



PRESS RELEASE ON



MALABO BIENNIAL REPORT

First Malabo Biennial Report: Good Progress but More Remains to be done.

30 January 2018

CARE International (CI), the Graça Machel Trust (GMT) and the Food, Agriculture Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) welcome the first Malabo Biennial Report on the Malabo Commitment to accelerate Agricultural growth and transformation for shared prosperity and improved livelihoods.

Reflecting on the launch of the report,¹ Dr. Tobias Takavarasha, the Chief Executive Officer of FANRPAN said,

“The timely release of the report is a demonstration of commitment by Member States and the African Union to increase investment in agriculture. We commend African Heads of States and Governments and the African Union Commission (AUC) on the expeditious biennial reporting process. We especially congratulate the 20 countries that have reported to be on track for achieving the commitments by 2025. This process will certainly prevent Governments and other non-state actors from backtracking on the Malabo commitments”

When African leaders signed the Malabo Declaration in 2014, they reconfirmed that agriculture should remain high on the development agenda of the continent as a means to end hunger and halve poverty by 2025. This calls for a significant shift in the way agriculture has been handled across the continent. However, in spite of the threat of climate change, a significant number of AU member states continue to rely on rain-fed agriculture.

Millions of Africans are directly affected by the adverse effects of climate change which undermine current efforts to reduce hunger and promote nutrition. Undernutrition in turn undermines climate resilience and the coping strategies of vulnerable African communities, further exposing existing weaknesses in the continent’s food systems.

In view of this observation, the Managing Deputy Regional Director (MDRD) of CARE International for Southern Africa, Ms Michelle D Carter Managing Deputy Regional Director, said,

“The future of agriculture depends on the management of climate change. There is need for national investments that are targeted at efforts that address the threats to food and nutrition security within the context of the changing climate. It is therefore disappointing that only one country (Mauritius) is on track on the commitment to enhance resilience to climate variability.

¹ <https://au.int/en/newsevents/20180129/breakfast-meeting-malabo-declaration-biennial-review-and-africa-agriculture>

We are hopeful that Governments will implement recommendations to improve adoption and uptake of climate resilient agriculture by smallholder farmers especially women”.

Climate change and improving food security and nutrition are interlinked issues that would benefit from being dealt with simultaneously. However, during the two years of implementing the Malabo commitments, evidence suggests that there is still a fragmented approach to addressing these issues within the Member States. African governments have foregone the benefits arising from the opportunity of exploiting the trade off effects presented by synergizing climate change and nutrition sensitive agriculture interventions.

In anticipation of the Malabo Biennial Report, CARE International, the Graça Machel Trust (GMT) and the FANRPAN have released a position paper which provides recommendations and proposes key actions required to advance progress on Climate Smart Agriculture, Nutrition and Agriculture Investment in southern Africa. The position paper calls for improved investments, multi-sectoral coordination, commitment and political will to integrate nutrition-sensitive actions into climate-resilient sustainable development efforts.

Whilst the release of the first Malabo Biennial Report is cause for celebration, more needs to be done for all countries to reach the targeted threshold of 10% of national budgets being invested into agriculture.

Ms Nomsa Daniels, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Graça Machel Trust in South Africa, commented,

“It is disappointing to note that only ten (10) Member States have met the CAADP commitment of allocating 10% of annual public expenditure to agriculture during the review period. Governments should adopt a step-wise approach towards realizing the 10% national budget target in the shortest time possible, and investments in agriculture should be sustainable, nutrition sensitive, climate resilient and equitable. Ultimately, these investments should safeguard the livelihoods of the smallholder farmers, especially women farmers who are most affected”.

To request a copy of the Position Paper: **Informed Growth: Advancing Progress on Climate Smart Agriculture, Nutrition and Agriculture Investment in Southern Africa** contact:

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About CARE International

Care International is a confederation of 14 member and 4 affiliate organizations working together to end poverty. In Africa CARE is working in 27 countries implementing poverty fighting development and humanitran aid projects. In 2016 Care International reached out to 80 million people directly and 256 million indirectly. Care International focus is women and girls because we cannot overcome poverty until all people have equal rights and oportunitites. Website: www.care.org

About FANRPAN

The Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) is a pan-African network that provides independent evidence to inform policy processes at national and regional levels. FANRPAN's membership includes food, agriculture and natural resources (FANR) related government departments, parliamentarians, research and farmer organizations, private sector, civil society organizations and the media. Website: www.fanrpan.org

About Graça Machel Trust

The Graça Machel Trust is an organisation that works across the continent to drive positive change across women's and children's rights, as well as governance and leadership. Through our support of local initiatives and connecting key stakeholders at a regional, national and sub-national level, we help to catalyse action where it is needed. By using our convening power the Trust seeks to: amplify the voices of women and children in Africa; influence governance; promote women's contributions and leadership in the economic social and political development of Africa. For more, please visit www.gracamacheltrust.org/new