



Department
for International
Development



The Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP
Minister of State

Caroline Lucas MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

20 October 2015

Dear Caroline,

Thank you for your letter of 12 August to Justine Greening (ref: ML.C0049.LM.12.08.15), writing on behalf of your constituents about the Global Justice Now campaign regarding the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition and DFID's support to agroecology. I am replying as the Minister with responsibility for this issue.

DFID has provided several replies to Global Justice Now campaigns that provide updates on the most recent developments. These can be found on our website at www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-development/about/petitions-and-campaigns.

I would like to answer some of your constituents concerns more specifically. Regarding governance, the leadership council of the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition is co-chaired by the African Union and the World Economic Forum. It is an informal platform to align and support of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). All stakeholders, including small farmers, are represented and the African Union has committed to further involve civil society and farmers' voices. The latest co-conveners statement can be found online at <https://new-alliance.org/resource/joint-statement-co-conveners-leadership-council-june-2015>.

As a consequence of this African ownership of the New Alliance, annual reports are prepared and endorsed by African governments, and published on their website. As you know, DFID and other donors work with government partners towards policy reform that underpins sustainable economic development and poverty reduction.

The UK does not provide support to businesses in the name of their New Alliance commitments. The £600million pledged to the New Alliance are to support the projects of six original New Alliance partner countries aimed at improving agricultural incomes, food security and nutrition of the extreme poor, including through agroecological practices. DFID does not prescribe technical approaches centrally. The best approaches for interventions are identified in consideration of the specific context of implementation. DFID is supporting a wide range of programmes with agro-ecological components, from soil and water conservation and land use management to climate resilience and conservation agriculture. On the research front, DFID supports the Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security research programme (CCAFS) as well as the Sustainable Agricultural Intensification Research and Learning in Africa (SAIRLA). The Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP) supports farmers to adapt agricultural systems to be climate resilient. The full range of our programmes can be found on our development tracker website at <http://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/>.

It is also important to point out that the purpose of the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition is to promote inclusive and responsible investment. A new due diligence framework for private sector companies investing under the banner of the New Alliance has now been released. It should help assess risks and promote responsible investment that delivers shared value. It was developed by the African Union Land Policy Initiative, international donors and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations. The New Alliance Leadership Council approved it, and it is now being piloted, with lessons to be assessed in 2016. DFID is following this process closely.

Increased investment in agriculture is essential to reducing poverty and to ensure that all people have access to high quality and affordable food and that poor farmers improve their incomes from their agricultural production. We will continue to provide significant public investment in agriculture to link smallholder farmers to markets and support sustainably increased incomes, better capacity to adapt and respond to climate change, shocks and crisis. That will require significant responsible investment by African and global agribusinesses. I firmly believe that initiatives such as the New Alliance can make an important contribution to this objective.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Grant Shapps', with a large loop at the start and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

GRANT SHAPPS