



Department of Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources

ECOWAP/CAADP Process 2025

Consultative Committee for Agriculture and Food FINAL REPORT

Abuja – 9 and 10 December 2016

With the technical facilitation of:



In partnership with:



ECOWAP Donors Group

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1. Introduction

The Consultative Committee on Agriculture and Food at the initiative of the ECOWAS Commission met on the 9th and 10 December 2016 in Abuja, the capital of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. This meeting is organised as a follow-up to a long process culminating in the drafting of the second generation Regional Agricultural Investment Plan (RAIP).

The following institutions attended the meeting:

- The 15 ECOWAS Member States;
- ECOWAS Commission;
- Stakeholder groups namely the Farmers' Organisations (ROPPA, APRESS, RBM, CORET), Private Sector (FEWACCI, RECAO, ROAC, COFENABVI), Gender Network (AFAO/WAWA, WILDAF), civil society organisations (ENDA-CACID, OXFAM), regional youth organisations;
- Technical support institutions namely the CILSS S (including CT/AGIR), FAO, CORAF/WECARD, IFPRI, IFDC, AFRICARICE, SWAC-OECD, African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AFRI.YOCC), Hub Rural; AfricaLEAD; Rural Development Networks;
- Technical and financial partners of the ECOWAP Donor's Group;
- Other coalition of non-state actors;
- Resource persons.

The list of participants and the agenda are attached to this summary of conclusions.

The meeting was targeted at four goals:

- Amend and approve the ECOWAP/CAADP 2025 Strategic Orientation Framework;
- Amend and approve the second generation PRIASAN of ECOWAP/CAADP;
- Inform the CCAF stakeholders on the status of progress relative to the process leading to the second generation PNIASAN;
- Inform the CCAF stakeholders on (i) the proposed set of indicators to monitor and evaluate ECOWAP 2025, (ii) gender mainstreaming into the first generation PNIA and the recommendations of the second generation PNIA, (iii) the support tools and instruments put at the disposal of IFPRI and FAO.

The opening ceremony witnessed the presentation of three speeches. On behalf of the Non-State Actors, Chairperson Djibo Bagna expressed satisfaction about the quality of the multi-stakeholder process that led to the drafting of the strategic orientation framework and the PRIASAN. He expressed the wish that this approach will be mainstreamed into the preparation of the PNIASAN in each Member State. Though he saluted the efforts made towards integrating the concerns of the actors, he expressed the wish the challenges of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors would be better taken into consideration in the regional strategy. He recalled the support of the non-state actors in terms of the goals of modernising the agroforestry, agro-pastoral and fisheries sector but insisted on the fact that this modernisation is anchored on the vision, values, principles and know-how of family farms. Still speaking about the vision of agricultural development, he insisted on the ascribe value to the potential in agro-ecology both economically and its capacity to generate elements for climate change adaptation.

In addition, he expressed the wish that PRIASAN should help towards making significant progress for policy coherence and the management of intersectoral issues. Finally, he urged ECOWAS to strengthen its political commitment and to spell out its financial commitments within the context of the Malabo Declaration. Finally, he called on all technical and financial partners to align themselves to the region's strategy and improve the coordination of their interventions.

On behalf of the Commissioner for Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources of the ECOWAS Commission, the Director of Environment, Dr Johnson Boanuh, welcomed all the participants to the meeting. He placed the Consultative Committee for Agriculture and Food meeting within the context of the countries of the region's commitments at both the continental and international levels. He also highlighted the major changes that have marked the 2025 strategic orientations in particular the challenges relating to the promotion of value chains, mainstreaming of nutrition and gender, financing issues, etc. He thanked the various categories of stakeholders who worked actively to produce the issues documents and urged the participants to further enrich these documents at this last stage before their adoption by the MMC-AEWR.

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Planning and Development of Liberia, Mr Charles McCain, welcomes all the participants on behalf of the current Chairperson of ECOWAS. He refocused the CCAT process within its central vision: "Africa Feeds Africa" and urged the participants not to lose sight of this vision. He pointed out that the region cannot base its food security on imports whilst it has a considerable agricultural potential. He expressed satisfaction for the quality of the documents that are being considered by the participants and recalled the central objective of the meeting, that is, the amendment and adoption of Strategic Orientation Framework and PRIASAN 2016-2020 in view of submitting them for the approval of the Ministers of Agriculture on 12 December.

2 Conduct of Proceedings

The meeting appointed a bureau made up of:

- Chair: Liberia;
- Vice Chair: Non-State Actors (ROPPA);
- Rapporteurs: Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Non-State Actors (Gender Network);

The Executive Director of Hub Rural moderated the meeting.

