COMMON MARKET FOR EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

Fifth Meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
19 - 20 September 2013

REPORT OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

THEME: “Consolidating Intra-COMESA Trade through Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development”
## ACRONYMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACT</td>
<td>Africa Conservation Tillage Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACTESA</td>
<td>Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>ADLI</td>
<td>Agricultural Development-led Industrialisation</td>
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<td>AFSTA</td>
<td>African Seed Traders Association</td>
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<td>ASARECA</td>
<td>Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa</td>
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<td>ASWAp</td>
<td>Agriculture Sector Wide Approach</td>
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<td>AU</td>
<td>African Union</td>
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<td>AU-IBAR</td>
<td>African Union - Inter African Bureau of Animal Resources</td>
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<td>AUC</td>
<td>African Union Commission</td>
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<td>AusAID</td>
<td>Australian Agency for International Development</td>
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<td>CA</td>
<td>Conservation Agriculture</td>
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<td>CAADP</td>
<td>Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme</td>
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<td>COMESA</td>
<td>Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa</td>
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<td>COMRAP</td>
<td>COMESA Regional Agro Inputs Programme</td>
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<td>COP</td>
<td>Conference of Parties</td>
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<td>CSA</td>
<td>Climate Smart Agriculture</td>
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<td>CSO</td>
<td>Civil Society Organisation</td>
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<td>DIIID</td>
<td>Department for International Development</td>
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<td>EAC</td>
<td>East African Community</td>
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<td>EAFF</td>
<td>East African Farmers Federation</td>
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<td>EAGC</td>
<td>East African Grain Council</td>
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<td>EC</td>
<td>European Community</td>
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<td>ERP</td>
<td>Economic Recovery Plan</td>
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<td>ESAYCCA</td>
<td>Eastern and Southern Africa Youth Alliance on Climate Change</td>
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<td>FAMIS</td>
<td>Food and Agricultural Marketing Information System</td>
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<td>Food and Agriculture Organisation</td>
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<td>FEWSNET</td>
<td>Famine Early Warning System Network</td>
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<td>Focal Point</td>
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<td>GAFSP</td>
<td>Global Agricultural and Food Security Programme</td>
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<td>GMO</td>
<td>Genetically Modified Organism</td>
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<td>IGAD</td>
<td>Intergovernmental Authority on Development</td>
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<td>IPPPSD</td>
<td>Investment Promotion and Private Sector Development Division</td>
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<td>JFPI</td>
<td>Joint Fertilizer Procurement Initiative</td>
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<td>LPH</td>
<td>Livestock Policy Hub</td>
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<td>MDGs</td>
<td>Millennium Development Goals</td>
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<td>MDTF</td>
<td>Multi-Donor Trust Fund</td>
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<td>MGDS</td>
<td>Malawi Growth and Development Strategy</td>
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<td>NAFSIP</td>
<td>National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plan</td>
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<td>New Partnership for Africa’s Development</td>
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<td>OIE</td>
<td>World Organization for Animal Health</td>
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<td>PASDEP</td>
<td>Plan for Accelerated and Sustainable Development to End Poverty</td>
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<td>PIF</td>
<td>Policy and Investment Framework</td>
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<td>RESTRAP</td>
<td>Regional Strategy and Strategic Action Plan on Mainstreaming Gender in Agriculture and Climate Change</td>
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<td>RFBS</td>
<td>Regional Food Balance Sheet</td>
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<td>Roundtable</td>
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<td>Abbreviation</td>
<td>Full Form</td>
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<td>SACAU</td>
<td>Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions</td>
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<td>SADC</td>
<td>Southern African Development Community</td>
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<td>SDPRP</td>
<td>Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Program</td>
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<td>SPS</td>
<td>Sanitary and Phytosanitary</td>
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<td>STDF</td>
<td>Standards and Trade Development Facility</td>
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<td>TC</td>
<td>Technical Committee</td>
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<td>UNECA</td>
<td>United Nations Economic Commission for Africa</td>
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<td>UNEP</td>
<td>United Nations Environment Programme</td>
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<td>UNFCCC</td>
<td>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change</td>
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<td>USAID</td>
<td>United States Agency for International Development</td>
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I  INTRODUCTION

1. The Fifth Joint Meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 19 - 20 September, 2013. The purpose of the meeting was to review the implementation of the regional agricultural, environmental and natural resources development programmes in the COMESA region.

II  ATTENDANCE, OPENING OF THE MEETING, ELECTION OF THE BUREAU, ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND ORGANISATION OF WORK

Attendance and Opening of the Meeting (Agenda item 1)

2. The meeting was attended by Ministers and heads of delegations from DR Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Madagascar, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In addition, the meeting was attended by representatives of other regional stakeholders and development partners. The list of participants is attached as Annex I.

3. The meeting was officially opened by Honourable Tekalagn Mamo, State Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia who welcomed all the delegates to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and wished them a pleasant stay.

4. In his remarks, His Excellency observed that agriculture is the main stay of the economies of the region. He also noted that the Government of Ethiopia is implementing the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program (CAADP) to address the challenges of Agricultural productivity and production.

5. He emphasized the need of building the resilience of the economy to the Climatic shocks. In this regard, he informed the meeting that Ethiopia is implementing a five-year Growth and Transformation Plan and its Climate Resilience Economy plans which stipulate a zero - carbon emission economy by 2015.

6. Further, His Excellency informed the meeting that land degradation is a major threat to world food security especially in dry land areas. He also noted that in 2005, Ethiopia designed and put into action community based participatory watershed development initiatives which have resulted in vast degraded lands being rehabilitated.

7. He also informed the meeting that Climate Change in the sub-Saharan Africa negatively affects the women in rural areas. In this regard, he expressed gratitude that the Conference of Parties has made a decision on the importance of addressing gender in the ongoing Climate Change negotiations.
8. He also noted that smallholder farming practices in the region are characterized by inappropriate tillage practices, low uptake of improved inputs and subsequently this leads to low productivity of crops and livestock. To this end, he called on the meeting to support the up-scaling of Climate Smart Agriculture.

