



African Union



NEPAD Planning and
Coordinating Agency (NPCA)

The African Union Commission and the NEPAD Agency call for support to the Sahel countries.

After the 2009-2010 agriculture campaign, millions of people, especially in pastoral and agropastoral region of Niger, Chad and north eastern Mali remain threatened by food crisis. Cereal production estimated at 16 million tonnes was 9% less compared to last year. In Niger and Chad very significant deficit of about 31% to 34% compared to last year were recorded. The deficit is even more pronounced in Sahelian parts of the two countries. A lot of people in Niger and Chad are living in critical vulnerability and are in need of emergency assistance.

The nutritional situation remains as always a concern, especially for children under 5 years and pregnant or lactating women. High rates of acute malnutrition have been recorded in most countries of the Sahel. Moreover, for the second consecutive year, significant gross deficits were registered in pastoral and agropastoral areas in Niger, Chad and north eastern Mali and Burkina.

Due to this alarming situation and considering the priority given to Food Security through the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), the AUC and NEPAD Agency launched a campaign to respond to Africa's Food Security Challenges. Therefore, the AUC's Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture and NEPAD's CEO :

- Call for the need to make effective solidarity mechanisms provided at the regional level to support existing efforts
- Encourage the development partners to coordinate their efforts on the basis of needs identified at national level in the Sahel region
- Emphasize the availability of NEPAD Agency to make joint efforts with CILSS and ECOWAS to mobilize additional resources
- Support the joint statement of CILSS and ECOWAS member states and their partners on the food and nutrition situation in the Sahel and West Africa on 1 April 2010 in Lomé
- Support the UN Emergency Humanitarian Action Plan (EHAP), which is a respond to the Appeal of the Government of Niger for international assistance, launched on the 10 of March 2010
- Although they recognize the need to provide short term responses, they stress that interventions should also consider building local capacity for sustainable development

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In addition to that, they underline the need to move quickly in the implementation of CAADP, which is a more sustainable and concrete response to the recurrent food crisis Africa is facing.