The highlights of the meeting were structured around five major sessions:

- Presentation and consideration of the 2025 Strategic Orientations and PRIASAN 2016-2020 as well as the M&E framework;
- Review of the status of progress of the PNIASAN process in each ECOWAS Member State;
- Review of the status of the mainstreaming of gender into the first generation NAIPs: recommendations for the second generation PNIASANS;
- Review of technical support instruments and tools of IFPRI and FAO;
- Review of the information points by ECOWAS.

Several presentations were delivered followed by discussions at the plenary.

3 Major Discussion Points and Recommendations

3.1 First Session: Consideration of the Strategic Orientation Framework, PRIASAN and the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

3.1.1. Consideration of the Strategic Orientation Framework

The first session began with the ECOWAS presentation focusing on the ECOWAP 2025 momentum with two major benchmarks:

- Organisation of the International ECOWAP Conference +10 and 2025 Prospects (Dakar, November 2015) with two highlights: (i) assessment of multi-stakeholder performance in agriculture and 10 years of implementing ECOWAP and 1st generation RAIP; and (ii) analysis of the 2025 prospects, including the analysis of the context, definition of the new challenges and issues, formulation of the orientations, identification of the adjustment needs of ECOWAP and RAIP, and finally the revision of the Compact.
- The MMC-AEWR meeting (Dakar, November 2015) at which the Ministers:
 - Reaffirmed (i) the region's capacity to ensure its own food sovereignty; (ii) the hunger and malnutrition eradication goal by 2025; (iii) the region's ambition of becoming a net exporter of agricultural products;
 - Validated the major orientations proposed namely "foster faster and more sustainable transformation in the agricultural and agribusiness systems";
 - Define a set of thematic priorities, in particular (i) better mainstream gender, nutrition, the climate change adaptation challenges, resilience and risk management, (ii) mainstream the issue of youth employment and their entry into the workforce, (iii) promote a set of regional initiatives (the rice offensive, milk offensive, promotion of women and youths), and finally (iv) put emphasis on the promotion of value chains.
 - Decide the launching of the process for the actualisation of NAIPs and RAIPs.

With the support of the Technical and Monitoring Group and Hub Rural, the ECOWAS Commission prepared two documents that were submitted to the CCAF:

- The 2025 Strategic Orientation Framework
- PRIASAN 2016-2020.

The presentation of the Strategic Orientation Framework focused on (i) recalling the background and assessment features of ECOWAP + 10; (ii) the major challenges and priority interventions of ECOWAP 2025; (iii) the vision; (iv) the general and specific objectives; (v) the intervention rationale; (vi) the budget framework and finally, (vii) the institutional mechanism and the implementation of the Strategic Orientation Framework (SOF).

Following this presentation, all the participants applauded the quality of the document and its relevance.

The discussions focused mainly on the following points:

- Systematically use the term “agroforestry, agro-pastoral and fisheries sector” instead of other terminologies;
- Necessity of spelling out the underlying vision of the notion of modernisation of family agriculture (inclusiveness, sustainability) and the place of other approaches hinged on the growth clusters, agricultural hubs, etc.;
- The importance of mainstreaming gender into the various strategic pillars;
- Insufficient consideration of land security issues;
- Insufficient consideration of food safety issues;
- The need to harmonise national policies in the area of input subventions;
- The challenges of policy coherence and intersectoral issues;
- The need to better distinguish the interventions that are under the national level and those at the regional level;
- At the level of budget preparation, the need to distinguish between the financial allocations for regional programmes targeted at national programmes and the real amounts earmarked for regional interventions;
- The need to spell out the financial contribution of ECOWAS and those of regional banks.

Subject to the ultimate rereading helping to improve the document on the basis of contributions and amendments by participants, the Strategic Orientations Framework is validated and submitted to the MMC for adoption.

3.1.2. Consideration of PRIASAN

The presentation of the PRIASAN 2016-2020 document was structured around the following points: (i) the general and specific objectives of PRIASAN 2016-2020; (ii) the three major mandates at the regional level; (iii) the levers of implementation; (iv) the results framework; (v) the comprehensive intervention rationale that spells out the results and detailed programmes of each specific objective; and finally (vi) the budget framework.

It is noteworthy that in view of the degree of details required, only a general overview of the major actions under each activity was presented to the participants. Meanwhile, this detail is available in the original document.

Following this presentation, the richness, quality and coherence of the document prepared under the aegis of the Technical Monitoring Group were acknowledged unanimously.

