



AGRILINKS WEBINAR: CAADP TECHNICAL NETWORKS: BUILDING CAPACITY FOR AFRICA'S AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

PRESENTATION AUDIO TRANSCRIPT

MAY 4, 2017

PRESENTERS

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Julie:

All right everyone, we are going to go ahead and get started with the webinar today. Good morning, afternoon, or evening, everyone. I would like to welcome you to today's Agrolink's webinar on the burgeoning technical network for the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program or CAADP. Agrolink's webinars are a product for the USAID Bureau for food security and are implemented by the knowledge-driven agricultural development projects. My name is Julie MacCartee and I'm a knowledge management specialist with the USAID Bureau for food security and I'll be facilitating the webinar today. So you'll see my name in the chat box a fair amount and hear my voice during the question and answer session after the presentation.

Before we get started with the content, I'd like to provide just a few reminders of the structure of the webinar today. First up, the chat box is your main way to communicate today and I can see that a lot of people have already introduced yourself in the chat box, which is fantastic. It's great to see that we have people joining from all around the world, so please do continue to introduce yourselves and let us know where you're joining from. Throughout the webinar, we encourage you to use the chat box to network to share links and resources and of course to ask questions about the presentations that we will gather and sort and post to our speakers in the second half of the webinar today.

Next, I wanted to let you know that the PowerPoint or a PDF of the PowerPoint of today's presentation is available in that resources box you'll see on the left of your screen, in addition to a whole range of various resources that our presenters have recommended. So you can see one of them is titled webinar presentation, if you would like to go ahead and download the PowerPoints during the presentation today. We also wanted to let you know that we are recording this webinar and we will post the recording, the transcripts, and the other resources to Agrilinks within about two weeks.

And if you are watching the webinar right now, that means that you are already on the email list to receive a link to the recording, so be on the lookout for that and lastly, I wanted to let you all know that this is a fairly technically complex webinar. We're actually bringing in our speakers from three different locations in Africa, which is really exciting. I'm so happy we live in an area where we're able to do that sort of thing. But that does mean that there may be audio issues that we might need

to work through to make sure our presenters come to you clearly. So please just excuse us if we need to take a pause at any point and adjust anything with the audio.

All right, so I'm going to go ahead and introduce our speakers today and give you a bit of a rundown of what the structure of the presentations will look like. Our first speaker will be Godfrey Bahiigwa and Godfrey will be giving some background on CAADP and the _____ declaration and an introduction to the CAADP technical networks, how they work, and how you participate. And Godfrey is the director of the African Union Department for Rural Economy based in _____, which works with AU member states, regional economic communities, and other partners to boost rural economic developments and agricultural productivity by supporting the adoption of measure, strategy, policies, and programs on agriculture. So Godfrey will be our first speaker and he'll be speaking for about 30 minutes or so.

Next up will be Jeff Hill and Jeff has many years of experience in African agricultural development and is currently serving in the USAID bureau for food security where he has been – at USAID, he's been a team leader for a number of agriculture and food security initiatives and for the African bureau and for BFS. And he's now serving as chair of the CAADP development partners group, which is the primary platform for donor and assistance coordination at the continental level. So Jeff will further explain CAADP technical support leads and the role of donors and he'll be going for about 10 minutes

And then after that, we'll have short remarks from two additional individuals, one being Cris Muyunda who I vice president of the CAADP Non-State Actors Coalition, CNC, and CAADP technical networks' mentor and he is leading agribusiness strategy and development specialist. He'll be giving an example of one of the seven CAADP technical networks and his progress to date.

And then last, but not least, Greenwell Matchaya will be joining us. He is a researcher and the coordinator for the regional strategy and analysis knowledge support system, _____, for the southern African _____, and he'll be providing some final reflections on the presentations today. So again, please do feel free to put your questions in the chat box at any time. Let us know if you're having any issues with

the audio and we'll jump right into the presentations now. All right, so go ahead and please take away the microphone, Godfrey.

Godfrey:

Okay, thank you so much, Julie, for the moderation and let me start by thanking everybody that has been able to join _____ from across the globe. I _____ to be able to present to you our initiative on African continent, the African commission in our effort to build capacity. One thing capacity supports, African union member states [inaudible] agenda. That's what _____ about, mobilizing the technical capacity _____ the continent and from across the globe support the African continent to _____ for better implementation of the agriculture agenda through the comprehensive Africa _____ development program. So just to give you an idea what the webinar is all about.

