

P4C Network Meeting

Transformation to a Food Secure, Resilient and Sustainable Future

26th - 27th of June 2024, Nairobi, Kenya

P4C Submission of Independent Memorandum for the CAADP Post-Malabo Agenda

1. Background on P4C constituency, composition of the network

The Partners for Change (P4C) Network Meeting took place over two days in June 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya, bringing together approximately 200 partners from diverse stakeholder groups. Participants included representatives from government, the private sector, civil society, farmers organizations, rights holders, academia, international organizations, and development cooperation, representing more than 30 countries, primarily from Africa. One of the focus of this year's P4C Network Meeting was to collaboratively reflect on the implementation of the Malabo Declaration and to develop recommendations for the African Union's Post Malabo consultation process. The discussions and findings are based on the joint implementation experiences of German Development Cooperation and its partners since 2014, aligning with the Malabo Agenda implementation decade.

2. Executive summary

The objective of this memorandum is to highlight challenges and solution approaches for achieving CAADP principles and commitments, as observed by the P4C network. In eight thematic transformation workshops as well as plenary sessions and interactive collection of ideas, thematic as well as general recommendations were collected (see chapter 3 and 4). The thematic recommendations contribute to most of the Technical Working Group themes.

In addition, the P4C Network members ranked the following four success factors as most important for better implementation of the Post Malabo Agenda. (*The percentage of participants who rank the factor high is indicated in brackets according to different language groups*):

- 1) Integration of all affected stakeholders into the planning and implementation processes for ownership (61% EN / 10% FR)
- 2) Ensuring that National Agriculture Investment Plans (NAIPs) are fully integrated into broader national development plans to promote alignment (53% EN / 10% FR)
- 3) Capacity building for local institutions (49% EN / 17% FR)
- 4) Strengthening interministerial coordination to ensure coherent and consistent policy development and implementation (37% EN / 14% FR)

Additional factors considered included:

- Functioning coordination mechanism with the private sector.

- Earmarked budgeting for NAIP implementation to ensure that financial resources are available and used effectively.
- Successful regional integration in Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to enhance cooperation and harmonize agricultural policies and initiatives across borders.
- Alignment and coordination with partner countries to ensure effective implementation and address cross-border challenges.
- Involvement of local communities in decision-making processes.
- Data and reporting to enhance evidence-based policy and accountability.
- Ensuring transparent governance through clear decision-making processes and transparent management of resources and operations.

The P4C network identified the following gaps in the Malabo agenda which should be addressed in the formulation and implementation of the Post Malabo agenda:

- Governance
- private-sector involvement
- land rights
- accountability
- evidence-based policy research
- climate-smart agriculture

Further, the Partners for Change Network highlighted the following mechanisms to trigger better national implementation:

- accountability
- transparency
- multi-sectoral coordination
- strong policies and governance
- inclusivity

3. Selected recommendations on eight transformation themes

In 8 multi-stakeholder transformation workshops and interactive collection of ideas, the P4C network discussed key issues pertinent to the transformation of agri-food systems. For reference, the corresponding technical themes from the post-Malabo consultation process are indicated in the square brackets.

- 1) **Sustainable Agriculture for Food Security within the Planetary Boundaries** [*TWG 3. Ending Hunger in Africa - food security, Nutrition, Health and Food Safety/Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS); TWG 8. Mitigation and adaptation to climate change for Agri-Food Systems*]
 - Agricultural financing needs balanced sectoral allocations and a free market does not imply no policies are needed.
 - Inclusive multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral partnerships that are transparent, responsible, have a shared vision and ownership, with a win-win outcome.
 - Greater recognition of the multiple roles of agriculture livestock and rangelands – agriculture as a multi-role (livelihoods, food / nutrition, incomes, jobs, development, environmental stewardship)
 - Invest in sustainable food systems (climate-smart agriculture, energy, water, land tenure security, and index insurance), funds should also be allocated to agri-food processing and research and development to boost production and access to healthy food.

