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INSIDE THE AFRICA - EUROPEAN UNION PARTNERSHIP



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

Contenu

1- Éditorial

2- Entretien du mois

3- Dossier Agriculture

4- Dernières nouvelles du partenariat

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EDITORIAL

Dear Reader, Cher Lecteur

In December 2007, at the EU-Africa Summit in Lisbon, Europe and Africa decided to put their relations on a new footing: building on new realities on both sides, based on shared ownership and responsibilities. In recognition that the African Union had become in many respects central to Europe's relations with the continent, the establishment of the EU Delegation to the African Union in Addis one month later was the logic first tangible result of the Summit.

Being appointed to lead this new Delegation, I arrived on 16 January 2008 and presented the following day my letter of credentials to the then Chairperson of the AU Commission, Omar Alpha Konaré. With three collaborators we started preparations to report on the AU Summit the end of that month. The main outcome was the election of a new Commission under the leadership of Chairperson Jean Ping. Four years later, I leave a well running team with almost fifty staff, covering the whole range of areas of our partnership with the AU.

During this period, EU/AU political relations have undoubtedly strengthened. The EU has proven to be a good and in some regards indispensable partner to the AU.

The AU itself has grown in capacity and relevance, asserting its role in the area of peace and security, making progress in other areas such as norm setting in the field of political governance, a more active role in promoting economic integration, speaking with one voice on global issues like climate change. Importantly for our financial cooperation, substantial progress has been made in strengthening the management of the institution.

However, the last year have highlighted not only the strength but also weaknesses of the organisation very much linked to what do African states want to achieve through the umbrella of the AU. The impact of the Arab Spring - both in terms of how the AU reacted to the specific situations on Tunisia, Egypt and Libya and in relation to the broader implications for the continent - has changed the policy space in which African leaders, and their partners such as the EU, operate. The ongoing debate is pointing in the right direction: putting more emphasis on linking political stability to improved economic and political governance; and a more efficient AU, with genuine commitment by its member states to implement agreed instruments. The time is right for a

new qualitative step forward.

I am confident for the future of our partnership since many projects where the AU, with substantive support by the EU, has made progress over the last four years are ready indeed to start generating real effect. There is now a full set of pan-African instruments in the area of political governance and human rights that have become operational. In the area of economic governance, the AU has developed impressive work in support of more integration and in the area of exploitation of natural resources, fighting corruption, public services, infrastructure and agriculture. This will allow us to complement our work in the area of peace and security - still very much at the heart of our partnership - with in particular those areas that contribute in bringing about genuine political and economic reforms, strengthening the positive potential that is present in the continent.

With the new reality of the EEAS under the leadership of HR/VP Catherine Ashton, the EU has also improved its working methods aiming at achieving more coherence between AU and national, and AU and regional level and vice versa. By doing so, we know that we have to keep the pan-African dimension in our work. Seen from the angle of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy, our work with the AU has been very productive with a wide range of projects that are up and running now or about to be launched. Just a few examples of intense work: infrastructure (PIDA), the Climate Change policy centre, space technology (AMESD), the African Remittances Institute, the African science awards and research grants, the Pan African University and the Nyerere scholarship program and so many more. I am confident that progress achieved will inform further work, in particular to strengthen member states' involvement on both sides, indeed achievements to date remain too much within the Commission to Commission remit. In the future we should also concentrate more on projects of a regional dimension and build on existing African policies and structures.

Finally, as the first ever EU Delegation, representing both Council and Commission, the EU family in Addis, including all member states, has proven that by working together we strengthen our impact and efficiency.

A last word should be in essence a word of thanks to all that made that I enjoyed every minute of me working in Addis. The intense interaction with colleagues of the

AU Commission and the UN Economic Commission for Africa, the discussions with colleagues of the diplomatic community, the many contacts with African visitors passing through Addis, made me feel connected with the profound changes this Continent is going through, being part of reshaping and strengthening the understanding and cooperation between the peoples in Africa and Europe. I am most proud of the climate of confidence that marked all this. And as said in the proverb in Songhay: Confidence is like the cooked head of a sheep, a single dish saved for special occasions. or alternatively a Sudanese Arabic proverb: *A house of harmony never crumbles.*

Thank you.

Koen Vervaeke

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

Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the African Union departed on October 2011 after leading the delegation starting January 2008.





CONTRIBUTION DU PRESIDENT DE LA COMMISSION DE L'UNION AFRICAINE, DR. JEAN PING

Monsieur Koen Vervaeke, Chef de la Délégation de l'Union Européenne, appelé à d'autres fonctions, va nous quitter ce mois d'octobre. Ce départ du 1er Ambassadeur de l'Union Européenne accrédité auprès de l'Union Africaine dès 2008, doublement mandaté de surcroît, à la fois par la Commission Européenne et par le Conseil Européen et à ce titre l'un des principaux artisans de la première heure à ce jour, de la mise en œuvre de notre partenariat stratégique, m'offre l'occasion de partager une nouvelle fois avec les lecteurs de ce numéro de LIEN !, quelques réflexions personnelles sur l'évolution des relations Afrique Europe.

Onze ans après le Sommet du Caire, ces relations se conjuguent désormais au présent dynamique et au futur prometteur, mode partenariat stratégique et aujourd'hui traduit concrètement en deux Plans d'Action, le premier pour la période 2008-2010 et le second pour 2011-2013. L'on se souviendra que ces Plans d'Action sont articulés autour de huit partenariats thématiques qui ont pour la plupart enregistré des résultats encourageants.

Il est clair que des partenariats ont progressé plus rapidement que d'autres, comme dans le domaine de la paix et de la sécurité qui engrange incontestablement les avancées les plus remarquables. Ceux liés aux thèmes

de l'énergie, du changement climatique, de la science, de la société de l'information et de l'espace ne sont pas en reste et se développent réellement : ainsi, celui dans le changement climatique est entré dans sa 2ème phase depuis l'adoption du deuxième Plan d'Action et fournira une plate-forme de dialogue, de coopération et d'échange, en vue de l'élaboration de mesures concrètes permettant de lutter contre le changement climatique. Il sera en outre lié étroitement à l'Alliance mondiale contre le changement climatique ainsi qu'au programme ClimDev Afrique et constituera un cadre intégré de notre coopération en la matière, notamment pour préparer Durban dans les meilleures conditions.

Sur un autre registre, la plateforme de dialogue sur la gouvernance et les Droits de l'Homme a été instituée l'année dernière et nous pouvons nous réjouir de l'implication effective des Communautés Économiques Régionales (CER), du secteur privé, de la société civile, des Parlements et des autres Parties prenantes dans la mise en œuvre des Plans d'action à des dimensions diverses. Enfin, le renforcement indéniable du dialogue politique est à souligner ; il a été rendu possible grâce notamment à l'architecture institutionnelle Europe-Afrique prévoyant des contacts réguliers et fréquents au plus haut niveau, des réunions semestrielles des troïkas des Ministres des affaires étrangères

ainsi que des réunions annuelles des collèges des deux Commissions.

