

**ACHIEVING REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY IN AFRICA: AN ASSESSMENT OF
THE COMPREHENSIVE AFRICA AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME (CAADP), 2001 - 2023**

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Abstract

Food is considered as one of the fundamental human rights that should not be denied any human being; and food is also different from other commodities because of its inevitability for survival and existence. The importance of food is recognized by the United Nations Organization (UNO), and this accounts for the reason why one of the millennium development goals is to eradicate poverty and hunger in the world. Other regions and continents such as Europe, America, South East Asia, and others have consistently eradicated hunger and minimized poverty by making food available at all time and making it affordable to their people. However, Africa seems to be lagging behind in its quest to achieving food security for its people. The continental Africa had developed excellent programmes in the past on how to achieve food security in Africa through agricultural revolutionary methodology; yet, poverty and hunger pervert the continent. Having transformed the Organization for African Unity (OAU) to African Union (AU), the African leaders adopted the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) as their principal development framework for the continent; and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), became an instrument under NEPAD for agricultural transformation, wealth creation and food security for the continent. The aim of this study is to investigate and evaluate the extent CAADP has gone in making Africa food sufficient 22 years after its emergence. Basically, the study is qualitative, utilizing mostly secondary source of data in its analysis. The findings of the study reveal that although CAADP has recorded appreciable presence in almost all African nations, it is far from realizing its potentials. The study, thus, concludes by recommending among other things that CAADP should avoid building parallel structures, rather, it should robustly work with other sub-regional and national agricultural based policy bodies by making sure that African countries key into CAADP's vision through quality assurance monitoring.

Key words: Africa, Food Security, Assessment, Development, CAADP, NEPAD.

Introduction

Africa belongs to the categories of continents that cannot sufficiently feed itself in this present dispensation. The continent ensures food availability by a mix of domestic food production and overseas imports. For instance, Sasson (2012) asserts that of the total under-fed people in the world, at least one-fourth live in Africa. This is the only continent where agricultural production *per capita* has been decreasing for the past 30years. It is also the continent where agriculture suffered most from erroneous or inappropriate policies. Sasson observes that between 1970 and 1997, armed conflicts caused losses of agricultural production estimated at about US\$52 billion, which is the equivalent of 75% of the total public aid received during the same period.

In the 1960s when most African states got their political independence, the African leaders discovered that they have been left with highly fragile and structurally truncated economies

based on the exports of one or two agricultural commodities with inherent price distortions in the international market. Thus, in May 1963, thirty (30) African states met in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa and signed the charter of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). The founding fathers of the OAU were convinced according to Ogwu (2006) that the problems of Africa's development could only be solved when the continent was politically liberated and united.

The persistent and worsening poverty in the African continent even after the formation of OAU led to the adoption of different development mechanisms between 1980 and 2000. First, it was the Lagos Plan of Action (LPA) which was geared toward achieving self-sufficiency in food production and supply, industrial development, natural resources exploration and extraction, transport and communications, trade and finance, science and technology, and others (Jolly, 2009). The short-comings of LPA led the African leaders to adopt the United Nations Programme of Action for Africa Economic Recovery and Development (UNPAAERD) during the first Ordinary Summit of the OAU in July, 1985. The unimpressive response of Africa's economies to UNPAAERD led to the emergence of the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programme (AAF-SAP) in 1989.

Following the inability of the OAU to achieve food security through their development mechanisms, the OAU was transformed to African Union (AU) to enable the continent meet the challenges posed by the increasingly competitive world market. Thus, the African Union was born in the South African Port City of Durban in July 2002, with the aim of accelerating the political and socio-economic agenda of the African people. Before the transformation of AU, the African leaders had met in Lusaka, Zambia, in July, 2001 and adopted a development initiative christened the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD). NEPAD was seen as Africa's principal agenda for development, providing a holistic, comprehensive framework for the socio-economic development of the continent, within the institutional framework of the African Union. NEPAD has the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) as Africa's policy framework for agricultural transformation, wealth creation and food security.

CAADP is a common framework, tool and process for the restoration of agricultural growth and food security in Africa. It aims at helping African countries reach a higher path of economic growth through agriculture-led development through the allocation of 10 percent of public expenditure to agriculture and expected 6 percent annual agriculture productivity growth rate by 2015. CAADP equally aims at increasing the resources governments devote to agriculture; reducing hunger, increasing food production, improving rural infrastructure and marketing, and boosting agricultural research (Mkandawire, 2009).