The discussion focused mainly on the following concerns:

- The length of the document with the possibility of inserting tables in the annexes;
- The importance of integrating the issue of access to land, notably for the youths, women and investors in the section on “Challenges and Issues”;
- The need to make evidently clear the strategy of adding value to local products;
- The need to balance the activities according to the agroforestry, agro-pastoral and fisheries sub-sectors (in particular the promotion of aquaculture; protection of endangered agroforestry species, etc.);
- In the area of value chain promotion, integrate the establishment of a regional agricultural commodities stock exchange;

- The importance of brainstorming on the most pertinent modalities aimed at removing harassments at border points notably with regards to the livestock on hoof trade;
- The need to mainstream the promotion of slaughter house infrastructure and meat storage as well as the development of meat trade standards in the sub region;
- The need to take into consideration the multidimensional dimension of nutrition and by extension the modalities for its nexus and coordination with other sectoral departments;
- The need for better inclusion of research issues and the dissemination of outcomes;
- In the area of private investments, there is the need to put emphasis on domestic private investments in order to better seize the opportunities;
- The need to properly distinguish between the interventions that are at the national level from those at the regional level, thereby ensuring the establishment of a nexus between PNIASAN and PRIASAN during the period of their preparation;
- The urgent need to put in place an Inter-departmental Committee on Agriculture and Food so as to contribute to the governance of intersectoral issues;
- The importance of spelling out the internal and external resource mobilisation strategy in addition to rapidly deciding on the issue of the ECOWADF regional fund.

Subject to the general rereading of the document and taking cognisance of the participants' contributions and amendments, the PRIASAN document was approved for submission to the MMC-AEWR for validation.

In view of the length of the document, the CCAF decided to submit an abridged version of the SOF 2025 and PRIASAN 2016-2020 to the MMC-AEWR.

3.1.3. Consideration of the monitoring and evaluation framework

The ECOWAS Commission presented the progress report on the status of the Working Group relating to the ECOWAP/CAADP monitoring and evaluation. After recalling the origin and foundation of this mechanism, it noted the importance of monitoring and evaluation as a veritable tool for performance measurement in the agroforestry, agro-pastoral and fisheries sector, policy impact, and the programmes and projects implemented.

The process of implementation recorded significant progress: (i) effectiveness of the mechanism, (ii) strong involvement of regional actors, (iii) setting up of a network of M&E experts, (iv) creation of a performance measurement framework within ECOWAP, (v) formulation of performance measurement indicators, (vi) preparation of a monitoring and evaluation manual, (vii) adoption of the principle for the preparation of a set of accountability documents (annual reports, status of agriculture and food). Moreover, the paper hinted on the inherent difficulties for the operationalisation of the mechanism (low capacity of actors and institutions to provide data for indicators, inadequate funding, etc.). The presenter concluded on the need for strengthening the capacity of the actors, finalise the indicators and alignment of the CAADP outcomes adopted by the region with those of the PRIASAN.

Following this presentation, the participant applauded the progress made and urged the group to finalise the mechanism, the selection of indicators, the definition of baselines, etc.

and finally strengthen the capacity of stakeholders in the effective implementation of this mechanism.

3.2. Second Session: Status of Progress of the PNIASAN Process

The second session enabled the CCAT to obtain information of the status of progress of the NAIP process in each country. All the countries presented the stages for the implementation of the road map, adopted in Abidjan in May 2016.

The table below highlights the stages and progress achieved by each country and the prospects of finalising the national process.

In general, all the countries are committed to the formulation of the 2nd generation PNIASAN and majority of them have the capacity to carry out the national validation prior June ending 2017.

Level of Progress	Benin	Burkina Faso	Cape Verde	Côte d'Ivoire	The Gambia	Ghana	Guinea	Guinea Bissau	Liberia	Mali	Niger	Nigeria	Senegal	Sierra Leone	Togo
Procedure for mobilisation of stakeholders	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Establishment of the mechanism for steering and supervision	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Ongoing	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Organisation of the national strategic orientation workshop	Yes	Yes	Ongoing	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Ongoing	Ongoing	Yes	Yes	Yes	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing
Strategic framework of NAIP	Yes	Ongoing		Ongoing	Yes	Ongoing	Yes			Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes
Operational Planning of NAIP	Yes				Yes		Yes			Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes
Operational budgeting plan for NAIP	Yes				Ongoing		Ongoing			Yes	Yes	Yes			Ongoing
Validation of Stage 6 of NAIP	Ongoing									Yes	Yes				
Definition of NAIP communication plan															

3.3. Third Session: Status of progress of mainstreaming the gender approach into first generation NAIP

The issue of mainstreaming gender into all the Agricultural Investment Plans under ECOWAP was discussed by the CCAF around two presentations delivered by ECOWAS and FAO respectively. After situating the position and role of women in the agroforestry, agro-pastoral and fisheries sector in food and nutrition, the ECOWAS presentation focused on the technical cooperation between ECOWAS and FAO that offers a set of instruments for better mainstreaming of gender in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of second generation PNIASAN and PRIASAN. They are notably, the diagnostic tools for the inclusion of gender in the issues (food security, nutrition, etc.), policies (ECOWAP) and programmes (PRIASAN, PNIASAN).

