



THE AFRICAN CAPACITY
BUILDING FOUNDATION

Securing Africa's Future through Capacity Development

www.acbf-pact.org

BULLETIN

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In this issue:

ES's Message | Empowering Women in Agriculture | ACBF as key driver in supporting think tanks and policy centres | EEA: positively impacting policy making process | \$1million grant from UNDP | ACBF - ECA to implement activities of MOU | Update on ACBF Resource Mobilization | Africa Capacity Indicators Data tool | Africa – BRICS Partnership is Growing Rapidly



**From the
Executive Secretary**

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the first edition of our bulletin for 2014. After assuming duty as Executive Secretary on 2 December 2013, we have hit the ground running with exciting times ahead.

As we enter the third year of our Strategic Medium Term Plan (SMTP III 2012 – 2016), we have been busy with activities that will yield some timely knowledge products. The 2014 Africa Capacity Indicators Report (ACIR) on capacity development on regional integration and the survey on the capacity needs of the Regional Economic Communities are both due out this June. It is our intention that these knowledge products will generate some in-depth dialogue and actions for the economic development of the continent. The focus on RECs is because they are pivotal to realizing the economic integration of Africa. Preliminary findings show that we all have to pull together to reach their full potential. We will keep you updated with the progress in this area.

At the strategic partnership level, we continue to partner with the African Development Bank (AfDB) on the development of the RECs study and the Africa Community of Practice (AfCOP). Member countries continue to pledge towards SMTP III. This symbolizes the ownership of the Foundation by the members and more importantly an acknowledgement that capacity development remains an important component in the continent's drive for economic development. The World Bank too remains a dedicated partner to the Foundation with a USD 65 million grant agreement signed on 12 December 2013. We are grateful to our bilateral partners for their support.

At the Secretariat, we have adopted a new business model that will see us working smarter and more efficiently. It is based on four core pillars of continuity, results, sustainability and role sharing. The key is to streamline processes and effectively use multi-disciplinary teams. This is an exciting undertaking that we intend to accomplish together with our grantees.

As the year progresses, we look forward to meeting our challenges head on and to also celebrating our successes. And we hope to have your total cooperation to get to our destination.

OUR WORK



Empowering Women in Agriculture

A Mapping of Initiatives on Women in Agriculture by Different Stakeholders in Selected African Countries

It is a paradox that majority of Africa's population are poor even though the continent is blessed with vast resources. While the agricultural sector is the highest employer of labour on the continent, income generated by the workers is abysmally low. Equally, the sector's contribution to gross domestic product is negligible. With the population time bomb that is ticking dangerously across the continent, many believe it is high time Africa broke the vicious cycle and empowered its farmers. As women constitute the most farmers on the continent, greater attention to their welfare will benefit everyone.

On the other hand, Africa's sustainable growth and global competitiveness will remain at stake and livelihoods will continue to be fragile if the operatives in the sector, mostly women, are not fully empowered for higher productivity through technologically-driven production processes, access to land and greater access to more remunerative markets. Empowering rural women for higher productivity is a way of enlarging the production boundaries of the continent. Empowering women in agriculture will accelerate the pace of structural transformation by expanding capacity for livelihood diversification both within and outside primary agriculture -- in the commodity value chains. Empowering women in agriculture will entail reducing the barriers to their productivity in the

physical environment as well as enhancing their political agency -- their capacity to make rational informed decisions and to participate in spaces where their lives (and productivity) are affected (political capability), says Prof. Bola Akanji, the author of this research commissioned by African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF).

According to the author, the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) is one of the platforms for actualizing the 2004 Maputo Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality. But no clear strategy for carrying women farmers along the train of transformation has been developed. What is clear is that the changing role of the African state in an era of globalization will affect women in African agriculture in particular and the significance of empowering women in agriculture will affect the development of the African state. This formed the basis for the formation of the Initiative for Empowering Women in Agriculture (EWA) at the 19th summit of the African Union in 2012. Members of the coalition include African heads of states, private sector operators including the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, Africa 2.0, Africa Media Initiative (AMI), Gender is My Agenda (GIMAC) and Femmes Africa Solidarite (FAS). This coalition has committed itself to upgrading the welfare of African women farmers through promotion of their access to finance, land and technology. The African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) is coordinating the initiative. The first phase of the Women in Agriculture project was carried out in 2012. This study is to provide strategic information and guidance from a study of selected countries that will assist the ACBF and its partners to better grasp and contextualize the gaps in the empowerment of women in agriculture, for necessary, targeted intervention, according to Prof. Akanji.

