
**“ENHANCING CAPACITIES ON INTERNATIONAL
AGRICULTURE AGREEMENTS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF
REGIONAL AGRICULTURE AND FOOD MARKETS”**

**NEEDS ASSESSMENT ON AGRICULTURAL POLICY
IMPLEMENTATION AND NEGOTIATION CAPABILITIES
GHANA**

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Table of Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Implementation of the ECOWAP/CAADP in Ghana	5
2.1.1. Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS)(2006 - 2009)	5
2.1.2. Food and Agric Sector Development Policy II (FASDEP II)(2009 - 2013)	10
2.1.3. Medium Term Agric Sector Investment Plan (METASIP)(2011 - 2015)	13
3. Alignment of National Framework with International Frameworks	15
4. Identification of Agro Commodities for Development under FASDEP/ECOWAP	17
4.1.1. Improve growth in incomes and reduce variability	17
4.1.2. Increase Competitiveness and Enhance Integration into Domestic and Foreign Markets	21
5. Institutional Framework	21

I. INTRODUCTION

In the West African region, the agricultural sector plays a significant role in the socio-economic development of the national economies: - employing about 60 % of its populace and contributing about 35% of the region's GDP. Because of the varied agro-ecological conditions in West Africa, the agricultural systems are much diversified, although, they complement each other. With agricultural exports constituting the bulk of the sub-region's external trade, agriculture can be a significant pivotal point for regional market integration, and the fight against food insecurity and poverty within the sub-region.

In 2003, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), an African-led initiative and shared development framework, was developed and accepted by African governments under the AU/NEPAD initiative to accelerate growth and eliminate poverty and hunger among African countries. The CAADP, which provided a shared framework for strategic planning, implementation, partnership and development assistance in the agricultural sector, was aimed at helping African countries reach a higher path of economic growth through agriculturally-led development; and through the process eliminate hunger, reduce poverty and food and nutrition insecurity, and also enable expansion of exports. In addition, the CAADP offered political, technical and financial support for countries with plans and strategies that were aligned with the CAADP principles and framework. The African countries which adopted this shared development framework, among other things, committed themselves to (i) achieve an annual agricultural growth rate of at least 6 percent and (ii) allocate at least 10 percent of the national budget to agriculture.

In 2005, the Heads of States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) adopted the Agricultural Policy of the West African States (ECOWAP) as an instrument for implementing CAADP. The ECOWAP was envisioned to provide a modern and sustainable agriculture based on the effectiveness and efficiency of family farms, and the promotion of agricultural enterprises through the involvement of the private sector; remain

productive and competitive in the regional and international markets; and ensure food security and remunerative incomes to agricultural workers.

The overall objective of the ECOWAP/CAADP was to contribute in a sustainable manner to satisfying the food needs of the population, economic and social development and poverty reduction in Member States; as well as address inequalities between territories, areas, and countries. The seven specific objectives of the sub-regional agricultural policy were:

- (i) food security of the populations
- (ii) reducing food dependency in a perspective of food sovereignty
- (iii) integration of producers into markets
- (iv) creation of jobs that guarantee remunerative incomes to improve the living conditions of rural populations as well as the delivery of services in rural areas
- (v) sustainable intensification of production systems
- (vi) reducing vulnerability of West African economies by limiting factors that lead to regional instability and insecurity and
- (vii) adoption of appropriate funding mechanisms.

The ECOWAP/CAADP emphasised the principle of food sovereignty through a strong regional integration and an appropriate level of protection at the borders, varying according to specific issues facing each value chain. Therefore, the regionalisation of markets for agricultural and food products, the common trade policy, the existence of important shared natural resources by several Member States, common challenges facing national agricultures and their interdependence, the potential for mutual pooling of research capacities etc. were important to the regional framework for robust intervention. The ECOWAS Commission also affirmed that the implementation of ECOWAP/CAADP was based on two levels of intervention:

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- (i) the national level (with the definition of National Investment Programs (NAIPs)) and
 - (ii) the regional level (with the design of mobilizing and federating programs complementary to the national programs).

2. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECOWAP/CAADP IN GHANA

The ECOWAP/CAADP frameworks were key efforts initiated to help African countries increase their economic growth through agriculture-based development, which eradicates hunger, reduces poverty, and food and nutrition insecurity and makes it possible to increase exports.

The Government of Ghana has implemented the ECOWAP/CAADP through a series of plans and programmes under various policy and strategy frameworks coordinated by the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA), the lead agency responsible for the agricultural sector. The Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy II (GPRS II, 2006-2009), the Food and Agricultural Sector Development Policy II (FASDEP II, 2009-2013) and the Medium Term Agriculture Sector Investment Plan (METASIP, 2011-2015) were developed and implemented under a framework of a Sector Wide Approach.

2.1 Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS II) (2006-2009)

In recognition of the significant contribution of agriculture to increased economic growth and poverty reduction, the Ghana Government under the auspices of the AU/NEPAD adopted the tenets of the CAADP to guide its own initiative at modernising agriculture.

The GPRS II (2006-2009) was developed to be largely dependent on the agricultural sector to stimulate the structural transformation of the economy. The GPRS II was broadly targeted at doubling the size of the economy within a period of ten years through accelerated economic growth and structural transformation. These key targets were anticipated to be achieved through modernisation of the agricultural sector led by a vibrant and competitive private sector. Thus, the policy sought to address the challenge of structural constraints, at both policy and institutional levels, which inhibited private-sector competitiveness in agriculture. For the overall goals of the GPRS II to be achieved, the agricultural sector was envisioned to grow at 6 % per annum; the crops and livestock sub-sectors also at 6 % per annum; with the forestry and logging, and fisheries at 5.1 % and 4.8 % per annum, respectively.

The GPRS II contained the following key objectives:

- (i) ***Improving Access to Global and Regional Markets***: the strategy for achieving this policy objective was the full implementation of the National Trade Policy, which sought to promote Ghana's integration into the global and regional markets. In line with this, the GPRS II further sought to implement the recommendations that emanated from the review of institutions which provided quality standards and services to the private sector. The attainment of Ghana's export promotion objective was linked to the implementation of sector specific programmes as well as supporting local companies to take part in foreign and domestic trade shows, fairs and exhibitions. However, because the country had to liberalise agricultural trade, the implementation of the export promotion strategies was short-circuited, as small and local producers of poultry, tomato, cotton, rice, etc. were displaced from both domestic and international markets.

- (ii) ***Enhancing the Efficiency and Accessibility of National Markets***: to promote efficient and accessible markets to wider constituents of private-sector operators, the GPRS II focused on addressing challenges related to microeconomic environment, financial and public sectors, contract enforcement/debt recovery and land acquisition. The key challenge that confronted both urban and rural small producers, who constitute important components of the private sector, was accessibility to financial

services. To address this constraint, the policy sought continuous implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Financial Sector Strategic Plan (FINSSP) to ensure that the urban and rural poor were not crowded out. The policy adopted the following strategies to enable farmers, especially smallholder producers, obtain premium prices for their products:

- a) Development of Farmer Based Organisations (FBOs) capable of securing fair prices for products;
- b) Establishment of satellite markets in urban centres to provide outlets for rural/small producers to dispose-off their produce, while overcoming the exploitation from urban traders;
- c) Promotion of price and income stability measures; and
- d) Promotion of establishment of storage facilities with emphasis on community level storage facilities.

(iii) Institutional Development: the GPRS II framework further sought to build strong institutions that support rapid private sector growth. It promoted public sector reform and key implementation strategy that encompassed fundamental review of the tax policy and administration in relation to micro and small enterprises. The development of strong institutions was to further create an effective legal system that supported private sector growth. The strategies outlined in the policy document included:

- a) Improved access to justice for businesses, especially small businesses, and enhanced alternative dispute resolution mechanism within the context of Judicial Sector Reform Programme; and
- b) Monitoring and evaluating the level of access to justice in Ghana focusing on Micro, Small and Medium-size Enterprises (MSMEs).

