

COMISSÃO DA CEDEAO

ECOWAS COMMISSION



COMMISSION DE LA CEDEAO

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources (DAEWR)

*Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources Specialised Ministerial
Committee meeting*

(Lomé, Togo, 27 September 2013)

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

1. At the ECOWAS Commission's invitation, the **ECOWAS Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources Specialised Ministerial Committee** meeting was held in Lomé, Republic of Togo, on 27 September 2013.
2. Took part in the meeting the Ministers of Agriculture from all member countries or their representatives, with the exception of the Gambia.
3. The aim of the meeting was to: i) assess the Experts' report and, ii) examine it for the purpose of making recommendations to the Heads of State and Government.
4. The opening ceremony was presided over by His Excellency, Mr. Kwési Séléagodji AHOOMEY-ZUNU, Prime Minister of the Togolese Republic, in the presence of Mr. Coulibali SANGAFOWA MAMADOU, Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Côte-d'Ivoire, Dr. Lapodini Marc ATOUGA, the ECOWAS Commission's Commissioner for Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources, and Mr. Abdou SEYNI, the UEMOA Commission's representative in Togo.
 5. In his welcoming remarks, Colonel Ouro Koura AGADAZI, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of the Republic of Togo thanked H.E. Mr. Prime Minister for accepting to chair the opening ceremony; this shows the interest the highest authorities in Togo take in the agricultural sector. He recalled the effort made by the Togolese authorities in the sector, which resulted in the development of frameworks and tools for the implementation of the PNIASA.
 6. In his introductory address, Dr. Lapodini Marc ATOUGA, ECOWAS Commissioner for the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources (DAEWR) recalled, on behalf of the Commission President, H.E. Mr. Kadré Désiré OUEDRAOGO, the challenges the region faces in agricultural development matters and assured participants of the Commission's commitment to continue the implementation of the ECOWAP/CAADP.
7. In his opening speech, His Excellency Mr. Kwési Séléagodji AHOOMEY-ZUNU, Prime Minister of the Togolese Republic welcomed the holding of this meeting in Togo and highlighted the countries and region's efforts in support of the agricultural sector. He stressed the need to continue the ongoing efforts and work, in a more coordinated manner, to meet the challenges of the sector.
8. After the opening ceremony, the Ministerial Committee examined the Experts' report on (i) the status of implementation of the Regional Agricultural Investment Programme, (ii) the status of implementation of the National Agricultural Investment Programmes, (iii) the non-state actors' contribution to the ECOWAP implementation, (iv) new initiatives to accelerate and stimulate the implementation of the Regional Agricultural Investment Programme (v) the state of the agricultural, pastoral and nutrition situation in West Africa, (vi) the launch of projects to support the region's "Zero Hunger" Initiative and capacity building for the ECOWAP/CAADP

implementation, carried out with the financial support of the German and Spanish cooperation.

9. Regarding implementation of the Regional Agricultural Investment Programme, the major results and achievements concern: i) the implementation, (ii) the completion of projects in the field of production intensification, creation of an enabling environment for agricultural development and improving access to food for the vulnerable populations:
- a. **In the field of agricultural intensification (RAIP Objective N°1)**, the main actions include implementing programmes, such as: (i) WAAPP, implemented by CORAF/WECARD and financed by the World Bank; (ii) the Seed programme, implemented by CORAF/WECARD and financed by USAID, (iii) the fertilizer programme, implemented by IFDC and financed by the Netherlands and USAID; (iv) the ECOAGRIS programme, the pilot phase of which was completed with the financial assistance of the European Union and; (v) the programme to promote livestock value chains and livestock products;
 - b. In the area of promoting an enabling global environment for agricultural development (**RAIP Objective N°2**), the Commission initiated (i) the Market Regulation Programme; (ii) the Fruit Fly Control Programme (financially supported by the European Union and France); (iii) the “West Africa Agribusiness and Trade Promotion” Programme (supported by USAID); (iv) the Regional Fertilizer Market Project. The same applies to programmes such as (i) NAP-SPSO & Veterinary Governance (VET Gov), implemented by IBAR/African Union, (ii) Aflatoxin management, (iii) Networking of Inspection and quality control laboratories, etc. Several regulations on seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, veterinary products, biodiversity, SPC measures, were adopted. The DAEWR contributed to the re-classification of agricultural and food products in the different tariff bands of the ECOWAS Common External Tariff;
 - c. Under the **RAIP Objective N°3**, which aims at improving access to food for the vulnerable populations, the Commission adopted: (i) the Regional Food Reserve and is about to begin its implementation, with the financial support of the European Union, (ii) the food crisis prevention and management Charter, (iii) the Zero Hunger initiative. The Social safety net programme is finalised. The DAEWR is implementing the Climate Change programme and the programme to support Food Security in West Africa, with financial support from the Swedish and French cooperation.
 - d. At the institutional level, the Regional Food and Agriculture Agency is now operational. It receives financial support from USAID and the Spanish Cooperation;
 - e. The ECOWAS Commission has developed many cooperations with the regional institutions (UEMOA, CILSS) and socio-professional organisations around unifying projects, such as: AGIR in the Sahel and West Africa ; ii) the Offensive

