

**COMMUNIDADE ECONOMICA DOS
ESTADOS DA AFRICA OCIDENTAL**

**ECONOMIC COMMUNITY
OF WEST AFRICAN
STATES**



**COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE
DES ETATS DE L'AFRIQUE DE
L'OUEST DE LA CEDEAO**

**Meeting of the Specialized Technical Ministerial
Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Water
Resources (STMC-AEWR)
Abuja (Nigeria), 12 December 2016**

Final Report

1. The meeting of the Specialized Technical Ministerial Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources (STMC-AEWR) was organized at the invitation of the ECOWAS Commission on 12th December 2016 in Abuja, Nigeria under the chairmanship of the Minister of Agriculture of Liberia.
2. The Honorable Ministers of Agriculture or their representatives of, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Senegal, and Togo attended the meeting.
3. The purpose of the meeting was to assess the report of Experts and the Consultative Committee for Agriculture and Food (CCAF), created by Regulation N°Reg.C/REG.3/08/11 as an advisory body to the ministers meeting concerning the consideration of the following:
 - The Strategic Orientation Framework of the ECOWAP/CAADP by 2025;
 - The Regional Agricultural Investment and Food and Nutritional Security Programme (RAIP-FSN) 2016-2020 of the ECOWAP/CAADP
 - The Status and progress made on the process for the preparation of the second generation on National Agricultural Investment and Food and Nutritional Security Programme (NAIP-FSN) within the Member States;
 - The Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of the ECOWAP/CAADP 2025, the indicators table of ECOWAP 2025, the status of mainstreaming gender into the first generation of the National Agriculture Investment Programme (NAIP) and the support instruments and tools provided by IFPRI and FAO to the member states.
4. The opening ceremony witnessed speeches of the ECOWAS Commissioner for Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources, the representative of the Non-State Actors involved in the implementation of ECOWAP, the Director of the USAID West Africa Regional Bureau, Coordinator of the ECOWAP Donors' Group, and finally the Minister of Agriculture of Liberia who declared the meeting opened.

5. Following the opening ceremony, the Specialized Technical Ministerial Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources (STMC-AEWR) examined the report presented by the meeting of the Experts and the Consultative Committee on Agriculture and Food (CCAF). This report is structured around five points:

- i. The Strategic Orientation Framework of ECOWAP by 2025, the Regional Agricultural Investment and Food and Nutritional Security Programme (RAIP-FSN) 2016-2020 and the ECOWAP 2025 Monitoring and Evaluation framework;
- ii. The status of progress of NAIP-FSN in the Member States;
- iii. The mainstreaming of the gender approach in the NAIPs;
- iv. The review of technical instruments and tools provided to the countries for the preparation of NAIP-FNS, and finally,
- v. The information points of the ECOWAS Commission.

The CCAF report is annexed to this final report of the STMC-AEWR.

6. The STMC-AEWR expressed satisfaction about the quality of the process for the preparation of the Strategic Orientation Framework of the ECOWAP 2025 and RAIP-FSN under the leadership of the meeting of the STMC-AEWR in Dakar in November 2015. With the involvement of all stakeholders and taking into consideration instruments such as orientations on "Zero Hunger Initiative", the "Malabo Declaration", the "Sustainable Development Goals" and the "Paris Agreement on Climate". He also expressed satisfaction that the process has helped to fully mainstream gender inequality, the nutrition issues and climate change adaptation, and finally the issue of the Youth Employment in Agriculture.

7. The STMC-AEWR also expressed satisfaction about the involvement of the African Union and the NEPAD Agency on the NAIP-FSN and RAP-FSN process (Technical Assistance and Financial support).

8. After discussions and deliberation on the ECOWAP 2025 orientations and their operationalization for the next five years, the STMC-AEWR adopted:

- i. The ECOWAP/CAADP 2025 Strategic Orientation Framework (ECOWAP-SOF 2025);**
- ii. The RAIP-FSN 2016-2020 for the ECOWAP 2025 ;**
- iii. The ECOWAP 2025 Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (the mechanism, the result measurement framework, the list of the indicators, the indicators measurement manual).**

9. The STMC-AEWR decided to submit the ECOWAP-SOF 2025, the RAIP-FSN 2016-2020 and the ECOWAP 2025 Monitoring and Evaluation Framework to the ECOWAS Statutory Council of Ministers and recommend their adoption in order to amplify their implementation. It urges the ECOWAS Statutory Council of Ministers to allocate the necessary financial and technical resources for the implementation of these strategic documents.

10. The STMC-AEWR deemed the status of progress for the formulation of NAIP-FSN in the Member States to be in line with its expectations. However, it enjoined the Member States to speed up the process in order to ensure completion with the June 2017 deadline. It insisted on the quality of the consultation of the multi-stakeholder and urged Member States to fully integrate the gender component in the design and implementation of national plans. It urges the national authorities and the ECOWAS Commission to ensure a very good nexus and coherence between NAIP-FSN and RAIP-FSN.

