

# Agricultural and Food Price Volatility

## *African views and perspectives*

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### G20 Outreach Session

OECD Conference Centre, Paris

14-15 June 2011

## Draft Agenda



## Background

The volatility of international food and agricultural prices directly impacts on the ability of African households to feed themselves, as witnessed by the 2007-08 food crisis. Despite good farm yields in 2010, food security could be under threat in some parts of Africa in 2011, if the sharp rise in world prices for maize, rice, wheat etc., causes price increases in Africa. The 26th annual meeting of the Food Crises Prevention Network in the Sahel and West Africa (RPCA), held in Accra on 14-16 December 2010, alerted public opinion of this risk. Price instability also affects the ability of producing States and African farmers to invest in order to respond to structural growth in domestic and international demand, whether for food or for agricultural raw materials.

This problem, which particularly affects developing countries and emerging economies, was put on the agenda of the G20 in Seoul in November 2010 and ranks among the priorities of the French presidency in 2011. Together with the FAO, the OECD is co-ordinating the preparation of a joint report with IFAD, the IMF, UNCTAD, WFP, the World Bank and the WTO in order to propose policy options to the G20. IFPRI and the UNHLTF are also participating in the process.

At the request of SWAC Members and in co-ordination with the OECD Development Cluster, the SWAC Secretariat is organising this conference to discuss and draw attention to African views and perspectives. The OECD Trade and Agriculture Directorate will present current thinking on policy options. The African organisations, development banks and the representatives of agricultural producers will present their views, experiences, and suggestions. The co-chairs of the G20 Development Working Group (France, South Africa and South Korea) and country facilitators of the Food Security sub-group (Brazil, Canada, France and Japan) will also take part in this conference.

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The Conference is organised by the Sahel and West Africa Club Secretariat (SWAC/OECD), in collaboration with the Trade and Agriculture Directorate (TAD/OECD) and the OECD Development Cluster.

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## Objectives

- Share with African representatives information on recent experiences, lessons learned and the current state of thinking in preparation for the G20 on agriculture and development issues.
- Draw attention to the views and perspectives of institutional and socio-professional representatives of agricultural interests and food security in Africa.
- Stimulate ongoing thinking and discussion among African regional economic organisations towards setting up regional instruments to respond to price volatility and improve food crises prevention and management.
- Provide inputs for global discussions of the issue within the G20.

## Organisation

- **Session 1:** Based on short presentations followed by discussion, the session will share knowledge and perceptions of price volatility and its impact on food security and economic development in poor countries.
- **Session 2:** A discussion panel will facilitate the search for policy options and possible ways to improve management of risks to protect vulnerable populations more efficiently.

## Participants

- **African inter-governmental and economic organisations:** ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS, SADC, CEMAC, CEEAC, IGAD, COMESA;
- **Pan-African and international organisations:** AU/NEPAD Planning and Co-ordinating Agency (NPCA), UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA);
- **African banks:** African Development Bank (AfDB), West African Development Bank (BOAD);
- **Farmers' and civil society organisations:** Agricultural Consultants Association (ACA), African Cotton's Producers Association (APROCA), Pan-African Organisation (PAFO) and the West Africa Farmers Association (ROPPA);
- **African scientists and experts:** African Association of Agricultural Economists (AAAE), African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA), Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/WECARD);
- **The joint chairs of the G20 Development** (France, South Africa and South Korea) and the facilitators of the Food Security sub-group (Brazil, Canada, France and Japan);
- **Technical and financial partners:** OECD, FAO, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), Common Fund for Commodities (CFC), French Development Agency (AFD), International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