C'est dire le parcours accompli et le travail abattu conjointement par les deux Parties, depuis le Sommet historique de Lisbonne de 2007 à l'issue duquel a été adoptée la Stratégie conjointe Afrique Union Européenne (JAES). Depuis son ouverture en janvier 2008, la délégation de l'Union Européenne à Addis Abéba, sous la férule discrète mais efficace de son Ambassadeur, n'a eu de cesse d'imprimer l'élan nécessaire à sa mise en route et à sa mise en œuvre.

Mais il est clair aussi que du chemin reste à accomplir pour atteindre les objectifs que se sont fixés les deux Parties. Chacun sait par exemple que l'intégration africaine est parallèle à la construction d'une identité européenne. Veiller à la fois au renforcement de la cohérence politique de cette construction européenne et à la bonne poursuite de l'intégration politique et économique de l'Afrique nous paraît à cet égard essentiel à la bonne santé de notre partenariat.

Le 3ème Sommet Afrique-Union Européenne organisé en Novembre de l'année dernière, a confirmé notre Stratégie conjointe (JAES) et renouvelé nos engagements pour les années à venir. A cet égard, l'Afrique salue la nouvelle configuration institutionnelle européenne après l'entrée en vigueur du Traité de Lisbonne avec notamment la création d'une nouvelle institution diplomatique, le Service européen d'action extérieure (SEAE). Elle confirme en effet, la place importante accordée à l'Afrique dans les

relations extérieures de l'UE. Pour notre part, nous sommes confiants que la stratégie Afrique de ce nouveau service qui assiste Madame Catherine Ashton, Haut Représentant de l'Union Européenne pour les Affaires étrangères et la Politique de sécurité, également Vice-président de la Commission européenne, et les décisions de la Direction Générale Développement et coopération Europe Aid (DEVCO), seront principalement guidées par les principes et les objectifs de notre Stratégie conjointe Afrique-UE (JAES) qui, faut-il encore le rappeler, s'est notamment engagée à traiter le continent comme entité unique, l'Afrique étant une et devant être considérée comme telle.

En effet, dans un monde ébranlé et fragilisé par les crises successives de tout ordre, où l'Europe et l'Afrique doivent aussi faire face à leurs propres réalités, les bases de ce partenariat politique global, novateur et régi par les principes d'égalité, de respect mutuel, de responsabilité partagée et d'appropriation, fondé sur une logique d'intérêts et d'enjeux communs, doivent plus que jamais être consolidées et respectées.

L'Ambassadeur Koen Vervaeke partagera sans doute avec moi cette profession de foi. En tout cas, je suis aussi persuadé qu'après le séjour certainement fructueux à tous égards d'Addis Abéba où la délégation préfigurait déjà en quelque sorte le SEAE avant l'application du Traité de Lisbonne, il continuera à apporter son soutien à notre partenariat, avec le même enthousiasme et la même conviction, enrichis aujourd'hui, de l'expérience de ces quatre années. Je forme à son endroit les vœux les plus sincères de plein succès dans les nouvelles responsabilités qu'il va assumer et je le remercie au nom de la Commission de l'Union africaine, de la contribution qu'il a apportée à l'édifice commun de notre partenariat.



DOSSIER AGRICULTURE AGRICULTURE FOLDER

- P.7 FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY AND FOOD SAFETY IN AFRICA
- P.12 RURAL INFRASTRUCTURES FOR BETTER MARKET ACCESS OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES
- P.16 FOOD PRICE VOLATILITY AND AGRICULTURE



Dacian CIOLOȘ
European Commissioner for
Agriculture and Rural Development

Heads of State and Government adopted the Africa Food and Nutrition Security Day (AFNSD) at the 15th AU summit in Kampala. The AFNSD was then launched in Malawi during the Conference of the African Ministers of Agriculture, and is now commemorated on 30th October annually. This year, the AU Commission proposed to celebrate the AFNSD under the theme "Investing in Intra-African Trade for Food and Nutrition Security". The theme was chosen given the focus of the 18th Summit of the AU (January 2012): "Boosting Intra-African Trade." Ethiopia hosted the continental-level commemoration this year, while other African States undertook national level activities. The main purpose of the celebration of the AFNSD is to serve as a rallying point in intensifying commitments at all levels to address the challenges, providing a platform at national, regional and continental levels to share experiences as well as measure progress in assuring food and nutrition security for all by Governments and multi-stakeholder partners.

What Are Your Priority Areas For Cooperation With The African Union For 2011-2013 And Beyond?

Commissioner Rhoda Peace Tumusiime and I have met twice in the 'College-to-College' meetings, first in June 2010 in Addis Ababa, then in June this year in Brussels. Our discussions prior to the first ever meeting of the G20 agriculture ministers gave me a deeper understanding of African needs and expectations from the G20 process and enriched the Commission's input into one of the most significant global agriculture initiatives this year, the G20 Action Plan on food price volatility and agriculture.

The Action Plan has already given rise to a new worldwide system for better crop monitoring and forecasting, a pilot scheme for humanitarian food reserves in West Africa, and a political initiative to persuade producer countries to avoid export restrictions for humanitarian purposes in time of shortage. It now goes to the G20 heads of state and government who meet in Cannes on 3-4 November, with the AU and NEPAD (the New Partnership for African Development) also participating, just after Africa Food and Nutrition Security Day on 30 October — a fitting moment for the G20 agriculture ministers' Action Plan to be endorsed.



AU Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, Rhoda Peace Tumusiime and EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Dacian Cioloș

The EU Commission's policy on addressing food security challenges adopted in March 2010, under the remit of my colleague Andris Piebalgs, underlined the importance of agriculture as well as key issues like governance. Many agricultural factors have to be got right: good research, crop forecasting, sound investments, development of the marketing infrastructure, and development of markets themselves. Trade is also an essential element.

We must develop a multi-polar view of global agriculture where each country, each region needs to not only prioritise its own food security, but develop the farming sector as a wealth creator. With 192 million people engaged in agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa, and 75% of the world's poor living in rural areas, agriculture is rightly described as the backbone of economic growth and development.

For development to be sustainable, it is important to build on and respect existing agricultural structures and traditions, and smallholdings in particular. There are in the world an estimated 500 million smallholder farmers

producing from less than 2 hectares and supporting 2 billion people. Smallholdings are mostly low-input/low-output farms, operating with little capital investment. They are largely outside the infrastructure, financing and market opportunities that accrue to larger farms. Research shows that with quite modest changes in farming practices, productivity can be increased and smallholders can make a significant contribution to wealth creation in rural Africa.

What Are The Challenges, Potentials And Opportunities?

We face three great challenges: firstly, food security and how to feed 9.2 billion people by 2050; secondly tackling rural poverty; and thirdly assuring the sustainability of natural resources. The answer to all these challenges lies to a large extent in the agricultural sector – economic development in Asian economies over recent decades has shown agriculture to be the sector to deliver lasting poverty reduction in rural areas. We therefore have the opportunity to place **agriculture at the forefront** of national, regional and international policy.