(iv) Policies that Improve Business and Investment Environment for Agriculture: the GPRS II identified critical issues for the achievement of a competitive private sector that

would support accelerated growth based on agriculture and earmarked these priority areas for intervention:

- a) Reform to land acquisition and property rights;
- b) Enhancing access to credit and inputs for agriculture;
- c) Promoting selective crop development;
- d) Modernising livestock development;
- e) Improving access to mechanised agriculture;
- f) Provision of infrastructure for aquaculture;
- g) Increase access to extension services; and
- h) Restoration of degraded environment.

The policy recognised the discrepancies in access to and control over land in Ghana and thus sought to promote easy access and equity to all. Additionally, GPRS II sought to have an improved system of land registration, which protected the interests of smallholders; review the Land Administration Project; and enforce the Land Title Registration Law of 1985. The essence here was to guarantee the security of tenure of small landholders, with emphasis protecting the interests of marginalised and economically vulnerable groups, including women.

Furthermore, emphasis was placed on provision of dug-outs; hand-pump systems, and valley bottom schemes instead of large dams in order to reach more smallholder farmers and geographical areas in the country. In addition, the rehabilitation, expansion and promoting utilisation of existing irrigation facilities was emphasized. Effective implementation of this strategy was to bring more land under cultivation to benefit the poor in rural areas. The framework also recognised the difficulty which small producers had in accessing credit and inputs; and therefore, proposed special interventions to provide affordable credits to small scale farmers with the aim of increasing the proportion of women that can obtain credit.

Additionally, the policy sought to mobilise small producers into Farmer-Based Organisation (FBO) to enhance access to group credit, inputs and other services.

(v) *Environmental Sustainability*: the policy also recognized that increased environmental degradation as a result of traditional farming practices could hinder improved agricultural productivity. Thus, strategies aimed at minimising the impact of environmental degradation – land, forestry and fisheries – were outlined in the policy framework.

In summary, the GPRS II broadly outlined the following strategies for addressing the constraints inherent in Ghana's agricultural sector:

- a) Improving access to global and regional markets;
- b) Enhancing the efficiency and accessibility of national markets;
- c) Strengthening of firms' competency and capacity to operate effectively and efficiently;
- d) Enhancing government capacity for private sector policy formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation;
- e) Facilitate private sector access to capital;
- f) Facilitate the removal of institutional bottlenecks;
- g) Facilitate innovation and entrepreneurship;
- h) Improve the provision of public services; and
- i) Accelerate the development of strategic sectors.

The agricultural policy component of the GPRS II served as the broader national policy framework to guide development of the agricultural sector for accelerated economic growth. To achieve this, the Food and Agricultural Sector Development Policy II (FASDEP II), a Sector specific agricultural policy framework was formulated.

2.2 Food and Agric Sector Development Policy II (FASDEP II) (2009-2013)

The FASDEP II policy framework, which contained the Government's long term policy objectives in relation to the development of the agricultural sector, was largely linked to the National Development Plan in the Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy II (GPRS II), ECOWAS and NEPAD's ECOWAP/CAADP and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The National Development Plan expected the economy to grow at 8% in 2009 and 10% by 2015, and that this growth should be largely driven by agriculture. Under the ECOWAP/CAADP, agriculture growth target was at least 6%, to be achieved by increasing allocation of Government expenditure to agriculture to at least 10%.

The overall goal of FASDEP II was a structurally transformed economy resulting from modernised agriculture, and evident in food security, employment opportunities and reduced poverty. The objectives of FASDEP II were to improve food security, increase income, improve market access, and ensure that the allocation of at least 10% of annual government expenditure to the agricultural sector was scientifically based and environmentally sustainable, targeted the poor appropriately and worked towards gender equity. In general, the sector policy orientation was to be guided by: value chain concept; focus on selected commodities for food security; emergency preparedness; diversification of income generation and stability; enhanced productivity; mechanization to remove drudgery; irrigation to remove over reliance on rainfall; meeting the challenge of quality standards; transforming smallholders; promoting public-private partnerships; inclusivity whereby all operators (youth, vulnerable, women and men) are reached with services; enhanced coordination and harmonisation.

