



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

With financial, logistical and technical support from



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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, APSS, 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.

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