- 2) **Governance: From Global to Local Level for Rural Development** [TWG 1. Principles and Values of the CAADP Process (from narrow agriculture led growth to agri-food system; TWG 11. Implementation and Coordination Capacity (Delivery mechanisms) at Member States, RECs, and Continental levels; Policy formulation and implementation]
- Strengthen collaborative leadership skills of stakeholders to ensure successful advocacy
 - Strengthen the legislative framework and accountability mechanisms
 - Encourage horizontal partnership on value chains (between farmers' organisations) and vertical partnership between farmers' organisations and the government (infrastructure, authorities, etc.) as well as strengthening the partnership between TFPs and the PPP.
 - Promote decentralisation and find the right balance for equitable power-sharing and decision-making and decentralisation of resources.
 - Map community forests and support community mechanisms to manage these community forests: strengthen community rights.
 - Support measures for behavioural change, particularly for men, with progressive laws and policies to safeguard (land) property rights
 - Strategic investment in integrated land use planning and governance to prioritize land rights and expansion for climate smart and sustainable agriculture.
 - prioritize land use for food production versus competing options through evidence based geospatial solutions
 - Biennial Review should track if governments invest in and enforce policy on transparency of agri-food multinational companies in food systems
- 3) **Trading-off future climate and nutrition policies** [TWG 3. Ending Hunger in Africa - food security, Nutrition, Health and Food Safety/Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS)]
- Support use of indigenous seeds and gender inclusive approaches
 - Policy development/reviews should be bottom-up (people-centred) and not influenced by global push, e.g safeguarding and promoting production systems that are climate resilient and nutritious for local people.
 - Encourage policy review to harmonize multi-sectoral policies e.g agriculture, health and environment; public procurements to recognize nutrition and climate ("*Climate-sensitive nutrition policies & Nutrition-sensitive climate policies*"), implement a "One Food Systems Approach" (akin to the "One Health Approach")
 - International actors (UN, bilateral partners etc) to align and support nationally-driven food systems agenda and create common approaches
- 4) **Inequalities: Empowerment of Marginalized Groups** [TWG 9. Inclusivity and equality in agri-food systems (youth and gender) - stakeholder engagement]
- Ensure programs and policies are designed based on assessment of needs of women and marginalized groups (needs analysis) and with their participation
 - Measure this (e.g. by introducing scorecards) so government can be held accountable (use of Monitoring Frameworks such as social and gender audits), which should be complemented by contextual data to understand in-country realities
 - Education should empower women and marginalized groups to participate in the policy process. This includes peer learning; the documentation and dissemination of research, statistics and business cases in appropriate languages; women- and youth-centric technology designs; and good traditional practices

- Include all relevant stakeholders: civil society, private sector, government, different age groups, different ethnic groups, tribal leaders, youth, women and men, marginalised groups. When including marginalised groups, don't just look at their number but at the transformation that will occur
- Mainstream land rights and land governance issues into agri-food systems and processes, especially for women and youth.
- Countries to allocate budgets for the implementation of the post-Malabo agenda and ensure that investments reach smallholders, women, and youth.
- Market access and agri-preneurship to create jobs and incomes for rural populations, especially youth and women
- Professionalize agricultural work, including through technical training and extension services and creation of decent jobs in particular for women and youth
- Implement measures to formalise the informal situations of women and young people in the context of food production
- Inclusion of all stakeholders in the data collection, monitoring and evidence generation and co-creation of implementation initiatives to bring the realities and priorities of vulnerable groups and strengthen the accountability mechanisms of different actors.

5) Innovations for Agriculture and Food Systems Transformation [TWG 4. Emerging Technologies, Biotechnology, Artificial Intelligence and Productivity Growth]

- To support innovation in agri-food systems, policies are required to define what innovation is, address key ingredients. Furthermore, guidance for policy innovation is needed.
- Create policies that encourage private sector leading participation in the Innovation development, scaling, and farmer market linkages.
- Obstacles for scaling up transformative inventions which should be addressed are political & societal motivation as well as knowledge.