The FASDEP II outlined six key relevant areas/programmes to address the goals for the Agriculture Sector Plan:

(i) Food security and emergency preparedness: this programme would increase productivity and total production and improve food distribution to vulnerable groups and enhance nutrition. The nutrition aspect of food security would also be promoted through research, education and advocacy on choice of foods, and handling of food quality and safety. Groups

most vulnerable to food insecurity will also be supported with income diversification opportunities to enable them cope better with adverse food supply situations and production risk and enhance their incomes for better access to food. The activities of this key programme were organized into seven components: (i) Productivity improvement, (ii) Support for improved nutrition, (iii) Support for diversification of livelihood options of the poor with off-farm activities linked to agriculture, (iv) Food storage and distribution, (v) Early Warning Systems and emergency preparedness, (vi) Irrigation and water management and (vii) Mechanisation services.

(ii) Improved growth in incomes and reduced income variability directly promoting commodity development: incomes would be enhanced through diversification and activities involving a range of commodities including cash crops, livestock, indigenous commodities and value addition would be promoted through the value chain approach and application of science and technology to improve productivity. Enhanced incomes would reinforce food security through financial access to food and ensure that there was less variability from year to year and more equity within farming communities and between rural and urban areas. The activities of this programme were organized into six components: (i) Promotion of cash crop, livestock and fisheries production for income in all ecological zones, (ii) Development of new products, (iii) Development of pilot value chains for one selected commodity in each ecological zone, (iv) Intensification of FBOs and out-grower schemes concept, (v) Rural infrastructure and (vi) Support to urban and peri-urban agriculture.

(iii) Increased competitiveness and enhanced integration into domestic and international markets: this program was to enhance the capacity of semi-commercial and commercial smallholders to produce for the international and expanding domestic markets, including agro-industry. The recent escalation in food market prices presented opportunities for a higher level of commercialisation especially by smallholders. This was to complement interventions pursued under rural infrastructure, food storage and distribution, and mechanisation elaborated under the food security and emergency preparedness programme. Market access was to be private sector-led and government would provide infrastructure and

services of a public goods nature. Activities of this programme were organized under one component - marketing of Ghanaian produce in domestic and international markets

(iv) Sustainable management of land and environment: this programme integrated the Agricultural Land Management Strategy into the sector plan and addressed barriers of various dimensions, including policy, legal/regulatory, institutional, incentive, and knowledge/information for the adoption and up-scaling of sustainable land management practices. The activities were organized under one component - to implement the SLM strategy.

(v) Science and technology applied in food and agriculture development: was to support the vision for a modernised food and agriculture sector. Priority areas were to be supported by improved technologies and client linkage systems were enhanced to ensure demand-driven research and utilisation of results. The activities were organized under one component - enhanced application of science and technology by all economic agents.

(vi) Enhanced institutional coordination: was to promote enhanced partnership and harmonisation of efforts in order to achieve maximum results in growth and development of the sector. The activities of this area were organised under four components:(i) Strengthen intra-ministerial coordination, (ii) Inter-ministerial coordination, (iii) Partnership with private sector and civil society organisations and (iv) Coordination with development partners (donors).

These key relevant areas of the policy, therefore, formed the basis of programmes and activities in the sector plan; which also served as the operational framework of the investment programmes for the period 2009 to 2015 as outlined in the METASIP (2011-2015). In October 2009, the Government of Ghana (represented by MOFA, other relevant MDAs and Parliament), Development Partners (DPs), NGOs, academia, civil society, labour unions, traditional rulers, farmers and other on-farm and off-farm private sector operators, researchers and service providers signed a “mini compact” agreement to coordinate their support for the implementation of the Food and Agricultural Sector Development Policy II

(FASDEP II) through the Medium Term Agriculture Sector Investment Plan (METASIP) under a framework of a Sector Wide Approach and the ECOWAP/CAADP.

2.3 Medium Term Agric Sector Investment Plan (METASIP) (2011-2015)

The Ghanaian economy has been largely dependent on agriculture and agricultural growth has been crucial or key to overall economic growth and development. Agriculture continues to be the largest sector of Ghana's economy, contributing about 39% of GDP compared to about 26% for the industry sector and 31% for the services sector. The METASIP was a sector wide investment plan to implement the medium term (2011-2015) programmes of the policy. The METASIP was developed based on FASDEP II objectives to achieve a target agricultural GDP growth of at least 6% annually, halving poverty by 2015 in line with MDG 1, and a government expenditure allocation of at least 10% within the Plan period (2011–2015). All these objectives are consistent with agricultural performance targets of the country's National Development Planning Commission (NDPC), ECOWAP/CAADP and United Nations MDGs. In the METASIP framework results and resource requirements were identified as well as the activities or roles of agriculture related Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), the private sector, civil society, other stakeholders in its implementation.