The FAO presentation highlighted the provisional results of the gender study in the agroforestry, agro-pastoral and fisheries sector. This study was conducted with reference to the “Zero Hunger Initiative”, “the food and nutrition systems,” the implications of climate change, resilience and PRIASAN. In all these areas, the presentation pointed to the deficit observed in terms of gender mainstreaming and opened up the modalities for correcting this deficit.

Observing that the countries have started to domesticate the gender dimension into all the NAIP processes, the CCAF applauded the progress made in terms of gender inclusion in the first generation NAIP with (i) existence of a gender network entirely involved in the formulation of PNIASAN and PRIASAN, (ii) contribution of gender experts seconded by regional institutions (ECOWAS, FAO, WECARD, etc.) so as to assist the operationalisation of the gender approach in the ECOWAP/CAADP process, (iii) the availability of the ECOWAS/FAO study.

The participants noted the need for ascribing value to the ECOWAS/FAO study, the diagnostic documents that exist in the country, and ensure the inclusion of gender equality in planning, budgeting and monitoring and evaluation.

3.4. Fourth Session: Review of the technical support instruments and tools of IFPRI and FAO

The IFPRI put emphasis on the supporting instrument that it proposed to the country. They are the agricultural potential analysis model for a better definition of the development option. This model is hinged on the response to the three major questions:

- **Where do the countries want to go?** This question is aimed at ensuring that there is consistency between the government’s development options and the commitments made at the regional and continental levels.
- **Where are the countries currently?** This question seeks to evaluate the initial situation, the performance of the agroforestry, agro-pastoral and fisheries sectors and the analysis of the production systems that contributed to recording these performance levels.
- **Do the countries have the necessary capacity to address these issues?**

In the final analysis, the model contributed to the targeting of activities and sectors, value chains and production clusters for growth acceleration and transformation of the agricultural

sector. This support is based on an IFPRI-trained network of experts that have a mastery of modelling tools developed by IFPRI.

In its presentation, the FAO emphasised its background in the agricultural sector, (i) policy advice to attain the goals, (ii) production of statistical data, (iii) management of project cycles, (iv) technical support for sectoral development, (v) inclusion of cross-cutting dimensions (nutrition, gender, climate change, right to food), (vi) stakeholder and institutional capacity building. The FAO could provide expertise to the countries that request for it in each of the areas. The FAO draws the countries' attention to the need to ensure greater coherence of interventions with the various partners.

3.5. Fifth Session: Review of information points by the ECOWAS Commission

The ECOWAS Commission informed the CCAT of the status of implementation of the Community food storage and especially the Regional Food Security Reserve. It recalled the decision of the Heads of State to create a Reserve through a Supplementary Protocol of the ECOWAS Revised Treaty. Though the ECOWAS Commission budgeted funds, the regional crises did not permit the mobilisation of expected funding.

Conversely, the European support project to the Reserve with a budget of 56 million euros helped to achieve concrete implementation and in particular the creation of a Technical Unit at ARAA and purchase a first consignment of 31500 tonnes. The Commission drew attention to the set of decisions that should be taken by the Ministerial Monitoring Committee and in particular: (i) the setting up of the Management Committee, (ii) the signing of memoranda between the Commission and Member States, and finally the institutional reform of ARAA so as to integrate the Technical Management Unit of the Reserve.

In addition, the Commission informed the participants on the status of progress made relative to several important initiatives or programmes; (i) the rice offensive, with the ongoing preparation of a financing roundtable in collaboration with the ADB and the Government of Côte d'Ivoire (ii) pastoralism, transhumance and investment in the coastal countries with the design of two Regional Support Programmes for Dialogue and Investment for Pastoralism Development in the Coastal and Sahel Countries (PREDIP, PRIDEC), (iii) implementation of the AIC Agenda adopted in Bamako with the mobilisation of several financing opportunities on adaptation of agricultural systems, the agro-ecological transition and ownership of the 4 for 1000 Initiative within the framework of COP 22.

Finally, the Commission reported on the revitalisation of the Africa-Israel Cooperation and the organisation of the 1st ECOWAS Ministerial Conference and State of Israel (an institutionalised conference) and a set of technical and economic cooperation prospects, notably with the West African Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Following these presentations, the participants provided inputs on the ongoing programmes notably the Herdsmen Education Programme (PREPP) implemented by APSS, the pilot project on animal feed reserve implemented RBM. ROPPA informed the meeting about the proposed international conference that it would organise in 2017 on financing issues in collaboration with the Government of Niger, ADB and the ECOWAS Commission. Finally, the participants questioned the Commission on the prospects of the new cooperation relationships with several partners and expressed the hope that the various stakeholders will be involved in these initiatives.

