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**SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON FOOD
ACROSS BORDERS IN WEST AFRICA**

FOOD ACROSS BORDERS PROGRAMME (ProFAB)

**Presentation note and agendas of ProFAB launch meetings
(Accra, 13 and 14 May 2015)**

1. **Day of 13 May 2015:** Meeting of the Platform of Stakeholders in the programme implementation
2. **Morning of May 14, 2015:** Programme official launching ceremony
3. **Afternoon of May 14, 2015:** First Programme Steering Committee meeting

SUPERVISION AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT



BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

1. The Economic Community of West African States has initiated, for forty years now, a series of reforms to strengthen the process of regional integration. Since the 2000s, the process has been accelerated under the combined effect of a number of factors. This led to the adoption in 2005, amongst other major sectoral policies, of the ECOWAP/CAADP as a reference framework for interventions in the agricultural sector in West Africa.

2. The ECOWAP/CAADP's goal is to contribute to the improvement of the food security of the populations, the income of agricultural workers and the reduction of inequalities between and amongst territories. Thus, the ECOWAP/CAADP has focused its interventions on three axes, two of which are specifically devoted to the market and, more generally, agricultural trade. Indeed, in addition to improving the productivity and competitiveness of agriculture, the ECOWAP aims especially at promoting the regional market of agricultural products and regulating trade with third countries through appropriate protective measures.

3. The development of intra-community trade is intended to help take up four major challenges facing West Africa, a rapidly changing region (strong population and economic growth which is not inclusive):

- Strengthen the integration of the regional market, which is considered the first natural outlet for agro-forestry and pastoral products, with a view to improving their productivity and competitiveness;
- Make it the prime guarantor of food security for the people of the region by facilitating transfers of surpluses from surplus areas to major consumption centres and deficit regions;
- Create an enabling environment for the valorisation (standardisation and normalisation) of local productions, in order to strengthen their regional and international competitiveness;
- Improve the incomes of agricultural workers and rural populations with a view to poverty reduction.

4. Despite its huge potential - nearly 350 million consumers of which nearly half live in towns and the emergence of a middle class - the West African market is still very inefficient. Intra-community trade in agro-forestry and pastoral products account for only about 23 % of the regional exchanges which contribute only about 12% of the value and volume of global trade transactions in the region.

5. The causes of this underperformance are due to the incompleteness of the reforms and the non-application of regulations enacted by the regional integration institutions, i.e., ECOWAS and UEMOA. This paves the way for the many abnormal practices that contribute to erect barriers to the free movement of agricultural products in West Africa.
6. After the regional Conference on Food across Borders in West Africa, held in Accra, in January 2013 - a conference that made a thorough diagnosis of the situation - ECOWAS and UEMOA decided to formulate a programme to reduce or even eliminate barriers to the free flow of regional trade.
7. ECOWAS and its regional partners adopted, in 2014, following a participatory and inclusive process supported by the USAID, a programme for the free movement of agricultural and food products (Food across Borders - ProFAB). This programme is structured around three main objectives: (i) contribute to a better understanding of the functioning of trade in agricultural and food products, (ii) provide a strategic watch on the free movement of agricultural products in West Africa, (iii) contribute to the formulation and implementation of regional policies and strategies for the promotion of trade in agricultural and food products.
8. The technical implementation of the programme will be provided by three regional technical institutions coming under (i) IGOs, like the Market Access Programme of the Permanent Inter-state Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, (ii) the private sector, such as the Borderless Alliance and (iii) the civil society, such as ENDA CACID. The coordination of the technical implementation and monitoring of activities will be provided by the HUB RURAL which houses the programme management technical unit. CILSS is responsible for the administrative and financial management. The political leadership of the programme is provided by the ECOWAS Commission via the DAEWR who chairs the steering committee.
9. Following negotiations with its technical and financial partners, the ECOWAS obtained a financial contribution from the USAID and an expression of interest from the Canadian Cooperation to initiate the implementation of ProFAB for the next five years.
10. It is in this context that the ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions decided to officially launch the programme (ProFAB) implementation, with financial support from USAID. This launching ceremony will also provide an opportunity to hold the first meetings of the two main steering bodies of ProFAB i.e., the multi-stakeholder platform (Task Force) for the programme implementation and the Steering Committee.

OBJECTIVE OF THE MEETING

11. The objective of the meeting is to officially launch the Food across Borders in West Africa Programme (ProFAB).

12. Specifically, the aim is to:

- a) **Facilitate the holding of the first meeting of the multi-stakeholder platform (Task Force) for the programme implementation**, with a view to presenting to members:
 - The broad outline of the ProFAB programme;
 - The institutional arrangements for the ProFAB implementation;
 - The 2015 AWPB;
 - Any other business.

- b) **Officially launch the work of the programme in the presence of all stakeholders:**
 - Presentation of the programme outline;
 - Presentation of the institutional arrangements for the ProFAB implementation.