Next slide is on the background to CAADP [inaudible]. The CAADP agenda was adopted by [audio blip] and the government [inaudible] Mozambique in 2003, and the main objective was to have [inaudible] to drive out part of the _____, but [inaudible] nutrition that [inaudible] nutrition and [inaudible] for African. The [inaudible] by the AUC through the Department of Rural Economy Agriculture, where I am the director, as well as the network planning [inaudible] our [inaudible] in South Africa. We implemented CAADP [inaudible] by AUC _____ economy community with the participation of _____ for _____, [inaudible] and also support of the [inaudible].

The CAADP agenda [audio blip] support on the continent through [inaudible] the African Union and it is through the continental platform, which is the African Union _____ where they _____ the _____ around implementation of the CAADP _____. And so then _____ that I talked about was [inaudible] and also declaration the [inaudible] and so the agenda [inaudible]. Then, _____ when CAADP _____ for 10 years was 2013 and _____ quite a lot and especially _____ the continent or a _____, as well as the global community around a _____ that everybody believed it would drive African _____.

And we made significant progress with mobilizing _____ for _____ the _____, because the _____ declaration had been called [inaudible], but then of the national budget to include the _____. And we made some progress, not a

lot of countries are [inaudible], but a lot of _____ was _____ and _____. And as a result, many countries did make progress _____ the _____, because we had the _____ of _____ that _____ and an _____ break of _____. But also, [inaudible] from what did work and what did not work on the _____ of _____ then the _____ declaration –

Adam: Hi Godfrey, I'm sorry, this is Adam. I'm going to interrupt you. You sound great. Everything is going across famously and I know that you don't have a computer in front of you. There's about 135 people online. I just want to make sure that you're telling us to advance the slides if we need to, and when you do, that you tell us the title of the slide. So what slide are you on right now?

Godfrey: Yes, I'm on the slide which says the _____ declaration 2016 and 2025.

Adam: Okay, thank you for that and please remember to tell us when you advance the slide and the title of the slide. Thank you. Go on.

Godfrey: Apologies _____ I should have done that. Yes, the _____ declaration, which covers a period of 2015, 2025, was adopted by African heads of state and government in June 2014. So before the _____ declaration _____ the _____, having that lessens _____ the implementation of [inaudible] a little bit more specific kind of _____. That was one thing. The second thing is that we did spend quite a bit of time in the past 10 years of _____ implementation on the _____ on supporting countries from _____ investment _____. But we rise up. We needed to also invest now more times in the _____ capacity of countries _____ investment _____.

The other neat feature around the _____ declaration is the _____ that the heads of state make on strengthening _____ data system, strengthening [audio blip] action and result, not _____ alone, but also it emphasizes the need to the _____ capacity of African _____, but be able to implement _____ investment plan. Not just _____ capacity, but also institutional and _____ capacity [inaudible] but important _____ capacity _____ implementation, but that you can have – increase the chances of better outcome with the national investment plan.

Next slide, _____ the _____ commitment. So basically, as I said, the _____ declaration, the _____ _____ decided to be a little bit more specific than it had been in the _____ declaration. So one thing, _____ declaration, the _____ commitment was _____ _____ the principal of the CAADP agenda. In other words, what has motivated them to adopt the _____ declaration [inaudible]. In other words, agriculture was still important for the _____ of _____ the workmen [inaudible] progresses induction, job _____, and so on. And then they went back and adopted a specific commitment on financing for agriculture, both public and private, committing to ending hunger on the continent by 2025, have been _____ _____ of _____ for _____ by 60 percent.

And insuring that as we do that, [inaudible], we do have _____ and _____ _____ agriculture investment. They were committed to _____ _____ _____, _____ _____ we didn't have _____. Among African countries, among African [inaudible] and _____ to there being [inaudible] but two of the _____ of the effects of claim exchange, they committed to enhancing resilience, both of _____ and those were the _____ _____ with [inaudible]. And _____ _____ to _____ _____ _____. We can say is a unique feature in the _____ declaration. Those are the seven _____ that are going to drive us in the _____ declaration going forward from now up to 2025.

So next slide says AU business plan. In trying to translate the commitment of _____ _____ in _____ _____, the heads of _____ mandated the African Union Commission, we _____ planning and making [inaudible] business plan on how we would plan _____ the commitment into actionable areas for implementation both by _____ _____ community, as well as the AU _____ _____. So the business plan are not getting to the _____ of that, but the business plan has seven program areas, which are _____ to the seven _____ commitments and then the seven commitment program areas are a product of [inaudible] program and we have _____ _____ and operation of business plan.