4 Recommendations

Following the proceedings, the Consultative Committee on Agriculture and Food:

Hereby recommends to the Specialised Ministerial Committee on Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources:

- a. The adoption of the 2025 Strategic Orientation Framework;
- b. The adoption of the Second Generation PRIASAN 2016-2020;
- c. The adoption of the monitoring and evaluation framework (mechanism, output measurement, indicators grid, indicator measurement manual);
- d. The call for accelerating the process of formulating PNIASAN, respect of the June 2017 deadline, and ensuring adequate watch on the very good nexus and coherence between PNIASAN and PRIASAN;

It recommended to the ECOWAS Commission:

- a. To embark on the wide dissemination and communication of these two benchmark documents in addition to the abridged versions of the SOF and PRIASAN in the direction of the countries, stakeholders, technical and financial partners, media;
- b. To prepare an official submission of these two documents by the President of the ECOWAS Commission to the current Chairperson of the Authority of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government;
- c. To embark on a high level mission to present SOF and PRIASAN to the authorities and stakeholders in each Member State before April ending 2017, and foster commitment with the highest authorities in favour of PNIASAN and put in place efficient governance mechanisms;
- d. To immediately get committed to the implementation of the PRIASAN components.

It recommended to the Non-State Actors:

- a. To get actively involved in the design of PNIASAN.

Participants List

#	Surname / Family Name	First Name / Other Names	Gender (M/F)	Full Name of Organization / Institution	Office Location (Country)	Email and Phone Number
1	Akadiri	Aminou	M	FEWACCI		+234 703 513 0060 akambj@yahoo.fr info@fewacci.com
2	Aboudou	Faridath Atchabi	F	Laboratoire d'Analyse Regionale et D'Expertise Sociale (LARES)	Benin	+229 213 052 40 / +229 958 617 70 faridath.aboudou@yahoo.fr
3	Edah	Justin	M	MAEP	Benin	+229 944 909 50 justinedah79@gmail.com
4	Pedro	Ernest Comlan	M	PASCOB	Benin	+229 976 046 64 lpnesco@yahoo.fr
5	Raimi	Faousiath	F	Cosinus Conseil	Benin	+229 615 645 51 faousriath.raimi@gmail.com
6	Sohinto	David	M	Cosinus Conseil	Benin	+229 974 417 41 sohinto@yahoo.fr
7	Abdou Karim	Keita	M	CILSS	Burkina Faso	+226 710 000 16 / +226 662 07 1 71 abdou.keita@cilss.bf
8	Aliou	Ibrahima	M	APESS (Association pour la promotion de l'elevage au Sahel et en Savanne)	Burkina Faso	+226 660 790 53 Ibrahimaaliou.apeess@gmail.com
9	Bikienga	Issa Martin	M	CILSS	Burkina Faso	+226 702 607 58 issa-bikienga@yahoo.fr
10	Jalo	Buba	M	APESS / OXFAM	Burkina Faso	070 303 619 89 drjalobubasunkani@gmail.com
11	Kabore	Seyolou Raphael	M	CILSS	Burkina Faso	+226 702 907 01 seyolou.kabore@cilss.int
12	Maiga	Moussa	M	Ministry of Agric	Burkina Faso	+226 701 750 69 / +226 788 551 26 maigamusa@yahoo.fr
13	Ouedraogo	Ousseini	M	ROPPA	Burkina Faso	+226 253 608 25 / +226 701 639 39 coouedrago@yahoo.fr
14	Sanou	Soumaila	M	ROAC (Reseau Ouest Africain des cerealiers); West african	Burkina Faso	+226 703 340 94 cicb@fasonet.bf /