- c) **Organising the first steering committee meeting**, to:
 - Review and validate the 2015 annual work plan;
 - Review and validate the terms of reference of the programme's technical implementation unit staff;
 - Authorise the recruitment of the unit staff;
 - Review and validate the steering committee's operating guide;
 - Formulate recommendations for the effective start of the programme activities

EXPECTED RESULTS

13. The following results are expected at the end of the meeting:

1) The Multi-stakeholder Task Force meeting:

- The programme's general outline (objectives and results) are internalised by members of the Task Force;
- The Task Force members take note of the institutional arrangements for the programme implementation;
- The Task Force members have internalised the requirements and understood their roles in the implementation of the 2015 AWPB.

2) The Programme official launching

- The programme's broad outline (objectives and results, effects and expected impacts) are known by the authorities present at the launching ceremony;
- The authorities have taken note of the institutional arrangements for the programme implementation.

3) The Steering committee meeting:

- The programme's 2015 work plan is examined and validated

- The terms of reference of the programme's technical implementation unit staff are reviewed and validated;
- The recruitment of the programme's technical implementation unit staff is authorised;
- The operating guide of the Steering Committee is reviewed and validated;
- Recommendations for the programme implementation are made by the Steering Committee.

PARTICIPANTS

14. The representatives of the following institutions will take part in the various meetings organised as part of the ProFAB launch:

i. For the multi-stakeholder Task Force meeting

- ECOWAS (Departments of Agriculture/Environment and Water Resources, Trade and Private Sector) and UEMOA Commissions (Department of Agriculture and Food Security);
- CILSS, HUB RURAL, Borderless Alliance, ENDA CACID, IFPRI, CORAF/WECARD, TRADE HUB;
- USAID, Canadian Cooperation;
- Regional socio-professional organisations: WAWA, ROPPA, APSS, RBM, RECAO, AFEX, NANTS, POSCAO, WILDAF, UOFA, COFENABEVI, ROAC;
- Cooperation agencies and similar projects (Dutch Cooperation, GIZ, DFID)
- Resource persons.

ii. For the Programme official launching ceremony:

- Members of the Government of the Republic of Ghana;
- His Excellency, the Ambassador of the United States to Ghana;
- Representatives of the ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions;
- Representatives of the Regional Directorate of the USAID and the Canadian Cooperation;
- Representatives of participants in the Multi-stakeholder Task Force meeting.

iii. For the Steering Committee meeting

- The ECOWAS Commissioner for Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources, Chairperson;
- The UEMOA Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Security, Vice-Chair;
- The USAID West Africa Regional Director, Member;
- The Representative of the Canadian Cooperation, Member;
- The CILSS Executive Secretary, Member;
- The HUB RURAL Executive Director, Recording Secretary.

VENUE AND DATE

15. The various meetings will be held in Accra, Republic of Ghana, on 13 and 14 May 2015.

AGENDAS OF THE MEETINGS

16. The agendas of the three meetings are as follows:

A. The Task Force meeting: 13 May 2015

Time	Activities	Responsible entities
8h30-9h	Participants arrive and take their seats	HUB RURAL
9h-9h30	Opening ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome remarks by the Executive Director of HUB RURAL Statement by the USAID Representative Opening address by ECOWAS 	
9h 30- 10h30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of the objectives of the first Task Force meeting Reminder of the ProFAB objectives and expected results 	HUB RURAL
10h30-11 h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coffee/tea break 	HUB RURAL
11h-12h00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation and discussion of the institutional arrangements for the ProFAB implementation Presentation and discussion of the 2015 AWPB 	HUB RURAL
12h-13h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roadmap for the programme implementation Statement of conclusions and recommendations Closing ceremony 	HUB RURAL

B. ProFAB launching ceremony : Morning of May 14, 2015

Time	Activities	Responsible entities
8h30-9h	Arrival and installation of participants	
9h-10h00	Presentation of the programme's broad outlines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objectives and expected results Institutional arrangements 	HUB RURAL
10h00 -11h30	ProFAB launching ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address by the ECOWAS Commissioner in 	

	<p>charge of Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address by the UEMOA Commissioner for Agriculture • Address by the Ambassador of the United States of America to Ghana • ProFAB official launch speech delivered by the Minister in charge of Agriculture of the Republic of Ghana. 	
11h30-13h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family photo • Cocktail offered by ECOWAS 	HUB RURAL

C. Steering Committee meeting

Time	Activities	Responsible entities
14h-14h30	Participants arrive and take their seats	

14h30-14h45	<p>Introductory remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Welcome remarks by the Executive Director of HUB RURAL, Recording Secretary ❖ Remarks by the USAID Regional Director ❖ Opening speech by the DAEWR 	HUB RURAL
14h45- 15h	Presentation of objectives and expected results of the Steering Committee meeting	HUB RURAL
15h-16h 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and validation of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ the 2015 AWPB ❖ ToRs of the technical unit staff ❖ The operating guide of the Steering Committee • Formulation of specific recommendations 	HUB RURAL
16h30- 17h	Coffee/tea break	ECOWAS
17h-17h30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Any other business ❖ Statement of conclusions and recommendations ❖ Closing remarks by the DAEWR 	HUB RURAL and ECOWAS