The following are the research objectives:

- Report on and appraise on-going and planned Women in Agriculture (WIA) initiatives in selected African countries being undertaken by national and sub-national governments, development partners and other international organizations such as the African Union, the African Development Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization, and other United Nations agencies, multilateral institutions such as the World Bank, as well as non-governmental development partners;

- Identify and assess the gaps in the existing Women in Agriculture (WIA) initiatives with a view to identifying potential projects and programs for the EWA initiatives in order to carve a niche for it;
- Assess and advice on the responsibility of ACBF in enhancing the roles and status of women in agriculture in the region;
- Present specific policy options and guidelines to inform how governments at country and regional levels should address the role of women in agriculture in Africa

Eight countries were selected for the pilot study. They are Burkina Faso, Liberia, Senegal, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Rwanda, Tanzania and Malawi. But due to some challenges in these countries, only six of the eight completed the study.

The findings from this effort have yielded an abundant body of information for improving the conditions and resources for empowering women in agriculture. It talks about making a connection between gender equality to systemic growth on one hand and also to human rights or gender justice on the other. According to Prof. Akanji, "Gender equality in agriculture is integral to Africa's future growth and competitiveness. If agriculture is pivotal to Africa's growth, empowering all economic agents for higher productivity and greater market access is key." The author in her work sees a common fate for women in agriculture across the continent, and argues that the conditions they face dictate their access to agricultural resources. Among other problems, they face harsh conditions, suffer from cultural and policy biases that undervalue their work and their ability to multitask in their roles as workers, caregivers and heads of families.

In summary, the study notes that despite some glimpses of hope, severe obstacles remain in the empowerment of women farmers all over the continent. One reason is because of societal rigidity to its patriarchal nature. Rural women therefore wallow in illiteracy and low capacity for remunerative agriculture. Many programmes put in place are less than beneficial due to low capacity of rural women farmers. Where beneficial programmes are in place, rural women are unable to benefit because of their low capacity, the author states.

To remedy the situation, the report suggests, among other things, that legal reforms are needed to ensure access of women farmers to assets and property, including land. Also funds set aside for EWA should be used to transform women farmers' capacity on and off the farm. Thirdly, the women need to be moved into income-generating activities in the rural, non-farm sector.

RESULTS

ACBF considered a key driver in supporting policy centres and think tanks that promote Africa's development

Amidst a dearth of human capacity for the production of evidence-based policy decisions particularly in government institutions, the expertise and innovative capacities of think tanks will be needed to help shape Africa's future. But such institutions that are even in existence on the continent now are few and face their own challenges. These range from the lack of adequate funding, underdeveloped institutional capacity to inadequate enabling environments. Also, the sector is facing a deficit in innovation as new entrants are increasingly rare and a relatively small percentage (29.6%) of African countries have more than 10 policy think tanks.

Addressing the challenges faced by policy centers and think tanks is a key strategy to catalyzing the development of sound economic policy and economic development across Africa. This is where the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) comes in. This report was prepared by Dalberg Global Development Advisors, an independent evaluation team. It is to assess the Foundation's support to policy centres and think tanks on the continent.

The ACBF has been a key player in dealing with Africa's capacity building issues and investing in local human and institutional capacity since its formation in 1991.

Specifically, ACBF has largely focused on enhancing the quality and relevance of policy research, increasing policy engagement among government and non-state actors, and improving institutional and human competencies of policy centres and think tanks to effectively support policy processes. The Foundation is considered a key driver in supporting policy centres and think tanks to better synchronize their efforts with research needs. This became clear from the overwhelming response of stakeholders who commented on the Foundation's relevance in building the internal capacity of the institutions they are supporting. ACBF support has enabled those supported institutions to address critical policy issues, actively participate in policy discourse, and produce quality products and services, in most cases adequately meeting the needs of external stakeholders.

Among lessons learned, the relevance of ACBF support to think tanks can be increased by a more comprehensive intervention design process that is more aligned with best practice to accurately inform the selection of countries where ACBF will intervene, and by proactively meeting the demand of key ACBF support services such as knowledge management.