11. The STMC-AEWR urges the Commission to re-affirm its leadership and coordination of all the stakeholders in order to ensure the complete and efficient RAIP-FSN implementation, and ensure the compliance with the region's vision.

12. It calls on all technical and financial partners to align themselves to the SOF and the RAIP-FSN and mobilize the funds with the support of the Commission and the various stakeholders. It urgently urges the latter to include these actions in the framework of action that they have contributed to define and include in the mutual accountability mechanism.
13. The STMC-AEWR particularly insisted on the set of priorities that it discussed. To this end, it strongly reaffirmed that agricultural transformation is possible and that with the exploitation of natural and human resources, Africa can feed itself and contribute to feeding the world.
14. ***In the area of production and productivity***, the STMC-AEWR put the spotlight on the promotion of mechanization as well as the promotion of technical innovations and technologies – particularly in building the capacities of research and agriculture advisory and extension services - enabling the development of resilient production systems that are adapted to climate change.
15. It insisted on the importance of integrated water control throughout the region, the integrated promotion of livestock and pastoralism, acceleration of the implementation of the rice offensive and finally, the initiation of the regional fisheries and aquaculture programme.
16. ***In the area of market and the promotion of value chains***, the STMC-AEWR hinted on the importance of youth and women employment. It calls on the private sector to invest in the processing of food and agricultural products, and the ECOWAS Commission to finalize the regulation of these standards. It calls on the countries to be actively involved in applying the ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme so as to speed up the realization of the regional market, which is crucial for food sovereignty.
17. ***In the area of access to food, nutrition and resilience strengthening***, the STMC-AEWR notes that the countries are committed to integrating the National Resilience Priorities (NRPs) (AGIR Alliance Process) in the NAIP-FSN and urged them to

pursue this approach. **Concerning the Regional Food Security Reserve adopted by the Head of States and Government by additional Act N° AS/2/02/13, the STMC-AEWR expressed satisfaction with its implementation**, thanked the partners that are committed alongside ECOWAS to concretize this regional instrument, and calls on the latter and the Countries to effectively supply their contribution. It recalls the role it can play in procurement contracts when it comes to the transformation of products and recovery of production surplus. It urges on the Commission to submit the regulatory mechanism, which is indispensable for legal security and good governance of RRSA to the Council of Ministers. Finally, it urges the Member States to sign MOUs between ECOWAS and each country, so as to implement the supports expected in terms of the storage strategy.

18. Moreover, the STMC-AEWR urges for drawing lessons on the innovations embarked upon in terms of social protection and food security safety nets and put in place a regional network of national competencies on these issues in order to strengthen the countries' capacities.
19. **Concerning the cross-cutting areas**, the STMC-AEWR urges the Commission to improve the regional agriculture, food and nutrition security governance. Particularly, it urges the commission to put in place the Inter-Departmental for Agriculture and Food for inter-sectoral governance issues, which are mainly within the RAIP-FSN and ensure the coherence of regional policies. The STMC-AEWR calls on ECOWAS to put in place a consultative framework to ensure a better convergence and synergy of action of technical institutions (UEMOA, CILSS, CORAF-WECARD, AfricaRice, Regional bureaus of specialized agencies of the United nations, BOAD, EBID, etc.).
20. The STMC-AEWR insists on a concrete financial contribution from the ECOWAS Commission in the implementation of the RAIPFSN. Conscious of the urgent need to remove obstacles to financing from stakeholders of the agroforestry, agro-pastoral and fisheries sector, the STMC-AEWR strongly supports the introduction of a permanent consultative framework among the ECOWAP stakeholders and the financial sector actors.

21. Likewise, the ECOWAS Commission should put in place a consultative framework with the West Africa Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry to develop sustained dialogue and partnership with the private sector.
22. The STMC-AEWR urges all ECOWAS countries to pass agroforestry, agro-pastoral and fisheries laws in order to have a harmonized and secure regulatory and legal framework for the stakeholders in the agroforestry, agro-pastoral and fishing sectors.
23. The STMC-AEWR urges the ECOWAS Commission to set up a regional experts' network on the entry of young farmers into the workforce, in addition to creating a Regional Facility on these issues.
24. Finally, the STMC-AEWR strongly insists on the implementation of the planned actions in the RAIPFSN, with an effective and immediate functioning of monitoring and evaluation mechanism to measure results and improve the support to decision making. The STMC-AEWR calls on ECOWAS Commission to ensure capacity building in monitoring and evaluation for the relevant stakeholders, including member states.

Done in Abuja, this day 12th December 2016.

For the ECOWAS Specialized Technical Ministerial Committee on Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources

**Dr. Charles Mc CLAIN,
Deputy Minister of Agriculture**

Representing the Honorable Minister of Agriculture of Liberia, Chair of the meeting.

Vote of Thanks

At the completion of the work, the STMC-AEWR would like to express their sincere appreciation and gratitude to His Excellency Muhamadou Buhari, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, to the members of his government and the people of Nigeria, for the warm welcome and fraternity, as well as the services provided that have made this meeting a success.

Done at Abuja, on December 12th, 2016.

The Ministers