


IMPROVED AGRO-INDUSTRIAL POLICY TO HARNESS AFCFTA POTENTIAL

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS AND NOMINATIONS¹



Online Course
28 September – 30 October 2020

¹ IDEP, AUC and AUDA-NEPAD strongly encourage and support the participation of suitably qualified female officials in its capacity development and training programmes

IMPROVED AGRO-INDUSTRIAL POLICY TO HARNESS AFCFTA POTENTIAL

Announcement in Brief

Course Type : Online Course
Programme Area : Industrial Policy
Date : 28 September – 30 October 2020
Duration : 5 Weeks
Language : Bilingual (English & French)

PROGRAMME RATIONALE

Committing to promote intra-Africa trade, the Head of AU State and Government endorsed the Africa Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) in March 2019. AfCFTA aims basically to boost intra-African trade by providing a comprehensive and mutually beneficial trade agreement among the member states, covering trade in goods and services, investment, intellectual property rights and competition policy. In support is the Boosting Intra African Trade (BIAT) which aims to deepen Africa's market integration and significantly increasing the volume of trade that African countries undertake amongst themselves from the current levels of about 10-13% to 25% or more within the next decade and the Action Plan for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa (AIDA),

Recognizing the transformational outcomes of industrialization, the Heads of AU State and Government endorsed and adopted the *Plan of Action for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa (AIDA)*. AIDA aims to mobilise both financial and nonfinancial resources and enhance Africa's industrial performance. The heads of AU State and Government directed the African Union Commission to speedily operationalize it in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and other development partners.

Governments have to ensure better management of its commodities and natural resources for the benefit of Africa's people and to drive economic growth. In the Agenda 2063, the Continental Commodities Strategy aims to identify, formulate and drive the implementation of policies and programmes that will enable African countries to add value, extract higher rents from their commodities, integrate into global value chains and promote vertical and horizontal diversification anchored in value addition and local content development. The strategy envisions a commodity-led industrialisation which focuses on developing Africa's commodities as a driver for achieving the structural, social and economic transformation of the continent. Related, the recently endorsed Continental Agribusiness Strategy provides a framework for the promotion of agribusiness, including agro-industry, in Africa with focus on necessary pillars for advancement.

For Africa to achieve the Agenda 2063 aspiration for "A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development" (Aspiration 1), the continent needs to address gender-specific barriers while investing in modern agriculture for increased productivity and production (Goal 1.5) as well as exploiting the vast potential of Africa's blue/ocean economy (Goal 1.6). In fact, effective land governance and management is indispensable to efforts to promote inclusive and sustainable socioeconomic development in support of Africa's structural transformation. Effective land governance incentivizes farmers to adopt productivity enhancing technologies, facilitates responsible large-scale land-based investments and strengthens private sector engagement.

Moreover, empirical evidence indicates that if female farmers used the same level of resources as men on the land they farm, they would achieve the same yield levels. The yield gap between men and women averages around 20–30 per cent, attributed to differences in resource use as research suggests. Addressing land tenure insecurity is particularly important if women and other vulnerable groups are to access productive resources and benefit equally from AfCFTA related opportunities. Intra-African trade in food and agricultural products is estimated to experience an increase 20 to 30 percent as a consequence of AfCFTA. Targeted and gender mainstreaming measures are required to ensure women are well positioned to benefit from opportunities and not further marginalized.

In addition, action needs to be taken to address climate change issues and other environmental factors that pose a great risk to the agricultural sector (Goal 1.7). Moreover, realizing Aspiration 1 would essentially necessitate that shared prosperity is built through social and economic transformation of the continent through manufacturing, value addition, and science and technology-driven innovation, including in Africa's first-born industry, agro-industry (Goal 1.4).

It is worth mentioning that the ecological aspect should not be ignored in the process. Some African countries

are making good progress, with a focus on water, energy and agriculture, systematically building low-carbon development and climate resilience into their plans and decision-making. But many countries have yet to focus on how best to harness the post-2015 momentum in climate and sustainability and use it to accelerate their own plans for growth, structural transformation and sustainable industrialization.

It is now the ideal time to redesign long-term growth plans to deliver green and inclusive industrialization. African countries can stand back and watch others take the lead in building a green economy or they can benefit from their current low-carbon position and leapfrog the process. Following the latter strategy means that many African economies can get it right the first time. It is within the framework of revamping agro-industrial development in Africa and support to the implementation of AIDA in the context of the COVID-19, that AUC, AUDA-NEPAD and IDEP are organizing a four-week online course on Improved Agro-Industrial Policy to harness AfCFTA potential.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The aim of the course is to contribute to strengthening capacity at the national and regional levels for effective design and implementation of policy catalysing accelerated growth in the continent's agro-industry in support of the AfCFTA ambitions for inclusive, sustained economic development.

The course will address the policy concerns as expressed by most African governments, which include, among others, improving agricultural output and productivity, nurturing the linkages between agriculture and the industry sector in particular, without leaving behind other economic sectors, increasing national food security, combating poverty, expanding employment, promoting environmental sustainability, and enhancing sustainable rural livelihoods, including gender equality.

The course also aims to sensitize on the importance of the adoption of a cross-sector approach in the formulation of policies. In doing so, the course will expose participants not only to the current state of knowledge and the comparative lessons which are available to Africa, but also some of the best practices that serve as pertinent examples of how an integrated and comprehensive agro-industrial policy has been used to promote economic transformation and social well-being.