Implementing beneficial strategies in ACBF-supported institutions has not been without its challenges. Still, some of these institutions have played a significant role in influencing policy through positive examples. The Ethiopian Development Research Institute (www.edri-eth.org) which created the highly acclaimed Ethiopia Commodities Exchange is one of such stories. Equally successful are Cellule d'Analyse de Politique Economique du CIRES (www.capec-ci.org) in Cote d'Ivoire, which has been particularly influential in restructuring the cocoa sector; and the Institute for Policy Analysis and Research (www.ipar-rwanda.org) in Rwanda whose work helped in reforming the East African country's investment tax code.

ACBF's stated mission is to give long term support to develop people and institutions involved in policy change and economic, social and political reform initiatives across Africa. To help achieve this objective, it will be required to:

- Increase capacity along the policy-impact value chain;

- Improve economic indicators within countries of operation;
- Be recognized as a thought leader in support policy centers and initiatives for policy impact; and
- Develop sustainable and influential policy centers and think tanks.

The evaluation team also enjoins the ACBF to implement a more systematic approach in selecting countries to receive ACBF's assistance. It recommends the use of certain indicators among which are political freedom, population, freedom of the press, number and strength of political parties, economic freedom, level of global integration, level of need and gross domestic product per capita.

Evaluation findings imply that since governments typically request the services and interventions of ACBF, the Foundation has an opportunity to further incentivize and influence policy reforms, especially through financial support. In doing so, ACBF can work with governments to develop key strategies for improvement. Below are some of the evaluators' recommendations aimed at increasing the relevance, efficiency and sustainability of ACBF support to policy centres and think tanks:

Efficiency Sustainability

- Strengthen engagement with countries and stakeholders
- Adopt a hybrid funding approach
- Outsource fund disbursement and management to a third party
- Decentralize ACBF support operation
- Adopt and incorporate a "fee for service" unit within its operations department
- Increase systems to manage and evaluate stakeholder relationships
- Implement a more systematic approach to target country selection
- Be a change agent in increasing the efficiency of policy impact value chains

Relevance

Going forward, there is a lot the Foundation could learn from this study in order to vastly improve its service delivery.

FEATURE

ACBF'S support to the Ethiopian Economic Association: Positively impacting policy making process

www.eeacon.org

The 2013 Global Go to Think Tank Report ranked 15 think tanks supported by the African Capacity Building Foundation among the top 50 in sub-Saharan Africa. According to the Report, 8.97 percent of global think tanks are located within the sub-Saharan region. This compares to 1984 in North America and 1818 in Europe. Out of 6826 think tanks recorded, 612 are in sub-Saharan Africa. ACBF has been supporting the creation and the capacity needs for think tanks since 1991 when it was established. It has helped to create 35 and still supports 19 today. A recent evaluation conducted in 2013 by the Foundation states that think tanks in Africa remain a catalyzing element in the development of sound economic policy and economic development in Africa. This is true of Ethiopia.

The country, with about 45 percent of its population said to be living in absolute poverty, is one of the poorest countries in the world. On the United Nations Human Development Index, it ranks 170 out of 177 nations. But it can boast of one of the more successful think tanks on the continent. The credit goes to the Ethiopian Economic Association which in 2000 established a research and training wing known as the Ethiopian Economic Policy Research Institute. Through the Institute, EEA has been able to make invaluable contributions to the development of the Ethiopian economy, particularly in the area of developing capacity for public policy making.

For instance, EEPRI as the Institute is known, was involved in the preparation of the first Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) by the Ethiopian government. Some of its published research reports are a very popular source of information for policy makers, donors and

the general public and also as references for researchers and university students. Its study on the evaluation of land policy in the country has made a lasting impact. Its findings helped to resolve some of the contentious issues on land policy and it was well received in government circles.

ACBF in 2000 gave the EEA a grant of US\$1,030,000 to support EEPRI research activities in line with its mandate. The main objective of the grant was to address the need for research and policy analysis capacity since the capacity of the public sector and the universities to design and analyze public policy has been inadequate. The Institute did not disappoint.

The EEPRI has also successfully trained officials of some regional governments in the country on how to estimate regional income accounts, putting them in a better position to access grants from the federal government in Addis Ababa. Further research equally enabled the Institute to train government officials in the method to be used to determine the revenue potentials of the region. This makes it possible for the state to raise the amount of collectable revenue from local taxes.

