



Department of Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources

ECOWAP/CAADP PROCESS

**International Conference on Agriculture
In West Africa**

Global Forum "Review of Achievements of ECOWAP+10 and 2025 Outlook"

Sectoral Forums on "Financing the Regional Offensive for a Sustainable and Sustained Revitalization of Rice Production in West Africa" and on the "West Africa Productivity Programme"

17-19 November 2015, Dakar, Senegal

Cover Note and Overall Agenda

With technical facilitation of:



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I. Background and Rationale

- **ECOWAP : Reference framework for the interventions in the agricultural sector in West Africa**

1. In January 2005, in Accra, Ghana, the Heads of State and Government of the 15 Member States of ECOWAS adopted a Regional Agricultural Policy, the ECOWAP. It is a regional policy under CAADP/NEPAD (continent-wide initiatives), as a result of an in-depth dialogue between the Member States and with the actors - professional organizations, private sector and civil society - and enjoyed the contribution of the technical cooperation organizations and the international community partners.
2. Subsequent to the adoption, the initial action plans have placed and directed the running regional programmes within the implementation of the Policy, then define the first generation programmes targeted at increased productivity and competitiveness in agriculture.
3. The axes of the agricultural trade-targeted policy were implemented by the DAERE building on process run by the Department of Trade and Customs of the ECOWAS Commission. These processes led to major liberalization reforms regarding the intra-Community trade and on the establishment of the Customs Union through the adoption of the CET consisting of five tariff bands, and came into force in January 2015.
4. The 2008 global food crisis brought food and agricultural issues at the heart of national, regional and international agendas, therefore pointing to the timeliness and relevance of the food sovereignty-oriented regional policy. In May 2008, the ECOWAS Extraordinary Council of Ministers session dealing with the rising food prices in West Africa laid the foundation for a "*Regional Offensive on Food Production and the Against Hunger*". Countries' efforts were therefore coordinated to respond to the emergency, and especially mobilising all in order to fully implement ECOWAP, as the structural response to the food challenge.
5. Therefore, mobilization of all actors for its full operationalization allowed for: (i) defining the institutional framework and financial mechanisms; (ii) translating the CAADP's policy and pillars into National Agricultural Investment Programs (NAIP) in each country, supplemented by the RAIP at regional level; (iii) engage all stakeholders around common principles in the context of the signing of the regional compact concluded in Abuja in November 2009. The technical and financial partners have established a framework for coordination and dialogue with ECOWAS "*ECOWAP Donors Group*"- led by the Spanish cooperation.
6. In each country, a compact/Pact was signed by the stakeholders during the NAIP presentation Roundtable, its cost, and state financial commitments and resources to mobilize. Most NAIPs were calibrated so as to achieve a 6% agricultural growth at least per year.
7. In June 2010, the Member States and the region presented the NAIPs and RAIP respectively during the Regional Business Meeting held in Dakar.

8. Finally, ECOWAS has adopted a "Zero Hunger" strategy in 2012 which provides for a framework for renewed governance on issues of food security and nutrition, to enable the region get rid of hunger and malnutrition by 2025, and respect the right of any Community citizen to food.
9. ECOWAP as the regional agricultural policy is implemented using several channels complementing each other:
- a) 15 National Agricultural Investment Programmes combining investment and reforms of the regulatory frameworks. In some countries these NAIPs are predicated on strategies, policies or guidance/orientation laws as redefined during the 2000s.
 - b) Regional Agricultural Investment Programmes that combine:
 - i. Investments;
 - ii. Convergent initiatives in regional cooperation areas (Rice Offensive, Seeds alliances, Climate change, etc.);
 - iii. Public policy instruments, which themselves include: (a) Regional incentive programs: innovative actions, social safety nets, private storage, etc.; (b) Community tools: Regional Food Security Reserve; and (c) Reforms of the regulatory framework: inputs, seeds, veterinary legislation, etc.
 - c) Institutions and techniques and financial instruments at regional level:
 - i. ARAA;
 - ii. Different committees (CCAA, CIAA) formalized;
 - iii. Thematic task forces, multi-stakeholder initiatives and alliances;
 - iv. Cooperation agreements between the ECOWAS Commission and various categories of stakeholders:
 1. networks of POs and civil society;
 2. research institutions;
 3. Regional technical cooperation agencies.
 - v. The ECOWADF as the Regional Fund for Agriculture and Food, was established within EBID and awaiting operationalization.
10. Clearly, the process initiated at the regional level with national variations is a major achievement. The inclusion and involvement of key players in agricultural development and food security make the method irreversible now. This was accompanied by a structuring effort, including producer organizations and specialized organizations and networks (gender, stockbreeder/ pastoralists, livestock-meat sectors, cereals sectors, etc.).
11. The ECOWAP impacts on agricultural performance are not easy to understand, partly due to weak monitoring and evaluation systems. The implementation of the operational programs remains partial because of financing difficulties despite increased

