

AFRICA



ADAPTATION NEWSLETTER

June-July 2016 | Issue 15

www.aaknet.org



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA AND AFRICA AGENDA 2063



During the 6th Special Session of African Ministerial Conference on Environment - (AMCEN), Ministers reaffirmed that adaptation to climate change is an essential priority for Africa and that there is an urgent need for immediate and adequate support for the implementation of adaptation measures. The Ministers declared to support the establishment of Ecosystem Based Adaptation for Food Security Assembly (EBAFOSA), it's constitution and the outcomes of the process that lead to the establishment of the Assembly as the inclusive pan-African policy framework and implementation platform that brings together key stakeholders and actors along the entire EBA driven value chain...**Read more**



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African Union Agenda 2063 : Taking Africa Forward

THE FUTURE OF AFRICAN DREAM

Agenda 2063 is both a Vision and an Action Plan. It is a call for action to all segments of African society to work together to build a prosperous and united Africa based on shared values and a common destiny.

In its 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU), while acknowledging past successes and challenges, rededicated themselves to the continent's accelerated development and technological progress.

They laid down vision and eight ideals to serve as pillars for the continent in the foreseeable future, which Agenda 2063 will translate into concrete objectives, milestones, goals, targets and actions/ measures.

Agenda 2063 strives to enable Africa remain focused and committed to the ideals envisaged in the context of a rapidly changing world

The Political Affairs Department of the African Union Commission said that Agenda 2063 is the way forward to promoting human rights that demands all AU member states to take measures to ensure accelerated economic development and integration with its people driven over all participation.

Why a 50 Year Agenda?

Fifty years is, undoubtedly, an extremely long development planning horizon, however strategic we may call it. Is this a serious choice? How can one realistically plan given breath-taking changes globally and within the continent? What are the benefits of such long-term planning? These are some of the questions raised by many people from all corners.

The choice of a 50 year time must be understood within the context of the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the OAU; and the need for the continent to take stock of achievements, successes/ failures and map out a long-term vision as well as set goals and targets. In operational terms, the Agenda 2063 would be a rolling plan of 25 years, 10 years, 5 years and short term action plans.

What is the added value of Agenda 2063 and how does it take account of past and ongoing policies and programmes at national, regional and continental levels?

Agenda 2063 should be seen as a logical continuation of recent developments with renewed and invigorated efforts to catalyze development and strengthen African integration and unity.

It aims to build upon the achievements and draw lessons from earlier strategic planning efforts at the regional and sub-regional levels, including the Lagos Plan of Action, the Abuja Treaty and the NEPAD, to address new and emerging issues in the continent over the short, medium and long-term.

Indeed, Agenda 2063's guiding principle is continuity of actions, drawing appropriate lessons, building upon what has worked in the past; and in brief making every effort to do things better.

Thus Agenda 2063 should be seen as a unique opportunity to recreate the African narrative by putting it into perspective to energize the African population and harness citizens creativity through a set of clear goals that citizens participate in setting for unity, peace and development in the 21st century. The thrust of Agenda 2063 is a program of social, economic and political rejuvenation that links the past, present and the future in order to create a new generation of Pan Africanists that will harness the lessons learnt and use them as building blocks to consolidate hope and a true renaissance of Africa...

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A POLICY PERSPECTIVE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND SDGS' IMPLEMENTATION

POLICY PERSPECTIVE ON SDG's AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The year 2015 connected the dots in sustainable development, starting with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAA) signed in July, which provides a broad framework for the international community to finance sustainable development.

In September, nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The associated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) signaled a firm global intent to integrate environmental development into economic and social development. In December, the historic Paris Agreement was adopted, committing the world to finally tackling climate change and providing a high-level climate policy framework for environmentally sustainable growth.

Cumulatively, these global initiatives could transform development models, addressing issues such as hunger, poverty, unemployment, human health, climate change, degraded ecosystems and social inequity. These milestones should be celebrated. However, achieving environmentally sustainable, socially and economically inclusive development in an impactful and lasting way will require innovative actions on all fronts.

Massive investment needed

Financing the SDGs will require at least \$1.5 trillion extra annually over what was required for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). To put this into perspective, the cost of achieving the MDGs globally was estimated

at over \$120 billion annually. Currently, public finance is inadequate. For instance, large infrastructure development in Latin America, Asia and Africa – covering transport, energy, water and sanitation, and telecommunication – requires between \$689 billion and \$1.28 trillion in incremental annual investment to meet SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 7 (expand access to affordable clean energy), SDG 9 (build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation) and SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities).