To consolidate on the success of phase one, ACBF in 2005 approved a grant worth \$800,000 as its contribution to another project whose total cost was estimated to cost US\$2,953,419. The objective of this phase of the project is to consolidate the achievements during the first phase with the aim of improving the policy making process in Ethiopia for sustained economic growth and poverty reduction. It produced three annual reports on the Ethiopian economy, each providing detailed analytical report on the state of the economy.



Also, EEA/EEPRI produced 10 thematic annual reports on the economy, which offers insight on the working of the economy with recommendations on how to enhance its performance. Other publications are 16 Conference proceedings, 19 issues of the Ethiopian Journal of Economics, 11 Research Reports and Working papers. Each of these publications has become a credible source of information for all stakeholders. The database was officially launched in 2003 it is now available on CD and updated regularly.

In recognition of its professional contribution in the area of economic analysis, EEA/EEPRI has become very visible in government established committee, providing technical inputs such as in the National Development and Trade Policy Forum, Committee for Developing Urban Development Indicators, Taskforce for Preparing National Poverty Reduction strategy Paper, Health Sector Development Review, and National Committee for Establishing Farmers Competence Consortium.

PARTNERSHIPS

ACBF Receives a \$1 Million Grant from UNDP

The African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) has received a \$1 million contribution from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to support its operations. The fund will be used to further boost its capacity building activities on the continent under ACBF's Third Strategic Medium Term Plan (SMTP III) which covers the period 2012 to 2016.

SMTP III was approved by the ACBF Board of Governors on 21 February 2011. It is meant to address "the key challenges Africa will be facing in the coming years, refining and refocusing the operations of ACBF, and repositioning the Foundation as a leader, major partner, and centre of excellence for capacity building in Africa."

SMTP III aims to succeed in:

- Enhancing critical capacities to promote political and social stability for transformational change

- Enhancing capacity to engage and regulate the productive sector
- Enhancing capacity to track policy impact

The grant will focus on four key areas: continued Support to South Sudan; Assistance to the publication of the fourth edition of the Africa Capacity Indicators Report (ACIR); the 2013 Survey of the capacity needs of Africa's Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and enhancing the ACBF operations through ICT and training.

From its inception in 1991, UNDP has been a great pillar of support to the Foundation. It has been particularly effective in capitalizing on its strong presence across the continent to help ACBF develop partnerships for capacity development in many African countries. This contribution, together with assistance received from other sponsoring agencies, including the World Bank and the African Development Bank (AfDB), will enable ACBF to continue providing its services to regional institutions. Prominent among institutions that have benefited from the Foundation's expertise are the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

ACBF and ECA to Implement Activities of Memorandum of Understanding

The African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) have agreed to implement their core areas of responsibility for the benefit of Africa.

ACBF is the continent's premier organization charged with building sustainable human and institutional capacity for growth, poverty reduction and good governance in Africa. On the other hand, the ECA, located in Addis Ababa, is the UN agency responsible for promoting regional integration and international cooperation for Africa's development.

The agreement provides a framework within which the two agencies will develop and execute programmes, projects and activities subject to the availability of funds and in line with

their mandates. They will work together in the areas of economic policy and management to build capacity through ACBF-supported policy centres. They also agreed to strengthen regional integration by strengthening Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and bolster the capacity of African states to improve international trade and intra-African trade.

Both agencies equally pledged to promote better peer learning and experience sharing between them and to create a framework that would make knowledge readily available to stakeholders, thereby fostering dialogue and the exchange of ideas among African economists, policy makers and development experts.

They resolved to promote best practices in reforms, advocacy statistical capacity building, and to jointly implement the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA). Both agencies also pledged to publish in conjunction with the African Development Bank (AfDB) the African Statistical Yearbook and Compendium of intra-African and Related Foreign Trade Statistics. In addition, ECA, through the African Statistics Centre (ASC), will collaborate with ACBF, the AfDB and the African Union (AU) in organizing an annual meeting of the African Directors of National Statistics.

In the area of governance, ACBF and ECA promised to work together in organizing the annual ECA-AU meeting of African Ministers of Finance and Planning, the African Development Forum and similar events.

OUR RESOURCES

Update on ACBF Resource Mobilization

ACBF continues to mobilise resources for its third Strategic Medium Term Plan (SMTP III 2012 -2016). Confirmed pledges to SMTP III amount to USD 107.75 to date and include the following:

- World Bank: On 05 December 2013, the Board of the World Bank approved a grant of USD 65 million in support of the implementation of SMTP III. A grant agreement was signed between the World Bank and ACBF on 12 December 2013.