6) Resilience against Food System Shocks [TWG 7. Enhancing Resilience of Livelihoods and Agri-food Systems to Shocks]

- To strengthen resilience against food systems shocks, a more integrated policy framework is needed.
- Policies should have a farmers' lense and pay attention to gender and power relations
- Investments into agricultural extension services for smallholder farmers including climate risk management schemes are needed
- Indigenous knowledge should be weaved with innovative technology
- In avoiding bad practices such as top down approaches and duplication of activities, we should have inclusive partnerships that include community level leadership and community based organizations
 - To get more resilient against shocks, local context must be put forward in all activities: National policies are shifting to more domestic food production and processing to reduce dependency from long supply chains
 - Intra-African trade needs to be strengthened
 - Production side needs diversification of farmers livelihoods on and off farm
 - Consumption side needs to encourages locally grown food
- Fast-track agroecology transition in the post-Malabo agenda including the use of indigenous and local seed varieties and integrating of local knowledge in research approaches, as a means to prevent biodiversity loss and promote resilience to external shocks.

7) Regulations and Compliance within Supply Chains [TWG 6. Boosting Intra - African Agri-food Trade]

- Development of national laws that limit child labour, favour children and guarantee decent work. Child labour laws must also be adapted to African culture.
- Regulations should always be accompanied by a package of resources for capacity building and technical tools (laptops, applications, etc.).
- Foster partnerships on various levels: Producer organisations, inter-professional organisations (all value chain), between non-state actors and states, between producer states - international alliance
- Regional Economic Communities should act as basis for value chain partnerships, facilitating agreements on standards, norms and regulations; data collection methodology and data sharing
- Capacity building and funding for compliance with international value chain regulation at all levels and ensuring farmers' knowledge, including all actors into the whole process
- Secure and documented land rights are critical to ensure traceability and conflicts over land are minimized.
- Promote value addition of agricultural products in the countries using a multi-stakeholder approach
- Strengthen intra-African trade by collecting quality data and adopting mechanisms to dismantle trade barriers and reduce illicit financial flows in cross-border trade by building a multinational framework
- Improvements in rural infrastructure, in particular to facilitate access to markets

8) Repurposing Agricultural Support & Access to Finance [TWG 2. Enhancing Investment Finance in Agri-food system]

- To successfully repurpose agriculture support and enhance access to finance for small and marginal farmers towards climate-resilient agriculture and sustainable food systems, we need:
 - i. strategic vertical and horizontal partnerships
 - ii. that foster diverse and inclusive participation
 - iii. involve a wide range of actors that hold each other accountable to clear, farmer-focused outcomes
 - iv. and are mutually beneficial to all partners to produce the desired impact
- Focus on effective allocation and not only the share of public investment into agriculture, taking into account cultural contexts in the implementation of global policies..
- Prioritize lending policies for better knowledge and willingness of domestic banks and other financing institutions to lend to small producers and SMEs

4. General recommendations to be considered in the post-Malabo Agenda

In addition to the aforementioned thematic recommendations, the following general recommendations were collected by the P4C Network in various workshops and plenary sessions:

- Communication to reach stakeholders at all levels, using appropriate methods and materials, so they can engage effectively with the post-Malabo agenda and understand how their engagement is beneficial in realizing the set objectives.
 - include working with **commodity organisations** for widely sharing information, innovations and actions for increase climate resilience

- Coordinating multi-level and inclusive stakeholder engagement, supported by functional government structures, clear roles and accountabilities of all actors, balanced top-down and bottom-up approaches, and interactive feedback loops.
- Political decisions should be based on research and facts: evidence-based decisions and recommendations to implement policies should be relevant to marginalized groups.

5. Contact Information:

Should you have any questions or need further clarification, please feel free to contact mail@foodfortransformation.org