



UEMOA COMMISSION



ECOWAS COMMISSION



NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency  
Agence de Planification et de Coordination du NEPAD

NEPAD PLANNING AND COORDINATING  
AGENCY

### Accelerating ECOWAP/CAADP implementation

Support the implementation of the Regional Offensive for sustainable and sustained recovery of Rice production in West Africa Programme



### Meeting to validate the draft programme document

Cotonou, Benin, 24- 26 March 2014

## Statement of conclusions and recommendations

With the technical support of:



AfricaRice



ROPRA



And financial and logistical support from:



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## I. Introduction

1. At the invitation of the ECOWAS Commission, the Task Force of the “Regional offensive for sustainable and sustained recovery of rice production in West Africa” met on 24, 25 and 26 March 2014 in Cotonou, Republic of Benin.
2. The aim of the meeting was to “discuss and validate the draft programme in support of the implementation of the regional offensive for sustainable and sustained recovery of rice production in West Africa”. Three results were expected from the meeting: (i) the context, challenges, issues, opportunities, strategic directions, intervention logic, outcomes, activities, stakeholders, budget and additional measures to be implemented to anticipate the desired objectives are examined; (ii) recommendations for improving the document are made; (iii) a roadmap for the finalization and adoption of the draft programme by the ECOWAS and UEMOA statutory bodies is defined.
3. Took part in the meeting, (i) officials in charge of national rice development strategies (NRDS), (ii) representatives of regional networks of socio-professional organisations (ROPPA, RBM, private sector (AAFEX, RECAO), civil society (POSCAO, WAWA), NGOs (OXFAM, VECO WestAfrica); (iii) representatives of ECOWAS, UEMOA, AfricaRice, CORAF/WECARD, IFPRI, Hub Rural; (v) resource persons mobilized by the Hub Rural as part of their support for the technical facilitation of the process. The complete list of participants is attached to this statement of conclusions and recommendations.

## II. The introductory ceremony.

4. The introductory ceremony was marked by two speeches.
  - a. Mr. **Hilaire SANOU**, the UEMOA Commission representative, first conveyed to participants the congratulations of **Mr. Ibrahima DIEME**, UEMOA Commissioner for Food Security, Agriculture, Mines and Environment. He then recalled the food context, always tense, facing the West Africa region, before focusing his address on the efforts of the ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions and their technical partners to mitigate the effects of food insecurity in the region. He then insisted on the strategies and actions that the UEMOA Commission is implementing to promote rice farming, before reiterating the commitment of the Union’s Authorities to contribute to the success of the regional offensive for sustainable and sustained recovery of rice production in West Africa.
  - b. Officially opening the workshop, Mr. **SALIFOU Ousséini**, Executive Director of the Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food, first apologized on behalf of the ECOWAS Commissioner for Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources, Dr. **Lapodini Marc ATOUGA** whose busy schedule has not made it possible for him to take part in this important meeting. He then recalled the importance that the ECOWAS Commission attaches to this programme, which is a clear expression of the will of Heads of State of the region to expedite the operationalization of the regional agricultural policies, namely the Union’s PAU and the ECOWAP/CAADP. He then wished every success to the deliberations of the third Task Force meeting of the Regional Offensive for sustainable and sustained recovery of rice production in West Africa.

### **III. Conduct of deliberations.**

5. After the presentation of the objectives and expected outcomes of the meeting, the meeting was conducted in plenary and divided into two major sequences: (i) presentation of three introductory communications, (ii) thorough scrutiny of the programme document to support the regional offensive for sustainable and sustained rice production in West Africa.

#### **1. Introductory communications**

6. The workshop was marked by three introductory presentations designed to help better understand the context of the West African rice market, the baseline scenarios of the programme in support of the regional offensive for sustainable and sustained recovery of rice production and the potential impacts of this programme in economic, social and food terms.

- a. The first presentation by CORAF/WECARD focused on the preliminary results of the rice value chain study that this agricultural research institution has been conducting in five West African countries (Mali, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Côte d'Ivoire). The study, whose final results will be available in the coming months, thoroughly analyzes the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the rice value chain in West Africa, before making public policy recommendations to improve the performance of the different links in this value chain.
- b. IFPRI addressed two dimensions of the study: (i) the implications in terms of consumption and production of the objective of achieving 100% rice self-sufficiency in the region by the year 2025; and (ii) its potential impacts on intra and extra regional trade, growth, job creation, and food security. The model built shows that, according to the different assumptions: (i) per capita consumption will be around 54 kg for an aggregate demand between 24 and 26 million tonnes of milled rice in 2025. This level of demand will require an average annual production effort of about 0.60 to 0.85 million tonnes of milled rice annually. Looking at the rate of production in recent years, one can say that the self-sufficiency target could be reached in West Africa (ECOWAS + Mauritania and Chad) in 2025. Achieving self-sufficiency could improve the trade balance in rice, boost regional economic growth by approximately 0.5% and contribute to the creation of over 8 million jobs in 2025.
- c. The third presentation by AfricaRice focused on potential options in terms of the production system to be implemented to achieve rice self-sufficiency in 2025. Three options that are not mutually exclusive are explored: (i) increase in production needed to cover consumption is driven by productivity contribution by 70% and that of acreage by 30%; (ii) production increase needed to cover consumption is driven entirely by extension of area; (iii) increased production needed to cover consumption is driven entirely by higher yields. In all the scenarios, the assumption for a gradual improvement of efficiency of milling rate is as follows: 60% until 2015, 63% until 2018 and 65% beyond 2018. The programme has been built with the aim of further improving rice productivity and expansion of rice area to a lesser extent.