While the optimism of African leaders were high with the emergence of AU, NEPAD and its agricultural policy framework CAADP, it took the former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, (2002) to caution the gathering not to mistake hope for achievement. Kofi Annan might have made the statement considering the fact that Africa had in the past plethora of different agricultural policies both at the continental and the sub-regional levels, yet, they were unable to achieve food sufficiency and security.

For instance, East Africa has the East African Community Agriculture and Rural Development Policy (EAC-ARDP), the West has ECOWAS' Regional Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP), Central Africa has Economic Community of Central African States' Cooperation on Agriculture and Food (ECCAS-CAF), Southern Africa has Southern African Development

Community Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Directorate (SADC-FANR) and North Africa has North Africa Regional Network for Agricultural Policy (NARNAP). Therefore, the problem of Africa is not lack of good policies on agriculture, rather the capabilities and tools to implement and assess the impact of the decisions taken.

It is against this background that the study assesses whether or not the CAADP is living up to its expectations of restoring agricultural growth and food security in Africa. Or has CAADP been arrested by the gap between rhetoric and reality which is the bane of African politics and development since the wave of independence? To what extent has CAADP achieved its mandate? This study aims at assessing and evaluating the impact of CAADP as a tool of ensuring agricultural growth and food security. To achieve this aim, the paper is structured into sections. With this introductory overview, the study proceeds to conceptualizing food security, the third section discusses CAADP, assesses its impact after almost 22 years of existence. Section four examines the obstacles or impediments to achieving food security in Africa, while section five concludes with policy recommendations.

Conceptual Framework – Food Security

Food security does not have one generally accepted definition. The flexibility of the concept is reflected in many attempts in defining the concept both in research and policy usage. In both developed and developing worlds, food security is an important socio-economic indicator of quality of life. It shows the level of ability of people, household, and countries to access and use food, which is regarded as a very important human right that should not be denied any person. In 1996, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations was very concerned about the dire challenge of global hunger and proclaimed a World Summit which discussed the different issues related to food provision, food distribution and economic ability of people to buy the food and finally, adopted the concept of food security as the operational strategy to meeting global food needs.

Based on the 1996 World Summit, food security is defined based on when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.

To be sure, food security is universal, it is inclusive; it is for all times, it is for all situations – that is, human beings are entitled to food, nutritious food. For any region or continent to claim to be food secured, such region or continent must have achieved the following food value chain: food availability, food access, food utilization and sustainability.

- a. Availability:** Adequate food must be produced and distributed to be physically available to all who wish to procure. This implies that the entire factors essential for production must be available in optimal forms for adequate food to be produced. Such factors will include a motivated and skilled farmer, proper land preparation, the right seeds, adequate moisture – irrigation if necessary, fertilizer/soil remediation practices, the appropriate and timely plant protection measures, fitting harvesting system. Subsequently, the product must be moved for storage or sales as primary product or to a processing centre for value addition.
- b. Physical and economic access:** To be physically available wherever the food is required, the infrastructure and logistical requirements for distributing the primary and processed products must be good and appropriate. That means that the road network must be passable and the transportation system must be fast and appropriate to ensure the food arrives in the best condition. Secondly, the people wishing to procure a food product must have the means, the resources, to access the food anytime the desire is

felt. The food must be available nation-wide and anywhere it is needed for purchase and those wishing to buy must have the capacity/funds to pay for it.

- c. **Safe, sufficient, satisfying and nutritious:** The food must be safe and any imperfection must be traceable; the food must also be enough to achieve intrinsic satisfaction; the food must be in a state it can be utilized to convey the required nutrients in adequate amounts. It must not be stored or packaged in any condition or with any product that will compromise its quality. Food is the primary source of nutrients and every human being has specific requirements for nutrients. Consequently, the food must be prepared and eaten in a manner that it delivers to the consumer the required amount of each of the nutrients to meet the individual's body needs. Meeting such nutritional needs must enable the individual to live a full, healthy and uninhibited life.
- d. **Implicitly,** food security also requires that the nation must have the necessary political will, environment, policies and technologies required to achieve sustained availability and access to nutritious food all the times, in all places and to all the people (Njoku, 2017).