In the METASIP, greater involvement of the private sector was important for the growth and development of the sector and its transformation in service delivery; as well as investment and management of the sector as a whole. Strengthening the linkages between MOFA and other Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDA's) whose policies impact on the agricultural sector was highlighted. In addition, service delivery to smallholders, especially the poor, by reducing transaction costs as well as linkages between smallholders and agribusiness, to facilitate access to input, research, technology and product markets, and other essential services were outlined. The technical and financial support from development partners and financial institutions to the agricultural sector policies was deemed significant. A key aspect of the objective of coordination of stakeholder participation is the harmonisation of actions of government and partners for synergy of operations and maximum results for

accelerated growth. The plan development process incorporated systematic stock taking of past and current agriculture development efforts and an analysis of the future prospects for accelerating growth in the sector, reducing poverty and improving food and nutrition security.

The identified basic problems of the agriculture sector include:

- a) reliance on rain-fed agriculture and low level and relatively inefficient irrigated agriculture;
- b) low level of mechanisation in production and processing; high post-harvest losses as a result of poor post-harvest management;
- c) low level and ineffective agricultural finance; poor extension services as a result of several institutional and structural inefficiencies;
- d) lack of ready markets and processing; low performing breeds of livestock; poor feeding of livestock;
- e) high cost of feed for poultry; poor livestock housing and husbandry management;
- f) competition from imports and poor post-production management of livestock products;
- g) over-fishing of natural waters; undeveloped fish value chain (e.g. inadequate supply systems for fingerlings and feed); and lack of skills in aquaculture.

Strategies in the Plan to improve agricultural performance therefore focused on investments to address these constraints and to improve agricultural productivity and enhance market access.

3. ALIGNMENT OF NATIONAL FRAMEWORKS WITH INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORKS

The FASDEP II objectives and their alignment with CAADP Pillars and the Investment Plan (METASIP) programmes and components are shown in the table below:

Corresponding CAADP Pillars and crosscutting issues	FASDEP Objectives	Medium Term Agriculture Sector Investment Plan (2009-2015), programmes and components
<p>Increasing Food Supply and Reducing Hunger Across the Region by Increasing Smallholder Productivity and Improving Responses to Food Emergencies. Includes emergency food supply management, nutrition, school feeding schemes, HIV/AIDS support strategies, attention to priority livelihood sectors (Pillar 3).</p> <p>Sustainable Development of Livestock, Fisheries and Forestry Resources (Cross-cutting).</p> <p>Extending the Area Under Sustainable Land Management and Reliable Water Control Systems. Includes soil fertility management and conservation, agricultural water use and irrigation, and land policy and administration. (Pillar 1).</p>	<p>1. Food Security and Emergency Preparedness. Includes vulnerability in food security through contingency planning, emergency preparedness including establishment of strategic stocks to address the negative effects of climatic change and natural disasters.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Productivity improvement ❖ Support to improved nutrition ❖ Support for diversification of livelihood options of the poor with Off-farm Activities Linked to agriculture ❖ Food storage and distribution ❖ Early Warning Systems and Emergency preparedness ❖ Irrigation and water management ❖ Mechanization services
<p>Increasing Market Access Through Improved Rural Infrastructure and Other Trade Related Interventions. Includes supply chain development, quality control and management system development, export infrastructure, and global trade policies and agreements (Pillar 2).</p> <p>Sustainable Development of</p>	<p>2. Improved Growth in Incomes and Reduced Income Variability. Includes income diversification activities involving a range of commodities including cash crops, livestock and indigenous commodities. This will be done through the value chain approach and application of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Promotion of cash crop, livestock and fisheries production for income in all ecological zones ❖ Development of new products ❖ Development of pilot value chains for one selected commodity in each ecological zone ❖ Intensification of FBOs and out-grower grower schemes concept ❖ Rural infrastructure