In a short, this is the plan that is going to drive the African _____ _____ together with _____ _____. And the reason economy community to support AU _____ _____ is a great _____ commitment to the international investment plan, allocated resources, then inputting them and then we can support the _____ support on the

implementation of the _____ declaration to the head of _____ _____. I should have mentioned that that commitment on the _____ account [inaudible] AUC report to the heads of _____ every three years. And the _____ report for implementation would be due January 2018.

The next slide says AU _____ Business _____ Programs – Program. You have the slides. I'm not going to go through these, but _____ is _____ and programs of the business plan and it's a program that will have the _____ and the _____. The next slide also says AU _____ Business Plan does have the sixth and seventh program and also there's a program _____. The next slide is about _____ as [inaudible] implementation. _____ is now going to just give you the background on how well we've grown from CAADP phase one to CAADP phase two, now _____ to _____ the issue of capacity, which is the _____ needed to establish [inaudible].

So I already mentioned that the _____ declaration was _____ in 2014, and _____ the _____ from the _____ declaration and I also did mention that one of the things that went on in the first 10 years was that we needed to strengthen capacity at _____ level before implementation _____ from designing a good investment plan to implementing the business plan through ever _____ the performance of the business plan to designing corrective measures. So approach the whole change for implementing a business plan, we organized the _____. And in this case, we are _____ on _____ capacity for implementing the _____ declaration. One thing that I did not mention is that one, the heads of _____ and _____ in the _____ declaration, we did develop what is called the _____.

In other words, a _____ that would show how we move from the declaration to a well thought out change on how to achieve the results. So that's CAADP results from _____ and [inaudible] capacity for _____ policies, financing, the support, and the agriculture investment _____ [inaudible] management and so on. Level three of the _____ is about the result and nutrition [inaudible]. And so on, so that and _____ is a major account of this mechanism that I described earlier.

Next slide is _____ from previous efforts to provide _____ involvement and support. So this _____ of the technical network is not new. Over the last 10 years, we have tried several times and ways to support capacity development in the continent. We have one _____ in knowledge establishing different _____ information systems at different levels. We do have success _____, [inaudible] support system and I want to get into the _____ of that. That is one I think has met progress besides the [crosstalk, inaudible]. Then we'll have the _____ really the _____ to this _____ of the technical network. Basically, _____ is phase one. It was _____ that one country _____ their national budget _____ that had integrated with [inaudible]. We didn't have a mechanism and the _____ declaration had [inaudible].

We need to make sure that the _____ investment plan had integrated _____ within their investment plan and how would we do that? We needed to have the independence and the view of real investment plan to make sure that we are compliant to the _____ agenda and so _____ institution and [inaudible] because [inaudible] and so what I _____ on the _____ _____ to be the lead _____ for review, the _____ around each of those _____ in them, in the _____ investment plan. They did function, but not through the extent – the _____ expectation of the _____. So out of that, out of those initiatives on _____ information _____ plan and _____. We learned some lessons that are now informing the [inaudible] technical network. One of them was that we needed to have clarity on the _____ and _____ of membership, what the membership needs. What are the _____ _____ and [inaudible] to be clear on that.

For _____ _____, we didn't have adequate resources that we support with technical people that are providing this support _____. That's also we need to be aware that we are _____ with a large company with [inaudible], but also different _____ and systems and _____ the needs are not the same. So we need to be sensitive about that, but _____ _____ we just have in the _____ _____ account that [inaudible] at _____ level and that accounting _____ for resources that I invested, as well as the outcomes from _____ investment. And [inaudible] we need to reduce in the _____ dependency of AU membership and _____ on the AU mechanisms that they needed to be some kind of economy, [inaudible].

These lessons are [inaudible] and they have _____ to _____ the _____ around _____ network [inaudible] implementation of the _____. Next slide is the _____ network. So [inaudible] they are building from the _____ experiences, but new _____ mechanisms that we want to use to provide technical support to the different implementing [inaudible] and specifically the different _____ and the _____ we are talking about is providing [inaudible] system, providing knowledge, and _____ to reform a design implementation that _____ and _____. And we're also saying these technical networks basically you can say they are good indicators and _____ that [inaudible] and have expertise and track records on _____ the implementation, only the _____ okay.