On energy alone, Africa will require cumulative investments of up to \$490 billion by 2040 for new electricity generation capacities, and 31% more for an aggressive focus on renewables to bring power to an estimated 621 million Africans who have no access to electricity.

Environment and sustainable growth

Global processes, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAA) and the UN Environmental Programme Inquiry into sustainable financing, buttress the view that sustainable development requires diversified sources of financing in addition to the traditional international public finance. With appropriate policies, the environment can contribute to achieving the SDGs directly, through ecosystems goods and services and indirectly, through earnings from the environment.

Nature provides staggering amounts of money and services to economies. For example,

between \$235 billion and \$577 billion worth of annual global food production relies on direct contributions of pollinators, a critical ecosystem service.

The global cocoa bean crop, valued at \$5.7 billion annually, depends on biodiversity resources, including pollinators such as the cecidomyiid and ceratopogonid midges. By protecting pollinators, therefore, nations directly contribute to SDG 2, which is to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.

In Africa, environmental resources account for 77% of total exports and 42% of government revenues. Over 70% of the sub-Saharan Africa population depends on forests and woodlands for livelihood. This means environmental resources can create income opportunities for people at national and household levels, contributing to SDG 1, which is to end poverty in all its forms.

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DELIVERING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN AFRICA



On the 25-27 September 2015 world leaders unanimously adopted the sustainable development goals (SDGs) during the 70th UN General Assembly. This signaled a common global intent to transition to economic, social and environmental progress in the next 15 years, a united mutually collective front against hunger, malnutrition, poverty, unemployment, disease, climate change, low agricultural productivity, degraded ecosystems and social inequity, among the notable challenges particularly facing Africa.

Achieving the SDGs effectively, in a fast, efficient, impactful and lasting way will require innovative action from all.

Workable approaches

The World Bank reports that in Africa, a 10% increase in crop yields translates to approximately a 7% reduction in poverty. Growth in agriculture is at least two to four times more effective in reducing poverty than in other sectors. This is crucial considering agriculture employs 60% of the labor force on the continent hence its importance in advancing inclusive growth. However, despite these opportunities, climate change threatens the sector's productivity with projected 11-40% yield reductions of major staples and additional alarming threats through rainfall variability. Yet the sector is 98% rain fed. Climate change induced moisture stress as clearly shown in the UNEP Africa Adaptation Gap Report ...[Read More](#)

Is African Union 's Agenda 2063 relevant and achievable?



Agenda 2063 embraces and reinforces the vision of Africa and endorses the 12 continental priorities of the African Union contained in the AU Constitutive Act which form the basis for the development of continental frameworks, such as the Programme for Infrastructure, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, the African Mining Vision, the African Governance Architecture and the African Water Vision.

Among disaster risks and challenges Agenda 2063 identifies are the prevalence and severity of extreme events, such as heat and cold waves, dust storms, severe winds, floods, droughts, and greater rainfall variability and patterns. These are bound to distort traditional crop cycles, diminish production of agricultural and industrial raw materials as well as export earnings and thus affect the safety and wellbeing of Africans. To achieve the goals of high standard of living, quality of life and well-being of all citizens as well as environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities, Agenda 2063 identifies the following indicative strategies which integrate disaster risk reduction:

- (a) Elimination of poverty, hunger and malnutrition
- (b) Climate resilience low carbon production systems in place and significantly minimising vulnerability and natural disasters
- (c) Mainstream/integrate climate resilience in planning, budgeting and monitoring in development outcomes and processes
- (d) Conduct climate change research including detection and attribution
- (e) Promote/support climate-smart agriculture
- (f) Promote climate resilience practices in integrated coastal and marine ecosystem management systems
- (g) Domesticate the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Agenda 2063 calls for the mitigation of these challenges which should instead be turned into opportunities ...[Read more](#)

Building Sustainable Youth Agribusinesses: Supporting Farmers

June - July 2016—Issue 15



Mano River Union Forest Ecosystem Project

Objectives

The overall project goal is to contribute to the sustainable management of the Upper Guinea Forest Ecosystem for global ecological balance including carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation, and the improved livelihoods of local communities.

Rationale

This initiative will contribute to the rehabilitation and conservation of forest ecosystems and to the improvement of livelihoods in the target landscapes. Despite the potential wealth of natural resources in the region, a high level of poverty persists in the four target countries. Conflicts in the region have also adversely affected economic development and natural resources management. The target countries recognize the economic and environmental benefits that natural resources present and have Poverty Reduction Strategies containing economic pillars that guide the sustainable management of forest ecosystems to varying degrees. The Bank CSPs are also aligned to the PRSPs.