#### **2. The programme presentation.**

7. The HUB Rural presented the new architecture of the Support the regional offensive for sustainable and sustained rice production in West Africa programme. The programme is structured around four areas of intervention: (i) sustainably increase rice production; (ii) process and enhance local rice production, (iii) promote local rice regional market, (iv) improve rice development environment. It will be financed from contributions of three categories of actors: (i) ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions, from the agriculture funding mechanisms they have set up (ECOWADF and FRDA), (ii) States, by establishing innovative mechanisms, (iii) the private sector, financial partners and rice producers through their organisations. The implementation is based on an institutional mechanism comprising, in addition to the political steering, coordination and technical implementation bodies that empower all stakeholders: regional integration and cooperation institutions, States, socio-professional organisations, and the private sector. Finally, the programme sets out the assumptions and risks and the additional measures to be implemented to minimize them.

8. All the compartments of the programme have been the subject of detailed discussion by the workshop participants. The discussion helped to formulate recommendations for improving the document. The recommendations focus on both the adjustments to statistical data, rephrasing headings of certain components, the introduction of new results and activities, and finally reshaping the implementation mechanism, taking into account the current regional institutional configuration.

9. Specifically, participants recommended to:

- a. Review rice production statistics in some countries, mainly the Republic of the Gambia and Niger;
- b. Rephrase the objectives (general and specific objectives) to clearly bring out the regional rice development concerns. They recommended the following formulations: (i) General objective: “*Ensure the sustainable and sustained promotion of rice production for food security and sovereignty in West Africa*” and, under the specific objectives: “*Accompany all initiatives and strategies for the development of the various links in the local rice value chain, in order to:*
  - i. Modernize farming systems,
  - ii. Process and enhance the value of local production;
  - iii. Facilitate regional trade to halt external dependency of ECOWAS member States on rice.
  - iv. Promote rice development environment
- c. Resize Axis 1 on the sustainable increase in rice production by including a fifth result dedicated to the capitalization and dissemination of integrated soil fertilization and pesticides management systems. Similarly, new activities are suggested at the level of the four other results, some of which also require rewording;
- d. Rephrase the second result of Axis 2 in the context of the promotion of integrated processing systems that work on the basis of multi-stakeholder partnerships or contracts with farmers in the production areas. Similarly, under Axis 2, participants recommended to focus on strategies and activities that allow households to give a stronger preference to local rice consumption;
- e. Regarding Axis 3, which deals with the regional market promotion, participants recommended rewording activities of the result so as to highlight the concerns about

the programme's contribution to the definition and implementation of safeguard measures geared to the development of the various links in the rice value chain in West Africa;

- f. At Axis 4 on improving the rice production environment, participants recommended resizing this axis by creating specific outcomes for capacity building of: (i) NRDS implementation units, (ii) regional actors, (iii) research actors, (iv) put in place a monitoring-evaluation and information monitoring system for decision-making, (v) capacity building of statistical services. Participants also recommended that specific results be dedicated to gender and environmental issues.
- g. Regarding the implementation mechanisms, participants recommended to review, in addition to the governance bodies, those of the programme technical implementation, by explaining: (i) the roles of the different actors at different scales, (ii) the funding mechanism, including modalities of mobilization and use of the counterpart funding from Member States. They also recommended clarifying the distribution of contributions expected from the private sector and producers through their apex organisations.
- h. On assumptions and risks, as well as additional measures to be implemented, participants recommended to complement the phenomena identified by the "Recurrence of locust and other rice crop pest phenomena";
- i. As far as the simplified results framework is concerned, participants recommended, not only to harmonize the way of formulating the targets, indicators, but also to take precautions to formulate indicators that are based on (i) clearly defined baselines on the one hand and measurable data on the other. Regarding the monitoring-evaluation mechanism, participants recommended to consider the tools and systems set up by the regional specialised institutions, namely AfricaRice and IFPRI.

### **3. The roadmap**

10. Participants identified the following as elements of the roadmap:

- Transmission of the summary of conclusions in French and English on 2 April 2014
- Transmission of the revised version of the document in French and English to Task Force members for amendment, on 20 April 2014
- Collection of comments and amendments on 30 April 2014,
- Finalization of the revised version of the programme document in French and English, on 15 May 2014
- Transmission of the finalized version to ECOWAS, UEMOA and Task Force members on 20 May 2014.

## **IV. The closing ceremony.**

11. Two speeches were delivered during the closing ceremony.

12. The representative of the UEMOA Commission, Mr. Hilaire SANOU expressed satisfaction with the quality, not only of the proposed programme document, but also the suggestions to improve its content made by members of the Task Force. This programme which reinforces the already fruitful cooperation between the ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions will help achieve rice self-sufficiency in the region by 2025.

13. In his closing remarks of the Task Force meeting, Mr. Alain Sy TRAORE first congratulated participants for the quality of the work well done. He reiterated the determination of the ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions to translate into action the will and the commitment expressed by the Heads of State and Government of our region to achieve full self-sufficiency in rice by 2025. He urged Member States, regional specialised institutions, socio-professional organisations, and civil society and rice farmer organisations to fully play their role in the implementation of this programme.

## List of participants

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**Atelier de validation du projet de document du Programme d'appui à la mise en œuvre de :  
Offensive régionale pour la relance durable et soutenue de la riziculture en Afrique de l'Ouest**

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