And they had _____ organizing entity to be able to provide that support and they are open to individuals and _____, but are interested in supporting the AU and membership to improve capacity [inaudible]. At the moment, - the next slide says features of CAADP technical network. The _____ technical networks have been designed _____ around the second _____ commitment. We could _____ see [inaudible] one-to-one _____ of the technical network. The next slide that I will give you the _____ of those technical networks and like I said, they are _____ to provide the _____ to improve the _____ and [inaudible] declaration. And there is the technical network will be supporting implementation that's national and _____ to improve the _____ of – and the policy of the different national investment plan.

One key place for that is that there will be _____ meaning that what they do at the regional level or _____ level would be [inaudible] countries, the countries that we'll be writing the technical network acting for support in specific areas where they need support. The next slide says what will CAADP technical network do and we're leading examples of support _____. And one thing that they will do is _____ and sharing best practices. So these next – they do have existing knowledge within them. They have _____ information from elsewhere, _____ and _____ available to the [inaudible] community.

They will also be able to provide training and capacity _____ on specific areas _____ on the demand that the country has. Again, the _____ are making [inaudible] what the technical networks do is going to depend on the needs that have been identified by _____ for reasonable _____. The next slide says the

_____ CAADP technical network, so these are the seven technical networks. Like I said, they are _____ largely they _____ more directly to the _____ commitments. The department is a _____ investment financing. The second is on nutrition, _____ and _____, [inaudible] development, _____ of trade, _____, risk management, and natural resource management and the last one is knowledge management, _____ and account _____ for result.

Those are your seven technical networks that have so far been formed. I should also say that these technical networks were launched the first week of September last year in Nairobi. So what we are thinking about is not _____, it's not _____ practice that is evolving and we are looking forward to _____ the information, but more important how it will be _____ to support _____. The next slide talks about exactly that, operational issue, how technical networks work. The _____ each technical network has a _____ organization. In other words, _____ organizing networks, they will choose among themselves one _____ organization that would act as a _____ carrier and [inaudible] of that technical network.

_____ we had _____ the technical network to operate _____ today, but they will be coordinated by the AUC, specifically the department of _____ of _____ in the conjunction, the network is _____ to make sure that the activities of those technical networks are aligned to the [inaudible, audio blip], as articulated within the _____ declaration. But the technical network will be repeating the _____ and with it, we are going to be [inaudible]. The demand will be _____ the membership different _____ with _____, _____, websites, different _____ are going to be designed [inaudible] of how the mechanism _____ of [inaudible].

And then once the needs are known or the demands are received, the technical network will be _____ with AUC to make sure the support that is required is provided [inaudible] at the department of [inaudible]. The next slide is about some underlying _____ for _____ of technical network. In other words, what _____ that should _____ to make sure the technical networks are successful [inaudible]. So one is advertising that the right individual from the right _____ I have to be – I'd want _____ members of technical network. So people that have the right _____ qualification within the _____. Secondly, _____

ought to be the right _____ in the _____ for the individual and organization. Not _____ people interested in providing support through these technical networks. We must have the incentives right and also, we think a technical network, [inaudible] and [inaudible] how are the members of the technical network willing to work together?

How will they [inaudible] from their diverse backgrounds? Number four, they will need the right leadership. How would they select who will be the leader of that group? Would it be important [inaudible] how they are _____, how they _____ their agenda and how [inaudible]. But within _____, there might be commitments from the continental _____. So the _____ information and _____ departments, [inaudible] agency, regional [inaudible] must show commitment to these technical networks for [inaudible] the membership. But also they must be willing to adapt, _____ the agenda _____. [Inaudible] of _____ will not change, but how they remain and also the _____ environment _____ and therefore need to be _____.

One thing that we emphasize and compromise on is having _____ network, because we bring it, but [inaudible] to the countries and having quite the investments and do we have a chance of improving the _____ of the implementation, as well as the _____ outcomes. So the _____ quality is going to be something that will _____ in the operation of the technical network. But also will _____ in having strong communication and what are the _____ of these technical networks to make them known [inaudible], but also why they begin that _____ communicating what they are doing and the outcomes in that. A _____ example network, [inaudible] at the African Union Commission [inaudible] in the technical network.

And finally, focusing on _____ . What is it that the _____ out of these technical networks? We need to make sure we are _____ the capacity of the AU membership. Also, underline in order to implement the _____. [Inaudible] having African professional _____ gain access to new and _____ tools and [inaudible]. But also, we – next slide says _____ technical networks and were things that each technical network was _____ into [inaudible], but is _____ eventually to _____ reporting system. [Inaudible] which is [inaudible] and through the work of the technical network, we _____ to [inaudible] the AU

membership every three years. The work of the technical network has to be [inaudible].