9. Speaking earlier, the Secretary General of COMESA, who was represented by Mr. Thierry Mutombo, the Director of Investment and Private Sector Development informed the meeting of the progress achieved in the implementation of agriculture programmes within the region. In his remarks he presented a brief overview of the food security situation in the region by noting that about 10 Member States of the region are at risk of food insecurity and that millions of people will require food assistance.

10. The Secretary General reiterated the important role COMESA is playing in addressing food security at both the national and regional levels through trade facilitation addressing critical barriers to trade, policy formulation and harmonization in various areas of technology, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, and strategy formulation with specific reference to the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development programme (CAADP) among others.

11. While noting the progress achieved by the region in the attainment of the objectives of the Treaty, the report noted that there are still some areas where concerted effort by governments and the secretariat is needed. In particular, the Secretary General noted that although 16 member States have initiated the CAADP process, there is still a long way to go in order to start reaping its benefits. While acknowledging the support from the Global Agriculture and Food Security programme (GAFSP) totaling over $220 million given to selected Member States of COMESA, the Secretary General observed that there is still scope for attracting increased investments both locally and from foreign sources. The regional CAADP in particular deserves priority as it seeks to develop regional programmes.

12. Further noted need for enhanced investments in the agriculture sector including in the areas of climate change, livestock and fisheries development, seed trade, fertilizer procurement and most importantly technology which is a key driver of productivity and value addition.

13. In conclusion the Secretary General reminded the meeting of the important role of women and youth in agriculture, natural resources management, value addition and climate change in the region. He encouraged all Member States to continue recognizing this issue through tailored approaches and policies which encourages the participation of women and youth in agriculture development.

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1 Six countries have benefited from this programme and these include: Malawi, Zambia, Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi.
14. His Excellency Professor Dr. Ayman Abou Hadid, Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation of the Arab Republic of Egypt made a key statement on agriculture. HE. Prof. Dr. Ayman Abou Hadid observed that the adoption and implementation of a common policy and strategy remains the region's real hope for attaining the first millennium goal of cutting hunger and poverty by half.

15. He noted that the challenges facing the region include climate change, low productivity, and low competitiveness, over-dependence on rain-fed crop production, animal diseases and market constraints.

16. In conclusion he noted that the future of agriculture in the COMESA region depends on concerted actions to address the challenges facing the agricultural sector.

**Election of the Bureau (Agenda item 2)**

17. The meeting elected the following Bureau:

   Chairperson - Ethiopia
   Vice Chairperson - Egypt
   Rapporteur - Swaziland

**Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work (Agenda item 3)**

18. The meeting adopted the agenda as follows:

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of the Bureau,
3. Adoption of the Agenda and Organisation of Work
4. Consideration and Adoption of the Report and Recommendations of the Fifth Joint Technical Committee on Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources
5. Interventions and Statements by Ministers and Heads of Delegations
6. Any Other Business
7. Consideration and Adoption of the Report and Declaration by the Fifth Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources
8. Date and Venue of Next Meeting
9. Closure of the Meeting
III. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

Consideration and Adoption of the Report and Recommendations of the Fifth Joint Technical Committee on Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources (Agenda Item 4)

Food Security in the COMESA Region

19. The Ministers were informed that available data and information sources indicate that hunger is still a threat in most COMESA Member States. This is evidenced by the current shortages in cereal production; high levels of under-five malnourishment; and low of calorie intake (below the recommended 2100 calories/day). However, there are serious gaps in food security data and information; while various countries are using different indicators and methodologies.

Decisions

20. The Ministers decided that:

i. The Secretariat working with the Member States should harmonize country data on food security, data collection, dissemination and data exchange activities in the region, and to include livestock and fisheries in food and nutrition analysis.

ii. The Secretariat should carry out a study on the impact of post-harvest losses on nutrition and food security.

iii. The Secretariat should undertake a study on the impact of food imports on local production.

Progress Report on Implementation of the COMESA Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Compact Development

(a) Current CAADP Process Implementation Status

21. The Ministers were informed that COMESA has mobilized technical, financial and organizational support to facilitate Member States in enhancing country level CAADP implementation. Currently twelve (12) countries have signed their national CAADP Compacts, namely, Rwanda, Burundi, Ethiopia, Swaziland, Uganda, Malawi, Kenya, Zambia, DRC, Seychelles, Djibouti, Sudan. The following countries are expected to sign their national Compacts before the end of 2013, Zimbabwe, Madagascar and Comoros. Furthermore, countries have been supported to develop high quality National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plans (NAFSIPs).
22. To-date, nine (9) countries have finalized the design of their NAFSIPs, namely, Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, Burundi, Ethiopia, Malawi, Zambia, DRC and Djibouti. Independent Technical Reviews of the NAFSIPs have been conducted in eight (8) of these countries, apart from Djibouti. Out of these, seven (7) countries (Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, Burundi, Ethiopia, Malawi, and Zambia) have conducted their Business Meetings where the NAFSIPs and recommendations of the Independent Technical Review Team were presented. Six (6) countries, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Burundi, Malawi, Zambia and Uganda have successfully accessed funding from the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP) for implementation of selected investment programmes within their NAFSIPs.

23. The Ministers were also informed of the progress that has been made in CAADP implementation at regional level. COMESA, in collaboration with Member States, regional and global partners, has completed the draft COMESA Regional Compact as well as a draft COMESA Policy Investment Framework with clearly stipulated areas and program interventions under each priority area. Both documents will be validated at a regional meeting, end of September, 2013 in Lusaka, Zambia. The signature of the COMESA CAADP Regional Compact is planned to take place before end of December, 2013.