The EU wants regional bodies and national governments to put agriculture among their top priorities. Support for smallholders, improved inputs such as seed and fertiliser, appropriate credit, extension services, application of standards and quality measures, and access to markets, are the best ways to ensure rural prosperity and create wealth.

On 12 October we adopted the blueprint for the future **European agricultural policy**. The proposals are a significant deep reform of the common agricultural policy, focussed on improving sustainability of European farming and natural resources. Food security, reducing price volatility, and avoiding market distortions are key objectives, as well as measures to promote green growth. We want to create **'innovation partnerships'** between researchers and farmers, to have a far swifter application of research results into agriculture. Many of these initiatives target sustainability; many are transferable to African agriculture. As we look forward to the 'Rio +20' conference in June 2012, I anticipate considerable global attention to the debate on sustainability – economic, environmental and social – in agricultural policy.

The Commission has also just adopted a new development policy paper, called an **'Agenda for change'**, in which agriculture takes its place as a key priority for development policy in future.

For farmers everywhere, I have found that the key to assisting farmers is to enable them to help themselves — and the best way to do this is by forming **producer groups**. Farmers, especially smallholders, working together can acquire the critical mass to be able to negotiate with suppliers, organise training and mutual support, coordinate investments in infrastructure, apply quality standards, look after shared natural resources, and access markets.

The highest returns for African farmers come to those who have the capacity and organisation to reach urban and regional markets, and export markets like the EU. The EU is the most open agricultural importer in the world, importing more from developing countries than the US, Japan, Canada, Australia and New Zealand combined. Consumers in the EU increasingly want to know where the product has come from, how it has been produced, and many seek out products identified and designated as **originating in Africa**. This presents a challenge for African farmers, because these products have to meet consumer expectations, but also opportunities to access value-added markets.

Commissioner Tumusiime and I have agreed to look into two areas to help farmers access these kinds of markets and secure more of the value added – organics and geographical indications. A joint AU-EU workshop

on organic farming was held in Brussels in July this year, which brought together organic experts from our two continents and across the globe. The development of an AU action plan for organic farming is a welcome development and clear progress has been made in at least one region in developing a regional organic standard and developing the African market for organic product.

On 10-11 November, in Kampala, the second AU-EU workshop was held; this one on labelling with geographical origin. The power of origin labelling as a tool to market product to consumers should not be underestimated. Consumers seek out both origin-branded goods, as well as registered geographical indications for specialty products that owe their characteristics to their place of production. We have seen strong African initiatives, for example in the coffee sector and I would like to encourage the adoption of registered geographical indications across Africa in the near future. An important segment of European consumers will pay a price premium for product that is organic, or fair trade, and which has an identified origin.

I am delighted with the progress being made in cooperative working between the AU Commission and the EU Commission in the area of value-adding organic and geographical indications labelling. But it is only a first step. I look forward in the next College-to-College AU-EU meeting to strengthen and deepen our dialogue and our cooperation and build on this year's achievements.

Rhoda Peace Tumusiime,

Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture,
African Union Commission

Food and Nutrition Security and Food Safety in Africa

Why is it important to Invest in Intra-African Trade for Food and Nutrition Security and Food Safety in Africa?

Africa has a high potential for trade among its member states which currently trade more with the outside world than with themselves at a high expense that should be avoidable. In Africa, intra-regional trade currently represents 12% compared to 88% for extra-regional trade. It is important to invest in supply capacity development, standards compliance infrastructure building for competitiveness, conformity with market requirements and connectivity to markets in different countries and regions in Africa to be able to meet each other's food and other needs at lower cost. Enhancing infrastructure capacity of agro-industry administrations, producers and exporters at all levels is also critical. Investing in such infrastructure also serves as an incentive to boost agricultural production, food and nutrition security. To this end, we are commemorating the Africa Food and Nutrition Security Day (AFNSD) on 30 October, which will be also an opportunity to reflect on best ways of sharing successes and learning from experiences, including on ways of enhancing common principles of controls and inspections in the Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) fields across borders in Africa; these being also central to intra-African trade and integration.

How best can SPS actions be integrated under the CAADP framework?

The African Union has underscored the importance of advancing SPS matters within CAADP to enhance food security and market access. In this context, the recent CAADP Partnership Platform meeting in Yaoundé, Cameroon recommended to address SPS challenges in a holistic and integrated manner across the entire value chain, and across the various partners involved. To this end, the AUC and the NEPAD Agency are to oversee the establishment of a Continental SPS Working Group to mainstream SPS matters in the CAADP Framework. This will enable countries to prioritize SPS issues into country and regional compacts for policy and investment purposes. For this to be done successfully, there is need to examine carefully to what extent SPS issues are already covered, and as necessary suggest clear and explicit references to animal health, plant health and food safety in the CAADP framework. This holds also for organic and origin products.

The 8th Conference of Ministers Responsible for Animal Resources in Africa held in Entebbe, Uganda in May 2010 was held under the theme "Improving access to markets for African animal resources to significantly contribute to economic growth and reduction of poverty". As a result of the recommendations made by the Ministers at this Conference, the AU-IBAR has established the standard and trade secretariat and Pan African Forum for livestock exporting countries (PAFLIC). National SPS subcommittees under PAN SPSO have already been established. These are deliberate and strategic steps towards mainstreaming SPS into CAADP.

Rural Infrastructures for better market access: opportunities and challenges

How important is improving rural infrastructure for raising competitiveness and market access for agriculture products in Africa and beyond?

Rural infrastructure across the entire value chain from farm to table is critical in raising competitiveness of African agribusiness and agro-industry and especially of smallholder farmers who constitute the majority of operators in Africa's agricultural sector. These key operators currently lack production, processing, storage (including post-harvest loss control), distribution including transport and market infrastructure. If these can be developed (provided or subsidized), African agriculture can be boosted to feed the increasing population of the continent and the rest of the world. In view of this, the African Union is planning a Ministerial Conference on Rural Infrastructure before the end of this year, 2011 to provide political guidance and support to this vision.

The deficit in infrastructure is one of the key factors that prevent Africa from achieving its full development potential for economic growth and competitiveness in the world markets. It is worth to note that Infrastructure is not restricted to capital-intensive forms such as roads and ports, but also includes commercial and post-harvest infrastructure such as markets, storage, grading, packaging, and processing infrastructure. The development of the first category of infrastructure seeks to generate complementarities with the second category in order to enhance smallholder integration into input and output markets and other segments of the value chain. Access to modern infrastructure remains a challenge to the rural poor who represent 60% of the population in Africa.

Several studies show that poor or lack of infrastructure generates exorbitant production costs. Development of efficient domestic and regional production and distribution networks including transportation infrastructure will (i) boost growth in domestic, regional and international trade and is especially break barrier for land-locked countries; (ii) create incentives to domestic private sector and foreign direct investment in Africa; (iii) result in reduced costs of production; and (iv) promote the integration of smallholder farmers into major value chains.

Food Price Volatility and Agriculture

Comment on best way that EU can assist Africa to deal with price volatility and agriculture issues.