#	Surname / Family Name	First Name / Other Names	Gender (M/F)	Full Name of Organization / Institution	Office Location (Country)	Email and Phone Number
				Grain network		sanou_toggo@yahoo.fr
15	Sanou	Souleymane	M	CILSS	Burkina Faso	+226 702 379 30 souleymane.sanou@cilss.bf
16	Sawadogo	Timbila Thomas	M	Confederation des Federations Nationales de la Filiere Betail Viande de L'Afrique de l'Quest (COFENABVI - AO)	Burkina Faso	+226 253 753 02 / +226 702 052 37 cofenabvi_ao@yahoo.fr/ ltimbila.sawadogosaw@yahoo.fr fasonet.bf
17	Teyssier	Joel	M	Inter-reseaux	Burkina Faso	+226 754 507 68 / +226 253 615 57 joel.teyssier@inter-reseaux.org
18	Goncalvessario	Clarimundofonmido	M	Ministry of Agric	Cape Verde	+238 993 7913 dacirumbo.gonsarioclarimundo.goncalves@maa.gov.cr
19	Monteikiro	Elida	F	Ministry of Agric	Cape Verde	+238 928 4717 elida.bmonteikiro@mail.gov.cr
20	Kouakou	Apporture	M	Ministry of Agric	Cote D'Ivoire	+225 202 146 15 +225 084 877 87 kouakouapporture@yahoo.fr
21	Kouassi	Adjoua Jeannine	F	Ministry of Agric and Rural Development	Cote d'Ivoire	+225 076 351 68 jeannine.kouassi@yahoo.fr
22	Soro	Kouhonan	M	MINADER	Cote d'Ivoire	+225 073 131 1133 827 79 / +225 202 158 63 skouhonan@yahoo.fr
23	Demievezde Miguel	Imma	F	OXFAM	Cotonou	+229 213 030 3795 97 idemiguel@oxfamintermon.org
24	Blein	Roger	M	Bureau Issala	France	+336 305 025 94 roger.blein@bureau-issala.com
25	Zoundi	Sibiri Jean	M	SWAC Secretariat / OECD	France	+33 145 241 982 sibirijean.zoundi@oecd.org
26	Buba	Khan	M	CNC	Gambia	+220 991 3099 buba.khan@eutronaid.org
27	Ibrahim	Ceesay	M	CAADP Youth Net	Gambia	+233 261 135 353 ceesaydigital@gmail.com
28	Jabang	Momodou Mbye	M	Ministry of Agric	Gambia	+220 996 6007 / +220 795 5649 jabang@hotmail.com

#	Surname / Family Name	First Name / Other Names	Gender (M/F)	Full Name of Organization / Institution	Office Location (Country)	Email and Phone Number
29	Touray	Abdoulie M.	M	Ministry of Agriculture - Gambia	Gambia	+220 743 1591 / +220 996 8841 laye20002001@yahoo.com
30	Dicko	Adrahamane	M	USAID/WA	Ghana	+233 554 449 746 abdicko@usaid.gov
31	Modzakah	David A. S.	M	Ministry of Food and Agric (MoFA)	Ghana	+233 244 785 942 ssepenou@yahoo.com
32	Ndiaye	Tacko	F	FAO	Ghana	+233 544 745 436 tacko.nidaye@fao.org
33	Oliveira	Jorge	M	USAID / WA	Ghana	+233 244 313 479 / +233 302 741 379 joliveira@usaid.gov
34	Quagraine	Josephine Ivy	F	Ministry of Agric	Ghana	+233 243 068 617 / +233 267 023 423 Ji_qu@yahoo.com
35	Taoko	Adama	M	FAO Regional Office	Ghana	+233 265 083 422 Adama.taoko@fao.org
36	Atigou	Balde	M	Ministry of Agric	Guinea	621 358 251 batigou@yahoo.fr
37	Diallo	Saliou Cherif	M	Ministry of Agric	Guinea	+224 622 367 211 / +224 660 566 138 scherifdiallo@yahoo.fr/ D.salioucherif@yahoo.ca
38	Pereira	Nicacio Jose	M	Ministry of Agric and Rural Development	Guinea - Bissau	+245 598 6593 nicaciopereira@hotmail.com
39	Conte	N'famara	M	Ministry of Agric	Guinee	+224 664 387 838 / +224 655 494 900 contentfam52@yahoo.fr
40	Lopes	Ildo Afonso	M	MADR	Guinee Bissau	+245 966 852 664 / +245 955 166 572 ildoafonsolopes@yahoo.fr
41	McClain	Charles N.	M	Ministry of Agric	Liberia	+231 886 874 343 / +231 770 146 045 worjolah@moa.gov.lr / worjolah@gmail.com
42	Wiagbe	Dennis J.	M	Ministry of Agric	Liberia	+231 886 549 875 /