Decisions

24. The Ministers decided that:

i. **COMESA Secretariat should strengthen the coordination of regional CAADP partners and establish a well functioning Regional CAADP Partners Platform, with appropriate mechanisms to explore opportunities and modalities for expediting the Regional CAADP implementation process;**

ii. **The Secretariat should intensify engagement with Member States and partners to explore and harness other agriculture financing opportunities to support implementation of the National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plans (NAFSIPs);**

iii. **Member States that have not signed their compacts should complete their CAADP stock taking process and sign their compacts, consistent with the decisions of the Fourth Joint Ministerial meeting held at Mbabane, Kingdom of Swaziland; and**

iv. **Member States should integrate core indicators of the CAADP Monitoring and Evaluation Framework in their National Agriculture Investment Plans’ (NAIPs) M&E systems and strengthen data collection and dissemination.**
(b) COMESA Cassava Cluster Programme

25. The Ministers were informed that COMESA Secretariat is working to promote value addition in the Cassava sub sector value chain, as a mechanism of boosting job creation and intra-regional trade. COMESA is putting in place mechanisms to unlock value in the cassava sub sector through a cluster approach, whose main purposes is to create intra-regional trade and technology transfer initiatives among SMEs within a country and across all COMESA Member States. The programme is currently being piloted in ten countries, namely; Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Madagascar, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Decisions

26. The Ministers decided that:

   i. Member States should fund and facilitate knowledge and technology learning and innovation in the cassava sector for improved cassava processing methods; and

   ii. Member States should establish a favourable regulatory and conducive environment in order to attract the much-needed domestic and foreign direct investment (FDI).

Livestock Development

27. The Ministers were informed on the status of implementation of the programme on “Reinforcing Veterinary Governance in Africa (VET-GOV)” being implemented by African Union Inter African Bureau of Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) in partnership with Regional Economic Communities, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Animal Health Organization (OIE). The program has undertaken the review and preliminary analysis of livestock and related policies, animal health strategies and legislations in all COMESA Member States. In order to enhance coordination of the programme, the Member States have appointed National Livestock Policy Focal Person (NL-PFP) and the National Livestock Policy Hub (LPH) has been established in each Member States. The program has also supported different capacity buildings including Training of Trainers on policy analysis and formulation, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards. The Ministers emphasized the importance of developing an Action plan for the development of livestock.
Decisions

28. The Ministers decided that:

i. Member States should work with regional and international organizations on the improvement of livestock policies, animal health strategies and veterinary legislations;

ii. Member States should support the Livestock Policy Hubs and sustain their operations; and

iii. The Secretariat should support the activities of Livestock Policy Hubs (LPH), and development of regional Livestock Policy, Strategy and Action Plan.

Fisheries Development in COMESA Region

29. The Ministers were informed that COMESA has a Strategy to guide mainstreaming of fisheries in COMESA programmes which was developed in 2009 and was adopted at the Fourth Joint Ministerial meeting held at Mbabane, Kingdom of Swaziland in 2011. COMESA is working with the EU funded programme, SMARTFISH, particularly in operationalizing the trade component of the strategy which focuses on developing national strategies and policies, improvements in production and supply of fish. COMESA has received some seed money to work with Member States in fisheries development. COMESA has also partnered with NEPAD in implementing the Partnership for African Fisheries (PAF) programme. Seychelles received technical support and some funding through the NEPAD PAF to refine the fisheries component of its National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plan.

30. The Ministers noted the challenges of implementation of the Strategy due to lack of funding to implement its action plan. The Committee also appreciated the progress being made in mainstreaming the Strategy in other COMESA programmes, particularly, Trade, Gender, SPS, FAMIS and Cross Border Trade.

31. The Ministers were also informed that Egypt has specialized centres for capacity building on fisheries and aquaculture which the region should take advantage of.

Decisions

32. The Ministers decided that:

i. The Secretariat and Member States should mobilize and manage internal and external resources for financing of the action plan through a defined resource mobilization strategy;
ii. Member States should collect and forward the baseline information on fisheries to the Secretariat; and

iii. Member States should incorporate the fisheries programmes into their national food security plans due to the potential contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to food and nutrition security.

Gender Mainstreaming in Agriculture and Climate Change

33. The Ministers were informed that notable progress has been made in regards to integrating gender concerns in activities implemented in agriculture and Climate Change related issues.

34. It was highlighted that capacity building trainings on the Regional Strategy and Strategic Action Plan on Mainstreaming Gender in Agriculture and Climate Change (RESTRAP) have been conducted targeting programme/project officers within the Secretariat, Member States and among regional and international partners.

35. Further, efforts have been undertaken to generate gender disaggregated data in various baselines on Climate Smart Agriculture and Conservation Agriculture, at both the Climate Change Programme, at Sub grantee and Member State level.

36. The Ministers were informed that regarding the issue of increasing visibility of youths in national, regional and continental programmes on agriculture and Climate Change, the Secretariat extended support to the Eastern and Southern Africa Youth Alliance on Climate Change (ESAYCCA) to develop both a youth strategy and strategic action plan to guide youth contribution in these areas.

Decisions

37. The Ministers decided that:

i. The Secretariat should facilitate capacity building on Regional Strategy and Strategic Action Plan on Mainstreaming Gender in Agriculture and Climate Change (RESTRAP) for Member States’ focal points on Climate Change, Gender experts and relevant Civil Society Organisations (CSOs);

ii. The Secretariat and Member States should facilitate implementation of developed Action Plan arising from the July 17
- 19th 2013 Regional Meeting on Gender and Climate Change, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;

iii. The Secretariat should identify and support youth-based projects on Sustainable Land Management (SLM) within the CAADP Framework; and

iv. Member States should support the Submission on the Goal of Gender Balance to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); and to ensure delegations/teams to the Conference of Parties include relevant women representatives.