The EU and Africa Strategic Partnership is growing from strength to strength and is already bearing handsome dividends that have laid ground for intensification of joint efforts in addressing common challenges and harnessing shared opportunities. Price volatility is certainly one of those challenges that have exacerbated the vulnerability of communities and nations in Africa and hence require urgent attention. Indeed, Africa and the EU have been working closely together to deal with this challenge at bilateral and multilateral levels including at the G20 where approaches including the issue of strategic reserves, research initiatives, market information systems, global agriculture geo-monitoring, rapid response mechanisms, agriculture and food security risk management strategies and coordination of international policy, among others have been examined and are being followed up..

Comment on best ways to promote a responsible investment in agriculture in Africa

The best ways to promote responsible investment in agriculture are clearly spelt out in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme as well as other AU Assembly Decisions and Declarations including the AU Land Policy and Framework Guidelines that promote foreign direct investment in land for purposes of win-win outcomes for both investors and recipient countries. To this end, the AUC, UNECA and AfDB (the Land Policy Initiative (LPI) Consortium) organised a High Level Forum on Foreign Direct Investment in Land in Africa, on 4-5 October in Nairobi, Kenya which adopted the "Nairobi Action Plan on large-scale land-based investments in Africa" reaffirming the importance of developing land policies in synergy with other sector frameworks and policies at national, regional, and Pan African levels including the CAADP.

Andris Piebalgs

EU Commissioner for Development

The EU is about to boost its investments

CAADP is central to African Governments' efforts to accelerate growth and eliminate poverty and hunger in Africa. According to AU/NEPAD, the deficit in infrastructure remains a key factor preventing Africa from achieving its full potential for trade, competitiveness, growth and development of value chain and the MDGs. For instance, demand for local and regional markets across Africa is expected to increase from \$50 to \$150 billion in 2000-2030. The potential income that farmers could benefit from these markets by 2030 amounts to a cumulative \$4.5 billion for export markets, compared with \$30 billion expected from local and "trans-border" markets. However, to enjoy the full benefits of these projected trade trends depends on the existence of a network of infrastructure services (e.g. roads, ports, storage, grading, packaging, processing, post-harvest facilities), which are largely inaccessible to the poor who represent 60% of African population including vast majority of rural people.

Access to food for most of us in the developed world is a given. For many in the developing world it is a struggle. Such a situation is untenable – in fact it ought to be unthinkable in today's world. It requires us to take even more resolute action. In doing so, we must realise that we are tackling a complex set of issues requiring work on various fronts. Our action must, inter alia, enhance agricultural productivity, promote the creation of opportunities in the labour market and engage social protection and assistance mechanisms if we are to make headway.

And making headway will not be without its challenges. Production increases will be needed year on year to feed a growing world population; greater efficiency will be needed to cope with the pressures on natural resources and reduce avoidable losses in post-harvest production. The adverse impacts of climate change and excessive price volatility add to these challenges and to the urgent need for greater investment from donors and partner countries alike if we truly want to reduce hunger.

Food security is a top priority of the European development agenda. The European Commission alone allocates about € 800 million a year to agriculture, food security, territorial planning and rural development which are focal sectors of our cooperation in more than 40 countries worldwide. On top of this, recent initiatives such as the € 1 billion EU Food facility, the MDG initiative and the renewed EU Food Security Policy adopted last year are other concrete signs of this commitment.

And our commitment does not end there. The Agenda for Change that the Commission has recently proposed to increase the impact of EU development policy has clearly identified agriculture, food security and nutrition as key areas through which the EU should promote inclusive and green growth.

As the world's largest grant donor, the EU is leading by example. We want to spearhead efforts to encourage donors worldwide to give appropriate space to food security and rural development in their development cooperation.

I would like to highlight here a couple of principles that I wish to see at the core of our future policy on agriculture and food security.

Firstly, commitments are needed on both sides.

We cannot impose a focus on food security from the top; it has to be a bottom-up process. So we need our partner countries to commit to this agenda as much as we do. It is them who can do the most to achieve food security in their countries by prioritising agriculture and food security and by delivering on their commitments.

This is exactly what Africa is doing through its flagship Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), bringing agriculture and food security back to the heart of the development debate in Africa. CAADP presents a unique opportunity for the EU to support plans defined by Africans for Africa. In countries like Rwanda, Ethiopia, Kenya and Sierra Leone, where agriculture is a focal sector of cooperation, we already support CAADP investment plans.

Secondly, investments are needed along the entire chain if we want them to be successful.

Our aid can only be high-impact if we address each and every part of the chain, from access to land and water to seeds, from infrastructure to storage, from transport to distribution, and so on. One single donor cannot invest in the whole chain, but here stands our responsibility to ensure a real division of labour and to focus on everyone's added value and comparative advantage.

Thirdly, with this in mind, we need to join forces with other players active in the sector – namely the private sector.

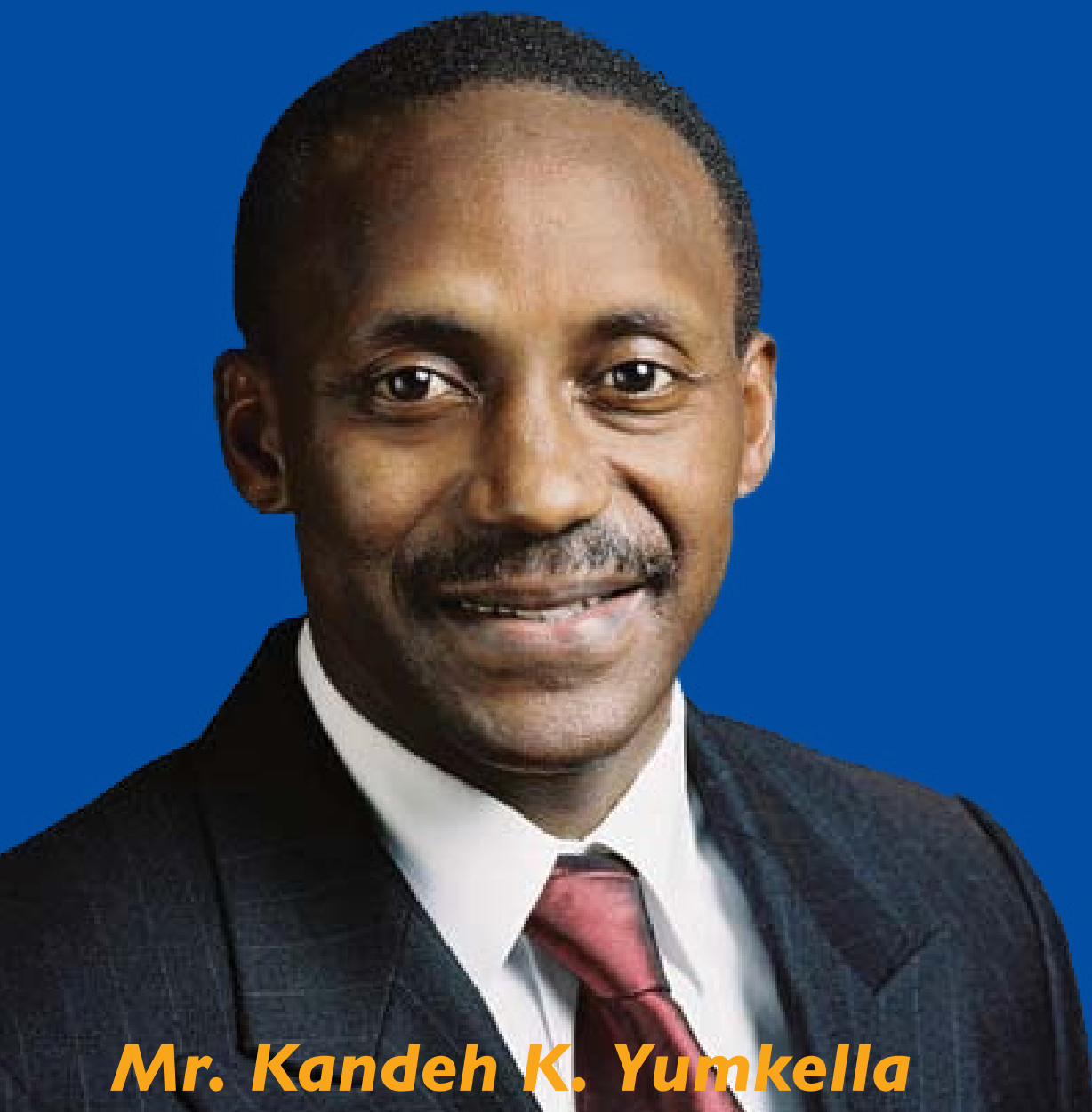
For example, public and private investments could be enhanced with EU funding along the agricultural growth corridor concept where conditions are met for leveraging private investments that benefit smallholders and foster broad-based growth of the local economy and food security.