But also, a _____ view of the _____ of these technical networks will be important and it would be important to _____ back from [inaudible] who are the AU memberships and the _____ economy _____. Are they finding _____ out of these technical networks? What is this that they think the technical network _____ to improve the [inaudible]. What is going right, what is going where and how can we improve on that? And we're also thinking that maybe once a year or twice a year we can _____ together these technical networks [inaudible] in one place to talk about the _____ and share experiences and see also what can be done to improve the way they support membership, to improve capacity.

The next slide says financing CAADP technical network. So we have had a lot of _____ around how [inaudible] technical network can be financed and is not one model. It's going to be [inaudible], but first of all, we think technical network _____ at the beginning, the [inaudible] that will be _____ on as they try to meet with the _____ of the membership, but also the _____ that they are adding _____ to the _____. So they need some _____ for that _____. Number two, that's [inaudible] resources already that we've seen in the _____ of those technical networks. Many of those institutions are [inaudible] operating _____ technical network, there are people coming together to provide the common [inaudible]. So technical agents either within the network or outside the technical network can also be a source of financing to _____.

[Inaudible] the technical network _____ all to be able to develop proposals along the _____ area they are _____ the financing of the activities that they are proposing to do, because they will have a program of _____, they have _____ activities, and they can put these into proposals and _____. Then we _____ once they have _____ to the [inaudible] the membership, we think that we cannot resource, it _____ be _____. Countries will have resources that can _____ support the activities of these technical networks. For that to happen, we must demonstrate that what they are _____ is beneficial to the membership. So we think in the long run maybe three, four years down the road, technical network should be able to mobilize the resources in _____ to finance specific activities [inaudible] but are required by memberships and they can be _____.

So what has been happening so far? [Inaudible] the seven technical networks have been [inaudible]. They were launched in September in Nairobi and _____ about the agency combined that have _____ up to be members of the technical network and there is the _____, you can see that _____ and [inaudible]. And so we – like I said, there are three _____ space and there are different levels of _____ and we are open for [inaudible], that's what they [inaudible] process is going on in different networks connecting the _____ for other members to join, but also, we _____ out of the implementation and one specific technical network on _____ management _____, [inaudible] working with the AUC in support of the vision of the _____ plan, but also preparations for the [inaudible]. We are seeing that they are _____ from [inaudible].

Coming to the end, the next slide says how can _____ fit. Another one, how can you get involved with this technical network. One, _____ is _____ that have _____ and resources _____ the technical network [inaudible] especially from _____ resources and _____ support and just talk with these entities [inaudible] can get involved. Then the CAADP _____, the membership, [inaudible] can join the technical network. And we are seeing the technical network, the next slide says technical network membership. The _____ is still open and _____ one of the questions can will convince you to become a member of the technical network [inaudible] the CAADP _____, you have development technical capacity to provide – you have _____ on similar issues in Africa or in other parts of the world. You have resources [inaudible] resources.

You will work in a common framework with other network members and you _____ to have presence in Africa. So if you can answer all these expressions or _____ out of them, then you could _____ to be a member of one of the technical networks. The next slide says it is how you can join and you are always _____ the technical network. You can sign up at the end of this session. We'll have given you the address of the technical network and there is a link on the _____. You can follow that [inaudible] or email the contact _____ for the technical network _____ and [inaudible] on the screen you can _____.

Finally, we are getting review as a CAADP _____ of interest. The end of this month, we have a CAADP _____ meeting, which is an annual _____ that brings

together the CAADP _____ to happen in Uganda, but we also, _____ workshop that we organized to [inaudible] plan has been placed in different countries, then we also involved [inaudible] that [inaudible], which we shall compile to the _____ to present the heads of [inaudible].

Julie:

Sorry about that, might be one of our other presenters who may have accidentally opened the speakers on your computer. So if you – not Godfrey, but our other presenters, please remember to mute your phones and also mute the speakers on your computer, so that we don't get any feedback, thank you. And please, go ahead again, Godfrey.

Godfrey:

Yes, thank you I was making my last point that one _____ of interest is CAADP Platform _____. There's going to be a _____ learning event on May 29 and _____ for CAADP _____ to the [inaudible] and from around how to [inaudible] that can write and _____ to implementation of the _____ that we are supporting membership to _____. So with that, thank you so much for listening to me and I'm going to hand over to _____ and talk about [inaudible] supporting the CAADP technical network, thank you.