contributions of the States and TFPs, and lack of institutional capacity. However, very significant efforts have been made in some sectors, including rice, maize, and tubers, considered as strategic commodities, and enabled achieving significant progress both in terms of production and the structuring of the value chains.

12. The adoption of ECOWAP was supported by major decisions in terms of institutional and financial governance. If ECOWAP is considered by the stakeholders to be the sole reference framework, other policy frameworks persist. In addition, other initiatives emerged after the 2008 food crisis and extend the programming exercises - often complex - and delay implementation. The institutional arrangement was partially put in place and the financial mechanism is yet to be fully set up. Though international partners have made significant coordination efforts, but alignment with ECOWAP remains uncompleted.
13. Issues related gender inequalities have really emerged only recently, and there is no systematic mechanism for ECOWAP and national and regional programs to deliver effectively in this field. The same is true of the issues related to youth employment, their integration in agriculture and in the food value chains, even though this remains one of the greatest societal challenges in West Africa. More extensively, the challenges to education and training are emerging as key dimensions to enable rural societies to adapt in a context of rapid change. This is particularly the case in the environment of pastoralists and shepherds faced with rapid changes in their living conditions, and also targeting the specific issues of access to education and training, and more broadly to social services due to mobility.
14. Finally, the involvement of the private sector - loosely structured at the regional level, even though the markets are highly open increasingly connected - as well as increasing significantly banking institutions to allow for the region to ensure food sovereignty while food demand is strongly and rapidly changing under the triple effect of population growth, urbanization and income structure evolution.
15. Over the past decade, the context of agriculture in the region and approaches to promote development have evolved considerably. New challenges have emerged that the region is committed to overcome. This is particularly epitomized in the Zero Hunger Initiative, in which the Alliance AGIR fits in, centred on building the resilience of vulnerable populations. This also applies to adaptation to climate change, for which the region has established in 2015a framework for action and an Alliance for synergy of actions.
16. One of the flagship programmes which contributed to the implementation of ECOWAP over the last 10 years is undoubtedly the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme, designed by ECOWAS to meet the challenge of increased agricultural productivity with financial facilitation of the World Bank, and with regional coordination by CORAF / WECARD. The programme is implemented in 13 countries and also received additional support from the Kingdom of Japan, Spain and Denmark. Seven years after its launch, three countries now implement a second phase of the programme, while the other 10 shall begin negotiations in this same perspective. The achievements in terms of generated technologies, regional trade of these

technologies as well as the number of their direct and indirect beneficiaries translate perfectly the ECOWAS's vision by initiating this programme.