#	Surname / Family Name	First Name / Other Names	Gender (M/F)	Full Name of Organization / Institution	Office Location (Country)	Email and Phone Number
						+231 777 549 875 dwiagbe@moa.gov.lr / jdmne12@gmail.com
43	Worzie	Patrick T.	M	Ministry of Agric	Liberia	+231 886 848 493 patrickworzie@gmail.com
44	Dembele	Kassim	M	RECEAO	Mali	+223 667 311 62 recao@gmail.com / kdembele@yahoo.fr
45	Diarra	Daouda	M	Ministry of Agric	Mali	+223 668 218 18 / +223 202 201 94 daoudadiarradr@yahoo.fr
46	Diassana	Dabele	M	CPS / SDR	Mali	+223 760 214 95 jeandabele@yahoo.fr
47	Keita	Seyclou	M	Ministry of Agric	Mali	+223 667 946 17 / +223 776 516 86 mannsik@yahoo.fr
48	Tiecouza	Coulibaly	M	CPS / SDR	Mali	+223 763 087 87 cekurza87@yahoo.fr
49	Bagna	Djibo	M	ROPPA	Niger	+227 960 195 49 / +226 253 608 25 bagna_djibo@yahoo.fr
50	Boubaca	Altine	M	APESS	Niger	+227 965 218 40 altineboubaca@yahoo.com
51	Danguioua	Adanou	M	Haut Commisneriat a l'Intiative 3N (HC3N)	Niger	+227 968 113 27 adamou_dang@yahoo.fr
52	Elh Ousmane	Arimi Mamadou	M	HC3N	Niger	+227 968 882 09 / +227 207 239 39 arimi.mamadou@gmail.com
53	Seyni	Ramatou	F	ROPPA	Niger	+227 965 864 11 ramatouao@gmail.com
54	Soumare	Boubacar	M	Advocacy Officere Rereau Billital Maroobe (RBM)	Niger	+227 946 427 51 s.boube@yahoo.fr
55	Adetoun	Bolanle	F	ECOWAS	Nigeria	+234 803 623 9081 badetoun@yahoo.com
56	Afan	Mary I.	F	Small Scale Women Farmers Organization in Nigeria	Nigeria	+234 803 649 5955 Maryafan55@yahoo.com

#	Surname / Family Name	First Name / Other Names	Gender (M/F)	Full Name of Organization / Institution	Office Location (Country)	Email and Phone Number
				(SWOFON)		
57	Asonne	Chinasa Earnestina	F	Oxfam / Ogbonge Women Association of Nigeria	Nigeria	+234 803 719 1548 / +234 808 917 1104
58	Aubee	Ernest	M	ECOWAS	Nigeria	+234 806 286 3719 aubee2008@yahoo.com
59	Awere-Gyekye	Kwame	M	WABICC/ECOWAS	Nigeria	+234 902 529 9619 kobiek103@gmail.com
60	Ayinde	Toyin	F	Federation of West Africa Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FEWACCI)	Nigeria	+234 706 094 4182 omoyinde@yahoo.com
61	Bello	Tukur Mohammed	M	Confederation of Traditional Herder Organization (CORET)	Nigeria	+234 803 304 6365 / +234 808 086 1666 mbellotukur@gmail.com
62	Boanuh	Johnson	M	ECOWAS	Nigeria	+234 703 409 7043 j.boanuh@gmail.com / jboanuh@ecowas.int
63	Chikelu	Chinelo	F	Leadership Newspaper	Nigeria	+234 806 795 8680 chikeluchinelo@rocketmail.com
64	Djeri-Alassani	Kouassivi Bougonou	M	ECOWAS	Nigeria	+234 8067 130 159 bdjerialassani@ecowas.int
65	Ejim	Lovelyn Nnenna	F	Pan African Rural Women Assembly	Nigeria	+234 703 952 7992 lovelynejim@gamil.com
66	Guede	Vouzo	M	Embassy of Cote d'Ivoire	Nigeria	+234 705 261 9084 guedevouzoh@yahoo.fr
67	Haas	Pierre	M	ECOWAS	Nigeria	+234 803 416 3090 pierre.haas.ecowas@gmail.com
68	Humbert	Gabrielle	F	ECOWAS / DADR	Nigeria	+234 809 211 3161 gilieu.plmg@sogerom.com
69	Kouame	Raoul	M	ECOWAS	Nigeria	+234 814 690 7393 kokouame@ecowas.int
70	Lawal	Hamzat	M	AYICC	Nigeria	+234 806 869 9956 hamzy@ayicc.net

#	Surname / Family Name	First Name / Other Names	Gender (M/F)	Full Name of Organization / Institution	Office Location (Country)	Email and Phone Number
71	Maillot	Emmanuelle	F	Agence Francais de Developpement	Nigeria	+234 909 324 2671 maillote@afd.fr
72	Moussa	Leki	M	ECOWAS	Nigeria	+234 805 242 4800
73	Nnaemego	Nkiruka	F	African Youth initiative on Climate Change (AYICC)	Nigeria	+234 706 681 7374 / +234 805 364 7180 fbinaija1@gmail.com / fbinaija@yahoo.com
74	Okeke	John	M	Authority Newspapers	Nigeria	+234 803 610 4211 okeke_jc@yahoo.com
75	Onwu	Chioma	F	National Association of Nigerian Traders (NANTS)	Nigeria	+234 806 458 9164 ochioma10@gmail.com
76	Oyotomhe	Oshwriamhe	M	ECOWAS	Nigeria	+234 806 266 5615 frankoyo4jesus@yahoo.com
77	Ponle	Temitope	F	News Agency of Nigeria	Nigeria	+234 813 482 4213 temitopeponle@gmail.com
78	Sagnon	Amadou	M	ECOWAS/IFDC	Nigeria	+234 807 988 3127 asagnon@ifdc.org
79	Seiwoh	Fatmata	F	ECOWAS	Nigeria	+234 814 194 8778 fseiwoh@ecowas.int
80	Sidibe	Aboubacar	M	FAO / ECOWAS	Nigeria	+234 802 505 0509 Aboubacar.sidibe@yahoo.com
81	Sy Traore	Alain	M	ECOWAS	Nigeria	
82	Taye	Agbaje	M	Newswatch	Nigeria	+234 706 353 6757 shotola2005@yahoo.com
83	Yade	Mbaye	M	IITA	Nigeria	+234 806 090 8843
84	Yapdi	Alain	M	Embassy of Cote D'Ivoire	Nigeria	+234 809 483 1582 alainyapdi68@yahoo.com
85	Ba	Alion Samba	M	RBM	Senegal	+221 775 545 385 jombonguel@yahoo.fr
86	Diagana	Bocar N.	M	IFDC	Senegal	+221 775 139 234 bdiagana@ifdc.org

