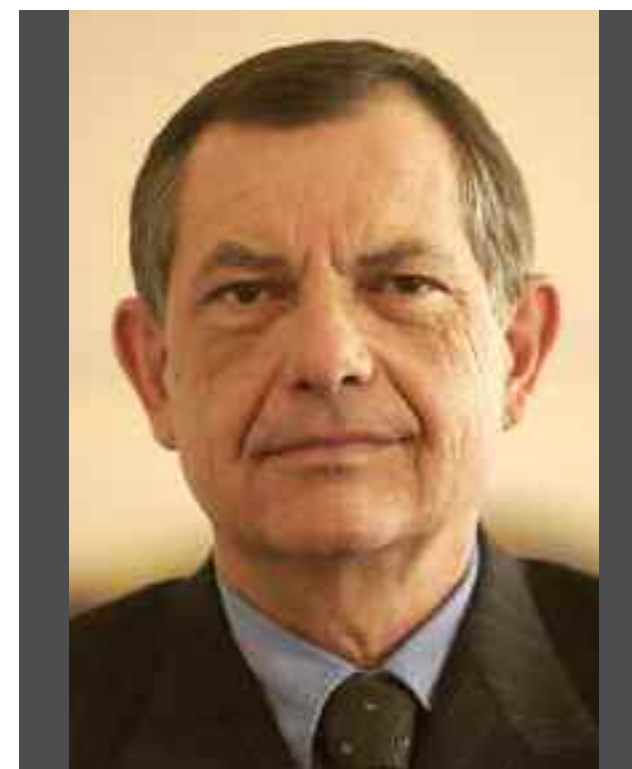
IMPROVING ANIMAL HEALTH WORLDWIDE

The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) welcomes the cooperation with the EU on the BTSF programme in Africa.

By Bernard VALLAT

Director General of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)

The OIE (World Organization for Animal Health) would like to promote a world capable of preventing, detecting, containing, eliminating and responding to animal and public health risks (including food security and food safety concerns) through multi-sectoral cooperation and strong partnerships.



BERNARD VALLAT
Photo: OIE

The emergence or re-emergence of animal diseases, including zoonoses, the growing threat of transboundary animal diseases, the impact of environmental changes and the unprecedented globalisation of commodities and movement of people, as well as the new societal demands in the field of food security, food safety, public health and animal welfare emphasise the need for good governance of veterinary services to better prevent, control and eradicate, when possible, animal diseases at source.

Preventing emergence and cross-border spread of animal infectious diseases is a global public good whose benefits extend to all countries, people, and generations.

A source of wealth

Access to global markets for the 175 Members of the OIE is a source of wealth. More than 50 African countries may consider this an effective leverage for poverty alleviation and the improvement of livelihoods. Converging with the global standards that have been adopted democratically by all countries worldwide facilitates access to international markets for all.

Improving animal health worldwide is the core activity of the OIE; it is obvious that fighting against animal diseases (of which 60% are zoonosis) also improves food safety, food security, and public health. Healthy animals also pave the way for improved animal protein production. Currently animal diseases, worldwide, are responsible for the loss of more than 20% of animal protein production. Fighting against animal diseases and a better control of food safety and zoonosis have a considerable impact on the human population. These activities contribute to a reduction in poverty and an increase in the availability of animal proteins, and thus have a positive impact on public health: animal proteins (from milk, eggs, meat) are essential for the growth of children.

Accordingly, an investment in animal health has a significant economic impact on important issues which are not necessarily taken into account when most projects are designed and their benefits evaluated.

What is the The Better training for Safer Food (BTSF) programme?

The Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) programme, financed by the European Union, provides strong support to the African countries, and enables them to

benefit from animal disease prevention and control support and a more direct access to international markets. This has had a wider positive impact than was expected. The OIE considers that respecting and implementing science based global standards that are democratically adopted is a key development indicator for African countries and other developing countries all over the world. This is also evidence of good governance of veterinary services.

When we refer to governance, we are first referring to the existence of appropriate legislation and regulations in countries. Many countries, especially countries in Africa, have health legislation which has not been updated since earlier colonial times. Such dated legislation delays the implementation of international standards and more particularly WTO/SPS recognised standards.



