

COMISSÃO DA CEDEAO

ECOWAS COMMISSION



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Department of Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources (DAEWR)

**Introductory note to and agendas of the Annual Meeting of the
Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources Specialised
Ministerial Committee**

(Lome, Togo, 23 - 27 September 2013)

- ❖ *23 - 25 September: Experts meeting*
- ❖ *26 September: Launching of initiatives*
- ❖ *27 September: Ministerial meeting*

September 2013

I. Background

1. One of the most significant dynamics the West Africa region has experienced over the last fifteen years is the qualitative and quantitative transformation of its agricultural, pastoral and fisheries sector. This transformation is the result of the sustained attention all stakeholders (policymakers, socio-professional organisations, technical and financial partners) have paid to the sector and the many reforms and strategies they have deployed and, finally, the significant progress recorded in terms of production and food and nutrition security.
2. In order to cope with the special challenges facing the West Africa region in terms of food security and poverty more generally, the development of the agricultural sector emerged very early as an alternative to help address these issues. Convinced of this necessity, the ECOWAS Commission initiated, in 2004, the formulation process of its regional agricultural policy. The process which involved all actors concerned with development issues culminated in the adoption, in January 2005, in Accra, of the Community's regional agricultural policy, the ECOWAP.
3. The ECOWAP is the regional version of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme arising from the commitment made by the Heads of State and Government at their conference in Maputo, in 2003. It reflects the consensus around strategic options for the development of agriculture in West Africa. At the end of the Conference on the financing of agriculture in Abuja, in 2009, the regional actors and technical and financial partners committed themselves to making ECOWAP the reference framework for interventions in the agricultural sector in West Africa.
4. Since then, the ECOWAS Commission has been striving to exercise its leadership by deploying numerous activities contributing to the operationalization of the ECOWAP. The most significant activities include the following :
 - i. Formulation of the first generation of programmes, at both national and regional levels. Thus, at the regional level, the Commission formulated and adopted a Regional Agricultural Investment Programme (RAIP) for which it pledged to help finance up to 16% on its own resources. At the national level, the Commission supported the States to formulate their National Agricultural Investment Programmes (NAIP), in strict compliance with not only national dynamics, but also consensus emerging from consultations amongst the various stakeholders;
 - ii. Establishment of an institutional mechanism that allows to fully play the functions of steering, coordination and consultation (DAEWR, Regional Consultative Committee for Food and Agriculture=CCFA, Inter-Departments Committee for Food and Agriculture=ICFA, for the technical execution (Regional Food and Agriculture Agency=ReFAA) and an innovative funding mechanism allowing chaneling and securing financial resources from multiple sources;
 - iii. To expedite the ECOWAP implementation, the region developed (i) three programmes to operationalize incentive measures or reforms carried by the RAIP (support for agricultural intensification, market regulation and marketing, improved access to food for vulnerable populations). In addition, it adopted three major initiatives on the "Regional Offensive to promote rice production, the Zero Hunger initiative and the Village Water supply Initiative". A number of forerunning specific programmes to improve the environment for agricultural, pastoral and fisheries development have been

