

**Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and Farmers
Organizations (FO) Roundtable on Promoting
Access to Regional and International Markets for
Africa's Agricultural Commodities**

July 20, 2010

**Ouaga 2000 International Convention Center
Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso**

Key messages and recommendations

- 1.** CSOs and FOs should establish private funds and micro finance institutions that will cater to the need of smallholder farmers;
- 2.** Building institutional capacity and the voices of the ultimate beneficiaries (CSOs and FOs) for advocacy is essential and understanding of the political context to ride on is important;
- 3.** Enhanced agricultural value addition and market access depend on willingness of government to partner with the private sector and civil society organizations in agricultural production and trade promotion initiatives. Government, private sector, FOs and CSOs should work towards this;
- 4.** Governments should put in place favorable ICT policies that will bring down ICT tariffs to make market information services available to smallholder farmers at affordable prices.