for sustainable revival of rice production ; iii) the Regional Food Security Reserve; iv) the Regional Agricultural Information System, ECOAGRIS, etc.;

- f. Finally, it launched the process of implementation of the monitoring-evaluation system and mechanisms. In that context, the Commission mobilized funding from the World Bank-managed CAADP Multi-donor fund to support the implementation of the M&E system at the national and regional levels.

10. **Regarding the implementation of NAIPs**, fourteen of the 15 Member States have completed the process (up to the organisation of their Business meeting). Several major achievements and challenges were highlighted in relation with the NAIP operationalization:

- a. **Under achievements**, it was noted that the process allowed to: (i) change methods of agricultural development planning, (ii) test and formalize approaches to coordination between and within sectors, (iii) improve the planning-budgeting and monitoring-evaluation process, (iv) promote spaces for multi-stakeholder dialogue, (v) improve private sector involvement in agricultural development, (vi) increase, substantially, budgetary resources that States allocate for funding agricultural activities, (vii) improve significantly the production and productivity of certain crops:
- b. **Under the challenges noted**, there are : (i) the low level of functioning of structures charged with coordinating the NAIPs in some countries, (ii) the development of competing or parallel initiatives and persistent interventions falling within the scope of the project approach, (iii) a varying and sometimes insufficient consideration of the so-called emerging issues (nutrition, climate change, research, risks of any kind and resilience), (iv) the poor performance of monitoring-evaluation systems in some countries, (v) difficulties in mobilizing financial resources necessary for full implementation of the NAIPs, (vi) the low capacity of non-state actors to ensure better monitoring of the NAIP implementation.

11. In its assessment study of the state of implementation of the Maputo commitment, ROPPA has shown that, in 2010, only 4 of the 10 countries it studied do devote 10% or more of their budget to finance the agricultural sector and more than 60% of the funding comes from the development partners' contribution. POSCAO noted the lack of involvement of civil society organizations in the implementation of the NAIPs and RAIP.

12. **Concerning new activities** undertaken to operationalize the ECOWAP, it was noted:

- a. The completion of three programmes that contribute to the operationalization of public policy instruments, namely: (i) the Agricultural and pastoral intensification