Jeff:

Thank you Godfrey. I know that we're getting short on time, and so I just want to provide a few comments. I was asked to actually provide a bit of perspective from the point of the development partner donor agency. And I really want to actually focus on the slide that is the seven CAADP technical networks are based on the _____ commitment. I want to actually bring a focus to that, because that actually speaks to a great deal of the issues that are being tackled here. The complexity of the issues are truly significant. The complexity of the different types of issues that are being dealt with mean that there is no single institution that can actually deal with all of these different kinds of issues and providing support across the many countries, regions, zones, you know, of Africa. And, you know, the idea of a network, technical network, is an innovation for being able to deal with what is, I think, a truly challenging issues.

And it's clear, really from the Malabo declarations that Africa really has set a tremendously challenging goal in development _____ and that embedded in the Malabo decision is the realization that Africa really must tackle not only yesterday's

challenges and low productivity and today's burden of poverty and hunger, but solve for the future issues of a sustained improvement around nutrition and includes the development. The Malabo declaration is truly visionary and puts in front of Africa many great challenges in covering this different territory. Really, in this context, you know, the capacity challenge that, you know, Godfrey has spoken to is not only one of building a _____ of a new generation of Africans to serve these needs, which is actually necessary, but it really points to the fact that it is equally important is how best to access and deploy capacity that now exists in centers of excellence across Africa and around the world to launch the performance of African agriculture needed to achieve Africa's aspirations.

Technical networks, as I see it, are an institution motivation to help respond to these truly strategic challenges. They are not a new institution or institutions, but rather need to be joined efforts or enterprises of existing agencies already committed to providing technical support, committed to alignment with Malabo and committed to coordination to improve quality and reach of these existing agencies and technical support. They can and need to be committed to technical _____ increase efficiency and how technical services are provided and to growing the pool of experts in Africa with the knowledge, tools, and drive to deliver.

On a very practical level, why are the Malabo and the CAADP technical networks really needed? Well, as I see it, they're really needed, because there are a lot of technical agencies that now exist, that want to exist, and contribute, but they don't know what the entry point is as part of the Malabo effort. The networks can provide an entry point. They're needed to improve quality, alignment, and coherence of technical support available to countries. They're needed because countries and regions are confronted with basic issues of shaping strategies, programs, policies, and partnerships to deliver on the Malabo commitment and don't have enough hands to produce the quality of efforts needed. You're needed to accelerate implementation and speed up the learning curve on what works and what our best practice. They're needed because the scale of services needed dwarfs the ability to need it by any single institution and they're needed to give donors new and better tools to align and deliver support.

Let me actually turn to one of the questions that I was asked to speak to is how will the technical networks be funded and make the idea of the technical networks

viable, as Godfrey has outlined, they will need resources dedicated to the technical network operation. There are many options to make resources available. First step in moving forward is simply recognizing the diversity and complexity of the financing architecture that now exists to support the goals and targets of Malabo agenda. The reality is that there is no single window for network financing. There are many windows. A role in the technical network is mobilizing resources is to create a platform of the best centers of excellence have to offer and make a service delivery option available that is unique in the space of aligning with delivering on Malabo.

They are needing to draw on the strength of existing institutions in mobilizing finance. A good technical partner that now exists would not exist if it had no ability to mobilize resources, if the technical networks need to actually draw on these experiences and capacity. The question of many people is really will its donors respond in this area. First, donors are one piece of the financing architecture. Domestic resources are, by far, the largest pool of financing available. Second, donors really want to be _____. They want to fill a strategic gap and need to inherently be _____ larger sustainable chains, the technical _____ conceptually are well placed to play this _____ closely linked to the Malabo implementation infrastructure. We do not see the larger trends as we look at the larger landscape with regard to _____ _____ to this agenda.

We do not see any reductions in support for this agenda in Africa. As long as this agenda is important to Africa and progress is being made, it will be important to the development community. Finally, I want to defend the role and contribution of donors on this agenda. _____ strong advocates to the development of coherent technical support systems for _____ and Malabo. They have been very responsive, flexible, and generous in advancing this agenda, and they do have a lot to offer in advancing the thinking and how to make the innovation and technical networks work.

Press them to engage and no doubt, they shall. With that, I really want to turn it over to the next speaker.

Julie:

Wonderful. Thank you, Jeff.

Cris: Thank you.

Julie: Yep, Cris, we can hear you. That sounds great.