#	Surname / Family Name	First Name / Other Names	Gender (M/F)	Full Name of Organization / Institution	Office Location (Country)	Email and Phone Number
87	Dieye	Cheikh Tidiane	M	African Centre for Trade, Integration and Development (ENDA - CACID)	Senegal	+221 775 372 549 / +221 338 217 037 cdieye@endacid.org
88	Fofana	Ismael	M	IFPRI	Senegal	+221 338 699 800 i.fofana@cgiar.org
89	Khady	Fall Tall	F	AFAO - WAWA	Senegal	+221 864 6491 / +221 776 399 460 afaowawa@afaowawa.org
90	Mbaye	Papa Alassane	M	Hub Rural	Senegal	+221 338 699 640 alassane@hubrural.org
91	Mbodj	Yamar	M	Hub Rural	Senegal	
92	Rogers	Sheik A. T.	M	CORAF / WECARD	Senegal	+221 338 699 618 / +221 781 199 852 sat.rogers@coraf.org
93	Seck	Alassane	M	Ministry of Agric - DAPSA	Senegal	+221 775 782 517 / +221 338 646 469 alassaneseck2000@yahoo.fr
94	Seye	Abdoulaye	M	Hub Rural	Senegal	+221 338 699 643 abdoulayesalinlaye@hubrural.org
95	Sonko	Gnambi	M	Africa Lead	Senegal	+221 775 421 966 sgnambi@yahoo.fr
96	Soule	Bio Goura	M	Hub Rural	Senegal	+221 774 627 095 / +221 338 699 640 souleb@hubrural / soule_goura@yahoo.fr
97	Koroma	Joseph	M	Ministry of Agric	Sierra Leone	+232 766 601 91 jopaygie@yahoo.com
98	Bilgo	Ablasse	M	ECOWAS - ARAA	Togo	+228 927 347 11 ablassebilgo@yahoo.fr
99	Djele	Dahouda	M	Ministry of Agric, Livestock and Fisheries	Togo	+228 223 120 09 / +228 903 055 93 ddjele@yahoo.fr
100	Gnassingbe	Sandou Assimarou	M	ROPFA	Togo	+228 266 143 84 / +228 901 631 71

#	Surname / Family Name	First Name / Other Names	Gender (M/F)	Full Name of Organization / Institution	Office Location (Country)	Email and Phone Number
						fenomat_togo@yahoo.fr / assimarou@yahoo.fr
101	Goumbane	Minadofini Todlman	M	Ministry of Agriculture - Togo	Togo	+228 900 604 27 +228 222 098 05 maepsgdsp_togo@yahoo.fr
102	Guissou	Sibaogo Richard	M	Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food (RAAF)	Togo	+228 909 199 41 richardguissou@yahoo.fr
103	Kenao	Lao	M	Ministry of Agric	Togo	+228 906 156 57 kenaolao@yahoo.fr
104	Konate	Amadou Mactar	M	ECOWAS	Togo	+228 989 878 18 konetemachar@gmail.com
105	Ousseini	Salifou	M	Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food (RAAF)	Togo	+228 932 672 89 / +228 982 826 32 osalifou@ecowas.int / osboube@yahoo.fr
106	Sant-Anna Attoh	Rizalatou	F	WILDAF West Africa	Togo	+228 226 126 79 wildaf-ao@yahoo.com
107	Seki	Richemont	M	FAO	Togo	+228 928 673 25 / +228 222 110 56 richemont.seki@fao.org / sekirichemont@hotmail.com
108	Side	Claude Stephane	M	FAO	Togo	+228 225 283 96 / +228 926 435 92 claude.side@fao.org / sidestephane2008@yahoo.fr
109	Zongo	Mohamed	M	RAAF / ECOWAS	Togo	+228 932 672 88 / +228 982 926 25 mzongo@ecowas.int / mzongo@araa.org