

CONVENING TO FOCUS ON OUTCOMES OF AGRICULTURAL REFORMS DURING DECADE OF CAADP, WAY FORWARD

Dakar – November 1, 2013 - TrustAfrica, in partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, will hold a two-day convening at the Laico Regency Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya on November 12-13, 2013. The convening, “A Decade of CAADP: Reflections on Key Outcomes of Agricultural Policy Reforms in Africa,” aims to raise awareness about the role of agriculture in development and to give voice to those most affected by agricultural development policies, particularly smallholder farmers. The keynote speaker for the conference will be Mr. Charles Abugre Akelyira, Africa Regional Director of the UN Millennium campaign, based in Nairobi.

« We recognize the importance of agriculture to Africa’s economies and applaud the AU for declaring the year 2014 as the Year of Agriculture and Food Security, » noted Dr. Akwasi Aidoo, Executive Director of TrustAfrica. « In this meeting, we aim to provide opportunities for farming communities and other stakeholders who work on improving smallholder agriculture policies to collaborate on their efforts. We have also reached out to CAADP National Focal Points based within governments to nurture consensus building and identify achievable goals for smallholder policy reforms in 2014. More importantly the meeting will be a platform for sharing strategies on what has worked in terms of advocating for pro-poor smallholder agriculture and identifying ways of replicating those successes. »

The conference is part of TrustAfrica’s Agricultural Development project¹, which targets six countries — Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Malawi—to build an effective advocacy movement for sustainable and equitable agricultural development in Africa. In the last ten years, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) has worked to “help African countries reach a higher path of economic growth through agriculturally-led

¹ To learn more about TrustAfrica’s Agricultural Development project, please visit our Website at <http://trustafrica.org/en/programme/equitable-development/agricultural-development-project>.



development, which eliminates hunger, reduces poverty and food insecurity, and enables expansion of exports.” However, while there has been some progress in terms of policy reforms, notably in Malawi, Rwanda, Ethiopia and Ghana, in other African countries, challenges remain.

The most notable concerns are around the lack of opportunity for smallholder farmers, whom CAADP targets, to have their voices heard regarding critical policy needs. Additionally, civil society organizations dedicated to these smallholder issues are also not well recognized and supported. This convening is an attempt to gather this underserved population and elevate a dialogue that will potentially allow their voices to be heard.

The convening will gather actors from civil society organizations to reflect on the achievements, impacts, challenges and improvements that need to be made concerning the existing agricultural policies in the targeted countries. The objective will be to set an agenda for priorities in the next ten years and to strengthen the networks and collaborations that already exist within countries and sub-regions.

The convening will address such issues as:

- Global Agricultural Policymaking: Trends and Innovations
- The CAADP Framework: Assessing Performance, Strategizing for the Future
- Regional Mobilization and Advocacy: What are the Possibilities of Partnerships for National and Regional Policy Change; and
- Looking Ahead: Policy Gaps, Priorities, Opportunities and Suggested Frameworks for Transforming African Agriculture

TrustAfrica is a public foundation that seeks to secure conditions for democratic governance, equitable development and African philanthropy across the African continent. Led by Africans, TrustAfrica organizes meetings, catalyzes ideas, and provides grants and technical assistance to organizations working to advance these goals.

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