The combined population in the four countries is estimated at around 40 million. The project focuses on renewable natural resources management. The project will contribute to poverty reduction through improved environmental management and sustainable management of natural resources. In addition, it will contribute to enterprise development and job creation for local communities adjacent to the forest ecosystems...

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

Farm Africa's Youth Empowerment in Sustainable Agriculture (YESA) project is working to build young people's interest in agricultural enterprises. These help generate income, create resilience and empower young people to become business leaders in their communities.

Building Sustainable Youth Agribusinesses

YESA creates, strengthens and supports youth groups to establish and manage agricultural businesses. The project provides training and technical assistance in agronomy, helps groups to market their products and encourages members to become active in local politics and governance.

The project supports young farmers in various ways, including:

- Providing seed funding to start small agri-businesses for example growing snow peas, cabbages, chillies and French beans.

- Demonstrating agronomic practices and technologies in group plots used as training sites.

- Training participating groups on financial literacy, credit management and business

planning.

- Supporting youth groups to access commercial finance to sustain and expand their businesses.

- Linking the groups to markets and supporting them in the negotiation of contract farming agreements with buyers.

Who are we helping?

YESA is partnering with 87 youth groups in Trans Nzoia County, with a total of 2,300 members (47% of which are women)

RESULTS TO DATE

40 groups are working under contract farming agreements with two export companies (Safe Produce Solutions for cabbages, Keitt Exporters and Kenya Fresh for French beans and snow peas and Mace Foods for chillies export), that engage the groups as out-growers for their supply chains.

About 780 lead farmers, have also started their own individual enterprises on their own farms and with Farm Africa's initial technical support. ...[Read more](#)

STORAGE RIGHTS TO REVERSE GRAIN POSTHARVEST LOSS



Development experts discuss how the “new ‘golden age’ of agronomy” (Pearce, 2016) and production packages will increase Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) staples like rice, wheat, corn, oilseed and pulse (grain) harvest. However, the experts “are yet to see post-harvest as an integral part of the whole system” (Boa, 2016) or how stopping “Postharvest and related input Loss” (PHL) “increases food availability without further use of land, water and other agricultural inputs” (APHLIS, 2015).

Development production packages that merely increase grain harvest lack meaning because “sms based information, micro-finance, mechanization, seed, fertility, pest management” (inputs) are wasted when improper drying and storage allows birds, rats, insects and fungi to cause “significant loss postharvest” (Lipinsky, 2013).

Background to the problem.

“Of course, not all agricultural products are created equal and it is impossible to lump all harvested food products under one set of best practices” (Devex, 2016). Some PHL is of wet fruits, vegetables and meat (densely nutritious) and some is dry, high calorie grains. When properly dried and stored, high calorie grain, feeds most of the human labor and animal power needed to produce densely nutritious food and so “many current calls for innovation refer specifically to staple grains” (Devex, 2016).

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Testing the use of Mobile Technology to Improve Smallholder Sesame Cultivation



Well suited to northern Tanzania’s dry conditions, Farm Africa has been helping farmers there grow bigger and better sesame crops and market them to earn higher prices, thanks to strong local and international demand.

In the latest development Farm Africa has been experimenting with new methods and approaches to training in a bid to reach even more farmers.

Rather than take the traditional “demo plot” approach – where open air schools are set up to show farmers better growing and harvesting techniques – Farm Africa decided to test mobile technology.

Between November 2013 and April 2014, tablet computers were given to 10 champion farmers to take around as ‘portable demo plots’. Other farmers then viewed training modules relevant to key milestones in the sesame growing season, as one of the champion farmers, Cecilia Nada, explains.

There are already signs that drought is becoming more common and more “First we register the farmer, then collect information like experience and family background. After that we direct them to a page about land preparation. We then take them through the other modules. First, planting process: how it’s done and what time to do it and how to space between rows and plants. After that we look at post-planting care and how to look out for and control disease.”

“As it gets towards harvest and the sesame turns yellow, we show the farmer how to cut the sesame then stack it to avoid pests. We then instruct in proper storage before going on to teach how to market it.”