Progress Report on Implementation of Natural Resources, Climate Change and Environmental Programme

38. The Ministers were informed about the progress on the implementation of the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Climate Change programme which is designed to run from 2012-2016;

39. The programme objective is: “To address Climate Change and its impacts in Eastern and Southern Africa Region by building economic and social resilience for present and future generations”. It also aims to inject the unified African position into the ongoing global negotiations on Climate Change and ensuring that Climate Change is mainstreamed into national plans and policies.

40. COMESA in collaboration with SADC and EAC has mobilized about US$100 million from the Government of Norway, DFID (UK Aid) and the EU.

Status of Negotiations on Inclusion of Agriculture in the UNFCCC Process

41. COMESA Secretariat has been supporting the Member States develop submissions on Agriculture to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). To ensure that Member States prepare submissions on agriculture, in February 2012, COMESA facilitated two sub-regional meetings in Arusha, Tanzania and Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa for eastern and southern Africa regions to identify key issues related on agriculture.

42. The Ministers were observed that there is need for the region to develop negotiations position highlighting key priorities in the agricultural sector to be advanced by all Member States at the forth coming negotiation to be hosted by Poland COP 19. The Secretariat has been supporting the participation of Agricultural Experts participation at the ongoing Climate Change talks.
Decisions

43. The Ministers decided that:

   i. The Secretariat should continue providing technical and financial support to the African Group of Negotiators on Climate Change (AGN);

   ii. The Secretariat should continue providing support for the participation of Member States at Climate Change talks; and

   iii. The Secretariat should work with Member States in identifying regional network hubs for documenting best practices in agriculture, environment, and natural resource management.

Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA)

44. COMESA Secretariat has been supporting the Member States in up scaling Climate Smart Agriculture. In order to advance the adoption of Climate Smart Agriculture, the Secretariat is supporting the development of the Climate Investment framework.

45. Further, the Secretariat has entered into an agreement with FAO to support the up scaling of Climate Smart Agriculture.

Decision

46. The Ministers decided that Member States should appoint their national Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) focal points and should allocate additional resources for up scaling Climate Smart Agriculture.

Development of National Climate Change Policies, Strategies and Action Plans

47. In order to address the challenges and opportunities presented by Climate Change, there is a need to mainstream Climate Change and its impacts into the economic policies, development projects, and international aid efforts. This can be best achieved through development of national Climate Change policy instruments such as National Climate Change Policy, National Climate Change Strategy and action Plan.

48. In response to the request for support from the Member States, COMESA Secretariat is supporting Burundi, Botswana, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe in the development of their respective National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plans.
Decisions

49. The Ministers decided that:

i. Member States should develop national Climate Change policy instruments and mainstream Climate Change into national development planning and development co-operation activities;

ii. The Secretariat should support Member States with the requisite technical and financial resources for the development and implementation of the National Climate Change Policy instruments and programmes; and

iii. Member States should submit requests to the Secretariat for support on development of their National Climate Change Response Strategies and policy instruments.

iv. Member states should mainstream Climate Change in agricultural policies and action plans.

Programme Trend Analysis

50. The COMESA Secretariat has conducted a study to track the progress that the Member States have attained in the implementation of interventions on Climate Change covering the period 2010 to 2013. This study covered six Member States, namely Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda and Zambia. The other Member States will be covered next year. The findings from the study show that Climate Change is a priority activity for the Member States and that the majority of them are currently developing strategies and policy instruments on Climate Change.

51. The Meeting was informed that Egypt has a centre for collecting and disseminating climatic data and offered other Member States to make use of the facility.

Decisions

52. The Ministers decided that:

i. Member States should collect and update Climate Change data to guide decision making;

ii. Member States should share best practices on Climate Change;

iii. The Secretariat should facilitate sharing of information on Climate Change among Member States; and
iv. The Secretariat and Member States should continue mobilizing more resources to respond to the growing needs in Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation.

Sanitary and Phytosanitary Programme (SPS)

53. Africa is now referred to as the new frontier for agricultural development. As population increases and urbanization takes root, there is need to pay more attention to food safety and quality issues. The current CAADP momentum that is projected to expand agricultural markets four-fold by 2030, coupled with the focus on cross border infrastructure, trade facilitation and the supermarket revolution, all provide new opportunities for regional SMEs to engage in agribusiness activities such as processing, food retailing, trade logistics and distribution. SPS measures are key to unlocking this potential and opening opportunities for regional SMEs. A number of interventions are under implementation with the support of the Secretariat to address SPS capacity needs.

Economic Analysis to prioritize SPS investments

54. The lack of harmonized SPS measures creates SPS capacity gaps that persist and constitute trade barriers in the region. In response to this need, the Secretariat has introduced an economic analysis tool to assist countries analyze trade flows that are sensitive to SPS measures, estimate the impact of specific SPS issues on trade and cost the investments necessary to implement cost effective capacity building options. Analysis carried out in Malawi, Zambia, Seychelles, Rwanda, Uganda and Ethiopia has produced good results, with some countries such as Rwanda integrating the prioritized investments in CAADP investment plans, while other countries like Malawi have successfully mobilized resources to implement the top priorities.

55. Other capacity development initiatives under implementation include; aflatoxin control in the maize and groundnuts value chains; mitigation of plant pests and diseases such as the fruit fly to enhance trade in horticulture products and the SPS and trade facilitation initiative on key trade routes.

56. The Ministers observed that the control of the fruit fly needs a continental approach. This pest migrates from one country to another and as such even those countries that had managed to get rid of this problem in the past, have experience re-emergence of the fruit fly.
Decisions

57. The Ministers decided that:

i. Member states should support economic analysis for prioritisation of Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) capacity building needs and integration of the necessary investments in CAADP Investment Plans;

ii. Member States interested in the use of the aflatoxin control option, should adopt the ‘Regional Registration Guide for Biopesticides’ to enable commercialization of such products;

iii. The Secretariat should develop a regional strategy for fruit fly (Batrocella spp) surveillance and mitigation based on the model implemented in Zambia, Zimbabwe and Swaziland. Such a strategy could inform an AU-led continent wide strategy;

iv. The Secretariat should undertake stocktaking and prioritization of transboundary animal and plant pests/diseases that are of significant economic importance to the region; and

v. The Secretariat should establish an SPS portal for sharing of project documents and reports of workshops and meetings.