- African Development Bank: The Board of the African Development Bank approved a grant of UA 3 million, equivalent to USD 4.6 million on 17 February 2014 in support of the implementation of SMTP III. The agreement to precede the disbursement of this grant is scheduled to be signed in March 2014
- African member countries: African member countries were instrumental in ensuring the Foundation's going concern in 2013 through significant payment of their pledges to SMTP III. So far, 34 African member countries have pledged USD 28.15 million, of which they have paid USD 10.4 million.
- Non-African Donor Countries: Sweden is so far the only non-African country to have announced a support to SMTP III. Sweden has, most generously, announced a contribution of USD 10 million to SMTP III. This contribution will be disbursed by the World Bank through the Multi-Donor Trust Fund.

The confirmed pledges amount to USD 107.75 million to date, which is still less than half of the base case scenario of funding of SMTP III estimated at USD 218 million. Following the deep reforms implemented by the new Executive Secretary to make ACBF more efficient, more focused and more effective, ACBF hopes that more contributions will be confirmed from all of the Donor categories listed above as well as from new Contributors.

KNOWLEDGE

Africa Capacity Indicators Data Tool

The African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) launched the inaugural version of its Africa Capacity Indicators Flagship Report in 2011. The Africa Capacity Indicators Report (ACIR) measures and empirically assesses capacity in relation to the development agenda in African countries. The ACIR also highlights key determinants and components of capacity for development. To this end, the ACIR maps out the capacity development landscape in Africa with the goal of sharpening the focus on capacity deficits as a major development policy issue.

The ACI (Africa Capacity Index) is the report's primary index, and the signature trademark of the ACI Report, which is published annually. The Africa Capacity Index (ACI) is a composite index computed from four sub-indices, each of which is an aggregated measure calculated on the basis of both a quantitative and a qualitative assessment of various components that form a cluster. Cluster analysis was used to generate the sub measures. The clusters cover the following dimensions: policy environment; processes for implementation; development results at country level; and capacity development outcomes. The ACI index is a harmonically-weighted aggregation of the four clusters sub-indices. The four clusters indices are the arithmetic mean of their underlying variables. There are also seven thematic indices. They are based on the same dataset as the primary ACI index, but these are grouped in different combinations according to the thematic area. They are the following: i) Policy choices for capacity development; ii) Aid effectiveness related to capacity development; iii) Gender equality and social inclusion; iv) Partnering for capacity development; v) Capacity profiling and capacity needs assessment; vi) Inputs related to capacity development; and vii) Outputs related to capacity development.

Additional independent composite indices are computed annually. They relate to the ACIR annual theme. Each of the additional independent indices is calculated the same way as the main ACI index; however with different variables. So far, two additional independent indices have been launched: the agricultural transformation and food security index (ACIAgric) in 2012; and the natural resource management index (ACI NRM) in 2013.

The African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) developed this interactive dashboard in Microsoft Excel. All content - including the data, index methodology and text - was devised by the ACBF. ACIR interactive dashboard is a

high-impact data visualization tool that seeks to assist practitioners, knowledge workers, policy makers, etc., access the right information at the appropriate time to undertake evidence-based decision. The graphical interface simplifies the 2011-2013 ACIR data such that one can see what's happening at a glance. It also provides the complete data base of statistics for the three years. The ACIR interactive dashboard does more than just provide a read-out – it is highly interactive, enabling you to perform point-and-click analysis, country and RECs comparisons, scatter plots, etc., easily predicting the outcome of changing variables or circumstances with greater accuracy.

The Africa Capacity Indicators Data Tool is available at the ACBF Virtual Library on Capacity Development <http://elibrary.acbfact.org>, policy, economy growth and the business environment.

LEARNING

Africa – BRICS Partnership is Growing Rapidly
Emmanuel Nnadozie, ACBF Executive Secretary

Emerging trends show that recently the BRICS group has become a major force in the global economic arena. The OECD predicts that the balance of economic power is expected to shift dramatically over the next fifty years with China becoming the world's largest economy (replacing the United States). India's GDP growth is also projected to outpace that of the United States. Thus partnerships with BRICS countries will become even more important over time.

<http://cfi.co/africa/2014/02/emmanuel-nnadozie-acbf-africa-brics-partnership-is-growing-rapidly/>



EVENTS

26-27 June 2014

**ACBF Board of Governors Meeting
Dakar Senegal**

African Capacity Building Foundation

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