- programme, (ii) the Market regulation programme, (iii) and the programme to support social safety nets;
- b. The development of a draft land tenure directive that is based on the framework and guiding principles adopted by the African Union for a responsible governance of land tenure;
 - c. The establishment of a monitoring-evaluation system and mechanism for which the Commission has obtained a funding of US\$ 4.9 million from the CAADP Multi-donor Fund managed by the World Bank;
 - d. The launch of the feasibility study of the Regional Offensive for sustainable revival of Rice Production.
13. **On the agricultural and pastoral season monitoring**, it is marked by: (i) late onset of rains, followed by significant rainfall, which could last until October, (ii) the persistent threat posed to crops by locusts and grain-eating birds. The pastoral situation is experiencing a significant improvement in grass cover, starting from July, in almost all agro-pastoral areas. The body condition of animals is satisfactory. According to mid-term estimates, the expected total cereal production in the Sahel and West African countries could reach 58,46 million metric tonnes, reflecting an increase of 7% compared to the cropping season 2012-2013. On the other hand, in case of an early cessation of rains, particularly in the Eastern Sahel, the region's cereal production would be estimated at 53 million metric tonnes, representing a 3% decrease compared to the previous season. In terms of nutrition, the extension of the lean period in some places could result in increased prevalence of global acute malnutrition amongst children under five years and breastfeeding women.
14. In analysing the report, the Ministers of Agriculture congratulated the Experts and the ECOWAS Commission for the quality of the work done. They underscored the importance of:
- a. The issue of monitoring and evaluation of actions that are conducted in the various countries to better assess the agricultural sector performance and the effectiveness and efficiency of policies and programmes implemented. They stressed the need to develop more effective monitoring-evaluation systems, provided with adequate and sustainable funding, with the ECOWAS support;
 - b. The issue of modernization of agriculture in our countries, which requires that the sector be treated as an economic activity just like the other sectors, to keep young people in their villages and attract domestic and external private investments;
 - c. The crucial question of the effects of climatic variations that disrupt the agricultural calendars in the Member States and the need for a strategy to re-adapt cropping calendars;
 - d. The need to update and expand to all countries the information available on the level of contribution of domestic resources to finance agriculture, especially on the proportion of national budgets devoted to investments in the agricultural sector;

- e. Take stock of the state of implementation of commitments made by the Ministers at previous meetings and give the level of the Commission's financial contribution for the implementation of the ECOWAP.
15. At the end of the discussions, they made recommendations on each of the points discussed.
16. **On the implementation of NAIPs, the Ministers recommend:**
- **To the ECOWAS Commission to:** (i) carry out advocacy missions to Member States to revive the political support necessary to expedite the implementation of NAIPs; (ii) develop strategies to make effective the private sector participation in agriculture financing; (iii) make available to States, a list of opportunities and programmes, including those of ECOWAS, that can contribute to the NAIP implementation; (iv) make available to States the management procedures manuals of the Regional Food and Agriculture Agency and the Regional Food and Agriculture Fund; (v) organise a regional workshop on the monitoring-evaluation system and mechanism; (vi) strengthen the capacity of non-state actors to support the ECOWAP/CAADP process and monitoring of NAIP implementation more effectively; (vii) ensure that simple mechanisms are put in place to allow small family farms to access funding; (viii) share with all countries the selection criteria for the "Zero Hunger Initiatives" project; (ix) adopt a directive for gender mainstreaming in all regional and national initiatives (NAIP and RAIP); (x) develop the capacity of national administrations to mobilise local resources; (xi) capitalise and ensure experience sharing on good practices (private sector mobilisation, management, monitoring-evaluation and production of performance report, etc...) resulting from the CAADP process; (xii) ensure the implementation of a Common External Tariff (CET) that protects the local production; (xiii) establish a system for monitoring the implementation of the Regional Food Reserve and provide countries with triggering and access mechanisms; (xiv) provide the region with a common vision on the issue of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO); (xv) develop an appropriate methodology for assessing the contribution of national budgets to agriculture financing; (xvi) provide States with information on the conditions and procedures for accessing the Regional Fund;
 - **To Member States:** (i) accelerate the implementation of NAIPs while integrating the emerging issues in the NAIP operationalization strategies; (ii) finalise and implement, before the end of March 2014, the monitoring and evaluation system and mechanism; (iii) increase the involvement of all stakeholders in the implementation of NAIPs; (iv) explore the possibility of negotiating the establishment of a basket fund to finance NAIP-derived programmes; (v) strengthen the funding of national monitoring-evaluation systems; (vi) intensify efforts towards achieving the Maputo commitments in terms of resource allocation to the agricultural sector, (vii) devote at least 50% of purchases to farmer organisations for the establishment of the regional reserve; (viii) find a formula for determining a fixed share of community levies

to be used for funding regional programmes and projects, including an annual allocation to each State to strengthen its national food security stock.