The specific objectives of the course are:

- a) Provide information and analytical tools to strengthen the capacity of participants to formulate and implement strategies for addressing challenges and opportunities associated with attaining desired accelerated growth in regionally and globally competitive agro-industries in Africa
- b) Present participants with opportunities to examine practical measures and lessons on the domestication of the Plan of Action for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa (AIDA) and the AU Continental Agribusiness Strategy into national systems to galvanize local-level action, while at the same time embracing inter-dependences between industrialisation and the recently adopted AfCFTA
- c) Afford participants opportunities for networking and peer learning on practices proved successful in advancing agro-industry as a prime driver for building national wealth, creating jobs and promoting entrepreneurship opportunities for rural men and women

SKILLS TO BE IMPARTED

After the programme, participants will gain intensive knowledge and skills as related to:

- Scope and performance of agro-industry in Africa (contribution to GDP, employment, market size, etc...)
- Policies environment catalysing (or hindering) accelerated growth in Africa's agro-industries
- The role of agro-industry in the success of the AfCFTA – what and how (inter-dependences between the

- AfCFTA and agro-industry), and the growth opportunities offered by AfCFTA to Africa's agro-industry
- Policies in enhancing agro-industry growth through (a) emerging technologies including automation, artificial intelligence machine learning, IoT, ICT, etc. (b) strengthening global competitiveness and engaging in global value chains, and development of regional value chains; (c) ensuring direct impact on the wellbeing of local populations through embracing SMEs development with a focus on youth and women; (d) enhance the engagement of private sector in agro-industry and regional value chains (f) ensuring sustainability of operations throughout the agro-industry-based value chains; (f) ensuring food safety and labelling; (g) strengthen social ethics and responsibility; and (h) mainstreaming land governance in agricultural and agro-industrial development strategies and policies.
 - Building regional and continental agro-industry based value chains, leveraging on R&D and partnership

CONTENT

The course consists of key modules offering an in-depth coverage of a broad range of issues pertaining to agro-industrial development policies, strategies and management in Africa, and allowing participants to test the practical application of the knowledge imparted. The modules will also look into how to apply the knowledge in the context of the post-lockdown and the relaunch of economies after the COVID-19 crisis.

PEDAGOGICAL APPROACH & MODE OF DELIVERY

The course will be delivered during one month and one week, that is to say from 28 September to 30 October 2020. The course will be moderated asynchronously on a weekly basis and participants are required to participate in the weekly on-line discussions. The lessons are designed in a way that learners are also able to self-assess their understanding through built-in quizzes. Additional resources such as bibliographies, web links and optional readings are provided for participants who wish to deepen their knowledge of the course topic.

The course will be delivered in English and French. The course is structured to run over a period of four weeks. The following fifth week will be dedicated to the final evaluation. The pedagogical team will include a Course Director, a team of moderators and Resource persons from partners' institutions with knowledge and expertise in industrial policy, in general, and agro-industry design and implementation in Africa, in specific.

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

A Certificate of Completion will be issued by IDEP, AUC and AUDA-NEPAD to all participants who successfully complete the course-related self-assessments presented for each module.

ACCEPTANCE TO THE COURSE

Applicants to the course are expected to have, as a minimum, a bachelor's degree preferably where courses related to industrial engineering, economics, trade, industrialization, agri-economics, planning and sustainable development have been covered. In addition, two years of work experience will be required. Women candidates are also strongly encouraged to apply.

Until the registration deadline, participants are accepted to the course on a rolling basis and subject to availability of slots. Applications must be completed exclusively on IDEP online application platform at <https://www.unidep.org/?apply>

TARGET AUDIENCE

The course is mainly targeting at senior officials drawn from ministries and extra-ministerial departments responsible for agriculture, industry, value chain strategies and investments and environmental and climate issues applied to agro-industry sector; Officials of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) with a direct

responsibility for agro-industrial policy matters are also encouraged to participate, as well as Professionals in private sector and civil society organizations, Academia (researchers and students).

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Access to internet is an essential condition for participation. The following specifications, as a minimum in terms of hardware and software, are required to take this e-Learning course, please consult your Network Administrator or Systems person to ensure that you have the following:

- Platform: Windows 95, 98, 2000, NT, ME, XP or superior; Mac OS 9 or Mac OS X; Linux
- Hardware: 64 MB of RAM, 1 GB of free disk space
- Software:
 - o Adobe Acrobat Reader
 - o Adobe Flash Player
 - o Microsoft Office (Windows or Mac) or Open Office
 - o Browser: Internet Explorer 7 or higher or Firefox 36 or higher
- Modem: 56 K
- Note that JavaScript, Cookies and Pop-ups must be enabled

IMPORTANT DATES

- Deadline for Applications and Nominations: 24 July 2020
- Course Period: 28 September to 30 October 2020

CONTACT INFORMATION

IDEP Training and Research Division: Tel: +221 33 829 55 00 / Fax: +221 33 822 29 64
Email: ECA-IDEP-TS@un.org

N.B.: AUC, AUDA-NEPAD and IDEP strongly encourage and support the participation of suitably qualified female officials in its capacity development and training programmes