The Government of Mozambique has launched the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program through the Ministry of Agriculture on 13th December, 2010, in Maputo at Joaquim Chissano Conference Centre.

The launching ceremony was led by the Prime Minister and other high level participants included the Minister of Agriculture, Vice Minister of Finance, Vice Minister of Industry and Tourism, Member of the Parliament, Permanent Secretaries from different Ministries. The launch was also attended by government staff member from different institutions linked to agriculture sector, representatives from the private sector, producer organizations, academia and researchers, media and representatives from NGOs as well as several international cooperation partners. At regional level, the event was attended by SADC and NEPAD representatives.

The event consisted of a series of interventions related to CAADP by representatives from key agriculture sector stakeholders, focusing on social and economic importance and agriculture potential in Mozambique, major sector challenges, CAADP value addition for a better agriculture sector performance and implications for a successful implementation of CAADP based on policy options and ongoing agriculture investments as well as future investments that will be designed in a analytical and participatory manner.

MINAG presented alignment with CAADP as a process adaptable to the country’s reality and as an evidence-based learning by doing process, effective partnerships among key agriculture sector stakeholders, mutual accountability and monitoring and evaluation taking into account the four CAADP pillars. Also, major policy tools were enlisted which are guiding references in aligning with CAADP namely: The Government Five Year Program (Program Quinquenal do Governo-PQG), Agriculture Policy and Implementation Strategy (Política Agrária e Estratégia de Implementação -PAEI, 1995), Green Revolution Strategy (Estratégia de Revolução Verde - ERV, 2007), Strategic Plan for Agriculture Sector Development (Plano Estratégico de Desenvolvimento do Sector Agrário - PEDSA) and regional agriculture commitments (SADC/ RISDP).
CAADP is viewed as a tool that can contribute to development of tools to improve investment application and regional and continental harmonization in the framework of commitments by African countries in the agriculture sector. Regarding process implementation, a CAADP national team has been set up (multi-sectorial and multi-disciplinary) and it has benefited from first phases of capacity building and institutional interaction including NGOs. Data collection related actions are now ongoing for a comprehensive and updated situational analysis that will be the basis for design of investment plans.

5. The composition of the CAADP National Team was presented and a summary of activities undertaken to date and the major steps to be taken in a near future were also presented, including activities timeline and the signing of “CAADP Compact” is expected to be formalized by April 2011.

6. Farmers’ Representatives highlighted the fact that CAADP has its inception in Maputo therefore imposing a greater performance commitment for the country as far as its implementation is concerned, going beyond undertaking of its goals, to a greater Basic quality food offer, taking into account, particularly, country’s agriculture potential.

CAADP success is dependent on farmers’ capacity building and support therefore reinforcing access to credits, diseases control and plagues, trade and food processing and technical support services is key. Household farmers expect CAADP to support and improve business opportunities and productive ability of national agricultural enterprises.

7. NGOs view CAADP as a window of opportunities for better investments orientation, comprehensive dialogue between many stakeholders and intervention in several agriculture sector fields. Therefore NGOs offer all collaboration and their potential to contribute for a better sector performance and expect that CAADP is translated into field actions to increase agriculture production, in particular, food.

8. International Cooperation partners congratulated the government for the formal launch of CAADP. They are aware of the advantages of the CAADP implementation for the country, given the existing potential for agriculture production and animal husbandry, including fishery. CAADP offers opportunities for greater policy alignment, inter-institutional collaboration and investment harmonization. Its launch is important but represents the inception of information gap and institutional challenges identification process to better sustain interventions in agriculture sector. Approval of PEDSA is pertinent. Partners are very well prepared to support CAADP implementation because they understand it is a contribution to reinforce food security and poverty reduction.

9. NEPAD Agency/CAADP Secretariat congratulated CAADP launch given the importance agriculture has in the country’s economy. Mozambique as well as many other African countries continue to face bottlenecks in translating its productive potential in real gains in agriculture production and productivity for a greater participation in country’s wealth and economy. CAADP aims at reversing this situation and its launch is the beginning of a process that must improve policy alignment and identification of better investment options in a
participatory implementation and monitoring and evaluation to better inform planning and resources use in agriculture. Therefore CAADP implementation will entail policy and institutional reforms for development of institutions and key sector stakeholders. Aware of several challenges behind this process, NEPAD Agency and CAADP Secretariat will continue to work together with the country in this process.

10. His Excellency, the Minister of Agriculture thanked the presence of the Prime Minister in the event as an expression of the importance the government gives to agriculture sector. He also highlighted some bearing cereals and non-income crops that have comparative advantages for the country together with considerable agro-ecological potential. However, many constraints linked to potential distribution in consumption centers, trade capacity limitation, processing and distribution of agriculture products hinder efforts for greater access to food and reduction of food insecurity.

CAADP launch, seven years after its inception, brings advantages to use experiences and lesson learned in agriculture sector as well as other relevant from other countries, in particular African.

11. His Excellency, the Prime Minister emphasized that experiences acquired in agriculture must be used in practical actions and further emphasized that:

- The deadline set for completion of CAADP by April 2011 must be taken into account strictly and take into account immediate commitments with food security and poverty reduction.
- CAADP must contribute so that agriculture becomes a motive force and this implies exhaustive and careful identification of constraints to production involving different sector stakeholders and taking into account gender and social equality related issues.
- The Government has provided agriculture sector and rural development with important policy documents and PEDSA will be a value addition to government’s contribution to agriculture.
- CAADP has four pillars and these should be strategic guidance to the Program. The country currently allocates 5.6% of its budget to agriculture in an effort aimed at reaching 10% by 2015 therefore identification of better options for available resources use is crucial.
- Support and participation of NEPAD agency, CAADP Secretariat, SADC Secretariat and mainly of national partners in CAADP implementation are key.