



Sustainable Agriculture for Food Security, Resilience and Prosperity in the ACP

***High-Level panel organised by the ACP Secretariat and CTA
In the context of the 8th ACP Summit of Heads States and Government***

Port-Moresby, Papua New Guinea, Monday 30th May 2016, 14:00-15:00
International Convention Centre (ICC) – Room 5 (ground floor)

In 2015 the international community achieved significant milestones with the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and a universal legally binding climate agreement. Both developments call for major actions with significant implications for food and agriculture globally. Among the 17 goals and 169 targets, SDG 2 and its five targets focus on food and nutrition security and agriculture. Other SDGs address important aspects of food and agricultural issues, including women empowerment, post-harvest and food losses, access to land and regulation of fishing.

The need to adapt agricultural systems to respond to climate change and extreme weather events has never been more urgent. Through the Paris Agreement of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) have demonstrated their political commitment to delivering climate conscious sustainable development; this needs to be translated into action that will strengthen the resilience of fragile agri-food systems which rely on smallholder farmers. Recent developments, from the El Nino induced severe droughts in various regions in Africa to the floods in the Pacific Islands, have shown that climate resilience must be a priority for all of the ACP countries. Therefore, agriculture should be resilient - able to withstand and recover from stresses and shocks, and inclusive. Developing resilient agriculture will require technologies and practices that build on agro ecological knowledge and enable smallholder farmers to counter environmental degradation and climate change in ways that maintain sustainable agricultural growth.

Given the dominance of agriculture in the economy of most ACP countries, increased productivity in the sector will be a key driver and a critical component of inclusive growth. As a source of employment for the majority of ACP populations, agriculture is crucial for poverty reduction and sustainable development. With the large number of young people entering the labour market each year and not finding jobs easily, more effort should be exerted to make agriculture attractive and remunerative for youth as a career opportunity.

Women play a critical role in agricultural systems as producers (providing up to 40% of the agricultural labour force globally, with the figure being up to 80% in some parts of Africa); they are central to ensuring household nutrition and driving entrepreneurship and demand in the sector.

Transforming agriculture as an engine for growth in the ACP will require significant and well-coordinated investments by the public and private sectors. The critical importance of mobilising domestic and international financial resources, leveraging international trade, and increasing development cooperation in achieving the SDGs is well featured in the Framework for ACP Private Sector Development released in 2014.

The investment climate for agriculture includes ensuring: (i) adequate incentives for farmers from sound macro-economic, trade and sector policies; (ii) increased incentives for businesses and improvements in the business climate; (iii) reduction of transport costs for agricultural products; and (iv) reduction of barriers to intra-regional trade. It also means confirming land and property rights, particularly for women, to give farmers the security to invest in their land.

ACP countries have to transform their agriculture and agro-industry to attract investment through innovative business models. This requires strengthening the development of competitive local private sectors, building local institutional and business capacity, promoting SMEs and cooperatives, supporting enforcement of legislative and regulatory frameworks and facilitating access to business and financial services. Entrepreneurship has to be facilitated in order to realise a more competitive, resilient and inclusive agricultural sector.

The panel will discuss the imperative for developing sustainable agri-food systems in the face of climate change challenges and share experiences and lessons in advancing agricultural transformation in ACP countries through public-private partnerships and multi-stakeholder alliances.

The speakers will bring the perspective from resilience building, agribusiness development and investment.



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Programme

14:00-15:00

Opening and welcome remarks

Dr Patrick I. Gomes, ACP Secretary General

Panellists:

- Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister of Namibia
- Dr Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary General, UNCTAD
- Mrs Janet Sape, Executive Director of PNG Women in Business
- Mr Peter Seligmann, CEO, Conservation International
- H.E. Pa'olelei Luteru, Ambassador of Samoa – SIDS Perspective

Moderator: Mr Michael Hailu, Director of CTA