Cris: Yes, thank you very much. [*Inaudible*]. Thank you very much, Jeff. You know, for those _____ presentation, which makes my job really easy, because my presentation will really focus on trying to give _____ update and highlight with regard to how it's functioning – technical network works, what it is composed of, and what are the areas and also areas of intervention. So if we can move to the next slide. So our second _____, which _____ agro industry and value chain has members as indicated on by slides. When Godfrey and Jeff were presenting, they did talk about the importance of having experience of _____, the importance of having resources to support _____ on the continent, the important of indicating capacity in the particular area.

So _____ these are the initial members, because indeed membership is still open. These are the initial members of the agro industry and value chain technical network. _____ that the job we have, the alliance [*inaudible*] in Africa, agro, who are also _____, [*inaudible*] in Africa does a lot of work visually in every African country in many agricultural value chain. So they are a _____ and then we have Grow Africa and other members like the European Center for Development _____ [*inaudible*] research, the African Agricultural _____ Network, the African _____ Association, which is very important that we are thinking about the entire value chain. Either it's good that we have membership of the African Free Trade Association. We are hoping that we will also have membership from [*inaudible*] provider and so on, on the _____.

The Alliance for Commodity Trade in east and South Africa is a member. The markets _____ program, the African Agricultural _____ Foundation is a member. We are very proud of the membership of the international Food _____ Research Institute, _____ invested _____ African Grain Council and the new alliance. So this is what you can see in the mix, _____ or private sector organizations, foundations, development organizations, but also _____ institution,

because everybody brings something to insuring that we can have competitive agricultural value chains on the continent. So that's the membership we have now.

If we can move to the next slide, please. Yeah, so we have the slide in prospective members so far that we are talking to. We are talking _____ - center here where I'm located in _____, we do have a very active _____ center offered and been talking with _____ who is in the office here. And he's _____ from all over the world to also bring to bear the knowledge that they have in the [inaudible] very, very important fixture for many countries on the continent. So we are hoping that going forward, they will be _____ their membership also within the _____ value chain technical network.

Next slide, please. So we have _____ entities, other stakeholders that are actively _____ sharing information, they _____ implementers, _____ organizations. We have been discussing _____ to _____ services. They do a lot of work on value chains in many African countries, so we are talking to them. We are talking to women and resources for [inaudible] very, very important we're sure we do have gender balance in activities within value chains. The _____ African _____ business and agro industry consortium also [inaudible] ideas in terms of how we can make African agriculture value chains competitive. The east African _____, one of the _____ organizations actively contributing ideas and _____ African _____ organization itself also. Various _____ agencies like FAO, we have been talking to them particularly around the issues of insuring that we are producing commodities of policy that can meet requirements of the market.

Next slide, please. As a team, as a group, as a technical network, we have concluded _____ to look at the various issues in agricultural value chains in Africa and many of our members have also been attending national cultural investment plan making, review making happening in various countries including also the regional investment review meeting happening various regions of the African continent. And also, we have also been following the processes, but _____ are using around preparing for the annual review. So _____ about obtaining information with regard to how the technical network might intervene. We're insuring that we are active with regard to various processes ongoing both in country, as well as the regional level in the various regions of the continent.

Next slide, please. Right. So this slide talks _____ of how our technical network and _____, you know, other technical network [inaudible] to contribute processes or bi-annual review reporting and _____ national _____ investment plan _____. So _____. You know, our suggestions and this is what we have been doing is really at the _____ country level to publicize our membership. We are very proud of [inaudible] that our members have. So it's important that we are publicizing those _____ and also the mandate that we have. We also seek to understand the way of development partners in country. It is important that we understand and we are adding value as a technical network.

We are also looking to obtaining [inaudible]. I think it talks about – he talked about some of the key things in his presentation happening, but also _____ country levels to understand the national agricultural investment views. We'll be undertaking the _____ meeting, bi-annual review meetings, _____ support meetings and other relevant agricultural development _____ in country. We also direct our inquiries to our colleagues at the African Union and _____ in terms of _____ and events, key events that might be relevant for our technical network, but we expect also other technical networks we will be doing the same thing. And basically, we _____ to understand how the kind _____ are _____ in country, which country is working [inaudible].

Julie:

There we went. It seems we briefly lost Cris' audio. We cannot hear you, Cris. If you can hear us, please let us know or type in the chat box or try to call back in. It happens. So in the meantime, why don't we move ahead to Greenwell's remarks, since we don't have a lot of time left. Greenwell, if you'd like to jump in and then when you're finished, if Cris wants to finish his presentation, that will work, but Greenwell, are you there? Can you unmute?