Corresponding CAADP Pillars and crosscutting issues	FASDEP Objectives	Medium Term Agriculture Sector Investment Plan (2009-2015), programmes and components
Livestock, Fisheries and Forestry Resources. (Cross-cutting).	science and technology to improve productivity.	❖ Support to Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture
Increasing Market Access through Improved Rural Infrastructure and other Trade Related Interventions. Includes supply chain development, quality control and management system development, export infrastructure, and global trade policies and agreements (Pillar 2).	3. Increased Competitiveness and Enhanced Integration into Domestic and International Markets. Includes enhancing capacity of players to access markets, improving quality standards, safety and provision of infrastructure such as cold chain facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Marketed output of non-export smallholder commodities increased. ❖ Export of non-traditional agricultural export commodities by men and women smallholders increased. ❖ Grading and standardization systems made functional.
Extending the Area under Sustainable Land Management and Reliable Water Control Systems. Includes soil fertility management and conservation, agricultural water use and irrigation, and land policy and administration. (Pillar 1).	4. Sustainable Management of Land and Environment. Includes sustainability in utilisation of resources through programmes, policy, regulation and mitigation measures against environmental degradation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Policies and regulations to support SLM at all levels reviewed and strengthened. ❖ Institutional capacity at all levels within the food and agriculture sector built to support the promotion of SLM. ❖ Technology dissemination and adoption for scaling-up of SLM. ❖ Technical capacity at all levels built to support promotion and dissemination of SLM technologies. ❖ SLM knowledge to support policy and investment decision making generated and adequately managed. ❖ An effective, efficient and motivating incentive system for SLM established
Improving Agricultural Research and Systems to Disseminate Appropriate New Technologies and Increasing the Support Given to Help Farmers Adopt Them. Includes technology development, access and dissemination; innovation systems platforms; building research capacity and training (Pillar 4).	5. Science and Technology Applied in Food and Agriculture Development. Includes enhancing application of science by all economic agents, improved technologies to support priority areas and client linkage systems to ensure demand driven research and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Adoption of improved technologies by men and women farmers increased. ❖ Agricultural research funding increased. ❖ A MOFA Unit to coordinate research output of the agricultural sector is well resourced and made

Corresponding CAADP Pillars and crosscutting issues	FASDEP Objectives	Medium Term Agriculture Sector Investment Plan (2009-2015), programmes and components
	utilisation of results.	functional. ❖ A sustainable funding mechanism for RELCs established and operational.
Institutions (Cross-cutting).	6. Enhanced Institutional Coordination. Includes enhanced partnership and harmonisation of efforts in order to achieve maximum results in growth and development of the sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Strengthen Intra-ministerial coordination ❖ Inter-ministerial coordination ❖ Partnership with Private sector and Civil Society Organisations ❖ Coordination with Development Partners

4. IDENTIFICATION OF AGRO COMMODITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT UNDER FASDEP/ECOWAP

The Agriculture Sector Plan (2009-2015) has been developed to implement the Food and Agricultural Sector Development Policy II (FASDEP II, 2009-2013) and the Medium Term Agriculture Sector Investment Plan (METASIP, 2011-2015). As indicated above, FASDEP II had six objective areas, which formed the basis of programmes and activities in the sector plan and also served as the operational framework of investment programmes for the period 2009 to 2015.

4.1 Improve growth in incomes and reduce income variability

The Programme 2 or second objective of the FASDEP II policy was aimed at enhancing incomes through diversification and activities involving a range of commodities including

cash crops, livestock, indigenous commodities and value addition. The activities were organised into six components:

(i) Promotion of cash crop, livestock and fisheries production for income in all ecological zones.

Under this component, opportunities existed for farmers to diversify out of staple crop production. The levels targeted included:

- a) Income from cash crop production by men and women increased by 20% and 30%, respectively by 2015;
- b) Income from livestock rearing by men and women increased by 10% and 25%, respectively by 2015;
- c) Income from culture fisheries (production and processing) by men and women increased by 50% and 50%, respectively by 2015;
- d) Post-harvest losses of perishable commodities reduced by 25-50% by 2015; and
- e) Products from bee keeping, mushroom and snail farming and production of small stocks increased by 20 to 50% by 2015.

