VALIDATION WORKSHOP
MAURITIUS ACTION PLAN FOR THE
AFRICAN UNION MALABO COMMITMENTS
09 AUGUST 2018
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“Let me at the very outset thank the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network – FANRPAN – hosted by the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Mauritius, for collaborating with my Ministry to conduct this validation workshop on the Mauritius Action Plan for the African Union Malabo Commitments.

In 2014, the African Union signed and adopted the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods.

The seven commitments of this Declaration marked a turning point in the way African states conduct agriculture.
One of the seven commitments by the African leaders to ‘Mutual Accountability to Results and Action’, characterized by a biennial review of agricultural progress heralded a process of measuring and reporting on respective countries’ progress.

The result of the initial ‘mutual accountability to results and action’ process was the launch of the inaugural Biennial Review Report in Ethiopia, in January 2018.

Most African states did not perform as expected, with the inaugural report showing the urgent need for focused interventions in agriculture at country level, focusing on policy interventions to improve incentives and the quality and quantity of public investment; to improve the functioning of product markets; improving financial services, while promoting innovation through science and technology adoption, amongst others.
Mauritius obtained a score of **5 out of 10** against the **3.94 benchmark score** for 2017, indicating that we are on track with regard to the Malabo commitments.

Moreover, Mauritius ranked 5th among 47 African states.

It is pleasing to note that we were the best performing country within the SADC region, and Mauritius has set a firm foundation for continuous improvement, as well as serving as a source of best practices.

However, the report also identified areas where Mauritius is not performing too well, and makes recommendations in need for improvements to achieve the aims and targets of the Malabo Declaration.

Thus, there is a need for targeted intervention at country level to ensure improvement for upcoming biennial reviews.

My Ministry has left no stones unturned.
The Mauritius’ Strategic Plan (2016-2020) for the Food Crop, Livestock and Forestry Sectors, sets out the goals and objectives to be attained over five years to improve the level of food security and food safety and promote more sustainable agriculture.

Necessary incentives are being given to farmers, especially women, young graduates and others, to encourage them to engage in agri-business activities.

By the end of this Plan’s timeframe, the country would have witnessed a significant transition into sustainable agricultural development; fully prepared to meet the challenges of food security and safety, with an agriculture well equipped to cope with the additional risks that climate change represents.

We shall need to take appropriate actions to improve the results for the upcoming biennial review in 2019.
I understand that this Workshop will come up with recommendations and an Action Plan to meet these objectives.

In this context, I would like to highlight that the Budget 2018/19 makes provision for several measures, which would certainly help Mauritius to improve in several performance areas such as the setting up of 100 sheltered farms over the next two years, assisting youth to develop agribusiness projects, assisting entrepreneurs with market intelligence and providing access to finance at concessional rates.

My Ministry has been invited to engage and participate in the Africa Green Revolution Forum, which will be held in Kigali, Rwanda from 3-7 September 2018.

The theme for the 2018 Africa Green Revolution Forum is “Lead, Measure, Grow : Enabling new pathways to turn smallholders into future agribusinesses”.
This platform seeks to assist member states of the African Union to improve their performance for the up-coming 2019 Biennial Review.

I would like to thank the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Mauritius for facilitating this action plan session and workshop.

On this note, ladies and gentlemen, I declare the workshop open and wish all participants a fruitful deliberation.”