This issue is therefore a priority. However, the improvement of national legislation is not sufficient. Countries have to be able to implement their laws and regulations. Governments have a key role in ensuring that properly qualified human resources are available and put in place. This is indeed a challenging issue and only ambitious training programmes like 'BTSF' are able to embrace this challenge. Improvement of governance requires financial means to establish appropriate human resources, and to modernise and develop the relationships between the different ministries involved in animal health, international trade and public health as well as with the private sector (veterinarians, farmers, traders, etc.).

The OIE welcomed the cooperation with the EU (DG SANCO) on the BTSF programme in Africa

Good governance of veterinary services and public-private partnerships are very important and fall under the concept of a public good. It is for this reason that the OIE welcomed the cooperation with the EU (DG SANCO) on the BTSF programme in Africa. The OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations for Africa are successfully implementing this programme which is also endorsed and applauded by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa and its elected Regional Bureau. The Regional Commission for Africa of the OIE is a regional body which comprises a regrouping of government representatives of 52 African member countries and which participates very enthusiastically in the preparation of standards and the adoption of those standards at global level.

This OIE Regional Commission has the responsibility to express and promote the positions of the African countries during the preparation and adoption of global standards. The Commission is supported by permanent representatives of the OIE Regional Representation based in Bamako, Mali. The OIE network in Africa also consists of three Sub-Regional Representations (Gaborone, Botswana – Tunis, Tunisia and recently Nairobi, Kenya). All OIE staff are fully committed to implement the BTSF programme and the OIE believes it is fully consistent with the OIE mission and mandate at regional and global level.

Willingness of each country to participate

The strategy applied is based on the willingness of each country to participate. It includes country requests for the independent evaluation of the conformity of their veterinary services with international standards on quality and evaluation of the veterinary services using the OIE-PVS and PVS Gap Analysis tools. Afterwards, the country may develop its national programmes in order to improve its governance and better comply with

the global standards. These investments may also be carried out via partnerships with leading international donor agencies, including the European Union. Such partnerships enable the African countries to identify their priorities and prepare their investments and strategic plans.

Many donors, such as the European Union, the World Bank and bilateral donors such as USA, Switzerland, Japan, Italy, France, Canada or Australia, have expressed their interest in these OIE tools and are now supporting the PVS Pathway and its companion activities such as modernisation of veterinary legislation and laboratory support (twinning programme).

Several countries in Africa are successfully compliant and now export products such as meat to the European market.

The OIE is of the opinion that the international community should push all countries towards better compliance with the global standards which they have already democratically adopted. Several countries in Africa are successfully compliant and now export products such as meat to the European market.

Therefore, there is no reason that other countries should not do the same. I am convinced that BTSF is a key programme which has the potential to help all African countries to better comply with international standards. The OIE finds this programme helpful and is expecting that, in view of the very positive initial technical and political results, BTSF in Africa will be strengthened and extended.

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THE EU AGRICULTURE POLICY

Recent developments in relation to the EU's agricultural policies have been affected by the world wide food prices crisis of 2007-2008 which led more than 40 countries to impose emergency measures in 2008. The crisis shed some light on the "food equation" of developing countries underlining the numerous factors at play and their intricate relationships.

The impact of EU agriculture policy therefore has to be pondered carefully in the face of such complexities and recent adaptation of the CAP is

a step in the right direction, in particular through the decoupling of a greater share of income support to farmer allowing them to respond more adequately to demand while limiting market distortion. Similarly, progress has been made on reducing export subsidies.

CAP reform and Health Check

Beyond agriculture policy changes, most recently via the Health Check, the EU responded rapidly to the food prices crisis in developing countries by

setting up, among others, the _1 billion Food Facility, thus further demonstrating its strong commitment to poverty eradication and food security in partner countries. Those orientations were also promoted in the EPAs, for which a safeguard clause was offered to help ensure food security, and through a renewed focus of the EU's development policies on agriculture.

In the Union, the CAP Reform and the Health Check recently carried out are seen as positive developments, even if, given the food insecurity context of 2007-2008, a number of member states still consider that more needs to be done. This will be discussed in the coming months as part of the post-2013 debate on the future of the CAP (see chart below).



Like member states, developing countries also have very different interests, depending on whether they are food importers, have a (potentially) vibrant agricultural sector or are endowed with specific commodities. A differentiated approach is needed to take into account different developing countries' concerns.