Eradicating hunger and extreme poverty is a global concern and as such requires a global response. That is why governance in food security is so important. It is also why the EU is a major contributor to global food security governance – especially through the reformed Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and in support of the food security agenda in the G8/G20 context.

As we go about applying this multi-layered response we should ensure that our support at all levels seeks more secure and equitable access to land, in particular for vulnerable groups. The African Policy Guidelines on Land adopted at the AU summit in July 2009 are designed to promote secure and equitable tenure of and access to land. The EU is helping bring those guidelines into play through a € 9 million grant. But we need to do more, notably at the international level, to accelerate the adoption of responsible agricultural investments rules.

In conclusion, I would merely add that our strong support for Africa in tackling the multi-layered problem that is food security and agriculture will not wane. The EU's Agenda for Change will serve to heighten the effectiveness and impact of the aid it gives. With a special focus on agriculture, we can provide a sustainable response to help eradicate poverty. This will, in turn, enable us to make strides with food security and nutrition.

It is simply unacceptable for human beings in our 21st century world to be going hungry. The international community, the EU included, must redouble its efforts to ensure that the most basic of human needs – access to food – is not a luxury, but a fact of life for us all.



Mr. Kandeh K. Yumkella

Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, (UNIDO)

Why is a strong partnership between EU, AU and a UN Agency like UNIDO key for agriculture development in Africa?

Agriculture development, and particularly agribusiness development in Africa, will require immense technical, human and financial investments and resources. While African countries and institutions bear the primary responsibility to put in place relevant policies and to mobilize their own resources and investments, a strengthened cooperation

with the EU and UNIDO is highly strategic. The EU remains Africa's main development as well as its principal trade partner. UNIDO, a UN specialized agency, has assisted the AU in the technical preparations of two main strategic frameworks for the continent: the Strategy for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa (AIDA) adopted by the African Summit in 2008 and the African Agri-business and Agro-industry Initiative (3ADI) launched by African Heads of State and Government in Abuja in March 2010. The adoption of these two frameworks has validated a

fundamental shift in Africa's development strategy giving industrial development and value addition a central role in the economic transformation of the continent. The Heads of States and Government recommended that UNIDO and the AUC report regularly on effective implementation.

A further step has been reached when the Africa-EU Summit in November 2010 has recognized and included these two frameworks in the second Plan of Action of the Africa-EU Partnership. In doing so, it has created a solid basis for the development of tripartite partnership between AU, EU and UNIDO while recognizing UNIDO as a major partner.

Since Tripoli Summit, UNIDO has dedicated important resources and energy to ensure the effective implementation of the Plan of Action through direct technical support to many African countries and regional economic communities and through the development of an important package of relevant technical assistance. To implement this technical assistance, important resources will be necessary. It is fundamental that the AU, EU and UNIDO continue their joint mobilization to make sure that, at next Africa-EU Summit in 2013, they will be able to report that they have delivered tangible achievements towards Africa's prosperity through the development of a vibrant agribusiness sector.

What are your views on the importance of agribusiness development for Africa's prosperity: challenges, potentials and opportunities?

Agribusiness is the key determinant of overall economic growth and poverty reduction in most countries of Sub-Saharan Africa, as it harnesses the critical linkages between agriculture, industry and services. The accelerated development of agribusiness will enhance the well-being of both producers and consumers, and generate employment, income and food security. Indeed, there is a growing consensus that a development path based on increased productivity growth throughout the entire agribusiness value chain – covering farms, processing plants and markets – is the most effective means of achieving rapid and widely shared economic growth and poverty reduction. Prosperity is not due to resource endowment and poverty is not due to the lack of resources. Prosperity is the outcome of value addition. Resource-rich countries may remain poor due to the lack of value addition.

The renewed interest in investments in agriculture and related growth in this sector should provide a strong platform for developing agribusiness value chains, and raising productivity in all of the individual links in these chains. This is a formidable challenge and that should stimulate development interventions in three principal areas

First, improving agricultural productivity through improved industrial inputs. This is the first element of agribusiness. The low productivity of the agricultural sector in Sub-Saharan Africa is due in large part to the low use of industrial inputs such

as tools, machinery and equipment, fertilizers and irrigation systems that affect the quality, quantity and sustainability of the raw materials flowing into agro-industries. The increased use of such inputs is critical to increasing farmlevel productivity, incomes and sustainable competitiveness.

Second, increasing the industrial processing of agricultural raw materials and food products. This conversion of commodities into processed products is the second component of agribusiness; The inability of many agro-industries in Sub-Saharan Africa to assure stable supplies of raw material of consistent quality represents a major constraint to their ability to continue producing throughout the chain and to transfer the benefits of that growth to farmers and the community at large.

Third, strengthening industrial production of processing machinery, equipment, tools and packaging materials, and improving the storage and transport infrastructure.

This forms the third component of agribusiness. It involves the production of industrial equipment for processing, packaging and storage, as well as the introduction of quality control, transportation and communications systems that affect the ability to preserve the quality of processed products and distribute them to consumers. Such equipment and technology can be produced in Africa at the regional or continental level based on technology acquired through South-South cooperation.

