



# **NEPAD Dialogue**

## **Focus on Africa**



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### **Conference to look at key opportunities**



Prof. Richard Mkandawire,  
NEPAD Agricultural Advisor

## **Helping Africa to benefit from its agricultural successes**

**T**he first of a series of regional conferences on agricultural successes in Africa, convened by the NEPAD Secretariat and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and hosted by the Government of Kenya will be held in Nairobi from 22 - 25 November 2004.

The conference will bring together about 70 people with extensive practical experience in African agriculture in the IGAD region – the Greater Horn of Africa – and beyond.

Delegates will include farmers, representatives of farmer groups, private sector agribusiness operators,

high-level policy makers, senior researchers, donors and regional organisations.

The conference aims to achieve three principal objectives:

- summarise key opportunities and challenges for agriculture in the Great Horn of Africa.
- identify key successes in expanding African agriculture and improving food security with significant potential for replication and upscaling in the Great Horn of Africa.
- identify the top four opportunities for accelerating agricultural growth and improving food security in the region.

For purpose of the conference, success is defined as:

***A significant durable change in agriculture resulting in an increase in agriculturally derived aggregate income, together with reduced poverty and/or improved environmental quality.***

In past decades, African farmers and policymakers have achieved a series of significant successes in agricultural development, though these successes have proven inadequate in number and scale to keep pace with Africa's rapid demographic growth.

In order to identify promising opportunities for accelerating agricultural growth in the future, NEPAD have inventoried, documented and analysed from various perspectives many of these instances of past success.

"Even though every success has its specific conditions and drivers, generic lessons can be extracted from them," says Prof. Richard Mkandawire, NEPAD Agricultural Advisor.

"By extracting these lessons, we aim to identify promising avenues for expanding agricultural successes in the future".

**In December 2003, NEPAD began a process of trying to translate lessons learned from past successes into accelerated agricultural growth.**

The process NEPAD adopted involved documenting past successes, then convening a set of distinguished and experienced practitioners to distill key lessons and identify opportunities for upscaling and replicating technologies and processes that have proven effective in accelerating agricultural growth.

Participants at this Pretoria Conference on Successes in African Agriculture represented key stakeholder groups – farmers, researchers, private agribusiness operators, government, NGOs, donors and researchers.

Using prepared case study documentation as a springboard for discussion, participants worked together in small groups to identify key opportunities and key lessons about ingredients necessary for sustained agricultural growth.

A series of important initiatives has emerged from the Pretoria Conference.

- Under NEPAD sponsorship, a spontaneous partnering of conference participants has developed a Pan African Cassava Initiative.
- Another group has facilitated regional exchanges to spread natural resource management technologies.
- A private-sector-led initiative has paired agribusiness firms with regional researchers and government decision-makers to review regional trade policies for key commodities in specific regions.
- Finally, through a series of similar regional consultations, NEPAD aims to identify region-specific opportunities for accelerating agricultural growth in the respective sub-regions. The first of these is taking place in Nairobi with other regions to follow in 2005.

*The Nairobi conference organisers include: Capacity Building International, Germany (InWEnt); Technical*

Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), the Netherlands; International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Italy; International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Washington DC; International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Pretoria, South Africa; Ministry of Agriculture, Nairobi, Kenya; Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Djibouti; and NEPAD.

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## Calendar of Events

- **15 - 18 November**, NEPAD Science and Technology Regional Workshops, Pretoria, South Africa.
- **20 November**, NEPAD Steering Committee Meeting, Algiers, Algeria.
- **20 - 21 November**, African Peer Review (APR) Panel Meeting, Algiers, Algeria.
- **22 - 23 November**, NEPAD Science and Technology Regional Workshops, Nairobi, Kenya.
- **22 - 23 November**, NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSIGC) Meeting, Algiers, Algeria.
- **22 - 25 November**, Conference on Successes in African Agriculture, Nairobi, Kenya
- **23 November**, APR Forum Summit, Algiers, Algeria.
- **27 - 30 November**, NEPAD Science and Technology Regional Workshops, Algiers, Algeria.
- **29 November - 1 December**, Workshop on A Framework for the Implementation of the Capital Adequacy Standard (Basle Accords) and Good Corporate Governance in African Banks, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- **2 - 4 December**, Workshop on Implementation of the NEPAD Short Term Action Plan (STAP) on Transboundary Water Resources Management, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- **6 - 9 December**, NEPAD Science and Technology Regional Workshops, Dakar, Senegal.

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