17. Similarly, during the year 2014, the region adopted the "*Regional Offensive for a sustainable and sustained revitalization of rice production in West Africa*". It is part of the implementation of the Regional Agriculture Investment Plan, including its first specific objective on strategic commodities for food security and food sovereignty. The selection of rice is due to its growing role in the agricultural economy and food systems and the cost of imports for the agrifood trade balance.
18. In this context and in support of national rice development strategies, adopted by fourteen Community States, the ECOWAS Commission has formulated this program to 2025 to produce about 25 million tonnes of white rice, and therefore fully meet the needs of the region.
19. The year 2015 is the year of the MDG review and preparation of the United Nations General Assembly, which is to come up with the definition of new Sustainable Development Goals for the post-2015 Agenda. At the heart of the debate is the integration of issues related to economic development, social inclusion, food and nutritional security, climate change and sustainable development.
20. So many outlooks that require revisiting a set of policies in countries and at regional level, in the light of the commitments by countries of the region for post-2015 Agenda (SDG).

- **Three areas of review and outlooks**

- **The governance of the agricultural sector**

21. The year 2015, meaning 10 years after the adoption of ECOWAP, allows for a first assessment, apprehend the reflections or the reforms needed in the light of the results, achievements and lessons learned, gaps and the new challenges facing the region and the stakeholders. This review also fits within the context of Malabo¹, commitments, with the adoption of the implementation strategy and roadmap.

- **Review of WAAPP**

22. After seven years of implementation, the agricultural productivity programme has generated a set of technologies that contribute to the well-controlled transformation of West African agriculture². Such results still largely remain unknown to a wide audience, which constrain greater appreciation and uptake. The forum on the WAAPP aims- beyond the mere dissemination of results- to motivate decision-makers and TFPs to strengthen an instrument that appears to be critical for the achievement of future agricultural policy goals: Eradicating hunger in West Africa by 2025.

¹Operationalization of the Malabo Declaration on accelerated growth and transformation of African agriculture for shared prosperity and improved livelihoods (Vision 2025 of CAADP); AU / NEPAD.

²The WAAPP is a concrete translation of the axis 1 of ECOWAP: Improving the productivity and competitiveness of agriculture in West Africa.

○ **Financing the Rice Offensive Programme**

23. In view of eradicating hunger in 2025, West Africa has established a programme to promote the production of one of the five strategic commodities of ECOWAP-rice. This programme comes in support of national rice development strategies aimed at: (i) reducing food reliance of West Africa, (ii) supporting, through voluntary actions, the ongoing changes in the agricultural sector. This is to mobilize the regional actors as well as technical and financial partners around the sustainable and sustained revitalization of rice production in West Africa.
24. These are the stakes of this important International Conference on Agriculture in West Africa, broken out into three main forums on: (i) the review and outlooks for the regional agricultural policy ("ECOWAP + 10 and 2025 Outlook"), (ii) mobilize technical and financial resources for the implementation of the "Regional Offensive for a sustainable and sustained revitalization of Rice production in West African ", and (iii) the use of the results of the productivity programme at scale.

II. Objectives

25. The overall objective of this International conference is threefold: (i) review and outlook of the agricultural and food economy, (ii) mobilize regional and international actors around rice issues, and (iii) use the WAAPP achievements to scaling up the conclusive results. Therefore, the Conference structures around three forums.
26. *The global forum, dedicated to the review of ECOWAP and its outlooks for 2025:* It aims to bringing adjustments to the regional policy, its modalities and operational programmes highlighting the achievements and lessons of 10 years of implementation both in terms of general guidelines, content and priorities, and governance. The overall objective of the forum is subdivided into four specific objectives:
- a. SO1. *Carry out a participatory review* of achievements and lessons of the ECOWAP process, its interventions, results and impacts on agricultural development, markets, food and nutrition security and management of natural resources ;
 - b. SO2. *Set the outlooks* of ECOWAP taking into account the developments of the regional and international context for the next ten years, and capitalising on good practices;
 - c. SO3. *Build a policy framework* to adjust the policy and / or implementation modalities for further efficiency, effectiveness and impacts, and provide the region with a single convergence of strategies and policies carried by ECOWAS, WAEMU and CILSS;
 - d. OS4. *Prepare for a renewed and expanded compact* of the regional agricultural policy stakeholders.
27. *The first Sectoral Forum relates to the Business Meeting on the Regional Offensive for a sustainable and sustained revitalization of rice production in West*