Such a strategy focusing on accelerating agribusiness development requires a strong emphasis on seven critical pillars which we have identified in a recent publication. These are:

- 1) enhancing agricultural productivity,
- 2) upgrading value chains,
- 3) exploiting local, regional and international demand,
- 4) strengthening technological effort and innovation capabilities,
- 5) promoting effective and innovative financing,
- 6) stimulating private sector participation and
- 7) improving infrastructure and energy access.

The implementation of these seven pillars requires important political, financial and technical resources as well as large scale public-private partnerships. Both governments and private sector have a role to play. Public investments are essential to create a favorable and stimulating environment that will unleash private sector investments.

Together with the African Union and the European Union, UNIDO stands ready to assist African countries and regional economic communities in the structural change necessary for Africa to prosper.



Bruno Le Maire

Ministre français de l'Alimentation, de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche, ainsi que de la Ruralité et l'Aménagement du territoire

OECD and UN report (16 June 2010) predicts 40% rise in food prices by 2020. Growing demands from emerging markets and biofuel production are expected to drive up farm commodity prices leading to increased food security, warns the latest outlook on global agricultural markets. While farm commodity prices have fallen from their record peaks of two years ago, they are unlikely to drop back to their average levels of the past decade. The report underlines that recent prices spikes and the economic crisis have contributed to a rise in hunger and food insecurity, and that agricultural production and productivity will need to be stepped up and a well functioning, rules-based trading system is needed to ensure fair competition and free flow of commodities from surplus to deficit production areas. These issues were recently discussed under French Presidency of the G20 Leaders' Summit. The G20 Action Plan on Food Price Volatility and Agriculture – which was endorsed at the Summit – is certainly a major step in positioning agriculture and food security on the international agenda. The various initiatives being launched should also benefit African agriculture and trade in the medium-long term

Pourquoi l'agriculture est-elle considérée comme une priorité lors de la prochaine présidence française du G20?

Le président de la République française a souhaité mettre la question agricole au cœur du G20. C'est une première ! Aujourd'hui, chacun a pris la mesure du défi agricole et alimentaire qui nous attend.

C'est d'abord un défi moral : nous avons tous vu cet été – et nous le voyons encore – la famine qui a frappé la Corne de l'Afrique. Nous voyons tous que nous avons été incapables de résoudre le problème de la faim dans le monde et nous savons que nous devons augmenter la production alimentaire mondiale de 70 % dans les cinquante prochaines années, si nous voulons nourrir correctement la planète.

Mais l'enjeu n'est pas seulement alimentaire. L'enjeu, c'est aussi la stabilité politique de régions entières : on le voit à la frontière de la Somalie et du Kenya, on le voit dans le nord de l'Afrique, on le voit aussi dans certaines parties de l'Asie.

Le troisième enjeu est un enjeu environnemental. Si nous voulons produire plus, il faudra produire mieux, au risque, sinon, d'épuiser les sols et les ressources en eau. Enfin, le dernier défi, c'est celui de la volatilité des prix. Quand le prix du blé passe en l'espace de quelques mois de 180 à 250 dollars la tonne, ce sont 100 millions de

personnes supplémentaires qui basculent sous le seuil de pauvreté. C'est un problème pour les pays en développement qui n'arrivent plus à assurer leurs approvisionnements, c'est un problème pour les consommateurs des pays développés qui voient les prix des produits alimentaires fluctuer d'un mois sur l'autre, et c'est un problème pour les producteurs du monde entier qui n'ont pas de visibilité suffisante sur leurs revenus.

L'Afrique est au centre de ces défis. Le Premier ministre Mèlès m'a dit, lorsque je l'ai rencontré en avril : « en Ethiopie, la volatilité tue ». Nous avons travaillé étroitement avec le continent africain. L'Union africaine a participé à nos travaux et le NEPAD est très impliqué dans la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action que les ministres de l'agriculture, dont mon collègue éthiopien Ato Tefera, ont adopté le 23 juin dernier.

Production et productivité agricole, meilleur accès aux informations du marché et transparence, coordination au niveau international des politiques relatives à la volatilité des prix et gestion des risques: En quoi tous ces points sont-ils importants pour le G20 ?

Chacun des volets du plan d'action du G20 apporte des réponses concrètes aux défis que nous devons relever.

Nous ne pourrions pas lutter contre la volatilité des prix si nous n'améliorons pas la transparence des marchés et si nous ne mettons pas en place des mécanismes de régulation efficaces. Nous avons donc lancé le 15 septembre dernier le système d'information sur les marchés agricoles (AMIS) qui permet d'améliorer la collecte et l'analyse des données sur les marchés agricoles au bénéfice, notamment, des pays en développement.

Nous ne pourrions pas non plus augmenter la production si nous n'investissons pas dans la recherche agronomique et dans le développement agricole des pays les plus pauvres. C'est ce que nous avons commencé à faire en lançant le séquençage du génome du blé pour aider les pays pauvres à développer des variétés plus résistantes au changement climatique.

Pour éviter les crises à répétition, nous voulons améliorer la coordination internationale : nous avons donc créé un forum de réaction rapide aux crises de marché.

Enfin, parce que les pays en développement, en particulier en Afrique, sont les premières victimes de la volatilité des prix agricoles, nous avons décidé de mettre en place des instruments spécifiques : le Programme alimentaire mondial va développer, en partenariat avec des organisations africaines, un système de réserves humanitaires d'urgence prépositionnées dans les zones les plus vulnérables. Par ailleurs, la Banque mondiale va mettre à disposition des pays en développement et des agriculteurs une boîte à outils d'assurance et de couverture des risques



COMMUNICATING WITH DISTANT CONSUMERS ABOUT COFFEE ORIGINS

Grown in almost every country in the tropical climate zone, coffee has become the most traded agricultural commodity in the world. But over 80% of it is just that: a commodity. The typical evolution of a commodity market is long-term increase in production and long-term decline in prices. The value-added in commodity sectors tends to accrue to the downstream operators who invest in packaging, branding and advertising to distinguish product in the market. So how can the farmers, producers and operators in the countries of origin secure a higher share of the value added?

Fortunately, there is a growing segment of consumers in the EU and across the world, demanding not just attractive labels, but true specialty coffees that stand out from commodities by the way they have been produced – think fair trade or organic or especially coffees distinguished by their intrinsic characteristics such as flavour and aroma that may be attributed to the geographical origin of the product. This development in the market is hugely significant for small-holder farmers in producer countries because any added value accruing to origin has to come back to the same producers in the region concerned. However, to succeed, producers need to be able to influence the marketing and presentation of their specialty product. The

Ethiopian 'fine coffees trade marking and licensing initiative' both promotes the identity of Ethiopian specialty coffees and protects their reputation from being copied by fraudulent operators. The strategy has involved improvements in quality standards by producers at home as well as a strategic marketing campaign in the main export destinations. According to Getachew Mengistie, intellectual property law consultant and attorney and former Director General of the EIPO (Ethiopian Intellectual Property Office) and organiser of the Fine Coffees Stakeholder Committee, to secure a greater share of the retail income of the distinct and unique fine coffees, capture and further build good will and reputation of speciality coffees, appropriate intellectual property and branding tools can be used. These tools help to distinguish the fine coffees, improve bargaining and marketing power and enable consumers to have the product of their choice. Consumers need to be told the story behind their purchase and be presented with a comprehensive brand and uniform identity. On the producer side, it is essential to ensure the quality standards of the product so that consumers' heightened expectations for a premium product and the brand promise are met.

