



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

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QUESTIONS & ANSWER AUDIO TRANSCRIPT

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## PRESENTERS

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## MODERATOR

Julie MacCartee, USAID Bureau for Food Safety

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*Julie MacCartee:*

All right, thank you so much to our presenters. Excellent. We do have about 15 minutes for Q&A, and as you can see, a few of your questions have been answered in the chat box by some of our representatives, which is great. But we'll go ahead and run through a few of the questions that have come in through the chat box.

And so this is a question that came in and I think directly speaks what you were just speaking of, Greenwell, and Godfrey might also be able to answer. But it came in from [Merrill Jordan](#). With regards to the lessons learned and capacity gaps, et cetera, is CAADP looking to create, or have you already created, a learning network or some other sort of active learning process to share these lessons learned? Greenwell or Godfrey, can you speak to that?

*Godfrey Bahigwa:*

This is Godfrey \_\_\_\_\_ that, so as I said in my presentation, once these technical networks are up and running, we at the African Union Commission will have coordinators of the different technical networks. And the role of those will be to hook up with the different technical networks to coordinate the support that will be going to the member states. But because we know [this is an involving](#) process, we're also providing for a lessons-learned platform. Maybe twice or once a year, we'll be bringing these technical networks together to share the lessons that they have learned as they are providing support to the member states. So that is the learning platform that we are planning to implement once the technical networks are up and running. Over to you, Greenwell.

*Greenwell Matchaya:*

Yeah, I don't think I have to add really much on that one, except also to say that – so while we don't have a database of lessons learned to date, but I think in the course of providing technical supports to various countries across the African continent, we have always tried to kind of come up with some kind of reports, and in those reports there'll be some strengths that were identified in the process of, say, giving that kind of thing or support.

So I'll give an example of the biannual review planning processes for countries in West African region as well as in \_\_\_\_\_. There were things that were highlighted there, and in order to ensure that we don't kind of commit the same – come up with the same things, or at least to confront the same things and fail to address them initially or immediately, we would always exchange those notes with the trainers in East Africa, the trainers in southern Africa region, to an extent that I'm able to say that the trainings that we have held with the about 11 or 12 member states in the

southern Africa region last week benefited a lot from the lessons that we got from East Africa as well as in the West Africa region. And the same spirit is going to inform us as we move to **ACAS** in Cameroon next week, I think, and then the same – if we move to – when we move to Egypt probably in around June.

So yes, the lessons-learned question is very critical, and we're trying to do something about it. The hope is that as we forge into the future, we will be creating databases of some of these lessons, obviously, conditional specific to the kind of trainings that we are offering, and then we can try to synthesize them so that should we want to do the same in future, we shouldn't be reinventing the wheel; we should be studying from someone, I think.

*Julie MacCartee:*

Great, thank you so much. Godfrey, when you were speaking about nutrition, a lot of questions came in. I think naturally there's a lot of interest in nutrition and food security, in terms of the participants who are on the line today. So there were several questions that came in about linkages with nutrition and food security implementers, key players, and programs, and wanting to understand what that landscape looks like a bit more, and also asking how much emphasis will country members be putting on nutrition-sensitive agriculture to address food security. Would you mind elaborating a bit on the nutrition elements?

*Godfrey Bahigwa:*

Yeah, thank you, Julie. So first of all, there is a specific network on food security and nutrition. So that is bringing together different organizations that have expertise and experience in this area.

Now, the way we are supporting member states to integrate nutritional issues into their investment plans is through the \_\_\_\_\_ **region** I talked about, the **regional** updating or formulating of new national **and project** investment plans. And so far, we have supported seven countries with initiating the process of revising/updating their **national** investment plans. These include Malawi, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Senegal, and so on.

So for each of these countries \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ their roadmap, which they are going to follow to after the time they have a new and revised investment plan. The way we'll provide technical support is that for each of the **thematic** areas, including food security and nutrition, there will be experts that will be going to those national workshops to address issues of nutrition at country level. So that is the initial contact

that we make when we are initiating the process at country level. But after that, following the roadmap that the country has **adopted first**, we are going to work with technical institutions, including FAO, IFPRI, and **IGAD**, to provide specific analytical support to each of the countries that are revising their investment plan, to make sure that they have addressed the nutritional challenges that they are facing.