- implemented with the financial and technical assistance of regional and international partners;
- iv. These strategies and activities are conducted in harmony with the new initiatives to build the resilience of vulnerable populations to multiple shocks they are frequently exposed to. In accordance with the recommendations of the Commission's statutory institutions, the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources (DAEWR) provides regional leadership over all initiatives to ensure their consistency with regional sectoral policy guidelines.
5. Three years after the actual start of the implementation of the national agricultural investment programmes and ten years after the commitment solemnly made by the Heads of State to allocate 10% of their budget to investments in the sector, the DAEWR proceeded recently, in consultation with the States, with an initial evaluation of the CAADP process in West Africa. It emerged from the workshop the conclusions that:
- i. The NAIPs and RAIP provided forums for dialogue between state and non-state actors on the agricultural policy, permitted TFPs to better align with the priorities defined in the sectoral programmes and private investors to have more opportunities to undertake;
 - ii. Improved planning-budgeting and monitoring-evaluation process, using (i) joint reviews of the agricultural sector, (ii) development of medium-term expenditure frameworks (MTEF) and implementation of instruments such as SAKSS, inter alia;
 - iii. The implementation of NAIPs resulted in the progressive increase in budgetary resources allocated to the sub-sectors of agricultural development, livestock and fisheries, with a renewal of the national political will to respect the Maputo commitment;
 - iv. The implementation of the various programmes resulted in improved productivity of the major crops, as well as their contribution to the agricultural GDP growth and correspondingly to poverty reduction in most countries.
6. The evaluation also highlighted a number of challenges and weaknesses which do not allow for the NAIPs to be, as of now, the reference framework for interventions in the agricultural sector at the State level. They include, amongst others :
- i. The low level of functioning of structures in charge of coordinating the NAIPs in some countries, in conjunction with the lack of human and financial resources, lack of official clarification of mandates and political leadership at the top of the State;
 - ii. Low performance of the monitoring-evaluation system in some countries, a situation that does not guarantee good measurement of performance recorded in the NAIP implementation;
 - iii. Difficulties in mobilizing financial resources necessary to complete the implementation of NAIPs;
 - iv. Development of competing or parallel initiatives or persistence of interventions falling within the project approach;
 - v. Poor visibility, in some countries' NAIPs, of certain emerging issues (nutrition, resilience, climate change etc.) that are sometimes subject to programmes or strategies unrelated to the NAIP.

II. Objective of the Specialised Ministerial Committee meeting

7. The overall objective of the Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources Specialised Ministerial Committee meeting is first to assess the state of implementation of the ECOWAP, and secondly to adopt, validate initiatives and programmes to operationalize policy instruments and launch (i) the Regional Food and Agriculture Agency and the “Hunger Free” Project.
8. More specifically, the aim of the meeting is to :
 - (i) **Assess the state of implementation of the ECOWAP/CAADP process, including,**
 - ✓ The Regional Agricultural Investment Programme;
 - ✓ The National Agricultural Investment Programmes.
 - (ii) **Validate the regional programmes, including,**
 - ✓ The Social safety nets programme;
 - ✓ The regional agricultural intensification and pastoral development programme;
 - ✓ The regional market regulation programme;
 - ✓ The regional village poultry development programme;
 - ✓ The Directive for land policy convergence in West Africa;
 - ✓ The Coordination and Monitoring-evaluation mechanism.
 - (iii) **Inform Ministers on the level of implementation of regional initiatives and projects,**
 - ✓ ECOWAS “Zero Hunger” initiative;
 - ✓ Regional Food Security Reserve;
 - ✓ Regional Village Water Supply Programme;
 - ✓ Rice Offensive;
 - ✓ AGIR Sahel and West Africa;
 - (iv) **Present the state of agricultural, food and nutrition situation in West Africa, including,**
 - ✓ The outcome of the agricultural and pastoral campaign;
 - ✓ Harvest forecasts;
 - ✓ The nutritional status;
 - ✓ And make recommendations for decision making;
 - (v) **Officially launch the ongoing activities, including:**
 - ✓ The “Hunger Free” Project;
 - ✓ The Regional Food and Agriculture Agency.

III. Expected results

9. The expected results are that, at the end of the Committee meeting, the Ministers :
 - (i) **Are aware of the status of implementation of the ECOWAP/CAADP process, including,**
 - ✓ The Regional Agricultural Investment Programme;
 - ✓ The National Agricultural Investment Programmes;
 - (ii) **Have validated the regional programmes, including,**
 - ✓ The Social Safety nets Programme;

- ✓The regional agricultural intensification and pastoral development programme;
- ✓The Regional Market Regulation Programme;
- ✓The Regional Village Poultry Development Programme;
- ✓The Directive for Land Policy Convergence in West Africa;
- ✓The coordination and monitoring-evaluation mechanism;

(iii) Are informed about the level of implementation of regional initiatives and projects,

- ✓ECOWAS “Zero Hunger” Initiative;
- ✓Regional Food Security Reserve;
- ✓Regional Village Water Supply Programme;
- ✓Rice Offensive;
- ✓AGIR Sahel and West Africa.

