

# The NEPAD Business Foundation Congratulates G8 on the New Alliance for Food and Nutrition Security Initiative

## PRESS RELEASE

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One of the key accomplishments coming out of the 2012 G8 conference held at Camp David last week was the establishment of the *New Alliance* for Food and Nutrition Security Initiative. In announcing the initiative, US President Barack Obama pledged to invest over US\$3 billion in Africa's agricultural sector. The commitment, to be driven in conjunction with the World Economic Forum, is aimed at improving private-sector investment in Agriculture and lifting tens of millions of Africans out of poverty.

The NEPAD Business Foundation (NBF) is excited at this new development. Since 2005, the NBF has sought to promote sustainable economic development in Africa by leveraging its relationships with local and international private sector. The NBF has worked extensively with its partners in the agricultural space. Current NBF agriculture projects seek to link smallholder farmers with large commercial farmers, retailers and other private institutions along the agricultural value chain. In addition, the organisation seeks to provide smallholder farmers with the latest research and the right tools and skills to improve their lives and to successfully contribute to the growth and development of the sector.

The NBF's relationships with key members of the private sector in southern Africa puts it in a unique position to effect the goals of the *New Alliance*, as set out by President Obama. The New Alliance will be rooted in partnership, particularly with the African Union, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency and Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) through the Grow Africa Partnership. Likewise, the NBF, through its partnership with USAID, has embarked on a partnership platform known as the Southern African Agricultural Development Partnership Platform (SAADPP). This platform supports the objectives of CAADP, and further aims to leverage private sector-led policy research, dialogue and advocacy structure that will practically explore and advocate for alternative policy and non-policy solutions to removing agricultural investment and trade constraints for the private sector in Southern Africa. The NBF will host the next SAADPP workshop on 7 August 2012 at Emperor's Palace close to Oliver Tambo Airport. Individuals, development partners and private sector players can contact the NBF if they are interested in attending this event by contacting the NBF Agricultural Programme Manager, Mr Henri Minnaar at: [henri.minnaar@thenbf.co.za](mailto:henri.minnaar@thenbf.co.za)

Going forward, the NBF is eager to continue to work with its partners and to develop new partnerships to achieve sustainable economic development in the agricultural sector, as articulated in the *New Alliance*.

*The NEPAD Business Foundation (NBF) is a non-profit company promoting sustainable economic development in Africa through the private sector. The NBF is a "Chamber of Business for Development", connecting the public and private sectors and development agencies, and implementing innovative and sustainable projects in partnership with each other. In supporting African economic development and growth, NBF's key focus areas mirror the NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency's (NEPAD Agency) development themes of agriculture and food security, climate change and natural resources management, economic and corporate governance, human development and capacity building, and regional integration and infrastructure.*

For further information visit [www.nepadbusinessfoundation.org](http://www.nepadbusinessfoundation.org) or contact Henri Minnaar +27 87 310 1888, [Henri.Minnaar@thenbf.co.za](mailto:Henri.Minnaar@thenbf.co.za)