



Economic Commission for Africa

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NEPAD TODAY

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NEPAD Agency signs MoU with Fairtrade Africa

The NEPAD Agency has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Fairtrade Africa, whose main task is to represent the interest of Fairtrade certified producers in Africa and to promote their socio-economic development through trade. In Africa, Fairtrade is working in 28 countries and with over 290 producer organisations, representing more than 600,000 individual farmers and workers who are involved in various value chains including coffee, cocoa, tea, vegetables, fruits, wine, cotton and seeds and nuts.

The signing ceremony took place on Friday the 3rd of February 2012, at the NEPAD Agency offices, Midrand, in South Africa. The MoU was signed by Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, CEO of the NEPAD Agency and Mr. Michael Kwame Nkonu, Executive Director (ED) of Fairtrade Africa.

Following several consultations between the NEPAD Agency and Fairtrade Africa, both parties agreed to strengthen their partnership in support of CAADP implementation. Through joint activities, NEPAD will

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Grow Africa: Transforming small scale farmers into commercial farmers

Ministers responsible for agriculture from seven African countries (Ethiopia, Ghana, Rwanda, Burkina Faso, Kenya and Mozambique and Tanzania) gathered in Dar -es-Salaam to discuss strategies for development and investment in the sector under a new regional body called - "Grow Africa". These countries have expressed and demonstrated interest to engage the private sector in their agriculture revolutions. The meeting was a result of the 2010 World Economic Forum held in Cape Town, South Africa which reached a consensus for Africa to be supported to realise true economic

advancement through agriculture.

Involvement of the private sector in agricultural development is one of important components of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) under NEPAD.

AU Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, Ms Tumusiime Rhoda Peace, said the AU has been contented with Tanzanian leadership in promoting agriculture with its "Kilimo Kwanza" agenda which is now a model in the entire continent. She said Tanzania was on the right track

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be able to better access Fairtrade Africa's extensive network in order to facilitate access of African smallholder farmers to high level markets, by connecting producers and consumers, promoting fairer trading conditions and empowering producers to combat poverty. In return, mainstreaming CAADP into Fairtrade will lead to the contribution of CAADP's growth targets and agriculture-led development in Africa. Aligning the Fairtrade initiatives with NPCA's value chain capacity development programme and the NEPAD Agribusiness and Trade Promotion Strategy will help contribute towards the realizations of this year's 18th AU Summit theme, "Boosting Intra-African Trade". "We need to change the way trade works in Africa. If we don't trade amongst ourselves, we will not achieve the overall aim of Intra-African Trade" said Mr. Bankole Adeoye of NEPAD.

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Grow Africa...

in promoting agricultural revolution that paves the way for other countries, particularly members of "Grow Africa" to emulate. However, she was quick to add that without enough resources mobilization and heavy investments, it can be difficult for countries to implement the envisaged programmes currently on the drawing boards or on different levels of implementation.

"It is high time Africa stopped implementing small projects that can never realise any goals in its economy," she said. The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives, Mr Mohamed Muya, said in his presentation on the Tanzania's CAADP and Grow Africa position that the country has introduced the Tanzania Agriculture Food Security

"Intra-African trade is an area of potential growth during these times of global economic crisis. Fairtrade Africa is already bringing Fairtrade consumption to the African consumer market and this partnership with NEPAD will further help create access and hence transform the lives of Fairtrade farmers across the continent." said Mr. Michael Kwame Nkonu, Executive Director of Fairtrade Africa.

Among the objectives of this MoU are: joint resource mobilisation, facilitation of Fairtrade activities in the African wide region, capacity building of producer organizations and support of women in the Fair Trade business.

Source: www.nepad.org

Investment Plan (TAFSIP).

TAFSIP, he said, was part of the CAADP operationalisation and show the country's commitments to make agriculture a priority with about seven major investments programmes. However, Mr Muya said huge financial resources needed in implementing the programmes was a challenge the country has to face, noting TAFSIP requirement of 5.3bn US dollars (about 8tril/-) for the next five years as an example.

For full story: www.nepad.org

Upcoming Events

- High level NEPAD Colloquium and Congress, 28 March 2012, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Young People, Farming & Food: The Future of the Agrifood Sector in Africa, 19 -21 March 2012, Ghana
- 5th Joint Annual Meetings of the AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, 22-27 March 2012, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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