14 June 2011	<p><b>Opening session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. François-Xavier de Donnea, SWAC President</li> <li>H.E. Mr. Olivier Chastel, Belgium Minister for Development Co-operation</li> <li>Ms. Elisabeth Atangana, President, Pan-African Organisation (PAFO)</li> <li>Dr. Ibrahim A. Mayaki, CEO, NEPAD Planning and Co-ordinating Agency (NPCA)</li> <li>Mr. Serge Tomasi, Director of Global Economy and Development Strategy, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, France (DGM/ECODEV, MAEE)</li> </ul>
10:30 - 11:15	<p><b>Session 1. Agricultural and food price volatility: current knowledge of the phenomenon and consequences for food security and development</b></p> <p><i>Chairs:</i> Presidents of ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions</p> <p><i>Objective:</i> To analyse causes of price volatility the mechanisms by which world market prices are transmitted to Africa, the impact on food security and product chains, and the consequences for governments, agricultural producers and consumers.</p> <p><b>Agricultural and food price volatility: Determining factors and impacts on food security</b> Mr. Ken Ash, Director of the Trade and Agriculture Directorate (TAD/OECD) (15 mn)</p> <p><b>Comments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, NEPAD-NPCA (10 mn)</li> <li>Mr. Coulibaly Adama Ekberg, Chief of Agricultural Production Systems Section (APSS), Food Security and Sustainable Development Division (FSSDD/UNECA) (10 mn)</li> </ul>
11:15 – 11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:30 – 12:30	<b>Debate</b>
12:30 – 14:30	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:30 – 15:00	<p><b>How international agricultural prices are transmitted to African countries: Lessons drawn from the 2007-08 crisis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. George Rapsomanikis, FAO (15 mn)</li> <li>Dr. Niama Nango Dembele &amp; Mr. Aboubacar Diallo, Michigan State University (15 mn)</li> </ul>
15:00 – 15:45	<b>Debate</b>
15:45 -16:45	<p><b>Impact on governments and farmers</b></p> <p><i>Viewpoints:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prof. Awudu Abdulai, AAAE (10 mn)</li> <li>Dr. Innocent Matshe, AERC (10 mn)</li> <li>Mr. Junior Davis, UNCTAD (10 mn)</li> <li>Mr. Djibo Bagna, ROPPA (10 mn)</li> </ul>
16:45 – 18:15	<p><b>Comments</b></p> <p><i>OECD Development Cluster:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Brian Atwood, Chair of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) (10mn)</li> <li>Mr. Mario Pezzini, Director, Development Centre (DEV/OECD) (10 mn)</li> <li>Mr. Jon Lomoy, Director, Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD/OECD) (10mn)</li> <li>Mr. David Batt, Director, African Partnership Forum Support Unit (APF) (10 mn)</li> </ul> <p><i>African leaders:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Christian N. Adovélande, President, BOAD (10 mn)</li> <li>H.E. Mr. Jean Marc Telliano, Minister of Agriculture, Guinea (10 mn)</li> <li>Colonel Abdoukarim Goukoye, President, High Authority on Food Security (HASA), Niger (10 mn)</li> <li>H.E. Mr. Djiblola Litaaba-Akila, Deputy Secretary-General, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fishery, Togo (10 mn)</li> </ul>
18:15 – 18:30	<b>Wrap up by the President</b>

15 June 2011	<p><b>Session 2. Instruments and policy options for managing risks connected with price volatility</b></p> <p><i>Chair:</i> Dr. Michael Waithaka, Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA)</p> <p><i>Objective:</i> To search for practical solutions in the African context.</p> <p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, NEPAD/NPCA</li> <li>• Mr. Coulibaly Adama Ekberg, UNECA</li> <li>• Representatives from ECOWAS/UEMOA/CILSS</li> <li>• COMESA representative</li> <li>• Dr. Paco Sérémé, CORAF/WECARD</li> <li>• Mr. Djibo Bagna, ROPPA</li> <li>• Prof. Awudu Abdulai, AAE</li> <li>• H. E. Mr. Jean Marc Telliano, Minister of Agriculture, Guinea</li> </ul> <p><i>Facilitator:</i> Mr. Pierre Jacquet, Chief Economist, French Development Agency (AFD)</p>
9:00 – 9:15	<p><b>Introduction: Policy options for reducing price volatility</b>, FAO/OECD (15 mn)</p>
9:15 – 10:00	<p><b>Contributions:</b></p> <p><i>International policy options</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International instruments to provide compensation in the event of a decrease in export revenues (counter-cyclical loans), Mr. Andrey Kuleshov, CFC (10 mn)</li> </ul> <p><i>National and regional policy options</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experiences in the Sahel and West Africa: RESOGEST (ECOWAS/UEMOA/CILSS) Mr. El Hadj Dramane Coulibaly, CILSS (10 mn)</li> <li>• The example of Burkina Faso's cotton price fund, Mr. Jonas Bayoulou, DG SOFITEX, Burkina Faso (10 mn)</li> <li>• CEEAC/CEMAC's experience, Mr. Patrice Mezui and Mr. Joël Beassem (10 mn)</li> </ul>
10:00 – 11:15	<p><b>Views by panellists and debate</b></p>
11:15 – 11:30	<p><b>Wrap-up by the moderator and the chair of session 2</b></p>
11:30 – 12:30	<p><b>Closing session</b></p>
	<p><i>Chair:</i> Mr. François-Xavier de Donnea, SWAC President</p> <p><b>Summary of conference outcomes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Nango Niamo Dembele, Michigan State University</li> <li>• Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, NEPAD/NPCA</li> <li>• Mr. Christian N. Adoléwande, President, BOAD</li> <li>• H. E. Mr. Jean Marc Telliano, Minister of Agriculture, Guinea</li> <li>• Mr. Philippe Thiébaud from the French Presidency, G20 Development</li> <li>• Representative of the OECD Secretary-General</li> </ul>

<http://www.oecd.org/swac>

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