Ethiopia developed umbrella and individual brands for the fine coffee designations- "Harar", "Sidamo" and "Yirgacheffe", which are registered and protected in more than 30 countries as trade marks. The brand has a general identity for 'Ethiopian Fine Coffee', with a stylized 'e' symbol evoking a coffee bean and a light that represents a dawn for the fine coffees and their producers. The coffee brands are geographical names of places in Ethiopia reputed for their coffee production and these names now feature on the supermarket shelves in all the major coffee markets, including the EU, the US and Canada. 'Sidamo' and 'Yirgacheffe' are also protected in Japan. Traders and retailers in the developed countries who wish to market these coffees, must sign an agreement with the Fine Coffees Stakeholder Committee before they can use the protected names. This makes sure that only genuine origin coffee is being sold under the names and secures a higher price for the producers.

Intellectual property

While basic value comes from a product, intellectual property is all those intangible factors, like invention, work of art, or design. For producers of agricultural products, particularly important types of intellectual property are those in traditional knowledge, geographical place names that identify quality products, and trade names. To protect these, producers need to have them registered.

Getachew Mengistie points out that producers in developed and newly industrialised countries commonly use intellectual property to protect their intangible assets. Producers in developing countries have these assets, but frequently lack the knowledge and skill of using appropriate intellectual property and branding tools and mechanisms to protect and exploit the intangible assets. This can lead to a misappropriation and misuse of the assets by others and little or no benefit to the producers.

Intellectual property tools can help with protecting and projecting product reputation and image. There are many types to choose: trade marks (like 'Coca Cola'), certification marks (like the 'Wool-Mark'), and geographical indications (like 'Scotch Whisky') are among the most common and effective. Choosing the right instrument and the right campaign requires research and careful assessment of the options.



Visit by EU official Francis FAY from Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, EU Delegation to Ethiopia and AU staff at Oromia Coffee Farmers Co-operative Union with the General Manager Tadesse Meskela

As for the results in the coffee sector in Ethiopia (which supports 15 million people), Mr Mengistie points to increasing awareness of the distinctive qualities of the Ethiopian fine coffees, and the promotion of the fine coffees and the brands by licensed coffee importers and distributors. The growing demand and improved marketing position of Ethiopian coffee producers and exporters has resulted in better prices, improvement of the living standards of coffee producers and provides incentives to enhance the quality of the fine coffees..

The Fine Coffees initiative shows the power of origin to enable farmers, especially smallholders, in Africa to communicate directly with and relate to consumers in distant markets, and secure price premiums for product having particular attributes that consumers seek. Initiatives are underway across the continent, including coffees, teas, oils, flowers, fruits and vegetables, honey, vanilla and all manner of agricultural products.

On 10-11 November 2011 in Kampala, Uganda, the AU and EU hosted a joint Workshop on 'Creating value through geographical indications: the power of origin' which will be reported in a future edition of LINK!

ADVANCING PEACE AND SECURITY WITH AN ADVANCED OFFICE **By GIZ**

Peace and security are priority issues for the whole international community, including the countries of Africa. The African Union (AU) Commission implements a peace and security strategy for the African continent. To support its efforts, the German Federal Foreign Office has funded the design and construction of a highly specialised building for the AU Peace and Security Department. Besides hosting the Peace and Security Council, the building will also be home to the Continental Early Warning System, with which the Council will be able to monitor critical information about ongoing crises, and manage both civil and military operations.

On the cornerstone laying event of the AU Peace and Security Building (AU PSB) held on 14 February 2011 at the AU Headquarters, Mr. Jean Ping, Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC) said, "In recognition of the work of the Peace and Security Department in ensuring peace, security and stability in Africa, the German Government gave its approval and appointed the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) to manage the construction of the building."

The AU Peace and Security Building is being built by Ethiopian construction companies. The building will meet international design standards for environmental sustainability, incorporating climate-friendly and energy-efficient technologies. The new building will be centrally situated on the grounds of the African Union. Its approximately 13,500 square meters of floor space will include offices for about 360 employees and provides a plenary hall for the meetings of the Peace and Security Council, a situations room and a military operations room. It also houses the offices of the Peace and Security Department, as well as a library, meeting facilities and space for auxiliary functions.

PROJECT MILESTONES;

- Following AU's approval of room schedules, preliminary design, tender procedures and contracting, Construction Works started in January 2011.
- Temporary facilities, which are to be used by the AU during the construction period, were handed over to AU in May 2011.
- All excavation works, installation of selected sub-base materials and drainage system together with relevant site installations were completed in July 2011.
- Formwork and reinforcement installations for the heavy raft foundation (55 x 50 x 1 meter) were completed in August 2011.
- Concrete casting of the raft foundation was completed in early September 2011 requiring some 700 cubic meter of concrete (i.e. 110 trucks) to be cast in one process (approximately 16 hours) for each of the four section.
- The project is planned to be hand over to AU in the last quarter of 2012.



GREAT GREEN WALL FOR SAHARA AND SAHEL

COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, IMPROVING FOOD SECURITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

A €1.75 million African Union project, supported by the European Union and FAO, aiming to address desertification, land degradation and drought in the Sahara and Sahel, was launched in Addis Ababa on 26 September 2011. This is an initial contribution from the EU to the initiative. More substantial funding is anticipated in the coming years.

The project will develop activities in Algeria, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Mauritania, Nigeria, the Gambia, Senegal and the Sudan. Other partner countries include Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Mali and Niger which are being supported through a Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) provided by the FAO, which is also the implementing agency for the EU funded project.

The two day meeting was attended by all 13 project focus countries, African Union Commission, Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, representative of the Regional

Economic Communities (ECOWAS), the pan-African Agency for the Great Green Wall, CILSS, Pan-African Farmers Organisation (PAFO), the African Forest Forum (AFF), the Global Mechanism (GM) of the UNCCD, the European Union Delegation to the African Union, the FAO and the World Bank. The meeting was officially opened by the Ethiopian State Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Ato Sileshi Getahun.

During the meeting, governance structure for the project was adopted. Discussion to clarify the roles of countries and partners in the project's implementation, including ensuring the involvement of the pan-African Great Green Wall Agency in the project and offering an avenue for strengthening collaboration between the agency and the AUC also took place. The work plan for the next 2 years was examined and approved, including planning of the second Africa dry lands week in 2012.



BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The GGWSSI is not only a tree planting initiative, but it is based on an integrated approach for improved livelihoods, with the purpose to tackle the detrimental social, economic and environmental impact of land degradation and desertification in the Sahara and Sahel region, in particular by supporting local community's efforts in sustainable management and use of natural resources (land, water and vegetation).

