



HIGHER EDUCATION IN AFRICA PARTNERS CONSULTATIVE FORUM

20th March 2019

Marrakech, Morocco

Day 3- OCP UM6/P 22/3/2019 Side Event

Policy for Agricultural transformation

Analysis on the Continental agricultural policy framework was given by Professor Luke Mumba, Vice Chancellor of University of Zambia, followed by Agricultural Productivity analysis for eight countries in Africa by a team from the University of Minnesota,

Experience from RENAGRI-Regional Network of Agriculture Policy Institutes a member based in Eastern and Southern Africa- with lessons from TEGMEO, CARD and the Policy Centre for New Sciences- OCP- Think tank was also presented

Agriculture policy context for Africa- presented at three levels

The session focused on the policy framework for agricultural transformation at the continental and regional levels.

Key highlights

1) The Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Program (CAADP)

The 2003 CAADP Maputo Declaration is the milestone in the development of the African Agriculture policy. Spearheaded by NEPAD to focus on the productivity of the Agricultural sector and food security with a proviso to resource mobilization to support the two processes.

CAADP has evolved

Phase one (2003-2013) focused on increasing investment in Agriculture and generation of growth in the sector- Policies that benefit small holders- inclusive growth, Sustainability collaborations- (farmers, women, private sector) and Meaningful budgetary resources to support the development

Targets



- a) 10% of the national public budget allocated to Agricultural investments
- b) 6% GDP growth per year
- c) 1% of GDP on GERD

Evaluation shows few countries have attained this

This phase had no clear priorities and no framework for evaluation of the investments made by national governments. Hence there were no structures to hold the governments accountable for the set targets

Phase 2 2015-2025 Malabo declaration put in place a more intensive monitoring mechanism with reduction in post-harvest losses and enhancement of resilience of livelihoods as key priorities.

However the mechanisms for holding the National Governments accountable is still fluid

2) Regional Economic Commissions (RECS)

RECS such as SADC, COMESA, ECOWAS, and EAC support the member states in domestication of the CAADP policy guidelines, monitoring of progress and designing domestic agricultural development policies. They draw on existing policies to implement CAADP framework

Regional coordination is important for Agriculture development- regional investments and national compacts

3) RENAGRI-Reginal Network Of Agriculture Policy Institutes (member organisation based in Eastern and Southern Africa)

Network of Policy Research Institutes that address national and regional issues, they Monitor policy advocacy – gap left by Universities. Institutes collaborate to provide common solutions- share resources- [capacity building, policy guidance to decision makers, peer learning between members)

Research on Agriculture transformation- www.renagri.org. CEPPAG.org

1. Land policy and transformation
2. Youth – gender and employment
3. Financing Agriculture productivity
4. Public expenditure analysis
5. Climate change
6. Market policy- strategic foresight and planning in the region- horizon scanning

Outreach- communicate the findings to the RECs, government and the private sector

Reliable data to influence decision making and to provide experiential learning for the students



TEGMEO- Institute

Agricultural policy – data at different levels to generate evidence to inform and influence policy across the value chain. They have focused on

1. Subsidy- productivity- income generating activities, fertilizers,
2. Policy analysis, track indicators for Agriculture performance – HH data 1997-2010
3. Outreach and Advocacy- meeting stakeholders as users of the outputs
4. Capacity building for the stakeholders
5. Resilience at the household level
6. Regional trade for economic growth and food security

Monitoring Evaluation and Learning unit- work with stakeholders to design programmes for impactful and inclusive policies. Main Consumers- Ministry of Agriculture

Factors that have influenced up take

1. Objectivity in generation and dissemination of research results
2. Consistence – Annual cost analysis for production of crops
3. Quality of the evidence produced [shared data]
4. Identify champions to advocate for the findings of the research

CARD- Centre for Agricultural Research and Development [LUANR] main characteristics and focus

1. Think tank for the Ministry of Agriculture
2. Agriculture policy research unit- Agriculture policy analysis and training unit- training for Members of Parliament
3. Great demand for evidence and data
4. Executed policy analysis on farm input subsidy- crop mapping- targeted subsidy

There is limited research that addresses the core functions- It is difficult to set the agenda when there is no independent funding. Areas of focus will be determined by the resource providers.