Food and agriculture will remain high on the international political agenda given the challenges faced over the last two years. While the EU will ensure this is tackled in multilateral fora, especially via a revitalised Committee on Food Security (UN/FAO Committee currently under reform) which could form the initial basis for a global

partnership and with the support of the UN High Level Task Force, the core of global agriculture will continue to shift from the developed to the developing world and in particular to emerging countries, thus making it essential to develop a comprehensive dialogue at global level through a global partnership on agriculture and food security.

In the short term, it is essential that commodity trade remains unhampered, since barriers to trade in food commodities (such as export taxes and bans), in developed and developing countries alike, will only result in short-term gains while increasing market uncertainty and being detrimental to most net food-importing countries. Specific domestic policy measures to reduce the impact on the very poor (e.g. safety

nets and social programmes, targeted humanitarian interventions) coupled with sound agricultural policies should allow developing countries to cope with the food crises.

In the longer term, agricultural policy in the EU, and in developing countries, should take into account the constraints imposed by climate change measures, demographic trends, changes in consumption patterns and the limited surfaces of new lands available for cultivation. Feeding the world's growing population will require doubling of food production globally by 2050, with a fourfold increase needed in Africa. This means increasing agricultural productivity, especially in developing countries, while ensuring sustainability of production.

FOCUS ON

1- Quick facts

2- The food equation

3- What about the cap reform?

4- The Food Facility

5- What is CAADP?

Quick Facts

- As a result of the financial and economic crisis, estimates bring the total number of malnourished people to about **963 million**, near 15% of the world population. (OECD/FAO High Level Meeting on Investing in Food Security in a Global Economy – May 2009)

will need to support between **6.1 and 6.4 people**. (FAO -2009)

- The rate of growth in agricultural productivity is declining: it has averaged **2.3%** a year since 1961, but is expected to fall to **1.5%** between now and 2030 and drop further to **0.9%** between 2030 and 2050. (FAO – 2009)
- The EU imports close to **_59 billion** worth of agricultural products from developing countries annually (European Commission - 2008)

The Food Equation

Historically, agricultural policies in the developed world have influenced world markets through low-priced food exports which, in developing



- Around **450 million farmers** in the world exploit less than 2 hectares of land. With their families they represent **1/3 of the world's population**. (UN's International Fund for Agricultural Development - 2008)
- In Sub-Saharan Africa, approximately **72% of arable land** is classified as **degraded**. (FAO - 2006)
- In 1960, the average **hectare of arable land** supported **2.4 persons**. By 2005 this figure had increased to **4.5 persons** per hectare and by 2050 a single hectare of land

countries, have helped feed at an affordable cost a growing urban population whose demand remained unmet by local production capacities. Domestic agriculture access to these local urban markets was therefore reduced, further isolating rural areas from urban growth centres and modern economic circuits.

Recent high food prices have caused a number of urban riots in many developing countries as a result of food becoming less affordable for various pockets of the population. Higher prices do not

however always result in an increase of agricultural production in affected countries.

Along the food chain, the transmission of higher market prices to farmers in developing countries is far from being mechanical, nor automatic. Indeed, small farmers do not usually set the prices as these are determined by stronger forces in the value chain.

Following rapid urbanisation in developing countries the growth of supermarkets is playing an important role vis-à-vis the agricultural sector. While already of importance in Asia and Latin America, the process is starting in some African countries with nascent urban middle class (Kenya, Zambia, Tanzania, Uganda, Mozambique, Angola for



example). As supermarkets are generally supported by transnational corporations, procurement takes place at a global level, usually using medium to large companies that can deliver large volume of goods meeting international standard of quality and safety. Those are mainly in developed countries where productivity is much higher. Small processing and food manufacturing firms, the most common form of enterprise in developing countries, run the risk of being excluded from these new market opportunities, unless they adjust to new market realities.

What about the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) Reform?

Benefits for EU producers and consumers should not be against those of producers and consumers in developing countries.

In 1980, export subsidies and market support took up the whole CAP budget. By contrast, in 2007, export subsidies and market support represented just over 10% of the budget with export subsidies now representing less than 2% of the CAP budget. From 2005 to 2009, the EU halved the export subsidy rate for beef. It has paid no export subsidies on cereals since September 2006 or on sugar since October 2008. Export subsidies for fruit and vegetables and for wine have also been abolished following the reforms of those sectors. Moreover, under the Economic Partnership

Agreements (EPAs) framework (for example, with CARIFORUM, Central Africa, Pacific), the EU undertakes to phase out all existing subsidies granted upon exportation of the agricultural products liberalised by the ACP countries.