17. **On the three programmes for operationalizing public policy instruments**, the Ministers adopted and validated the three programmes, i.e., the social safety nets programme; the regional agricultural intensification and pastoralism development programme; and the regional market regulation programme. They **recommend** to the ECOWAS Commission to attach a note to the three programmes to describe the relationship between them and conditions of their eligibility to the Regional Food and Agriculture Fund and the Regional Food and Agriculture Agency.
18. **On the regional land tenure directive**, the Ministerial Committee recommends to the ECOWAS Commission to (i) refer the text back to the countries and all stakeholders for possible amendments before the end of March 2014, (ii) revise the document, taking into account the amendments proposed by the countries and organise a workshop for its validation, (iii) ensure the involvement of producer and civil society organisations in the discussions and validation of the directive.
19. **On the monitoring-evaluation system**, the Ministerial Committee recommends to the countries to officially communicate to the Commission, before November 30, 2013: (i) the name of the Focal Point in charge of the NAIP / ECOWAP/ CAADP process and of his/her alternate; (ii) the name of the national institution to house the monitoring-evaluation unit; (iii) the name of the ECOAGRIS Focal Point. It also recommends developing a support project, to a maximum of \$ 100,000 per year over five years, to be submitted to the ECOWAS to finance the monitoring-evaluation system.
20. **On the agricultural, pastoral and nutritional situation**, the Ministerial Committee recommends:
 - **To Member States, ECOWAS and CILSS** to: (i) continue the strategic watch on flood monitoring; (ii) continue the watch on markets functioning and internal and cross-border flows of trade in agricultural products, for timely detection of malfunctions; (iii) support recession cropping and livestock programmes to improve the resilience of food insecure populations; (iv) maintain watch on pests, especially desert locusts; (v) strengthen the monitoring systems of indicators on the food and nutrition insecurity situation to ensure the timely availability of information on the prevalence of malnutrition and food insecurity; (vi) continue exercising malnutrition prevention and treatment efforts.
 - **To the ECOWAS Commission**, to conduct, as soon as possible, through CILSS, a study on the rainfall situation, in order to propose cropping calendars to adapt to climate change..

21. **On the new initiatives**, the Ministerial Committee recommends to the ECOWAS Commission to: (i) ensure consistency of the various initiatives with the strategic directions and objectives of the ECOWAP; (ii) accelerate the implementation of the offensive for the sustainable recovery of rice production; (iii) accelerate the process of implementation of the AGIR country inclusive dialogues.
22. **As general recommendations to ECOWAS**, the Ministerial Committee asks the Commission to (i) ensure the translation of documents and interpretation in the three languages of ECOWAS, (ii) review methods for validating documents, (iii) put in place a mechanism for monitoring the implementation of recommendations of the Committee meetings, (iv) mapping of the Commission's support to the States, (iv) initiate a reflection on the review of targets (6% growth, 10% commitment of the national budget to the agricultural sector, by 2015 to achieve the objectives, etc.) of the CAADP process in West Africa, (v) take the Mano River Union into account in the list of regional institutions that may implement the ECOWAP, (vi) extend the peer review mechanism to the evaluation of the ECOWAP implementation.

Done in Lomé, on 27 September 2013

For the ECOWAS Commission's Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources
Specialised Ministerial Committee

Mr. Coulibali SANGAFOWA MAMADOU, Minister of 'Agriculture of the Republic of Côte-d'Ivoire, Chairman

Vote of thanks

The **Ministers in charge of Agriculture of ECOWAS Member States**, meeting in Lomé on 27 September 2013, for the purpose of examining the state of implementation of the regional agricultural policy, the ECOWAP/CAADP, express their profound gratitude and sincere thanks to the Authorities of the Republic of Togo for the warm welcome, hospitality and all the facilities made available which greatly contributed to the success of their meeting.

Done in Lomé, on 27 September 2013