Greenwell:

Yeah, I'm there.

Julie:

Great, we can hear you.

Greenwell:

Good. Right, so I will just be quick in the interest of time, but the network that I'm going to present is the _____ management technical network. So Godfrey has

already talked about I think he has _____ my job kind of simple since there are just a lot of things already. The technical network, which is focusing on _____ mentioned is like a collection of agencies, as well as organizations and individuals that all want to provide technical support and _____ to AU member's states and other implementers.

One of the _____ is that it's _____ to provide and develop capacity. I mean, seeks to analyze and respond to needs and _____ in the process of developing and revising the national _____ investment plans in pursuit of the Malabo. And also seeks to provide training and technical guidance to national and regional _____ government entities on policies, programs, and technical _____ government entities on policies, programs, and practices that can _____ achievement of national and continental _____ reduction.

Now, the membership of this is [*inaudible*] I wish I had the presentation, a PowerPoint presentation here, but I think for some of you who might not know this, it is worth saying that there are several of institutions that have already certain interest to this and they become members, including the Africa _____ condition, the East Africa Grain Council, the agra, their food fund _____, _____ or – and et cetera, including the regional _____ analysis and _____ support systems, which I lead and it's also the convener of this network. Now, in terms of what _____ we intend to do in this network, one of them is to identify and assist CAADP _____ for the _____ of the Malabo implementation.

Also, the _____ knowledge sharing and _____ learning between and among countries within the context of the annual review processes, _____ of technical and capacity for _____ support to countries for priority setting, planning and strengthening, _____ analysis, implementation, and evaluation, as well as the support – I mean, to provide support for priority setting implementation _____ by government. Now, the – obviously, the technical network as we speak about it, it's kind of in the process of taking ship. We say that taking ship, but there's still menacing that we have to bring aboard in order to provide more structure to it. Some of the ongoing work that we have _____ on the continent, which are [*inaudible*] with goals of the network include the bi-annual review processes that are going on by the African Union and the network.

Also, the work that we have done under the recess program across the continent including the _____ sector reviews, the work we're doing with the National _____ investment plans and the – with Grow Africa on tracking government commitment, as well as private sector commitments there, and as well as the capacity assessment work that the Africa capacity building foundation does, the _____ by Agra, action aid, et cetera. We all see these – these are important in the _____ of this _____ acknowledgment. In terms of what we are already doing, some of it, seems that we have recently been involved in other networks. Some of them include the Malabo domestication processes. So as you know, in the African Union has _____ this process across the continent and [inaudible] meetings are taking place. Members of our network or members of the research and _____ institute are kind of making themselves available there to kind of present some _____ or _____ to listen in to the country needs after those meetings when the country invests on implementation or the design of the _____, which you'd always be there to try and provide technical support where feasible.

And we also have kind of – I've stated in the bi-annual review regional training in _____ which you are [inaudible]. The other one is – was an _____ and [inaudible] and just more recently last week in Southern Africa, we _____ Johannesburg and _____, which convene this – leads this _____ to a network was also _____ for all the countries that [inaudible] the contribution was kind of significant of – from the kind of comments from African Union, as well as the _____. One of the things that we think – we look at as a challenge as we tried to get more _____ include obviously funding. I was happy to see that Godfrey elaborated more in terms of how we _____ to finances.

So far, the funding has obviously been ad hoc, but we hope to kind of take advantage of the fact that we can write proposals to the _____ community and see how to mobilize that and [inaudible] as a stakeholder is listening in who think they ought to do something about that, I think it would be very much appreciated as we go forward. Now, I need to emphasize that obviously, in terms of the membership, the people – institution, I don't think it's enough. We need as many as possible with different capacities in terms of technical ability, finances, et cetera, et cetera, to come in and if you are leading an institution that you think might become a member of this technical network or knowledge management, then it would be useful to get contacts – I mean, to contact _____. The contact details

are on the presentation that Godfrey Bahiigwa made and that way, you could be coming in by just satisfy some of the criteria that Bahiigwa pointed out.

I think with that, I'll say that I can end my presentation there, but we have also produced some _____ which we can always share and we're in the process of elaborating a strategy that is going to guide us over the medium to the – the _____ to the medium _____ as well. Yeah, so with that, I think I can come to an end of this presentation.

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[End of Audio]