INTRODUCTION:

The Mozambique FANRPAN CAADP Multi-stakeholder Policy Dialogue was held on the 23rd November 2011 in Maputo. The dialogue was attended by 21 participants from different stakeholder groups: 28% government, 19% NGOs, 43% researchers/academia and 10% private sector. The main objectives of the meeting were to create a platform for dialogue, share experiences and best practices on CAADP to increase awareness and knowledge on the CAADP processes in Mozambique. The FANRPAN node hosting institution, Eduardo Mondlane University, organized the meeting.

OFFICIAL OPENING

The dialogue was opened by Dr. Emilio Tostao the Dean of the Faculty of Agronomy and Forestry Engineering, on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Eduardo Mondlane. He emphasized the need to reflect on the implementation stage of CAADP in Mozambique. CAADP is an important planning instrument for increasing agricultural productivity which is the primary means of alleviating poverty and hunger.

Mozambique is endowed with natural resources for agricultural development. The country has a wide diversity of soil types and climatic conditions, which are suitable for a large variety of crops. Moreover, the country has an irrigation potential of about 3.3 million hectares. However, its tremendous agricultural potential is underutilized. Only 12.5 per cent (4.5 million hectares) of the total (36 million hectares) arable land is cultivated, and major rivers (i.e., the Zambezi, Save and Limpopo) remain largely unexploited for irrigation purposes. Only about 50 000 hectares are under irrigation, of which about 60 per cent is under sugarcane. This agricultural potential, if well tapped into, can solve the current food deficit in the country and mitigate the impacts of the global food crisis. The production of basic food crops (cereals) in Mozambique differs by region. The north and, to a lesser extent the centre, are food surplus regions, while
the south is a food deficit region. The difference in production is mainly influenced by the regions’ different agro-climatic conditions.

Mozambique, like other net food importing countries, has been affected by the recent increase in world food prices. The hardest hit sections of the population have been the poor and vulnerable communities in both rural and urban areas. Despite the country’s impressive economic growth, averaging around seven per cent in the last four years, 54 per cent of the population still lives below the poverty line and 34 per cent of households are food insecure and face perpetual hunger. The negative impacts of the price spikes have been worsened by the fact that, while food prices have increased, wages and incomes of the poor have not risen fast enough to keep up with price increases. Poor households spend roughly 66 per cent of their monthly income on meeting their basic food requirements.

DISCUSSION

The CAADAP focal point of Mozambique and National Director of Economics in the Ministry UEM – FAEF presented a report on the CAADP implementation status in Mozambique.

Mozambique officially launched CAADP on the 12th December 2010 and is preparing to sign the CAADP Compact in April/May 2011. Currently the draft CAADP Compact has been distributed to the different stakeholders for comments.

The participants then participated in group discussions using the question-and-answer format:

The questions asked on CAADP were:

1. What can be done to increase resources for the CAADP country team?
2. How can you increase CAADP awareness in the government ministries?
3. What should be done to enhance the CAADP process in Mozambique?
4. What is the FANRPAN strategy to convince SADC to adopt the CAADP?
5. Is the CAADP in accordance with the policies and strategies in place in Mozambique?

The responses to the questions were:

1. There is a need for a commitment to fund the CAADP Country Team by the state
2. Appoint an inter-ministerial link person to specifically deal with CAADP issues across ministries just like they have done in Uganda
3. Increase CAADP awareness through the print and electronic media, convene dialogue platforms across all the key stakeholders groups
4. FANRPAN has links with SADC already and will continue to share information on CAADP as and when requests are made. SADC does not need to be convinced to adopt CAADP but endorsed CAADP several years ago.
5. They are using the CAADP platform to implement the Strategic Plan for Agricultural Development (PEDSA) in Mozambique. CAADP is not a programme on its own but is a tool that can be used to implement the agricultural development plans in a country.

**Recommendations on the way forward in Mozambique**

1. When the draft CAAP Compact was prepared, stakeholder consultations were not done exhaustively; hence it was recommended that the draft compact is circulated to all key stakeholders for comments before validation.

2. CAADP awareness campaigns must be done across all the key stakeholders to increase knowledge and understanding of CAADP especially by Non-State Actors (NSAs) since their involvement is key to CAADP.

3. Since Mozambique has a huge coastline, Fisheries and Environmental issues must be included as priority areas in the CAADP Compact.