(iv) Are aware of the state of the agricultural, food and nutritional situation in West Africa and have made recommendations for decision making

(v) Have officially launched the ongoing activities:

- ✓The “Hunger Free Project”;
- ✓The Regional Food and Agriculture Agency.

IV. Structure and participants of the Specialised Ministerial Committee meeting

10. The Specialised Ministerial Committee meeting is structured in two parts :

- The meeting of Experts is devoted to the analysis of documents to be submitted to the Ministers;
- The Ministerial meeting discusses the Experts’ report and adopts resolutions.

11. Will attend the Experts meeting (23-25 September):

- Member State representatives:
 - The Head of the ECOWAS National Unit;
 - NAIP Focal Point;
 - Official in charge of national social security policy;
 - Official in charge of national land policy;
- Representatives of regional Institutions or organisations: UEMOA, CILSS, Hub Rural, CMA/AOC, CORAF/WECARD;
- Representatives of regional socio-professional (ROPPA, APSS, RBM, AAFEX, CIC-B, CORET) and civil society organisations (WILDAF, POSCAO, AFAO) ;
- Representatives of technical and financial partners (Spain, USAID, EU, AFD, CIDA, AfDD, WB, IDB, FAO, WFP, etc...) ;
- From the ECOWAS Commission: Department of Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources; ARAA Directorate; Environment Directorate; WRCC Directorate; Directorate of Legal Affairs; Directorate of External Relations; Monitoring-Evaluation Unit; Office of Financial Control; Department of Administration and Finance

(Directorate of Finance, Directorate of Conferences); Directorate of Humanitarian Affairs; Directorate of Commerce.

12. Will attend the Ministerial meeting (**27 September**):

13.

- Agriculture Ministers from Member States;
- National Experts from Member States;
- Representatives of regional Institutions or organisations: UEMOA, CILSS, Hub Rural, CMA/AOC, CORAF/WECARD;
- Technical and financial partners, regional actors having signed the Regional Compact;
- ECOWAS (Commission, Parliament, Court of Justice, EBID)

V. *Provisional agendas of the Specialised Ministerial Committee meeting*

A. Agenda of Experts meeting (23-25 September)

Day and Sessions	Time	Activities	Persons/institutions responsible
September 23, 2013			
	8h30- 9h	Arrival and registration of participants	ECOWAS
Session 1 : Opening ceremony	9h- 10h	Opening ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome remarks by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of the Togolese Republic, • Address by the ECOWAS Commissioner for Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources, • Address by the Chairman of the Board of ROPPA, • Address by the Representative of the Group of Technical and Financial Partners, • Opening speech by the representative of the Ministry of Agriculture of Côte d'Ivoire, Member State chairing ECOWAS 	ECOWAS
	10h-10h30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family photo • Coffee/tea break 	ECOWAS
Session 2 : State of implementation of the ECOWAP/CAADP process	10h30-11h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the state of implementation of the RAIP 	ECOWAS
	11h-11h30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debate on the state of implementation of the RAIP 	ECOWAS/ Experts and other participants
	11H30-12h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on the state of implementation of NAIPs 	ECOWAS
	12h-13h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debate on the state of implementation of NAIPs • Country contributions to the synthesis on the state of implementation of NAIPs 	ECOWAS /States
	13h-14h30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunch break 	ECOWAS
	14h30-15h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of ROPPA analysis on the implementation of the Maputo commitment 	ROPPA