ALLIANCE FOR COMMODITY TRADE IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (ACTESA)

ACTESA’S Strategy And Operational Plan

58. The Ministers were informed that the ACTESA Strategy and Operational Plan for 2012-2016 is in place and builds on experiences and knowledge gained from implementation of past programmes.

Decision

59. The Ministers decided that Member States should take note of the completion of ACTESA’s Operational Plan and are urged to actively participate in its implementation and resource mobilization.
ACTESA Charter

60. The Ministers were informed that the draft ACTESA Charter was finalised after extensive consultations with ACTESA alliance partners and when in place will guide the ACTESA Secretariat to put in place the board, procurement and financial procedures including staffing levels. The Ministers were further informed that the Charter was consistent and in line with the establishment of COMESA institutions.

Decision

61. The Ministers adopted the ACTESA Charter.

COMESA Regional Agro-Inputs Programme (COMRAP)

62. The Ministers were informed that COMRAP was successfully completed and contributed to building systems for input supply and access to micro-finance for small-holders in the COMESA member states.

Decision

63. The Ministers decided that Member States should take note of the successful completion of COMESA Regional Agro Inputs Programme (COMRAP).

ACTESA Seed Development Programme

64. The Ministers were briefed on the status of the ACTESA Seed Programme on the harmonization of the seed trade in the 19 COMESA countries. The delegates were informed that the Programme was initiated as a result of the directive of the COMESA Ministers of Agriculture at their meeting in Seychelles, in March, 2008 for COMESA to expedite the harmonization of the seed trade regulations and standards. The harmonization was based on SADC and EAC technical areas of seed certification, variety release and phytosanitary measures. It should be noted that the technical area of plant variety protection will be harmonized in the domestication of the draft COMESA Seed Trade Harmonisation Regulation. The draft COMESA Seed Trade Harmonization Regulations when domesticated will allow more efficient movement of the seed in the region; and improve seed quality available to small-holder farmers thereby contributing to improved house-hold incomes for resource-poor farmers.
Decisions

65. **The Ministers:**

   i. Adopted the COMESA Seed Trade Harmonisation Regulations; and

   ii. Decided that Member States should support the domestication of the COMESA Seed Trade Harmonisation Regulations.

   iii. ACTESA/COMESA should come up with clear guidelines and a timeframe for implementation of the Regulations.

Biotechnology and Biosafety

66. The Draft COMESA policy on commercial planting, trade and emergency food aid involving Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) was presented for consideration of adoption.

The Ministers were informed that the draft policy on Biotechnology and Biosafety was prepared following their decision in Ezulwini, Swaziland in July 2010. The Ministers’ decision was subsequently endorsed by Council at its meeting in Kampala, Uganda in November 2012.

67. The Ministers were informed that this Draft Policy was developed through a wider consultative process that involved national consultations in 18 member States and a regional validation workshop by regulatory bodies and technical experts. The Ministers also acknowledged the consultative and participatory nature of the drafting process.

68. The Ministers were also informed that the draft policy provides for Member States to make the final decision when implementing the policy. The draft Policy further addresses the issue of capacity building assistance at Member States level.

69. Supplementary information was provided in the form of "Questions & Answers", prepared and distributed during the meeting.

Decisions

70. **The Ministers:**

   i. Adopted the COMESA policy on Biotechnology and Biosafety taking into account the sovereign right of each Member State; and

   ii. Decided that ACTESA/COMESA should support Member States to implement the policy through communications and outreach,
development of operational guidelines and establishment of regional biosafety risk-assessment structures.

iii. ACTESA/COMESA should work closely with National Biosafety Committees.

COMESA Joint Fertiliser Procurement Initiative (JFPI)

71. With funding from FAO, ACTESA/COMESA collaborated with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) to undertake the detailed JFPI study. The study which comprised desk research and key informant interviews focused on 6 countries in Eastern and Southern Africa was completed in November 2012. This report was presented to the Ministers for consideration.

Decision

72. The Ministers adopted the COMESA Joint Fertiliser Procurement Initiative (JFPI).

Strategic Commodity Value-Chains in COMESA:

73. The overall goal is to enable effective Public-private partnerships to play a significant role in the development of a vibrant agribusiness sector capable of capturing untapped opportunities such as economies of scale, intra-regional complementarities, trade and economies of transactions in cross-border investment. The completed baseline studies on maize and livestock value chains have identified several value-chain constraints and have suggested solutions to help enhance productivity in the commodity value chains.

Decisions

74. The Ministers decided that:

i. COMESA/ACTESA should develop a fully-fledged livestock programme taking into account other ongoing livestock initiatives; and

ii. COMESA/ACTESA in collaboration with UNECA should establish a regional programme that will focus on addressing the bottlenecks identified in the regional Livestock and Maize value-chains.
Regional Food Balance Sheet

75. The Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Food Balance Sheet (ESA-RFBS) was designed in 2010/11 to provide accurate and reliable information on the region’s food supply and demand status. The establishment of the ESA-RFBS was further adopted by the Council of Ministers and approved by the COMESA Authority for implementation by ACTESA in October 2011 in Lilongwe, Malawi. An MOU was signed between Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWSNET) and COMESA on the transfer of the informal cross border trade monitoring system from FEWSNET to ACTESA. ACTESA has developed a template to collect and compile data for a regional food balance sheet that will include livestock and fisheries.