(ii) Development of new products through value addition

The target was to develop at least two new commercially viable products from each of staple crops, horticultural crops, livestock (including poultry) and fisheries by 2015.

(iii) Development of pilot value chains for two selected commodities in each ecological zone

The target under this component was to develop efficient pilot value chains for two selected commodities in each ecological zone, viz:

- a) pineapple and chilies in the coastal savanna zone,
- b) commercial poultry and pig in the forest zone,

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- c) maize and tomato in the forest-savanna transition zone and
 - d) Guinea fowl and tomato in the Guinea/Sudan savanna zones

(iv) Intensification of FBOs and out-grower grower schemes concept

This component targeted intensifying the development of out-grower schemes and FBOs and achieving a three-tier FBO structure in all districts by 2015.

(v) Rural infrastructure

Under this component, the targets expected to be achieved included:

- a) Cost of transportation of agricultural produce in rural areas reduced by at least 5% in areas where infrastructure has been improved;
- b) Rural industrial processing of cassava, oil palm, sheanuts, cashew nuts, soybeans and groundnut increased by 20%, 20%, 40%, 30%, 30% and 30%, respectively by 2015; and
- c) Rural industrial processing of livestock and fish increased by 20% and 30%, respectively.

(vi) Support to urban and peri-urban agriculture

The target of this component was to increase output from peri-urban agriculture by 20%.

Output Targets for Selected Commodities

Commodity increase)	(percentage increase)	Baseline yield (2000-2006) mt/ha	Baseline yield (2000-2006) mt	Target (2015) mt
Maize (50%)		1.48	1,165,329	1,714,284
Rice – Rainfed (50%)		2.05	230,380	348,316
Rice – Irrigated (50%)		2.80	14,705	0.00
Millet (25%)		0.84	161,814	206,808
Sorghum (25%)		1.00	302,957	397,162
Cassava (50%)		11.89	9,426,671	13,522,885
Cocoyam (Achievable Yield)		6.67	1,719,886	2,049,520
Yam (50%)		12.34	3,817,957	5,610,106
Plantain (Achievable Yield)		8.08	2,383,800	2,775,900
Sweetpotato (30%)		8.50	102,127	132,765
Cowpea (Achievable Yield)		1.00	217,708	272,135
Groundnut (Achievable Yield)		0.75	353,513	438,295
Soybeans (Achievable Yield)		0.75	43,125	44,206
Pawpaw (50%)		25.00	863	0.00
Pineapple (50%)		60.00	15,684	720,000
Tomato – Rainfed (Ach. Yield)		25.00	681,250	953,750
Tomato – Irrigated (50%)		30.00	82,500	123,750
Cocoa (50%)		0.40	553,501	1,101,000
Oil palm (Achievable Yield)		12.00	1,804,118	4,995,000
Cotton		0.80	22,567	35,000

4.2 INCREASE COMPETITIVENESS AND ENHANCE INTEGRATION INTO DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN MARKETS

The Programme 3 or third objective of the FASDEP II was aimed at enhancing the capacity of semi-commercial and commercial smallholders to produce for the international and expanding domestic markets, including agro-industry. The trends in escalation in food market prices offered opportunities for higher levels of commercialisation, especially by smallholder farmers or producers. This programme was to complement other interventions pursued under rural infrastructure, food storage and distribution, and mechanisation under Programme 1 of FASDEP II.

The main component under this Programme was marketing of Ghanaian produce in domestic and international markets, which targeted:

- a) Marketed output of non-export smallholder commodities to be increased by 50% by 2015;
- b) Export of non-traditional agricultural export commodities by men and women smallholders to be increased by 50% by 2015; and
- c) Grading and standardisation systems made functional by 2012.

5. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The GPRS II framework pursued building strong institutions that supported rapid private sector growth. It promoted public sector reforms and key implementation strategies that encompassed fundamental review of the tax policy and administration in relation to micro and small enterprises. The development of strong institutions was to further create an effective legal system that supported private sector growth. The strategies outlined in the policy document included:

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- a) Improved access to justice for businesses, especially small businesses, and enhanced alternative dispute resolution mechanism within the context of Judicial Sector Reform Programme; and
 - b) Monitoring and evaluating the level of access to justice in Ghana focusing on Micro, Small and Medium-size Enterprises (MSMEs).

