

MEMO



Enabling poor rural people
to overcome poverty

TO: EMC

FROM: Luis Jiménez-McInnis
Special Adviser to the President

DATE: 16 May 2013

SUBJECT: Back to office report: Mission to World Economic Forum on Africa, Cape Town

BTO Summary

Mission leader (team)	The President Luis Jiménez-McInnis
Mission date	6-10 May 2013
City, Country	Cape Town, South Africa
Purpose/activities	Participation in the Grow Africa Investment Forum and the World Economic Forum on Africa
Main contacts and/or persons met	Presidents of Malawi, Benin and Nigeria, and the Vice President of Ghana, Chairperson of the African Union Ministers or Deputy Ministers of Agriculture from Mozambique, Tanzania, Rwanda, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Nigeria and Malawi Secretary of State for International Development of the UK, the Canadian Minister of International Cooperation, the USAID Administrator and the President of JICA <i>See Annex I for complete list of persons met.</i>
Relevant documents posted on //xdesk	Mission folder https://xdesk.ifad.org/sites/opv/presidents_missions/Shared%20Documents/05-2013%20Nigeria-South%20Africa/South%20Africa
Summary of conclusions and actions	<i>The Grow Africa Investment Forum and the World Economic Forum on Africa provided an important platform to raise the profile of smallholder issues and IFAD as an institution.</i> G8 Leadership Council: OPV to prepare a letter to Leadership Council Co-Conveners (Chairperson of the African Union Commission, UK Secretary of State for International Development, Vice-Chairman of the WEF) detailing what IFAD is doing in the areas of land governance, public-private partnerships and measuring impact. This will be essential preparation for the upcoming 8 June pre-G8 meeting in London. ▪ Unilever: OPV to provide contact information of Regional Directors in ESA and WCA as well as PRM private sector contact in order to explore possible opportunities for collaboration.

cc:

M. Beavogui
C. Morden

C. Waldon
P. Saint Ange

I. de Willebois
A. Brizzi

Introduction

1. From 6-10 May, the President travelled to Cape Town to participate in the Grow Africa Investment Forum, the World Economic Forum on Africa and the G8 Leadership Council.
2. Prior to arriving in Cape Town, the President had spent 1-3 May in Abuja where he had met with several key ministers, including Minister of Agriculture Akin Adesina. It is worth highlighting that the value chain project is still not effective due to an administrative oversight. The Ministries of Agriculture and Finance are aware that this could delay submission of the new US\$88.5 million project to the Executive Board. (Detailed BTO from CPM will follow).
3. In addition, the President travelled to Pretoria on 6 May where he met with Minister of Agriculture Tina Joemat-Pettersson. The South African Market-led Smallholder Agricultural Development Programme (SAMLSDP) has not been presented to the Executive Board due to internal country issues between the Land Bank, the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform and the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. In order to overcome these obstacles, it was proposed that the programme be realigned to deliver just rural financial services while using instruments such as RTA to get other Departments to commit to technical assistance. (Detailed BTO from CPM will follow).

I. Mission findings

4. In sum, the Cape Town meetings were very positive for smallholder issues, for IFAD visibility and for African agriculture in general. The participation from delegations from Africa, private sector CEOs and traditional “donor” countries was rather impressive. In fact, Grow Africa, which gathers approximately 300 leaders from politics, business and civil society, expressly on agriculture has in many ways become bigger than the World Economic Forum on Africa itself.
5. Ministers or Deputy Ministers from Mozambique, Tanzania, Rwanda, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Nigeria and Malawi were present. The Presidents of Malawi, Benin and Nigeria, and the Vice President of Ghana were also in attendance. This demonstrates a real shift in the importance that agriculture is receiving on the continent from top level leadership as well as from private sector and development partners. It is difficult to imagine a meeting on agriculture five years ago of this type with Presidents in attendance – the norm would have been to relegate this to a Minister of Agriculture, at most.

A. *Grow Africa*

6. According to a recently released report, in 2012 Grow Africa partners mobilised over US\$ 3.5 billion in new investment commitments, with more than US\$60 million invested in activities that incorporate smallholder farmers into commercial, market-based activities. These investments have reportedly engaged over 800,000 farmers across eight African countries, with US\$300 million in sales from these farmers feeding into the market system.
7. It is worth noting how much emphasis countries are placing on the Grow Africa initiative. Although some of these initiatives may not have been at their inception specifically for Grow Africa many countries are now organising themselves around the initiative. For example, Ethiopia has the Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA), Tanzania has the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) and Nigeria has the Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA). In fact, private sector partners also have staff working specifically on the initiative – Unilever, for example, has a Procurement Director for Grow Africa.
8. As pertains to IFAD visibility, the President participated in various sessions that served to raise smallholder issues as well as the profile of the Fund:
 - Moderator of session on “Engaging Smallholder Farmers”
 - Discussion leader of a high-level group on the topic of “Global Partnership for Africa's Agricultural Agenda”

9. Overall, the sessions raised issues very well-known to IFAD with regard to smallholder farmers. For example, the need to: organise smallholders; create the right set of incentives; develop appropriate financial products for farmers; and allow for an appropriate policy environment. It was noted that although smallholders needed access to markets, it was also important for *markets to have access to smallholders*.
10. In addition, the President was a speaker at the Grow Africa Dinner on "Celebrating African Women in Agriculture", along with, the President of Malawi, Joyce Hilda Banda, and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Nkosazana Clarice Diamini-Zuma.
11. And finally, in recognition of the role the President has played as one of the original Patrons of Grow Africa (before the existence of the Leadership Council) the President formed part of the closing segment Leaders' Panel with the Presidents of Malawi, Benin, Nigeria and the Chairperson of the African Union. During the session the President emphasised that African countries themselves are contributing to their own development – as demonstrated through the domestic co-financing of IFAD-supported projects. This resonated very much with the governments as well as the private sector representatives present – as Ministers and Presidents made the pitch as to why investors should come to their own particular countries for putting their money in agriculture.

B. G8 New Alliance Leadership Council

12. On the margins of Grow Africa, the President also participated in a meeting of the Leadership Council. Among the G8 members present were: UK Secretary of State for International Development Justine Greening, Canadian Minister of International Cooperation Julian Fantino, USAID Administrator Raj Shah and President of JICA Akihiro Tanaka.
13. There discussion around the table focused mainly on African countries and investment with the private sector. With regard to the issues raised, there is clearly a role for IFAD and the other Rome-based agencies to play with regard to land issues, measuring impact and ensuring investment for smallholders in particular.

II. Other matters

14. The President met with senior representatives of Unilever --including their Vice President on Procurement (Vikram Agarwal) and their External Affairs Director for Africa (Douglas Brew) -- on potential partnership in the supply chain for oil palm and cassava in Uganda and other countries.
15. The papers prepared by IFAD staff on public-private partnerships, land governance issues and results and impact measurement were extremely useful for the WEF discussions. These papers provided cogent examples of how IFAD is very much involved in the issues that are on the international agenda. There is a need to fine-tune some of these papers into actual publications for the wider public.

III. Conclusions and recommended next steps, actions requiring approval, if any

16. Follow-up action:
 - **G8 Leadership Council:** OPV to prepare a letter to Leadership Council Co-Conveners (Chairperson of the African Union Commission, UK Secretary of State for International Development, Vice-Chairman of the WEF) detailing what IFAD is doing in the areas of land governance, public-private partnerships and measuring impact.
 - **Unilever:** OPV to provide contact information of Regional Directors in ESA and WCA as well as PRM private sector contact in order to explore possible opportunities for collaboration.