Decision

76. The Ministers decided that Member States should provide support and participate in the activities of Regional Food Balance Sheet (RFBS) program.
Interventions and Statements by Ministers and Heads of Delegations
(Agenda item 5)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

77. The meeting was informed that the country places high importance on agriculture as this is the mainstay for the greater part of population. It recognizes that cassava, rice, maize and plantains are critical major crops in the sector, although there are other traditional crops at a much smaller scale.

78. Moreover, the DRC government commits to support the sector through a decentralized structure and is currently receiving support from various development partners such as FAO in regards to support in seed production and certification. Additional support is being received from other UN agencies as well as regional organizations such as COMESA, which is currently facilitating the implementation of the CAADP.

EGYPT

79. Egypt, in its agricultural sector, has adopted of a common policy and strategy. Its implementation remains the region's real hope for attaining the first millennium goal of cutting hunger and poverty to half, thus Egypt plans to work harder to achieve it a little latter than the year 2015.

80. Egypt is highly vulnerable to climate change which could inflict serious damage to human communities. Furthermore, it would also increase the risk of water and food scarcity. To address this, the country has formulated a strategic plan to adapt to climate change and to combat possible adverse impacts of drought.

81. The country is fully committed to the implementation of the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Program (CAADP). It was indicated that the signing of the agreement will come shortly within the time frame.

82. In the field of irrigation, the country is ready to share experiences in on-farm irrigation systems and assist other countries to develop their own programs, with special attention to small farmers. Further, reference is being made to the report of the Third meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources held in Lusaka –Zambia on 15th July2010 and its recommendations concerning Egypt's offer to assist ACTESA in implementing low cost irrigation systems.

83. Finally, Egypt takes this opportunity to propose Egypt to be the venue of the next meeting. This will give an opportunity to observe agricultural developmental activity in the country.
ETHIOPIA

84. Agriculture is a priority sector in Ethiopia. Currently the public budgetary allocation to the agriculture sector stands at 15%.

85. Around the 1990’s, Ethiopia developed its Agricultural Development-led Industrialization (ADLI) strategy and other related policy frameworks. Subsequently, the development policies and strategies included in the Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Program (SDPRP) provided the basis for the Plan for Accelerated and Sustainable Development to End Poverty (PASDEP 2005 2010). The country’s long term vision, the Growth and Transformation Plan (2010/11 – 2014/15) has also been adopted to provide the overarching framework guiding the development agenda of the country. The agriculture strategy gives emphasis on supporting the intensification of marketable farm products for both domestic and export markets.

86. In 2010, Ethiopia developed the Agricultural Sector Policy and Investment Framework (PIF) as a ten year roadmap (2010-2020). This is aligned to the five year Growth and Transformation Plan, which lays the ground for transition to make Ethiopia an industry-led economy. Supply of modern inputs and expand the use of modern technologies is given emphasis to transform agriculture and increase productivity.

87. Special focus is also given to conservation and efficient utilization of natural resources. In this regards, Ethiopia has developed a strategy to create sustainable climate resilient green economy. The development of a green economy is based on four pillars:

- **Agriculture**: Improving crop and livestock production practices for higher food security and farmer income while reducing emissions
- **Forestry**: Protecting and re-establishing forests for their economic and ecosystem services, including as carbon stocks
- **Power**: Expanding electricity generation form renewable energy for domestic and regional markets
- **Transport, industrial sectors and buildings**: Leapfrogging to modern and energy efficient technologies

KENYA

88. Kenya joins the rest of COMESA Member States in thanking the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia for hosting this important meeting. The Kenya delegation greatly acknowledges and appreciates the warmth and generous hospitality of the people of Ethiopia.

89. Like most other member states, Agriculture plays an important role in the economy of Kenya and provides about 80% of total employment opportunities and contributes directly about 26% of the country’s GDP. In this regard, the development of the sector is anchored in all major national policies including the Kenya Vision 2030, the Jubilee Government Manifesto and the Agriculture Sector Development Strategy.
90. To augment these policies and implement specific programmes to revitalize the sector, Kenya signed the CAADP Compact in 2010 and is now engaged in its implementation and resource mobilization. Kenya is also implementing a number of other COMESA specific programmes. These include; supporting small scale farmers migrate from subsistence farming to sustainable commercial farming; the development of irrigation infrastructure, with a target of one million acres under modern technology in the next 5 years; development of physical infrastructure to facilitate inter and intra trade, as well as interventions in response to climate change. Going forward, the sector is expected to achieve a target growth rate of about 6% against the current 3%, in the next five years. The government is determined that no Kenyan should be exposed to food insecurity.

MADAGASCAR

91. The meeting was informed that although the country is coming from a situation of lack of external support from development partners, effort is being put in place to support the agriculture sector. The meeting learnt that the country has a population of 19 million with a per capita income of $356. It is estimated that 85% of the population is poor and that agriculture remains one of the critical activities that seek to address this challenge.

92. The agriculture sector of Madagascar is predominantly rice production as a key staple. However the sector just like other COMESA countries is faced with challenges of low productivity and difficult access to international markets apart from the low investments. It is estimated that budget allocation to the sector declined from 11% of national budget in 2009 to about 3% this year owing to donor pullout.

93. The country appreciates the support from COMESA in the formulation of CAADP and hope to sign the national compact by October 2013

MALAWI

94. Malawi is an agro-based economy with 85 % of its population depending on agriculture. The agriculture sector generates more than 90% of the export earnings to the economy. It additionally contributes about 40% of the total GDP. Among the exported products are: tobacco, tea, coffee, cotton, sugar, pigeon pea, ground nuts, soybeans, beans, maize, day old chicks and eggs.

95. The Government of Malawi is extremely committed to support the sector and agriculture is one of the five key priorities in its Economic Recovery Plan (ERP). The Ministry of Agriculture has also developed the Agriculture Sector Wide Approach (ASWAp) in line with the CAADP framework. The main focus areas in ASWAp are: (1) Food Security and Risk Management, (2) Commercial Agriculture, (3) Sustainable Land and Water Management. Further, the ASWAp programme is aligned to the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS).
For efficient and effective implementation of the ASWAp programme, the Malawi Government recognizes the critical contribution of the Private Sector in agriculture.

