



Economic Commission for Africa

A service of the UN system-wide support to the African Union and its NEPAD Programme

NEPAD TODAY

Every Wednesday

The articles published in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of UNECA or NPCA

African Water Facility and NEPAD to boost Songwe River Basin

The African Water Facility (AWF), in collaboration with New Partnership for Africa's Development - Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility (NEPAD-IPPF), hosted a meeting recently to launch the preparatory phase of the Songwe River Basin Development Programme in Kyela, Tanzania.

The event was attended by more than 150 people, including local and national government officials from both countries and representatives from the beneficiary communities.

The objective of the preparatory phase is to foster regional cooperation and assist the two countries in creating a long-term strategic framework, investment plans, and an enabling environment for basin-wide development based on joint management of the shared waters. The project is expected to benefit the entire population of both countries, representing about 60 million people. AWF and NEPAD-IPPF have respectively provided €3.5 million and €1.2 million in grants to the governments of Malawi and

Continued on page 2

Chief of Section
Kwabia Boateng
Editor
Yinka Adeyemi
Assistant Editor
Meseret Arega

Agriculture - Climate Change Preoccupies NEPAD

A two-day seminar to that effect started in Yaounde on Monday August 13.

It is evident that climate change is increasingly causing significant damages to societies, economies and environment in Africa at large, where exposures vulnerabilities are high while the capacity to respond is low. It is rather unfortunate that smallholder agriculture which is the mainstay of most African countries is most hit by the scourge. About 75 to 80 per cent of African countries depend on agriculture with most significant actors being women.

It is against this backdrop that NEPAD

through its planning and coordinating agency organised a national consultation process to identify issues that are impacting on smallholder farmer activities and put in measures to enhance capacity building and increase production. The workshop also sought to share the preliminary findings from the Cameroon case study amongst key holders, obtain views and feedback from stakeholders on the preliminary analysis and identifying investment programme needs for Cameroon.

According to the Director of Programme Implementation and Coordination Di-

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

African Water...

Tanzania to finance the preparatory work. The AWF and NEPAD-IPPF funding will be used for the preparation of a long-term shared vision and for the 10-year Songwe River Basin Development Programme. It will also support detailed designs and the preparation of infrastructure projects in the field of hydropower, irrigation, water supply and sanitation, amounting to about €400 million.

"The AWF congratulates Malawi and Tanzania for this joint initiative that promises to bring wide-reaching benefits on both sides of the border," said Akissa Bahri, Coordinator of the African Water Facility. "When it comes to developing the socioeconomic potential of shared water resources to reach maximum benefits, regional cooperation is often the best and smartest option."

The goal of the Songwe River Basin Development Programme is to improve the health and living conditions of the people of the Songwe Basin region, enhance their food and energy security, and boost the economic development of the two countries.

Source: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201208130856.html>

Continued from page 1

Agriculture - Climate...

rectorate of NEPAD, Estherine Lisinge-Fotabong, 70 per cent of smallholder farmers are women thus NEPAD has to identify concrete actions to support, working in collaboration with the Cameroon government to empower women. On his part, the Executive President of the Pan-African Parliamentarians Network on Climate Change,

PAPNCC, Hon Awudu Mbaya Cyprian underscored the importance of climate change saying though Africa emits less than four per cent of greenhouse gases, PAPNCC has decided to tackle the practical part of fighting the scourge by carrying out "operation one woman, one tree" to make Cameroon a green country. Crowning it all, the representative of the Minister of Women's Empowerment and the Family, Dr. Niger Thomas Mageret said 52 per cent of Cameroon's population are women who contribute 75 per cent of agricultural work and produce 80 per cent of food in the country. Yet they don't have access to land and appropriate technologies, and do not have the 30 per cent quota on decision-making. At the end of the workshop, participants are expected to endorse the preliminary finding and come out with recommendations to be forwarded to the authorities for action.

Source; Cameroon Tribune (Yaoundé), August 13, 2012

Upcoming Event

- Expert Group meeting on Implementation of NEPAD and the Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme for African Union, 14 - 15 August 2012 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- AU/NEPAD Science & Technology Policy Workshop, 1- 5 Oct 2012, Nairobi, Kenya
- NEPAD Briefing at the UN General Assembly 16 Oct 2012, New York, United States
- African Development Forum (ADF VIII), 23-25 October 2012 "Governing and Harnessing Natural Resources for Africa's Development", Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Establishment of Science, Technology and Innovation indicators in the ECOWAS region (national & regional level), 5-7 September 2012 TBC, Togo

Please let us hear from you

How useful do you find NEPAD Today? Are there other issues you would like us to address? Please send an email to: maregaz@uneca.org