Policy Centre for New Sciences- OCP- Think tank

- Undertakes policy research with academic rigor.
- Has more than 50 researchers from across the world
- Focus of Long term development for example commodity research and geo politics
- Analysing short term macro-economic policies with long term agricultural development effects



- Stimulation regarding the youth- emerging people with opportunity to gain visibility – 200 students
- South- South collaboration
- Engage with policy makers -
- Establishing tool to asses policy at the regional level

Emerging Issues

Monitoring agricultural policy influence requires internationally recognized performance indicators

Assessment of appropriateness and effectiveness of the policies has remained a challenge

Several agencies have developed indicators and frameworks for monitoring performance that can be applied for example IADB, OECD, IFPRI- ASTI, and MAFAP

Agriculture policies need to be strengthened, capacity skills for policy development to address the gaps

There is need to harness the political will, financial resources and capacity at national levels if the policies are to be realized

There is need for an integrated approach to Agriculture development- bringing all sectors on board including agriculture, finance, private sector, commerce, ICT, Education

Human capital development needs to be an integral component of agricultural development strategies

Establish robust M&E systems

Voices of researchers and Vice Chancellors are required for more investment in Agriculture. People should influence change and the knowledge deficit among the policy makers

Universities are well endowed and they should do what is required to influence policy- make the right voices- foster the Knowledge economy

Adopt a multi-pronged approach for further capacity building for the policy makers and implementers,

Labour moving from Agriculture to other sector- the principles that if the share of Agriculture in GDP reduces equals then development has occurred sends the wrong signal to the youths who leave the rural sector for non-productive urban ventures. We therefore have to devise mechanism to keep



the youth in agriculture, given the erroneous descriptions that reduction share of Agriculture is equivalent to poverty reduction.

Government inefficiencies affecting productivity? Political stability is good; what are the unique features that enable productivity? A diverse set of intervention- specificity of the interventions based on the local environment across the continent.

Recommendations to policy making organs

Establish proper reporting and accountability mechanisms for the policy makers and implementers

The academia (studies and innovations) – Packaging of the studies in a user friendly form that will enable appreciation and uptake to address the disconnect between the university and industry- universities are not configured to transform the R&D into innovations- we need to put in place intermediary structures that will link the university to industry (innovation hubs, technology parks and incubation centres)

Reflect on the policy development process (Should we question why they don't implement or question how they come up with the policies) how did we get to 10%. How can we measure the 10%- what are the parameters to define the declarations? Endeavour to involve stakeholders in policy development process

Consider the internal and external factors affecting policy implementation? Advocacy and Peace for agriculture development [internal] and world market forces [external]

At country level- the role of the education disappears- we need to hold the politicians accountable and that can only be done if we empower the population through the education.

There are lessons from countries that have put in place frameworks for measuring contribution. These have established inclusive support to R&D to include incentives for the private sector participation.

Reflect on the role of universities in creating an accountability mechanism at both the national and regional levels. (To which constituents are the decision makers accountable to?) Knowledgeable citizens: therefore universities have to enlighten the citizens to ask the relevant questions. ***“If the pursuit of learning is not defended by the educated then it will not be defended at all”***

Lessons from the Policy Institutes

- 1- Engage the decision makers in the policy making process to improve ownership
- 2- Consistence in messages provided by the data over a trend time period, continuous dissemination of information
- 3- Policy Analysis undertaken with academic rigour thus providing unquestionable evidence



- 4- Establish a Monitoring Evaluation and Learning unit- work with stakeholders to design programmes for impactful and inclusive policies. Monitor performance of policies that have been implemented and identify key gap areas both in the monitoring and the implementation

Action points for the Universities/RUFORUM

1. Policy issues as part of the curriculum so that graduates go with full knowledge to enable them operate in this framework- sensitization of communities to put pressure on MPs at budget discussion.
2. Plan for orientation session with government leaders to make universities more relevant - Create think tanks to advocate for Agriculture consider aspects like resource allocation to the different sectors. How do governments apportion the money what parameters are considered?
3. Communique from the consultative meeting to the C10 to advocate for the policy implementation.
4. Bring the decision makers on the separate boards and they should be part of the decision making at the institutions – the RENAGRIC model
5. Create avenues for the private sector to participate in R&D through linkages such as internships, research chairs
6. Packaging of the policy study reports in a user friendly form that will enable appreciation and uptake.
7. Funding for policy research- RUFORUM to explore mechanisms to mobilise resources and/or channel resources to policy analysis and other policy related issues.
8. Seek high level policy support for AHESTI (Africa's Universities Agenda for Higher Education in Agriculture, Science, Technology and Innovation), BASTIC (Building Africa's Science, Technology and Innovation Capacity) and SHAEA (Strengthening Higher Agricultural Education in Africa) as these are key strategies for supporting implementation of CAADP and STISA-2024 and for actualising recommendations of the November 2018 Summit of the Committee of 10 African Heads of State championing Education, Science, Technology and Innovation development in Africa (C10)