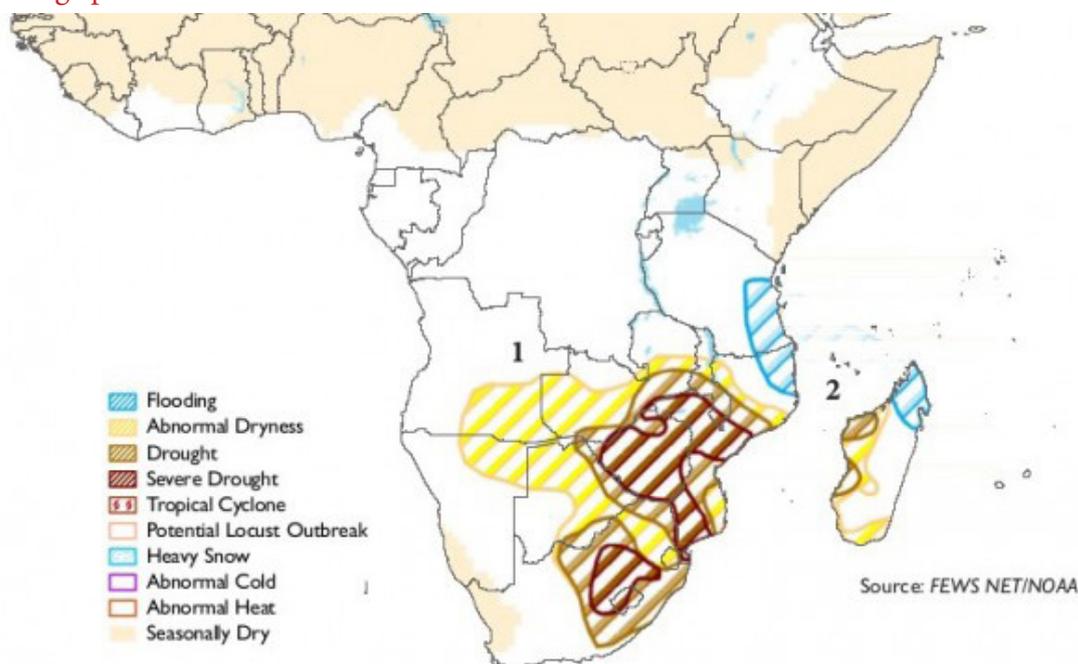
Around 500 farmers were reached with the mobile training modules, with initial results very promising. Of the 49 farmers we interviewed afterwards, most were overwhelmingly positive, saying being able to access the course in their own time and in their homes were bonuses, as well as being able to view the modules many times. .. [Read more](#)

EVENTS

JUNE	<p>01 SAN FRANCISCO</p> <p>Clean Energy Ministerial, CEM 7 Third Conference on FFD</p>	<p>06 WASHINGTON, USA</p> <p>50th Meeting of GEF council</p>	<p>07 TORONTO, CANADA</p> <p>World Conference on Disaster Management</p>	<p>28 ROME, LAZIO, ITALY</p> <p>First Meeting of UN-REDD Programme Executive Board</p>
JULY	<p>06 BONN, GERMANY</p> <p>Resilient Cities 2016: 7th Annual Global Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation</p>	<p>11 NEW YORK, USA</p> <p>High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF 2016)</p>	<p>17 NAIROBI, KENYA</p> <p>Fourteenth Session of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD 14)</p>	<p>30 VIENNA, AUSTRIA</p> <p>OWEG 38 and ExMOP 3 to the Montreal Protocol</p>
AUGUST	<p>15 WINDHOEK NAMIBIA</p> <p>Climate change in the post-2015 framework – views from East Africa</p>	<p>26 NEW YORK CITY, US</p> <p>Preparatory Committee on BBNJ</p>		

CLIMATE WARNINGS

According to FEWS NET, significantly below-average and poorly-distributed seasonal rainfall since October has negatively affected many countries in southern Africa. The largest precipitation deficits have been concentrated over western Madagascar, southern Zambia, central and western Mozambique, southern Malawi and large portions of Zimbabwe



PUBLICATIONS

The Sustainable Development Goals: The Science Perspective

The challenge of measuring SDG 16: What role for African regional frameworks?

The Sustainable Development Goals of the Post-2015 Agenda - OECD

A shared strategic framework for inclusive growth and sustainable development & a global strategy to optimize the use of Africa's resources for the benefit of all Africans

Transforming our world: the 2030 agenda for sustainable development

Emerging Insights into Governance and Sustainable Management of Africa's Natural Ecosystems

UNEP: Policy Coherence of the Sustainable Development Goals

Mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - UNDG

The United Nations Environment Programme and the 2030 Agenda: Global Action for People and the Earth

RECENT RESEARCH

How can we develop value chain programs that address climate risks?

Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

CCAFS Gender and Social Inclusion Strategy

2016 Climate Change and Population Conference on Africa

Implications of the Paris Climate Change Agreement on Africa's Green Growth Potential to be discussed during Africa Development Week

Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals

Symposium on climate change adaptation in africa - HAW Hamburg

Organic supply chains for small farmer income generation in developing countries

Insight: Climate change and the African continent



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