Under the FASDEP II, the Programme 6 or sixth objective focused on institutional arrangements targeted at establishing partnerships and harmonising efforts to achieve maximum results in growth and development of the sector. The institutional arrangements were organised under four components:

(i) Strengthen intra-ministerial coordination: under this component effective communication strategies were developed within and among various Directorates of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA); and between national, regional and district levels of MOFA; all cost centres within MOFA were adequately resourced and capacities for electronic financial data captured as well as reporting and asset management built; the capacity of the Human Resource Development and Management Directorate in personnel management strengthened; and the human, material, logistics, and skills resource capacity of all directorates of MOFA were built.

The specific roles of MOFA as the lead Ministry were:

- a) Policy analysis and formulation; and monitoring and evaluation of policy implementation.
- b) Advise Cabinet on laws required to regulate agricultural activities in order to protect all stakeholders and the environment.
- c) Coordination and harmonisation of policies and sector activities with other MDAs.

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- d) Government of Ghana (GoG) shall strive to achieve the Maputo Declaration of allocating at least 10% of annual government expenditure to the agricultural sector.
 - e) Advocacy for sector interests locally and in international agreements.
 - f) Facilitation of public-private dialogue and partnerships; capacity building of sector's human resources; research and technology development; linkage between agriculture and industry; integration of cross cutting issues such as gender equality into the work of the Ministry; and international trade and domestic marketing of agricultural commodities.
 - g) Provision and facilitation of agricultural service delivery.
 - h) Coordination of enforcement of regulations; and Development Partners' development policies and activities with the sector policies and activities.

(ii) Inter-ministerial coordination: this component pursued the establishment of a joint platform for collaboration between MOFA and other Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) for achieving growth and development of the Sector.

The MDAs partnered with MoFA in the Sector development through:

- a) Participation in sector policy development, planning and review
- b) Research and technology development
- c) Human resource development
- d) Implementation of cross sectorial activities
- e) Monitoring and evaluation of relevant development indicators and provide information to MOFA.

(iii) Partnership with private sector and civil society organisations: a platform for private sector and civil society engagement with MOFA was established.

Specific roles of the private sector, civil society, agriculture associations and unions, and traditional rulers included:

- a. Participated in policy dialogue to ensure that their interests were reflected;
- b. Invested in productive activities in the sector;
- c. Ensured that commercialisation was balanced with social responsibility and environmental sustainability;
- d. Supported training and improving skills of the sector's manpower;
- e. Participated in research and utilised results;
- f. Dissemination of good agricultural practices;
- g. Complied with laws and regulations; and
- h. Partner government in sector development.

(iv) Coordination with development partners (donors): under this component the coordination and collaboration between MOFA and the Development Partners (DPs) was strengthened; and the DPs and MDAs funded a common agriculture strategy.

The Development Partners' commitments under the FASDEP II Agenda included:

- a) Contribute financial or non-financial and technical resources to support the achievement of sector objectives within the parameters of the prevailing policy framework;
- b) Continue to seek new opportunities to harmonise and align their assistance according to the Government's Harmonisation Action Plan;
- c) Engage constructively in policy dialogue relevant to agriculture and related sectors;

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- d) Facilitate government management of financial/non-financial and technical assistance;
 - e) Participate in and support sector monitoring and evaluation efforts and feedback into policy.

The African Union/NEPAD, ECOWAS and Regional Partners commitments under the Maputo Declaration were to:

- a) support Ghana in its endeavors to define priority programmes that would allow the country to meet the objectives of CAADP and
- b) support Ghana's national strategies as defined in the FASDEP and Sector Plan through mobilising of political, financial and technical support.

REFERENCES

- a) Ghana Standard Board, Food and Drug Board and the Plant Protection Regulatory Services.
- b) SEND-Ghana 2008, Free Trade, Small Scale Production and Poverty.
- c) Third World Network 2006, The Impact of Globalisation and Liberalisation on Agriculture and Small Farmers in Developing Countries: The Experience of Ghana.