The Life Science Research Office (LSRO) (1990), sees food security as access by all people to all times to enough food for an active, healthy life and include at a minimum:

- i. The ready availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods, and
- ii. The assured ability to acquire acceptable food in socially acceptable ways (e.g. without resorting to emergency food supplies, scavenging, stealing, and other coping strategies).

Ojo and Adebayo (2012) caution that food security should not be seen only from the perspective of availability as earlier mentioned in quantitative or qualitative terms. Food hygiene and safety should also be given important consideration in order to protect the health of the people. Food for instance may be available but the source from which the food is produced or processed may be unhygienic or chemical substances used to produce or preserve the food may constitute a health hazard. Health and safety consideration therefore becomes important in food production.

For instance, given the likely general misuse of chemicals due to illiteracy and crass ignorance, in Africa, some chemicals used for treating livestock diseases, indiscriminate application of pesticides to treat crops diseases or control pest and other agricultural parasites, may be harmful to humans much later after the consumption of the agricultural products. In essence, a country or region should be considered as food-secure when food is not only available in the quantity needed by the population consistent with decent living, but also when the consumption of the food should not pose any health hazard to the citizens (Davies, 2009). Conversely, food insecurity represents when people lack physical, social or economic access to safe and healthy food.

Consequently, Adeoti (1989) sees food insecurity as lack of access to enough food and can be either chronic or temporary. In chronic food insecurity, which arises from lack of resources to produce or acquire food, the diet is persistently inadequate. Chronic food insecurity according to Ojo and Adebayo (2012) now affects some 28% of the African population, that is, nearly 200 million people are suffering from mal-nutrition. Acute food insecurity in 2003 affected 38 million people in Africa who are facing outright risk of famine with 24,000 dying from hunger daily. Famines are the most visible and extreme manifestation of acute food insecurity. Of the 39 countries worldwide that faced food emergencies at the beginning of 2003, 25 are found in Africa.

Finally, food insecurity in Africa has been examined from institutional dimensions. According to Aziz (2001), food and nutritional crisis arise due to failure of government policies, programmes and institutions, political crisis and instability among other factors. The activities of the boko haram insurgency in the north-eastern Nigeria are a clear example of the harm political instability can cause agricultural production and food security. Therefore, food security should be an aspiration African leaders should earnestly seek to achieve in order to turn the continent from the theatre of food insecurity to a zone of prosperity.

Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP): Appraisal

The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) is Africa's policy framework for agricultural transformation, wealth creation, food security and nutrition, economic growth and prosperity for all. In Maputo, Mozambique, in 2003, the African Union (AU) Summit made the first declaration on CAADP as an integral part of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). Ibrahim AssaneMayaki, the Chief Executive Officer of NEPAD declared during the launching of CAADP that:

Agriculture is everyone's business: national independence depends on its development because it enables us to escape the scourge of food insecurity that undermines our sovereignty and fosters sedition; it is a driver of growth whose leverage is now acknowledged by economists and politicians; it is the sector offering the greatest potential for poverty and inequality reduction, as it provides sources of productivity from which the most disadvantaged people working in the sector should benefit (Mayaki, 2003).

CAADP as a Pan-African Framework

CAADP is a pan-African framework that provides a set of principles and broadly defined strategies to help countries:

- Critically review their own situations and
 - Identify investment opportunities with optimal impact and returns.
- CAADP champions reform in the agricultural sector, setting broad targets:
- 6% annual growth in agricultural GDP, and
 - An allocation of at least 10% of public expenditures to the agricultural sector.

Africa has recognized that enhanced agricultural performance is key to growth and poverty reduction through its direct impact on:

- Job creation and increasing opportunities, especially for women and youth,
- Food security and improved nutrition, and
- Strengthening resilience.

This is due to both the important role of agriculture in African economies and livelihoods, and the strong linkages that agriculture forges with other sectors.

CAADP also provides for an evidence-based planning process with knowledge as a key primary input as well as human resource development and partnership as central factors. Ultimately, it aims to align diverse stakeholder interests around the design of integrated programmes adapted at the local level. Although continental in scope, CAADP exists through integrated national and regional efforts to promote agricultural sector growth and economic development.

CAADP Compacts

Mkandawire (2009) reports that as at March 2015 only:

- 41 African Union Member States have signed CAADP compacts, 33 of which have developed formal national agriculture and food security investment plans – and these have become their medium term expenditure frameworks for agriculture, thus resulting in improved agricultural planning.
- At the regional level, four out of eight Regional Economic Communities (RECs) have signed regional compacts out of which three have developed complete investment plans.