RWANDA

Rwanda is on track in implementing CAADP programs in partnership with COMESA, NEPAD and other development partners. The country has concluded the first phase of EDPRS where more than 1 million of the population have moved from poverty thanks to implementation of inclusive and home grown programs such as one cow per poor family, the Vision 2020 “Umurenge”, which is an inclusive social protection program, health insurance for all known as “Mutuelle de santé”, the crop intensification program, gender empowerment, etc.


Agriculture has a very important role in this second EDPRS with a sustained annual growth target increasing from 8.5% to 11.5% by 2018 and accelerated reduction of poverty to less than 30% of the population. The sector will continue to play a big role in food and nutrition security and participate in micro and macro economy of the Country.

In 2007 Rwanda signed its compact to show commitment to CAADP and in 2009 it launched the Agriculture Sector Investment Program that was aligned to EDPRS 1. Rwanda is in preparation of the second ASIP aligned to EDPRS 2 and this will be reviewed within the CAADP principles. Within this program, partnership and unified approach towards ending hunger has a very important place.

With the aim of reducing child malnutrition rates and increasing household incomes of poor farmers, a program of One Cow per Poor Family was introduced in 2006. Its goals are directly achieved through increased access to, and consumption of milk, by providing poor households with a heifer.

The land policy, which has been adopted in 2004 has also shown a greater positive impact on land use and management. In the same framework, Rwanda has introduced the process of land consolidation.

Rwanda has made strides in the area of gender mainstreaming as reflected in the recent parliamentary elections, therefore Rwanda currently has 64 per cent female representation in parliament, being the highest representation globally.
SEYCHELLES

104. Mr. Antoine Marie Moustache, the Head of Seychelles delegation, from the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Republic of Seychelles, reflected on the achievements as well as the challenges which his country faces vis-à-vis national food and nutrition security. He pointed out that Seychelles as a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) is endemically plagued by a number of vulnerabilities many of which are distinctly different from those of the mainland. He emphasized that although agriculture contributes less than 2% to national GDP and that achieving food security through local food production is a challenge, that aspiration remains a priority to his country since it has national security connotations. He elaborated that SIDS are distantly placed from the main food markets and have finite land resources which are highly contested by other national development sectors and limited human resources.

105. He went on to enumerate some of the inroads that have been made in the revival of the national agricultural sector which reached an all time low in 2011 following the global economic downturns in 2007/2008 which prompted a series of national economic reform programmes. He stated that the Seychelles signed the CAADP Compact Document in September 2011 and this document provides the basis for the formulation of the National Agricultural Investment Plan, which should be finalised by the end of 2013, as well as the National Food and Nutrition Policy and Strategy which was promulgated in June 2013.

106. He cited a number of national initiatives to revive the agriculture sector that are being supported by COMESA. These include adherence to veterinary governance; formation of a national Livestock Policy Hub, promotion of Climate Smart Agriculture and mainstreaming agriculture in national development plans; and on-going dialogue with COMESA to explore opportunities for assistance in executing its national climate change strategies which were launched in 2009. Seychelles is also benefiting from participating in the COMESA SPS initiative.

107. Finally, he thanked COMESA for spearheading as well as providing support in national capacity initiatives stipulated above. He also expressed appreciation to AU and NEPAD particularly for supporting the formulation of the marine culture plan of the Seychelles.

SWAZILAND

108. Agriculture contributes 10% to the GDP and 73% to national employment. Food and nutrition security is a priority in Swaziland. Swaziland signed the CAADP compact in 2010 but due to unforeseen challenges the implementation process has been slow. In an effort to invigorate the process Swaziland CAADP has been re-launched. The revitalised process has led to the review and updating of the stock taking report including the ecosystem, policy and institutional components. There has also been development of a new road map
and establishment of a new multi stakeholder country team to lead the process. The country plans to intensify awareness creation on CAADP among stakeholder, train new team, and engage other key ministries as well as parliamentarians to facilitate buy in and support for the upcoming business meetings.

109. Swaziland is currently focusing her efforts on a number of sectors including fisheries, pig breeding, hay production, poultry particularly indigenous chickens and other livestock. In addition, the country is implementing biosafety initiatives, water resources as well as climate change programme where climate smart agriculture including conservation agriculture is prioritized and also a comprehensive sanitary and phytosanitary programmes. Regarding SPS programmes, the country expressed great appreciation for the support from COMESA in the implementation of the fruit fly surveillance programme.

110. Policies that have been recently approved by Cabinet include the agricultural research policy, fisheries policy and irrigation policy; while the extension policy is being developed following the completing of baseline study. Food security and mechanization programme has been approved for the next 3 years. It is aimed at accelerating food security through maize production in 21 500 ha in high rainfall areas. The project has three pillars:

- a) Farm input supplies to 21 500 homesteads
- b) Soil liming to address soil acidity at post soil testing in the targeted households and beyond
- c) Procurement of 100 tractors with farming implements based in 50 agricultural service centres.

111. In addition the project includes capacity building among farmers and government officers. Concurrent with the above project, is the development of the CA strategy which is being elaborated to further entrench CA and good agricultural practices among small holder famer.

112. Swaziland has passed the Biosafety legislation and is currently awaiting finalization of the Biosafety Regulations. Other legal instruments that were reported to have been passed are the Veterinary Public Health Act and the Plant Health Protection Health Act.

**UGANDA**

113. The meeting was informed that Uganda’s Agriculture sector has been growing at an average of 3.8% annually and it employs about 73% of the population. The sector is guided by a National Food and Nutrition policy.