Now, what type of choices the countries make or the type of investment that we make to improve nutrition, the country will depend on why they need that. We don't know if they are going to be investing in **the process being** to add value to consumer products. Whether they are going to invest in groups that are nutrition-sensitive will depend on the countries. But what we are saying is that through the technical networks, we shall be available to provide the type of support that the country requires to identify the strategies or investment that they need to address nutritional issues within their investment plan. Over to you.

*Julie MacCartee:*

All right, thank you so much. Jeff, there was a question that came in that I think you are best posed to answer, and that came in from David **Dibraloski**, who asked or stated: Donor landscapes are changing. What has been the commitment so far for funding the technical networks, and to what extent can these be said to be firm? I think it's just interested a bit in how the changing donor landscapes are relating to the firmness of commitments to fund the CAADP team.

*Jeff Hill:*

Yes, I want to – first of all, there is no particular separate pool of money that is set aside that guarantees in-depth financial support for the networks over a longer period of time. There is experience with each of the different networks that are working on it. They do have a track record of being able to mobilize resources, and the response to those, in fact, have been pretty robust.

The development agency, the donors fundamentally have been very much interested and involved in this issue from the time of developing pillar institutions and recognize the importance of being able to in fact make available high-quality technical services to assist countries and regions in being able to move forward, and have been very concerned **that it's** one of the key issues that has been limiting the effective implementation of CAADP.

So I can say with confidence that the donor community is both interested and – well, both concerned and interested in the development of the infrastructure to

support the different networks. And there has been strong support historically from the donors on this, and we believe that if there is a good-quality effort coming forward, donors are gonna be willing to have a look at it.

But in terms of actually how firm are the commitments, what we were gonna be looking at, or how firm are the proposals that are being prepared by the individual networks to actually ask for the strategic support consistent with what Godfrey has laid out.

*Julie MacCartee:*

Thank you very much, Jeff. We had a question come in that I think is best to be posed to Godfrey, from Kop'ep Dabugat. And his question is, how will the support be provided to the member states? Are there statutory processes sought out, or will the technical support be discretionary? What is the strategy?

*Godfrey Bahigwa:*

Yes, thank you, Kop'ep. The \_\_\_\_\_ criteria that we are following supports member states with their vision of their national investment plan. One such criterion is the demand that is coming from the countries themselves. So in member states, **that knows that if** the investment plan is about to expire and would like to revise or formulate a new one, and they know that they're required to implement \_\_\_\_\_, they write to the African Union or to the regional economic community or the \_\_\_\_\_ agency and seek support of the African Union to revise or update their investment plan. Then our role is to mobilize this technical support that we are applying.

So at the moment, as we form or **connect** these technical networks, the support is in different forms. But eventually once the technical networks are all up and running, again it will be based on demand from the member states. And once we believe that ones who have supported 10 or 15 \_\_\_\_\_ member states, and they have quality and **critical** investment plans, there will be huge demand for the \_\_\_\_\_ of these technical networks, because each country will be wanting to also have the quality investment plan that they believe, if we implement it, can lead them to achieving the goals and \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, so \_\_\_\_\_ demand from the member states is \_\_\_\_\_. Over to you.

*Julie MacCartee:*

Thank you very much, and as you can see, we have put up a few polls before we wrap up the webinar. We still have five minutes or so for questions. But a few polls

to help us gauge your experience with the webinar, some of your takeaways, and whether you plan to engage with the CAADP technical networks. So please take a moment to take these polls.

And we also have a – we can answer a few more questions before we wrap up today. And so I wanted to check – Cris, were you able to call back in? I don't hear you, Cris, in case you are on mute. Hmm. All right, it sounds like perhaps we have not had Cris able to rejoin. So I was going to ask him a question, but we'll hold that one and we will do our best to answer any unanswered questions via the Agrilinks website. So when we send you the post-event email that will contain the recording and the transcript of this webinar, we'll also do our best to get all of your questions answered then as well.

But in the meantime, a question came in from Solomon Kalema, who is with the African Agribusiness Incubators Network and wanted to clarify that water for agricultural production remains a major challenge in Africa today. Which component within the networks will be addressing water?

*Godfrey Bahigwa:* So as we know –

*[Crosstalk]*

*Male:* Hello? Okay.