As a result, on average, public agricultural expenditures have risen by more than 7 % per year across Africa since 2003, nearly doubling public agricultural expenditures since the launch of CAADP.

CAADP's work falls under 4 pillars, each dealing with key issues: Land and Water Management; Market Access; Food Security and Hunger; and Agricultural Research. However, this study is concerned with pillar three (3); Food Security and Hunger. CAADP aims to increase food supply and reduce hunger across the region by raising small holder productivity and improving response to food emergencies. Here, CAADP focuses on the chronically food insecure. The objectives of Pillar 3 are:

1. Improving domestic production and marketing;
2. Facilitating regional trade in food staples; and
3. Building household productivity and assets (NEPAD, 2009).

To achieve these objectives, CAADP has carried out the following programmes:

- i. Regional Enhanced Livelihoods for Pastoral Areas (RELPA), funded by USAID (\$19.8 million). This Horn of Africa programme for enhancing livelihoods of pastoralists across three countries has been launched;
- ii. Regional Food Security and Risk Management Programme for Eastern and Southern Africa (REFORM), funded by the European Union (10 million euros). This programme is mostly capacity building (i.e., skills transfer, technical studies, documentation of best practice, information sharing, policy dialogue, etc).
- iii. Making Markets Work for the Poor: Enhancing Food Security and Productivity Growth in Eastern and Southern Africa (MMWP), funded by World Bank/DFID-UK (\$3.8 million). This project involves a three-year programme of practical analysis, policy outreach, consensus building, and capacity strengthening to promote the goals of national and regional food security, poverty reduction, and agricultural productivity growth.
- iv. Improved Regional Trade in Food Staples (RTFS), total \$5 million, with start-up funding by the World Bank. This programme of work aims to assemble spatial evidence on existing regional production and trade in food staples and to develop predictive analytical tools that will enable spatial mapping of the outcomes resulting from common natural and policy shocks.
- v. Cassava Transformation in Southern Africa (CATISA), total \$2 million, with start-up funded by SIDA. The CATISA project aims to analyze and help accelerate cassava commercialization in Southern Africa in order to help improve food security in the region.
- vi. Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF), funded by the World Food Programme and DFID-UK (\$25 million). NEPAD, WFP and the Millennium Hunger Task Force (MHTF) launched a pilot Home-Grown School Feeding and Health Programme designed to link school feeding to agricultural development through the purchase and use of locally and domestically produced food (NEPAD, 2009).

Sustaining CAADP Momentum

Compelled by a clear resolve and determination by countries to focus on implementation and to demonstrate results and impacts, the Sustaining CAADP Momentum exercise developed the continental CAADP Results Framework, defining a set of goals and results that will be pursued in the transformation of the agriculture sector over the next decade. The CAADP Results Framework was approved by the Heads of State and Government at the June 2014 African Union Summit held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. The African leaders recommitted themselves to the CAADP principles and goals and defined a set of targets and goals – referred to as the Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation Goals 2025.

Specifically, the Declaration outlines seven commitments that are geared towards fostering agricultural growth and transformation. The African leaders also committed to a biennial agricultural review process that will include reporting to AU Summits on the progress made towards realizing the set goals and targets in the declaration. The AU Malabo Declaration of June, 2014 are:

1. Recommitment to the Principles and Values of the CAADP Process
2. Recommitment to enhance investment finance in Agriculture
 - Uphold 10% public spending target
 - Operationalization of Africa Investment Bank
3. Commitment to Zero hunger – Ending Hunger by 2025
 - At least double productivity (focusing on inputs, irrigation, mechanization)
 - Reduce PHL at least by half
 - Nutrition: reduce stunting to 10%
4. Commitment to halving poverty, by 2025, through inclusive Agricultural Growth and Transformation.
 - Sustain annual sector growth in agricultural GDP at least 6%
 - Establish and/or strengthen inclusive public-private partnerships for at least 5 priority agric commodity value chains with strong linkage to smallholder agric.
 - Create job opportunities for at least 30% of the youth in agricultural value chains.
 - Preferential entry and participation by women and youth in gainful and attractive agribusiness.
5. Commitment to Boosting Intra-African Trade in Agricultural Commodities and Services
 - Triple intra-Africa trade in agricultural commodities
 - Fast track continental free trade area and transition to a continental Common External Tariff Scheme
6. Commitment to Enhancing Resilience of Livelihoods and Production Systems to Climate Variability and other Shocks
 - Ensure that by 2025, at least 30% of farm/pastoral households are resilient to shocks
7. Commitment to Mutual Accountability to Actions and Results
 - Through the CAADP Result Framework – conduct a biennial Agricultural Review Process (CAADP-NEPAD, 2015).