The project is developed in the framework of the Africa-EU strategic partnership (under theme 6-Climate change). It will focus on capacity development for the planning and implementation of best practices at local level and international levels, establishing a networking platform for knowledge sharing and technology transfer, developing a harmonized strategy for the Great Green Wall initiative and setting up a platform for partnership and resource mobilization.

AFRICA-EU HIGH LEVEL SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION DIALOGUE

High Level Policy Dialogue on Science, Technology and Innovation, endorsed by the November 2010 EU-Africa Joint Summit of Tripoli and designed to enhance and strategically drive forward the STI cooperation between Africa and EU- First Senior Officials Meeting of the Dialogue took place on 10-11 2011 October in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Headquarter of the African Union Commission.

The meeting created an opportunity to bring Science, Technology and Innovation experts, policy makers and diplomats from the two continents and allowed the EU and Africa high level representatives to have a constructive and productive exchange on how to strengthen further the STI cooperation. They assessed what works and what doesn't, built on success stories and prepared a policy agenda for extended cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation between Africa and Europe.

First meeting of its kind since the 2002 Cape Town ACP Forum on Research for Sustainable Development, this event gave a new strategic impulse to EU-Africa bi-regional scientific cooperation. It was proposed that the next SOM should be held by the end of 2012 in Europe and hosted by the European Commission.

European Commission was represented by Robert-Jan Smits, Director-General for Research and Innovation whereas the African Union Commission was represented by Jean-Pierre Ezin, Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology.

The meeting also coincided with the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) 6th biannual Forum which presented recent advances in the fight against HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis in Africa.



BETTER TRAINING FOR SAFER FOOD (BTSF) AFRICA

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REFERENCE FRAMEWORK AND GUIDE FOR HARMONISATION OF THE MANAGEMENT OF THE FOOD HYGIENE IN AFRICA

Newsletter LINK! 7 reported an array of activities in the Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) fields implemented jointly by collaboration between the EC (Health and Consumers Directorate-General, DG SANCO) and AUC (Department for Rural Economy and Agriculture), as an action of the Joint Africa-Europe Strategy (JAES) – Trade and Regional Integration partnership, under the programme BTSF Africa (2009-2010).

A number of activities have been completed successfully. In particular, 10 consultative regional workshops were held, involving representatives of the competent authorities of all African countries and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), private sector (food industries, consumer organisations, etc) and multilateral and standards setting bodies. These have helped to spur political support through an exchange of best practices and development of common principles, strengthening of national food hygiene capacities based on international Codex standards, in the light of regional and pan-African integration aspirations.

These regional workshops have resulted in the elaboration of a Reference Framework and a Guide for Harmonisation of the Management of the Food hygiene in Africa. These

Reference documents have been endorsed by the African Heads of State and Government at their Summit in January 2011 (Addis Ababa). The AU now sees their application as a strategic element of cross-border movement, and a key to reducing non-tariff barrier to trade of agricultural products in Africa. For these reasons, the AU Commissioner Mrs Tumusiime (Rural Economy and Agriculture) has sent copy of these documents to all relevant African Ministries to consider how best to implement them. A copy has also been sent to all the RECs. EC and AUC services are now considering how best to accompany the implementation of these documents to contribute towards strategic interests at national and regional levels.

These documents are accessible on: <http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/>

Furthermore, capacity building through sustained Experts' missions were carried out in 26 countries, helping Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to improve hygiene practices and workers' skills, with knock-on effects on improvement of business' potential, competitiveness and access to domestic and international markets, thereby contributing towards overall economic growth and food security.





HOLDING BACK THE SAND

FAO PROJECT IN MAURITANIA IS A TEXT BOOK CASE ON HALTING DESERTIFICATION IN AFRICA

Setting the parameters - the first step is a green wind-break. June 17, 2010, Rome – FAO marks World Day to Combat Desertification today with the publication of a manual that shows how a project in Mauritania successfully fixed dunes and stopped sand encroachment.

It will serve as a useful blueprint for similar projects in Africa. Sand encroachment is what happens when grains of sand are carried by winds and collect in dunes on the coast, along watercourses and on cultivated or uncultivated land.

As the dunes move, they bury villages, roads, oases, crops and irrigation channels and dams, causing major economic damage and increasing poverty and food insecurity.

THE RIGHT PLANTS

The new FAO publication, Fighting sand encroachment – lessons from Mauritania, compiled with the support of the Walloon region of Belgium and Mauritania's Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, explains sand encroachment processes and control techniques, with an emphasis on involving local people in sand control activities.

By choosing the right local plant and tree species and involving the local community and national authorities, the FAO Mauritania project fixed 857 hectares of threatened land on the outskirts of the capital city Nouakchott and in southern coastal areas with 400 000 plants grown for the purpose in nurseries.

TWO WAY BATTLE

"The fight against desertification is a fight on two fronts," said Nora Berrahmouni, FAO Forestry Officer for Arid Zones.

"The first is preventing the process happening in the first place through sustainable management of existing forests, range lands and natural resources."

"The second is repairing the damage done to forests and oases, by first stopping the sand blowing on the degraded soil and then replanting."

The Support for Rehabilitation and Extension of the Nouakchott Green Belt Project was initiated by His Royal Highness, Prince Laurent of Belgium, financed by a \$1.6 million grant from the Walloon Region of Belgium.

It ran for nine years and finished in 2009. It was implemented by FAO in close collaboration with the Government of Mauritania. The project has worked so well that it is now being replicated in other parts of Mauritania.

BRICK IN A GREEN WALL

Lessons will be also drawn up for the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel, an initiative being carried out under the auspices of the African Union Commission and the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD).

The Great Green Wall initiative aims to address the impacts of aridity, low land productivity, desertification and climate change as well as to secure sustainable livelihoods in the Sahara and Sahel drylands.

It will include sustainable management and restoration of degraded forest lands, dune fixation, and management of oases and grazing land across several countries of the Sahara and Sahel, from the Atlantic coast to the Indian Ocean.

FAO, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, has just launched a \$460 000 project to kick-start the Great Green Wall project in five selected countries – Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Mali and the Niger. The European Union is also providing 1.4 million euros to implement the initiative in eight other countries.

Lessons learned from this project will also serve the new "inter-regional program for poverty alleviation and combating desertification through collaborative watershed management" launched by FAO in June 2010 in Mauritania, Morocco and Ecuador and funded by Spain.



ARRIVAL

DEPARTURES



CAROLE POULLAOUEC AND FRANCESCO CARBONI JOINED THE PEACE AND SECURITY SECTION STARTING OCTOBER 2011.



TIMOTHY BAINES AND GABY HAGMULLER DEPARTED ON 30/09/2001 FROM PEACE & SECURITY SECTION.



HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO THE AFRICAN UNION DEPARTED ON OCTOBER 2011 AFTER LEADING THE DELEGATION STARTING JANUARY 2008.



You can also read LINK! on the website of the Delegation of the European Union to the African Union http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/african_union/index_en.htm



LIEN!



AU COEUR DU PARTENARIAT AFRIQUE-UNION EUROPÉENNE



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