By 2007, the EU had cut export subsidy rates to zero for all dairy products.

The re-introduction of export refunds for dairy products in January 2009 is a response to a dramatic 60% decrease in world market prices, resulting from shrinking demand and the impact on farmers' revenues. However, limits in terms of

volume and price on these export refunds were established, at levels which do not fully bridge the gap between the EU and world market prices, thus ensuring a limited impact on world market prices. Notwithstanding this, the EU remains committed to phasing out export subsidies in the framework of the WTO's Doha Development Agenda – subject to parallel commitments for other types of export subsidies from other developed countries.

Further CAP reforms will have to pay careful attention to the food equation of developing countries. Policy mechanisms are needed to help the EU farming sector to adapt to competitive pressure on open world markets and to enhance the farmers' ability to respond swiftly to world demand, preventing imbalances on global markets which would have adverse effects on populations in poor countries. The debate on the CAP post - 2013 reforms needs to take into consideration this complex equation. Benefits for EU producers and consumers should not be against those of producers and consumers in developing countries.

WHAT IS CAADP?

Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme

Endorsed by the African heads of state in 2003 (Maputo Declaration), CAADP forms the African agenda for agricultural development, seeking to raise agricultural growth (target of 6% per annum) and rural poverty reduction. Through CAADP, African Heads of State have also committed to an increase in government spending for Agriculture and rural development (target 10% of budget). In the course of time, CAADP has evolved and moved away from the original orientation on "bankable investment projects" towards a process approach that stresses sound agricultural planning and policy reforms. Its value added derives from the combination of (a) an inclusive approach in agricultural planning and policy discussions (involving all stakeholders, particularly farmer organizations), (b) evidence-based planning and policy making, stressing sound analysis, scenario

building and policy options, (c) linking the national and regional dimension, and fostering regional integration. (d) Shared learning and peer review; and (e) agricultural planning to transcend the traditional sector boundary and involve trade, infrastructure and finance. CAADP consists of four thematic pillars, (i) sustainable land and water managements (ii) infrastructure and market access; (iii) food security; and (iv) research. CAADP is above all a process, not meant to duplicate existing planning processes, but improve its quality. The process is fed by analytical work provided by a "knowledge system". More information on CAADP can be obtained from CAADP website <http://www.nepad-caadp.net/>

CAADP again receives strong potential support in the last couple of weeks. At the recent G8 summit in L'Aquila, a joint statement on global food security was made, indicating that food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture must remain a priority on the political agenda and that in Africa,"CAADP is an effective vehicle for ensuring that resources are targeted to country's plans and priorities". Moreover at the AU summit of 1-3 July, African Heads of State undertook "to accelerate progress towards achieving the growth and budgetary target set out in the CAADP Agenda" and "to accelerate CAADP implementation in all Member States, including the signing of county CAADP Compacts indicating the policy measures, investment programs and required funding."

In the past few years, CAADP has made significant progress at the continental level, but less so in the countries concerned. Thematic pillars frameworks, setting out main policy issues, have been developed and validated, expert centres are being strengthened and operational guidelines have been developed. Moreover, most development partners have shared themselves behind CAADP and support the approach taken. This is also evidenced by the creation in 2008 of the Multi-Donor Trust Fund in support of CAADP (to which the EC has contributed € 5 Million). This Trust Fund supports Capacity building initiatives, as well as CAADP round table processes at country level.

DERNIERS NOUVELLES Du Partenariat

AFRICAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (AMCOST) CAIRO 7-10 MARCH 2010



African Ministerial conference on science and technology
Photo: AU

The AMCOST is a high-level policy and political forum for ministers responsible for science and technology from all AU member states. It sets continental priorities and policies pertaining to the development, harnessing, and application of science and technology for Africa's socio-economic transformation.

Participants of AMCOST include the AU Commission, AU member states, African RECs, international organizations such as the EU, UNESCO, and civil society.

The main purpose of the AMCOST is to implement the African Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA).

The meeting has been focusing on the steps forward in the implementation of the African Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA), on the AMCOST Biosafety

recommendations and on the progress report on Pan African Intellectual Property Organization (PAIPO). The latter deserves special attention because every day patents are taken on indigenous plants where afterwards the chemical formula is used in pharmaceutical products that oblige Africa to pay royalties to use this medication.