Despite these efforts by CAADP and NEPAD to make Africa food secure through increased production, Mkandwire (2009) notes that:

- i. Africa is still characterized by poor economic performance in the last three decades;
- ii. 32 out of 35 countries with low HDI are in Africa;
- iii. 1/3 of the entire population of Africa currently live in chronic hunger – do not have enough food to eat;
- iv. 45 percent of Africa's population live under a dollar a day;
- v. In Africa, the number of food emergencies have tripled since the 1980s;
- vi. Africa is the only continent where food aid delivery requirement is increasing to rural population; and
- vii. Things could get even worse with the global environmental changes.

Impediments to Achieving Food Security in Africa

CAADP is far from realizing its potentials. What it has clearly achieved is making the African agricultural sector visible at the international level. At the continental and regional levels, the CAADP has created useful structures. However, these have yet to demonstrate their value. The processes that were created are now so far advanced at the all-important national level that their application raises expectations for significant improvements in agricultural planning. However, implementation is in its infancy and the value of the older CAADP processes is somewhat doubtful (Michael, 2011).

Some of the obstacles or impediments to achieving food sufficiency in Africa through the CAADP Framework are:

One, government policy programmes and institutions on food security in Africa suffer from multiplicity of problems. These include the absence of the political will on the part of African states and statesmen to confront the problem, political crisis, and instability, political corruption and institutional inadequacies such as inadequate human resources, poor implementation of programmes, among other challenges. For instance, studies in Africa have shown that government policies and programmes on food security are not accompanied with sincerity of purpose, thus, state policies and programmes die before they are initiated (Ojo, 2012).

Two, poor funding of universities and research institutes. With the preponderance of universities of agriculture and related research institutes in Africa, solutions to food crisis and insecurity should be readily and steadily proffered. Because these universities and research institutes are not adequately funded, their research efforts in this direction have not been rewarding. For instance, in 2000, global agricultural Research and Development (R&D) spending was US\$36.3 billion, of which 37 percent was conducted by the private sector and 63 percent, or about US\$23 billion by the public sector. 93 percent of the private research was conducted in developed countries. On the other hand, public agricultural R&D grew faster in the developing world, and is increasingly concentrated in China, India and Brazil. In stark contrast, public agricultural research in Sub-Saharan Africa grew at only about one percent per annum in the 1990s and in 2000 was around US\$1.6 billion. Sub-Saharan Africa has the lowest share of private agricultural R&D spending in the world – only 1.7 percent of already low public spending. Of total agricultural research spending, donors provide about 40 percent (in some countries 60 percent). Only five African countries – Nigeria, South Africa, Botswana, Ethiopia and Mauritius – are paying the recurrent budget of their NARS from national sources. Collectively, these data point to a disturbing development – a growing divide regarding the conduct of (agricultural) R&D – and, most likely, a consequent growing technological divide in agriculture. The measures also underscore the need to raise current levels of funding for agricultural R&D throughout the region while also developing the policy of infrastructure

needed to accelerate the rate of knowledge creation and accumulation in Africa over the long haul (ODE, 2008).

Thirdly, another factor that has fuelled food crisis and insecurity in Africa is political corruption. In Uganda, 7 officials of National Agricultural Advisory Services, NAADS, a government agency that oversees the management of food security and development programmes were arrested for the mismanagement of 9,000 US Dollars (20 million Shillings) while officials of Savings and Credits Cooperative Society, SACCO, established to help war widows organize agricultural and business projects in Uganda were accused of embezzling public funds worth 34,285 US Dollars (Oketch, 2009). In Zaire (now Democratic Republic of Congo), out of the US\$2 billion received in foreign aid during the over three decades of mal-administration of Mobutu Sese-Seko, about 50 percent of the money ended in private pockets (Anthonio-Costa, 2003). In Kenya, Transparency International, TI, reported that corruption constituted a major risk in food assistance in its “Analysis of the 2011 Drought Response in Kenya” (TI-K, 2012). In Somalia, the UN budgeted \$1.5 billion in 2012, partly to prevent a return of famine. But a large amount of food sent by the UN to the Somali capital during last year’s famine never reached the starving people it was intended for. Some of the World Bank Food Programme supplies went to the black market, some to feed livestock. One warehouse full of rations was looted in its entirety by a Somali government official. And across the city, feeding sites handed out far less food than records indicate they should have (Hourel, 2012). In Egypt, Youssef Wali (former Agriculture Minister) was sentenced to 10 years in prison in 2011 for a deal that saw thousands of hectares of public lands worth 208 million Egyptian Pounds appropriated (Collard, 2012, quoted by Ogujiuba, Ogbonnaya and Omoju, 2012).

