



Effective aid for food and nutritional security and agricultural development

Policy Dialogue on High Food Prices: Outlook and Donor Mid-Term Response

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Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development

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- Presently working up Joint Donor Principles for Agriculture and Rural Development.
- Based on Paris declaration and Accra Agenda for Action.
- Focus on **ownership, alignment, harmonisation, managing for results, and mutual accountability.**
- Take as consensus that strategies for tackling the effects of the food price crisis and poverty need to centre on **smallholder agriculture and rural development.**
- The Joint Principles do not address the content of effective programmes, which will be context-specific.



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Joint Donor Principles: 1. Country ownership

- Support government leadership and ownership of planning and policies that are based on inclusive processes.
- Promote effective participation of all relevant non-state stakeholders in national dialogue about policies, resourcing and programmes to improve food security and agricultural development. This includes remote rural farming communities and women farmers.
- Support capacity development of key stakeholders and their institutions to participate more effectively in the design, delivery and monitoring of country strategies.



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Joint Donor Principles: 2. Alignment

- Seek alignment with national development strategies that are 'good enough'.
- Where feasible, work through existing country PRSP thematic or sector working groups and national compacts such as the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP);
- Seek to strengthen the internal coherence of policies, enhancing whole-of-Government approaches to agriculture and rural development, including both central and decentralised government



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Joint Donor Principles: 3. Harmonisation

- Seek to develop and support common funding mechanisms via sector-wide approaches (SWAs), Joint Donor Assistance Strategies, other programme based approaches (PBAs), and budgetary support, with a view to rationalising aid and reducing transaction costs.
- Advance complementarity and division of labour in agriculture and rural development, reducing fragmentation.
- Enhance cross-sectoral harmonisation in rural development but avoid unmanageable complexity.



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Joint Donor Principles: 4. Managing for Results

- Support the development of a shared framework of practical, development indicators. These must be consistent with the national development strategy (such as the Poverty Reduction Strategy, and sectoral ARD strategies), should be set up at the start of any programme, and should use national M&E systems and be gender-specific.
- Where feasible, development indicators for the sector should advance the role of smallholder agriculture for equitable growth.



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Joint Donor Principles: 5. Mutual accountability

- Join with partners to promote transparency and accountability, which are essential elements if development efforts are to show results.
- Sector-level mutual accountability frameworks need to include roles for rural stakeholders (farmers, farmers' organisations, CSOs and local government).
- Consider cross-cutting issues (particularly the roles of women in agriculture, and environmental or natural resource management issues) when drawing up mutual accountability frameworks for agriculture.

We agree – our top priority is to deliver –

- High quality, fully financed programmes for food and nutritional security, social protection, agricultural and rural development in participating countries.
- Indicators – reduced hunger, reduced malnutrition (especially for women and children), improved and sustainable rural livelihoods for poor and vulnerable people, increased and more sustainable agricultural output.

Are we serious and ambitious? Yes!

Since last June donors have collectively committed some US\$20 billion:

- US\$10 billion at the G8 summit, Toyako, July.
 - US\$1.75 billion at UN High Level Event on the MDGs in New York, Sept (including one billion Euros from the EC).
 - Additional \$2 billion per year from the World Bank.
 - One billion Euros in Madrid, plus “indications” of a further \$4.5 billion.
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- UK – has pledged over £865 million, of which over £230 has been disbursed (food aid, social protection, rural development, agricultural research and budget support).

Where do we begin?

- Credible processes were already in existence or in preparation in some countries before the recent food crisis, although some were weakly supported by donors and lacked effective engagement from all relevant stakeholders.
- Since the food crisis many countries have been subject to needs assessments, of varying quality, addressing short to medium term needs. Some countries have several “plans” ready to go.
- Donors and international agencies should seek to support one comprehensive and coordinated plan, such as the ones typically produced under CAADP.
- The forthcoming CAADP Partners Platform meeting in Pretoria may provide an opportunity to identify countries which are immediately ready to step up a gear with backing from all stakeholders.

Is it business as usual? No.....

- Making the connection with climate change
- Making the connection with social protection and food aid policy
- Making progress on regional and global trade issues
- Making the connection with health and nutrition
- New country institutional arrangements?
- Building consensus on the future of biotechnology
- Thinking again about the appropriate role of the state in input subsidies, price controls and market intervention
- Looking at the architecture of international agricultural research and its governance
- New approaches to management of global price volatility
- New approaches to protecting the poor and vulnerable from global shocks.

Our agenda?

- An international system fit for the purpose of eradicating world hunger
- Countries where our collective, increased effort is delivering tangible results
- Improved capability of key stakeholders
- Evidence to support policy choices