*Godfrey Bahigwa:* – there are two \_\_\_\_\_ really, as another issue of addressing the impact of climate change, especially drought, of paramount importance to very many of the 80 member states, and especially the Horn of Africa and southern Africa, which suffer from frequent drought, as 2016 was one such a year where crops failed, animals died as a result of this. So the issue of addressing water availability for agriculture is key. And we believe the technical networks on regional resilience will be the one that will be providing that technical support to member states that are wanting to invest in technologies that have to do with water conservation at farm level, but also looking at cost-effective technologies for irrigation, especially for small-scale farmers, because large-scale investments in big-scale irrigation systems can be \_\_\_\_\_ and expensive. But it's going to be a combination of different technologies, but cost effectiveness is

going to be \_\_\_\_\_ **consideration**. And that will be the technical network that will be responsible providing that technology to them. Back to you.

*Cris Muyunda:* Maybe I can add **a point into** there, now that I am back.

*Godfrey Bahigwa:* Right, Cris.

*Male:* Yeah, so –

*Cris Muyunda:* Yeah, basically what I wanted to say **when I** listened to what Godfrey was saying is that I think that under the new dispensation of technical networks, we have wide resources, as opposed to previously when we were working only with what we called **DLINE** institutions. So there is a lot of knowledge. It's a wide knowledge base for the various issues that any kind of implementer would be looking to address.

So I have seen, for example, the various questions that have been posted here around agro industry and the challenges to do with trade and so on. We have enough institutions within, I think, within the networks to address those queries. But also if the issue of working intra, within among the networks, because we also have the networks on trade and markets, that works directly with regional economic communities.

So I think that the added value of this new innovation is really the **debt** the stakeholders will broach to the table to provide support to the countries, the regional economic communities, and to the implementers generally. Thank you.

*Julie MacCartee:* Thank you. I think we have time for just one final question that I'm going to send to Jeff. And this question came in from **Simbarashe Sibanda**, who said that there are many initiatives in Africa that are expecting member states to fund activities, but I have misgivings about this materializing. What advocacy or mobilization initiatives are planned to ensure member states contribute?

*Jeff Hill:*

Yeah, so I appreciate comments and the concern. I do think that the technical networks, as has been laid out, I think, by Godfrey and me, will need some core resources to be able to provide some support, but will not likely to come from the countries in being able to ensure that they have the infrastructure to be able to function.

But what we do know is that, in fact, over the first ten years of CAADP, in general, the countries increased their financing support agriculture by 3 percent on average. That means that, in fact, during that period of time, that translates into over \$300 million per country that they did come up with resources. So in terms of looking for something that countries are delivering on and saying they're spending money on, this is one of the areas that there is solid evidence that they are spending the resources to advance. And there is no question that countries are actually investing in improving the quality of their decision making and securing technical assistance to do that.

The infrastructure that is being put on the table with regard to the technical networks is really helping to actually improve the efficiency of that, improve some of the matchmaking between what the country needs are and what some of the agencies have to offer with the countries. So I think that – I don't know if the data provides it specific enough, but I don't know of any single country that hasn't actually invested in improving the knowledge base that they're making, whether it is on irrigation or whether it is on market access or whether it is on negotiating policies on water between countries. They are spending their own money to actually better understand what the options are for them.

*Cris Muyunda:*

Maybe I can add a perspective to that issue, wanting countries to fund all these initiatives. And basically the perspective would be that, actually, there are a lot of resources also in-country that are usually not used, because they are **not well planned**, because there's not good organization. So I think these initiatives, the organization of CAADP, the technical networks, and so on, will help to actually unlock some of those resources that are not used or are misused, to ensure they are used more appropriately on an agenda that is agreed to at the continental and national level. Thank you.

*Julie MacCartee:*

All right, thank you so much. Well, we've come up on the end of our allotted time for our webinar, and I don't wanna keep anyone past our time. But I want to extend

a sincere thank you to our four presenters, Godfrey, Jeff, Cris, and Greenwell, for your very informative presentations, and also an even bigger thank you to our participants. Thank you for your excellent questions, conversation in the chat box, and, of course, for supporting Agrilinks webinar.

One more time, I'll let you know that we did record this. We're gonna send you the transcript, which can be a very useful read if you want to comb back over any particular portion of the webinar. And of course, the slides are currently available on the event page on Agrilinks for this webinar, and we'll make sure that you have an email with all of these resources within the next two weeks.

So thank you very much for your participation in today's webinar. We're really thrilled to have you online, and we'll see you at future Agrilinks and Bureau for Food Security events. Thank you very much, and have a good rest of the day.

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