The EU played a prominent role in the AMCOST since it is one of the strategic partners of the AUC/HRST Department. Within the framework of the Lisbon 2007 Africa-EU Strategic Partnership Agreement some of the "early deliverable" lighthouse projects on science and space are:

- The African Union Research Grants Program, which is formulated to implement the CPA through consortia of scientists working on specific key thematic areas.
- Water and Food Security in Africa Program, which is aimed at strengthening Africa's capacity to cope with food security challenges and sustainability of land and water resource management.
- The GMES (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security) and Africa project that seeks to reinforce Africa's use of land contribution to remote sensing science.

The AMCOST was preceded by the Joint Expert Group of Partnership 8: Information Society, Science and Space Technologies (JEG8) in which African and European Experts discussed the way forward of these three state-of-the-art technological sectors: ICTs, Science and Space.

DES STAGIAIRES DE L'UNION EUROPÉENNE VISITENT L'UNION AFRICAINE



Les dix stagiaires européens à Addis Abeba
Photo: EU

Dix stagiaires d'AIDCO (Office de coopération EuropeAid) ont été accueillis le 3 mars dernier au siège de l'Union Africaine, à Addis Abeba. "Nous avons été impressionnés par la qualité de l'accueil", indique Thomas Reeve, l'un des deux seuls garçons du groupe". Nous avons reçu un accueil chaleureux de la part d'un personnel compétent, dynamique et curieux". Une autre stagiaire relève les défis quotidiens du fonctionnement de à l'Union africaine: "A l'Union européenne, nous sommes 27 Etats, ici il y en a le double, je suis impressionnée par l'ampleur du travail quotidien, comme par exemple les tâches de traduction". Une autre stagiaire s'étonne que "la plupart des langues officielles de travail de l'Union africaine soient des langues européennes."

La bibliothèque de l'Union africaine et le service des archives étaient au programme de la visite. "Cette visite a révélé une curiosité mutuelle, ajoute une stagiaire, car le personnel que nous sommes venus rencontrer nous a posé à son tour de nombreuses questions". "Ils reçoivent un soutien en terme budgétaire, poursuit sa collègue, mais pas forcément un soutien en savoir-faire, d'après ce que

j'ai compris. Il y aurait peut-être matière à faire encore plus entre nos deux organisations en terme de transfert de savoir-faire."



A l'Union africaine
Photo: EU

Dernier détail et non des moindres: ce sont les stagiaires eux-mêmes qui ont financé leur séjour en Ethiopie grâce à des vente de gâteaux, de calendriers, l'organisation de soirées et de tombolas à Bruxelles.

PERSONALIA

Ms.Katarina Leligdonova chargé d'affaires à l'Ambassade de Slovaquie a définitivement quitté Addis le 28 février. Mrs Iveta Michalikova, Chef adjoint de mission assurera son remplacement jusqu'à l'arrivée du successeur de madame Leligdonova.

M. Paulo Rocha Trindade, Conseiller en charge de l'Union Africaine à l'Ambassade du Portugal, a quitté Addis Ababa au cours du mois de mars.

EVENEMENTS

Evénements en Avril

- 06 avril** Réunion d'experts sur la sécurité maritime, Addis Abeba
- 12-13 avril** Panel de haut niveau de l'Université panafricaine, Addis Abeba
- 15 avril** Partenariat Afrique-UE pour la science, la société de l'information et l'espace: Réunion de l'équipe de mise en œuvre UE, Bruxelles
- 21 avril** Réunion à haut niveau dans le cadre du partenariat énergie, Vienne
- 22 avril** Global Forum on Sustainable Energy (GFSE), Vienne
- 27 avril** Dialogue politique ministériel, Luxembourg
- 28-30 avril** Africa-EU workshop on Employment and Decent Work in Africa, Nairobi

LIENS UTILES

Pour en savoir plus sur une meilleure formation pour des aliments plus sains (Better Training for Safer Food):

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_consumer/index_en.htm
http://ec.europa.eu/food/training_strategy/index_en.htm

Le site du partenariat Europe-Afrique

www.africa-eu-partnership.org
http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/partnerships/items/trade_en.htm

Le site de l'Union africaine

www.africa-union.org