Africa. Its objective is to mobilize technical and financial resources for the promotion of local/home-grown rice value chains in West Africa. Three specific objectives are expected from the Business Meeting :

- a. **SO1:** Improve knowledge of regional actors and technical and financial partners on the initiatives, strategies and programmes contributing to the promotion of local/home-grown rice value chains in West Africa;
- b. **SO2:** Share with national and regional actors, opportunities and experiences of financing local/home-grown rice value chains in West Africa;
- c. **SO3:** Promote dialogue between the project/programs owners and the technical and financial partners to mobilize financial resources.

28. *The second sectoral Forum focuses on the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme*, which specific objectives are:

- a. SO1: Increase awareness of the achievements by the program in different countries and in the sub-region;
- b. SO2: Reiterate the need for such a programme to help transform agriculture in the region for the benefit of the population;
- c. SO3: Urge financial and technical partners to support ECOWAS in its strategy of sustainable increases in agricultural productivity and competitiveness.

III. Methodology and Process

29. The International Conference will extend the participatory and inclusive approaches of the regional agricultural policy and Rice offensive in West Africa.
30. Each of the three forums of the International Conference starts with a specific preparatory process to prepare the basic documents of the proceedings.
31. For the purposes of ECOWAP review and outlooks : four documents will be developed based on the inputs and papers from countries, groups of actors (POs, private sector and civil society, Gender Network), technical and financial partners along with technical support organizations and institutions:
 - i. *A document assessing the achievements of 10 years* focusing on two main areas: (i) the implementation of ECOWAP at national and regional level and its impact, and making distinction between investment programmes and public policy instruments; (ii) institutional governance and financing;
 - ii. *A summary document* on good practices prepared from multiple capitalisation and assessment of work done in recent years and the work of some task force, alliances, etc., and their lessons for policy and instrument direction (incentives, etc.) ;
 - iii. *A 2025 outlook document* focusing on (i) changes in the agriculture environment in the region; (ii) the lessons of the review of achievements; (iii) the proposals for the framework to adjust the regional agricultural policy and / or its implementation modalities.

- iv. *A draft regional renewed compact* taking into account the evolution of stakeholders in the ECOWAP and the lessons from the Compact signed in 2009 (content of commitments).

32. As for the Business Meeting on the regional Offensive for a sustainable and sustained revitalization of rice production in in West Africa:

- i. *A synopsis* of the recent performance on rice production in West Africa;
- ii. *An introductory note on contracting experiences* developed by the private sector in four production areas/basins : Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria and Senegal;
- iii. *A communication note on the regional Offensive for a and sustained revitalization of rice production in in West Africa*, a summary information sheet on the challenges, issues, and objectives of the regional offensive; (ii) a summary sheet on the potential impacts of the offensive; (iii) a summary sheet on the financing needs of the regional offensive and national programs.

33. On the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Program:

- i. A video of about twenty minutes on the programme's major achievements will be screened;
- ii. A fair will be held at the conference venue to showcase the technologies generated and disseminated by the programme and its partners (ROPPA, APSS, RBM, WAWA);
- iii. A summary document of the programme's results will be presented by PowerPoint by country;
- iv. An awards ceremony for the best agricultural innovation platforms will take place.

IV. Practical organization

34. In practical ways, the conference will have two joint sessions for the three forums: the opening and closing ceremonies. However, the work of each of the three forums shall comport separate panels (see Overall Agenda).

35. In each of the three parallel forums, the proceedings/sessions will be conducted in sequence:

- a. Sequences or panels devoted to communications and the presentation of the background documents;
- b. Panels or sequences dedicated to the summary and preparation of the basic documents submitted for adoption at the closing session;
 - i. The policy and adjustment Framework of the ECOWAP 2025 and the proposed renewed compact;

ii. The Dakar Declaration on rice.