114. The major cereals sector of agriculture in Uganda includes Maize, Millet, Rice and Sorghum. The report also notes that while root crops, bananas, cotton and coffee are equally important for both food and cash needs, the country has experienced a decline in production in these sectors.
115. The report also underscored the importance of water (which covers over 20% of total area) in the country for agricultural productivity in both the crops, livestock and fisheries subsectors. The vision of the country is to achieve a competitive, profitable and sustainable agriculture sector which helps grow incomes and improve food security for the country.

116. In order to achieve this vision, the country is implementing selected key programmes areas as below:

i. Production and productivity: This area focuses on research, water for agriculture, labor saving technologies, information and land productivity;

ii. Access to markets and value addition: This area focuses on improved input use, improved capacity for regulations and expansion of market infrastructure;

iii. Creating an enabling environment focusing on policies, public education, coordination, statistics; and

iv. Institutional strengthening for agriculture value chains.

ZAMBIA

117. The meeting was reminded of the important role of agriculture in the region and Zambia in particular. The over dependence on rain fed agriculture is among the major factors affecting food security in the region as households are unable to produce enough to last them a whole year.

118. Zambia recognises the role of women in agriculture and calls upon the region to support women in form of enabling policies, equitable access to land and other services. Further, Zambia appreciates the relationship it has with Egypt in irrigation and encourages the rest of the Member States to share experiences.

119. On the issue of irrigation, Zambia informed the meeting that it has prioritised sustainable land and water management under Pillar 1 of the CAADP framework. In this vein Zambia is calling upon the region to develop a comprehensive irrigation policy which will enable agricultural production through the year.

120. At the national level the meeting learnt that Zambia is currently reviewing the National Irrigation Policy to take into account trans-boundary freshwater bodies and taking in stock of under-ground water reserves. It was pointed out that Zambia has the largest reserves of underground water in Southern Africa. In this regard the country is ready to dialogue with its neighbours on how best they can amicably and commonly utilise the water resources.
121. Further it was noted that the country is promoting Public Private Partnership in collaboration with the World Bank, with a view to commercialise irrigation farming development.

122. In support of these initiatives Zambia is implementing the Farm Block Development Programme whose aim is to commercialise agriculture land for increased food production. The main objective of this programme is to ensure that the country realises the full potential of agricultural land production and productivity. The Concept is that in each of the ten provinces of Zambia, a farm block is being opened. A farm block is 100,000ha in extent demarcated into farm categories that cater for small, medium and commercial farms. The smallholder farms (20-50ha) and medium scale (51-900ha) are reserved for Zambians. Commercial farms which are above 1,000ha have been advertised to commercial farmers and to investors outside Zambia.

123. The new farm lands for increased production and improvement of agriculture has also led to infrastructure development such as roads, dams and supply of electricity. All these and other measures are aimed at bringing more agriculture land under production for increased food production.

**ZIMBABWE**

124. Agriculture is important to Zimbabwe in regards to achieving food and nutrition security and economic development. The country is currently facing food shortages, with the major challenges being inputs and funding for the same.

125. Zimbabwe has adequate potential to produce seed and fertilizers, however, there is currently low capacity utilization of this potential due to under capitalisation. Investment is thus currently focused on increasing capacity utilization in order to realise this potential for input production.

126. In addition, there is also focus on mechanization and irrigation development. Zimbabwe has recently produced a draft Irrigation Policy which is being validated by stakeholders.

127. High profile has been accorded to the livestock sector in the wake of the realisation of the important role it can play in food and nutrition security. The country is finalising a livestock study which will feed into Livestock Policy, Strategy and Action Plan.

128. Zimbabwe, through a Conservation Agriculture Strategy developed in 2010, is targeting at least 500000 farmers practicing CA on at least 250000 hectares by 2015.

129. All these efforts are being pursued in the context of CAADP. The country has already developed its National Agriculture Investment Plan (NAIP), the Zimbabwe Agriculture Investment Plan(ZAIP) was validated on the 18th July,
2013. The country is now working on finalising and signing of the CAADP Compact. The indications at present are that this will be done in the early days of November 2013.

130. Zimbabwe is at advanced stages in the establishment of an agricultural commodity exchange and therefore would like to work with COMESA to achieve agricultural commodity markets that effectively balances efficiency and food security.

*Any Other Business (Agenda item 6)*

131. Kenya requested that the Secretariat to develop a template for reporting activities implemented by the Member States and that this should be circulated prior to the Technical Meeting.

132. African Seed Traders Association (AFSTA) made a statement to express their commitment in supporting COMESA programmes.

*Consideration and Adoption of the Report and Declaration by the Fifth Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources (Agenda item 7)*

133. The Ministers considered this Report and the Addis Ababa Declaration and adopted them.

*Date and Venue of Next Meeting (Agenda item 8)*

134. The next meeting will take place in Egypt during the first week of October 2014.

*Closure of the Meeting (Agenda item 9)*

135. The meeting was officially closed by Honourable Tekalagn Mamo, State Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. He thanked the delegates for their active participation during the ministerial meeting.

136. Earlier on Mr. Sindiso Ngwenya, Secretary General of COMESA, gave his closing remark. He thanked the Government of Ethiopia for hosting the meeting. He informed the meeting that the next step is to develop programmes to implement the decisions of the Ministers. He noted that the region should support sharing of experience on best practices among the member states. In particular he noted that there was need for the Member States to be facilitated on information exchange.
137. He thanked the Ministers for adopting the ACTESA Charter as this will enable smooth running of the organisation. Mr. Ngwenya stated that ACTESA will address implementation issues, specifically focusing on the COMESA Treaty provision on Agriculture. He mentioned that specific interventions need to be made on mechanisation and inputs. He also noted that the Secretariat should focus on the areas of commonalities as it pertains to biosafety and genetically modified organism.

138. The Head of Delegation of the Government of Kenya also gave a statement. She informed the Ministers that the Rio meeting on Sustainable Development agreed on the Sustainable Development Goals to which Member States need to align their programmes.
5TH MEETINGS OF THE MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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