



Monthly Bulletin of the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development **Numéro 00** DECEMBER 2008

Welcome to Circle!

From 1996 to 2008, a period of twelve years, that *Coraf Action*, the quarterly newsletter of the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/WECARD), has been informing its audience, despite the difficulties encountered in publishing in Africa.

Ever since, it has contributed to the publication of information on the activities of researchers, extension agents, and producers, as well as on social demands for research findings by end-users and on the life of the Subregional Organization (SRO).

To improve its attraction to readers and adapt to new developments of CORAF/WECARD, *Coraf Action* is turning thematic, from this year onward.

Notwithstanding its longevity, which is part of its strengths, the quarterly periodic, its number of 12 pages, and the thematic content in its current form do not allow the publication of all information in meeting the expectation of readers, including those relating to the operations of the executive organs of the SRO.

Coraf Action is, however, keeping its scientific publication and extension identity. It will now be published along with *Coraf.Echo*, a monthly liaison bulletin, that will focus on broad-based activities of coordination, facilitation, and advocacy by the institution.

Through this maiden issue, I wish the new publication well route.

Female and male readers, enjoy reading it. □

Dr. Paco Sérémé

CORAF/WECARD: Governing Board invites Development Partners

November 24-26, 2008, Dakar. Since the foundation of CORAF/WECARD in March 1987, this is the first time ever that development Partners have taken part in governing Board session. This was during the second session which was held, in Dakar.

A symbol which did not miss the opportunity to point out the new chairman, Dr. Simon Zok, who led this session, as he who was elected, in June 2008, in Yaounde at the 8th general Assembly.

Besides the report of activities and workplan, the main items on the agenda were the presentation of the trust Fund and the declaration of the development Partners.

More importantly, the trust Fund shall comprise contributions from many partners, to fund the 2008-2013 operational plan of the Council.

In their declaration, following the close of the session, the development Partners reaffirmed their support to the Council for the implementation of the operational plan. Nonetheless, to build mutual confidence, they suggested that financial management certification and contracting mission should be backed by an institutional diagnosis.

Finally, they agreed to meet, in May 2009, in Nigeria, for the next session. □



Governors and development Partners surrounding the chairperson, Dr Simon Zok (at the center, in green suit) marshalled in to implementing of the trust Final.

ECHO IN BRIEVE

2008-2013 Operational Plan Being Finalized

November 3-8, 2008, Dakar. Following the meeting between the executive management of CORAF/WECARD and its development Partners in Nairobi, a decision was taken, among others, on the review of the 2008-2013 operational plan for the establishment of the multi-donor trust Fund.

In line with this, the World Bank sent a consultant, Dr. Matthew McMahon, to CORAF/WECARD executive Secretariat, at Dakar. Over a week, the consultant and the senior Staff of the Secretariat updated the implementation modalities of the Fund, research activities, operational plan budget, and annual activity plan for 2009. □

ACP Countries: at School of Management of Critical Mass of Researchers

November 10-15, 2008, Wageningen, The Netherlands. At its seventh session, the consultative committee of science and technology for agriculture and rural development in the ACP countries addressed the issue relating to the critical mass of researchers.

This was aimed at identifying strategies and priority actions capable of improving the impact of science, technology, and agricultural innovations, through the strengthening of partnerships within the consultative committee, the Technical Center for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), and the ACP-EU countries.

By taking part in this session, CORAF/WECARD succeeded in sharing its experience in the coordination of the

national agricultural research Systems (NARS) research activities within the 22 countries of the subregion. The lessons, learned from the manage-

ment of the critical mass of scientists, will be instrumental for the execution of its 2008-2013 operational plan. □

ECOWAS-CORAF/WECARD Partnership Doing Well

November 3-7, 2008, Abuja. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is one of the four Regional Economic Communities supporting CORAF/WECARD.

Dr. Paco Sérémé, the Executive Director of CORAF/WECARD, shared

fruitful ideas with the Commissioner for Agriculture, which resulted in Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) reaffirmation of its well-expected financial support to the Council. This took place at the ECOWAS headquarters, in Abuja. □

WAAPP: Its Steering Committee Formed

November 12-14, 2008, Dakar. Inaugurated a few months ago, the steering committee of the West African agricultural productivity program (WAAPP) held its first ordinary session to review activities, work plan, and budget of next year.

The representatives of Mali, Ghana, and Senegal, the first three beneficiary countries of the WAAPP, reflected on the organization and functioning of

the steering committee. They decided that it should consist of representatives of ECOWAS, the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), the private Sector, the three countries, the non-Governmental Organizations, the professional agricultural Organizations, and the CORAF/WECARD.