	15h-15h30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of POSCAO contribution to the ECOWAP implementation 	POSCAO
	15h30-16h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debates on ROPPA and POSCAO contributions 	Participants
	16h-16h30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coffee/tea break 	ECOWAS
Session 3 : Presentation and validation of new regional programmes	16h30-17h00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of agricultural intensification programme 	ECOWAS
	17h00-18h00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debates on the intensification programme 	ECOWAS/ participants
	18h00-18h30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of the work of the day 	ECOWAS
September 24, 2013			
Session 3 : Presentation and validation of new regional programmes (cont.)	8h30- 9h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the market regulation programme 	ECOWAS
	9h-9h30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debates on the market regulation programme 	ECOWAS/ participants
	9h30-10h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the social safety nets programme 	ECOWAS
	10h-10h30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debates on the social safety nets programme 	ECOWAS/ participants
	10h30-11h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coffee/tea break 	ECOWAS
	11h-11h30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the directive for land policy convergence in West Africa 	ECOWAS
	11h30-12h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debates on the directive for land policy convergence in West Africa 	ECOWAS/ participants
	12h-12h30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the coordination and monitoring-evaluation mechanism 	ECOWAS
	12h30-13h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debates on the coordination and monitoring-evaluation mechanism 	ECOWAS/ participants
	13h-14h30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunch break 	ECOWAS
Session 4 : Presentation and discussion of the level of implementation of regional projects and initiatives,	14h30-16h	Presentation of the state of implementation of regional initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero Hunger, • AGIR-Sahel and West Africa Initiative • Regional Food Security Reserve; • Regional Village Water Supply Programme; • Rice Offensive 	ECOWAS
	16h-16h30	Coffee/tea break	ECOWAS

Session 5 : Presentation and discussion of the state of the agricultural, food and nutrition situation in West Africa	16h30- 17h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the state of agriculture, food and nutrition situation in West Africa, 	CILSS
	17h- 17h30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debate on the state of the agriculture, food and nutrition situation in West Africa 	CILSS/ participants
	17h30- 18h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of the work of the day 	
September 25, 2013			
Section 6: Preparation and adoption of the Experts meeting report	8h-13h	Preparation of the Experts meeting report	ECOWAS
	13h-14h	Lunch break	ECOWAS
	14h- 15h00	Adoption of the Experts report	ECOWAS/ Experts
Session 7: Closing ceremony	15h00- 15h30	Closing ceremony: closing remarks by the ECOWAS Commissioner and the representative of the Ministry of Agriculture of Côte d'Ivoire	ECOWAS

B. Agenda for the day of launch of the “Establishing a Hunger-free Initiative for West Africa” and “Strengthening Capacity of ECOWAS for effective CAADP Implementation in West Africa” Projects (26 September)

Time	Activities	People/institutions responsible
8h30-9h	Arrival and registration of participants	ECOWAS
9h-9h30	Introductory ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address by the ECOWAS Commissioner for Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources • FAO Representative • Spain Representative • Germany Representative 	
9h30-10h00	Coffee/tea break	
10h00-11h00	Presentation of the “Hunger Free” Project (“Establishing a Hunger-free Initiative for West Africa”)	ECOWAS
11h00-12h00	Presentation of the “Strengthening Capacity of ECOWAS for effective CAADP Implementation in West Africa” Project	ECOWAS
12h00-11h30	Closing Ceremony	ECOWAS

C. Agenda of the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture (27 September)

9h00-10h00	Official launch of the Regional Food and Agriculture Agency
11h00-11h30	Opening ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Welcome address by the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of the Togolese Republic ✓ Address by the President of the ECOWAS Commission ✓ Opening speech by the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
11h30-12h00	Presentation on the state of implementation of ECOWAP / CAADP
12h00-12h30	Presentation of the report of the technical meeting of Experts
12h30-13h30	Council of Ministers: Discussion and adoption of the report of the technical meeting
13h30-15h00	Lunch break and preparation of Final Communiqué
15h00-16h30	Presentation and adoption of the Final Communiqué of the Ministerial Committee meeting
16h30-17h00	Closing ceremony: Closing speech by the Minister of Agriculture of Côte d'Ivoire
17h00-17h30	Coffee/tea break