Fourthly, incompetent leadership and policy summersault amongst the African leaders. Since the formation of OAU in 1963 till date, African leaders have never proposed a date and fulfill the date in terms of socio-economic policies. For instance, two years after AU was launched, the Commission drew up and submitted to the AU Summit in Addis Ababa, in July, 2004, a time-table for full integration of Africa by the year 2030. Agubuzu (2010) reports that three stages of integration which was proposed to the AU by the Commission were: short term, 2004 – 2007; the medium term, 2007 to 2015; and the final stage 2015 – 2030. During the first stage, three things were to be done: (a) all the established institutions for continental integration would be consolidated. (b) Thereafter, human capacity building would be undertaken, and lastly (c) a continent-wide network of relations between persons and institutions would be forged. In the second stage from 2007 to 2015, the regional economic blocs would come together in an inter-regional cooperation arrangement in which all their policies and programmes would be harmonized and integrated with no barriers between them. The final stage of the continental integration would be reached by the year 2030. The successful completion of stages one and two would smoothly land Africa on last stage which would be like the European Union (EU). The question is: has Africa fulfilled the first stage - 2004-2007? What about the second stage – 2007 to 2015? How are we sure that CAADP will not suffer the same policy summersault? To demonstrate how incompetent our leaders are, Sylla (2009) lamented that NEPAD and AU officials did not consult the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and other sub-regional organizations in Africa during the formation of CAADP in Maputo, Mozambique. According to Sylla, while CAADP was prioritizing its agricultural policies in Africa, ECOWAP (EOWAS Agricultural Policy) was formulating its policy on a different set of priorities. And this lack of coordination can undermine achievement.

In summary, we shall acknowledge the fact that CAADP has the capacity to sustainably produce food locally to feed Africans well if only individual countries can allocate the mandated 10% of their annual budget to agriculture as recommended by the Food and Agriculture Organization. Because Africa has failed to use its resources wisely, it has fueled

the economies of other continents and regions to the sad detriment of Africa's agriculture and food industry, but with a clear resolve and provision of required resources in technology, the right social and policy environment as well as an unambiguous political will, Africa can and will overcome hunger and starvation and will ensure adequate nutritious food for its people. Again, CAADP should align itself with African Universities of Agriculture and Agricultural Research Institutes since technology, innovations and research play key roles in achieving food self-sufficiency and security.

Conclusion

This study has examined and assessed the African latest agricultural policy known as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). The study took off by analyzing other regional socio-economic organizations in Africa before the emergence of CAADP. The concept of food security was well analyzed and the impediments or obstacles to achieving food security in Africa were discussed. Despite its failings, CAADP offers innovative approach for an African-driven strategy that promotes agriculture as an engine for development. The key needs are to ensure the effective participation of farmers and civil society in policies and investment plan, and to develop public interventions that boost farmers own investments and strengthen local food system.

For CAADP to succeed as Africa's policy framework for agricultural transformation, African governments should increase their investment in agriculture and establish clear timetables for achieving the 10% CAADP target. CAADP should also continue the strategy of international visibility by avoiding building parallel structures and emphasize the support of existing national policy processes; they should not only encourage investment, but particularly quality aspects in agricultural policy (governance); enforce monitoring and evaluation; emphasize transparency and communication and ensure effective and meaningful participation of non-state actors in policy-making process, giving prominence to women smallholders and other medium scale food producers.

To prevent this from happening and to ensure food security in Africa, successive African political leaders should have the political will to implement the above proactive recommendations. Similarly, there is need for African political leaders to curtail recurring cases of corruption in policy implementation that has continued to retard progress, economic transformation and development in Africa. If the CAADP fails, that would not only harm the AU, it would also send a signal that Africa cannot feed itself through its home-grown agricultural policies.

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