The next ordinary session is to be held, in Ghana. □



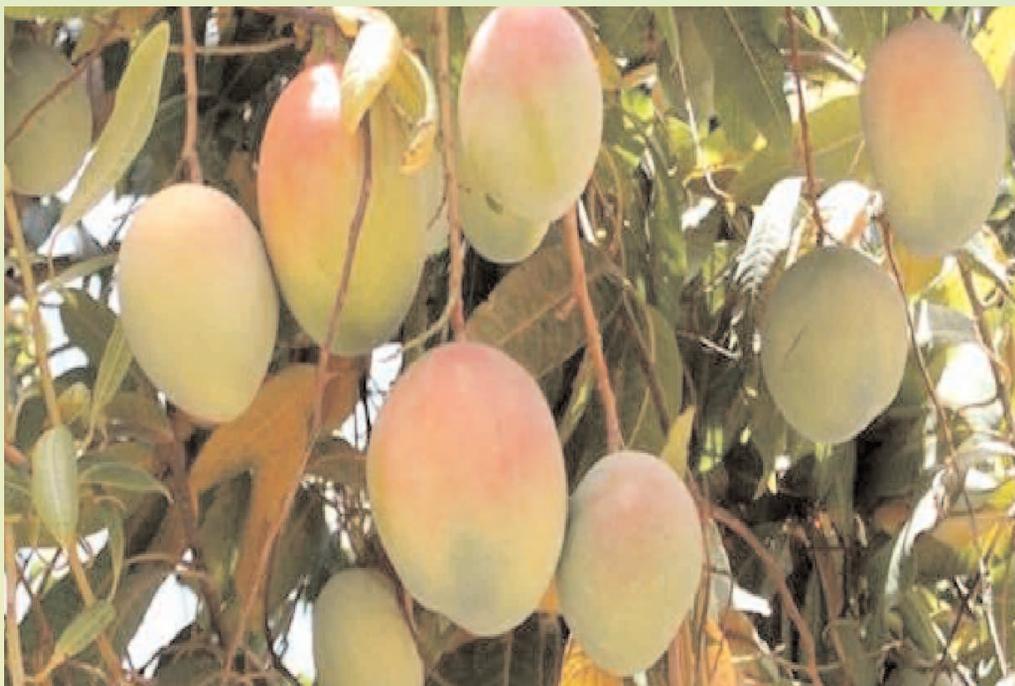
The steering committee members, ready to take up a challenge of better Agricultural Productivity in West and Central Africa.

ECHO FROM NARS

West and Central Africa: Fruit Flies At Center of a Regional Workshop

November 11-14, 2008, Dakar. Since 2000, West and Central African countries have been confronted with an upsurge of fruit flies, which destroy at least thirty-three percent of mango production. To mitigate this destruction, a group of about fifty experts, composing mango exporters, researchers, decision-makers, and representatives of international and subregional agencies met to propose strategies.

This meeting aimed, among other things, at improving the distribution of inputs, strengthening control measure, through integrated control methods and, at last, putting in place preventive control measures on the plantations—parcel maintenance and destruction of precociously attacked fruits. □



Healthy mangoes, protected from fruits flies, soon in plantations.

National Launching WAAPP Senegal

November 4—6, 2008, Saly Portudal, Senegal. After Mali and Ghana; Senegal, one of the three pioneers of the West Africa agricultural productivity Program (WAAPP), launched its national Program.

All the actors of the Senegalese agricultural system—researchers, private Sector, agricultural professional Organizations, non-Governmental Organizations, agricultural extension services, etc.—participated in the event which facilitated the development of the 2009 activity plan. □

Capacity Building: for Quality Seeds

November 4-7, 2008, Accra. Quality seeds are increasingly scarce to farmers who still use traditional one. As a result, they record low yields and production, despite the provision of other inputs.

In an effort to meet the demand for seeds, the workshop was held with the aim of building the capacity for basic quality seed multiplication systems in the subregion. □



Trainers and trainees at a practical course of identification of healthy seeds.

ECHO FROM HEADQUARTERS

Growth and Development: Consortium Established

November 6-8, 2008, Dakar. Africa's basic source of income is agriculture which feeds the majority of the continent's population. In spite of the support from Northern organizations, farmers' production and revenues are still low.

As a contribution to remedy the situation, IFPRI (International Food Policy Research Institute), ASARECA (Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa), CORAF/WECARD, and FANRPAN (food, agriculture, and

natural resources policy analysis Network) established a consortium to achieve the African growth and development policy as a model.

The consortium aims at developing quality infrastructures and providing African researchers with means, through exchanges. It shall coordinate mechanisms and institutional networks.

It also aims at fostering a joint infrastructural modeling, the development of a common data base and, finally, the establishment of a network of experts and a community of practitioners. □

Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research.

From 3rd to 6th December 2008, Johannesburg. NEPAD organized a regional Workshop of Southern Africa Community for Development on "the role, of African universities in development".

On 3rd December 2008, Dakar. Mr. Mustapha Diaw, the Regional Coordinator of the cattle Project in Gambia, met the CORAF/WECARD Staff.

From 8th to 10th December 2008, Paris. The commission of ECOWAS and Regional Conference for the Production and Hunger Reduction organized a meeting with the European Union on the economical West Africa agricultural Policy.

From 8th to 11th December 2008, Dakar. Working session of two consultants of CORAF/WECARD change management team hold a working session with the Executive Secretariat Staff.

From 11th to 13th December 2008, Bamako. The Monitoring and Evaluation Officers met together, in the framework of the West Africa improvement of the productivity Program (WAAPP).

From 22nd to 23rd December 2008, Dakar. The World Bank sent a supervision mission to CORAF/WECARD's Executive Secretariat in the framework of the WAAPP.

On 23rd December 2008, Dakar. The national units of Senegal, Mali, and Burkina Faso and CORAF/WECARD regional unit participated in video conference on the WAAPP

On 23rd December 2008, Dakar. The Agence de presse sénégalaise (APS) organized a press dinner in the honour of the CORAF/WECARD Executive Director and Staff.

AGENDA

From 1st to 5 December 2008, Maputo. The annual general Assembly of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) has been attended by CORAF/WECARD delegation, comprising Dr. Simon Zok Chairman, of the chair governing Board, Dr. Paco Sérémé, Executive Director, Dr. Marcel Nwalozie, Programs Director, Mr. Anatole Y. Koné, Information and Communication Manager, and Madam Remi Cole, Technical Advisor of the Executive Director.

From 1st to 6th December 2008, Kumasi, Ghana. A training session in agricultural research management has been held within the framework of the implementation of the capacity strengthening Program for agricultural research and development in Africa (SCARDA).

From 1st to 7th December 2008 Maputo. A meeting of governing Board of the World Vegetable Centre (AVRDC) took place at the side of the annual general Assembly of the



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of the West and Central African Council
for Agricultural Research and Development

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