V. Conference Participants

36. . The conference participants are :

- The Heads of State invited by HE the President of the Republic of Senegal;
- The Presidents of the ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions;
- The Ministers of Agriculture of the following countries:, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger , Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and the Togolese Republic;
- The Commissioner for Rural Economy of the African Union;
- The Director of the NEPAD Agency;
- The Director of the Economic Commission for Africa;
- The ECOWAS Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources;
- The ECOWAS Commissioner for Trade, Customs and Free Movement;
- The ECOWAS Commissioner for Industry and Private Sector;
- The WAEMU Commissioner for Agriculture Department, Food Security and Mining;
- The WAEMU Commissioner for Trade and the Free Competition;
- The Executive Secretary of CILSS;
- NAIP Focal Points of Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria , Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo;
- The heads of the national rice development strategies of Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria , Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo;
- The Directors General of the National Agricultural Research Institutions of Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo;
- WAAPP Coordinators of Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo;
- The Coordinators of the National Centres of Specialization (NCoS): Dry cereal / Senegal, Maize / Benin, rainfed-irrigated-lowland and deepwater rice / Mali, Mangrove rice / Sierra Leone, Roots and Tuber / Ghana, Plantain / Côte d'Ivoire, Fruits and Vegetables / Burkina Faso, Livestock / Niger, Aquaculture / Nigeria;
- The heads of specialized regional and international institutions: AfricaRice, CORAF/WECARD, IFDC, CILSS, IFPRI;
- The finance institutions: EBID, BOAD, AfDB, IDB, World Bank;

- ECOWAP's donor group;
- Specialized structures and agencies of the region: ARAA, HUB RURAL;
- Producers Organisations: ROPPA, RBM, APSS, CORET;
- Representatives of civil society: members of the Gender Network, POSCAO, ENDA-CACID;
- Regional consultation frameworks: Rice, Fisheries, Livestock and the Seed Alliance;
- International cooperation agencies and specialized agencies of the UN system: European Union, bilateral cooperation (USA, France, Japan, Canada, Germany, Denmark, Spain, China, India, Brazil, etc.); FAO, IFAD, WFP, UNDP, UNOPS;
- Representatives of the private sector with contracting experiences in rice production areas/basins;
- Representatives of major private groups and non-governmental organizations operating in the rice value chain: OLAM, Dangote Group, VECO, Green Africa, AFEEX;c
- Exhibitors at the Fair of technologies (Techno-Fair);
- Resource persons.

VI. General Agenda of the International Conference on Agriculture in West Africa

| Day 1 : Tuesday, 17 November, 2015 | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| 8 :30 am- 1 :00 pm | Joint opening ceremony of the Conference | | |
| | General Introduction to the Forums | | |
| 2 :30 pm- 6 :00 pm | Global Forum "Review of ECOWAP+10 and 2025 Outlook" | 1 st Sectoral Forum "Financing of Regional Offensive for a sustainable and sustained revitalization of rice production in West Africa" | 2 nd Sectoral Forum "Promoting the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme" |
| Day 2: Wednesday, November 18, 2015 | | | |
| 8 :30 am-6 :00 pm | Global Forum "Review of ECOWAP+10 and 2025 Outlook" | 1 st Sectoral Forum "Financing of Regional Offensive for a sustainable and sustained revitalization of rice production in West Africa" | 2 nd Sectoral Forum "Promoting the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme" |
| Day 3: Thursday, November 19, 2015 | | | |
| 8 :30 am- | Global Forum | 1 st Sectoral Forum | 2 nd Sectoral Forum |

International Conference on Agriculture in West Africa

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| 12 :30 am | “Review of ECOWAP+10 and 2025 Outlook” | "Financing of Regional Offensive for a sustainable and sustained revitalization of rice production in West Africa" | "Promoting the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme" |
| 2 :30pm-6 :30 pm | <p>Adoption of the Forum’s outcomes Le The policy and adjustment framework of ECOWAP 2025 and the draft compact reiterated The Dakar Declaration on rice Awards of the agricultural innovation platforms</p> <p>Joint Closing Ceremony of the Conference</p> | | |