



ECOWAS : the ECOWAS

Gender Development

Centre is implementing its 2009 – 2013 Strategic Plan

The ECOWAS Gender Development Centre drafted its 2009-2013 Strategic Plan in 2008 with a view to reposition the Centre so that it can appropriately meet the socio-economic and political needs of the ECOWAS region's gender issues.

In the framework of this plan's implementation, the centre organized a session to draft programmes based on the strategic plan.

From 27th to 30th June 2009, men and women from ECOWAS partner institutions, convened in Saly (Senegal) to reflect and propose activities aimed at improving gender issue in the ECOWAS region.

CORAF/WECARD participated in this work and was represented by Julienne Kuiseu, the Programmes Assistant. □

The African Union :

A whole day in Libya

dedicated to the CAADP

At the 13rd session of the Summit of the African Union Heads of State and Government, held in Tripoli, in Libya, a whole day of 27th June 2009 has been dedicated to the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

The theme of the Summit of the African Union Heads of State and Government was : "Investing in Agriculture for Economic Growth and Food Security". With respect to this theme, the CAADP day was an opportunity for discussions in order to draw

(Continued on page 2)

ECHO FROM THE HEADQUARTERS

WAAPP : Seven other countries are knocking on the door

A regional consultation workshop, in preparation for the second phase of the Adaptive Programmatic Loan (APL) in the framework of the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme, was held in Abuja from 24th to 25th June, 2009.

This meeting was part of the recommendations made at the launching workshop of the WAAPP convened in Abuja from 24th to 26th October, 2008. This workshop aimed at extending the project to the 12 other ECOWAS coun-



The stakeholders and partners of the second adaptive programmatic loan discussing the criteria for eligibility of the 7 prospective countries.

tries during its second phase since the first one focused on three countries : Mali, Ghana and Senegal.

CORAF/WECARD, as an ECOWAS technical arm for the implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy on agricultural research component and use of appropriate technologies, took steps to propose seven countries for inclusion: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Niger, Nigeria and Togo.

The managers of these countries Ministries of agriculture and agricultural research systems and the delegates of the three first beneficiary countries, the Mano River Union, ECOWAS and the World Bank attended this consultation workshop.

During two days, participants were informed on the WAAPP mechanisms and reviewed the criteria for eligibility of the WAAPP second phase. They discussed partnership and cofunding opportunities before drafting a plan for the preparations of the second Adaptive Programmatic Loan (APL).

Each of the perspective countries presented its areas of interest and defended its dossier.

The preparation process of these countries' projects will take place from July 2009 to May 2010. The second phase of the WAAPP is scheduled to be enforced in November 2010.

ECHO IN BRIEVE

(Continued from page 1)

lessons and progress of african agriculture in the framework of the CAADP, six years after its adoption at the 2003 Summit in Maputo.

It must be recalled that, in 2003, the Heads of State and Government made the commitment to invest 10% of their budget in agricultural development. Six years later, the countries that have respected this commitment are very few. The CAADP day served as a means to recall this commitment and presented an opportunity for information sharing between the agricultural systems' various stakeholders : the policymakers, the private sector, the civil society, the media and international partners. CORAF/WECARD, whose executive Director attended the meeting, took advantage of this day to present its activities and its programmes through brochures and other communication tools.□

ECOWAS : Preparations for the International Conference on the funding of the ECOWAP

The stakeholders and partners of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) met in Dakar, from 10th to 13th June, 2009, to prepare for the national and exchange roundtables on the funding of the ECOWAS Common Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP) in the framework of the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). 2008 has been characterized by the acceleration of the ECOWAP implementation process whose vision is to ensure food security and decent incomes to producers and to facilitate the efficient structuring of the agro-industry sectors. The National Agriculture Investment Programmes (NAIP) Process, that aims to assist each member country in drafting its own

agriculture investment programme, comprises various steps.

The 15 ECOWAS countries have moved forward in the process but there remain crucial steps to be taken to deliver the documents to be submitted for funding. These documents are related to the national thematic roundtables.

In order to achieve these steps, there must be collective, coherent and synergetic approaches between all the stakeholders and the harmonization of the various efforts.

This was the objective of the Dakar meeting that enabled countries delegates to get information on the drafting of the terms of reference, on the organisation of roundtables and on the techniques for the finalisation of the NAIP.□

USAID-CORAF/WECARD : the partnership is going well

The partnership between the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and CORAF/WECARD is going very well. First USAID year funding to CORAF/

WECARD for agricultural development in West Africa ended in February 2009. After the assessment of this first agreement, USAID decided to support the institution through a second five-year partnership agreement (2009-2014) in order to facilitate the implementation of CORAF/WECARD Operational Plan.

Jorge Oliveira, the new technical agent for the monitoring of this agreement, was appointed by USAID to monitor the implementation of the new agreement Jorge Oliveira replaces Robert Kagbo who was in charge of monitoring the first partnership arrangement.

The two USAID experts chose CORAF/WECARD headquarters for the handing over on 12th June in the presence of the Executive Director of CORAF/WECARD and senior staff. The outgoing AOTR expressed satisfaction in working with CORAF/WECARD since 2004. He promised his total support to his successor who made a commitment to work with CORAF/WECARD by respecting the partnership.

Jorge Oliveira and CORAF/WECARD managers will meet again 1st and 2nd July in Accra to discuss the operational modalities of the agreement.□



A group photo at the handing over ceremony (at the centre, Dr Paco Sérémé dressed in white. to the right Robert Kogbo, the outgoing AOTR s and to the left, Jorge Oliveira, the new AOTR)

ISRA : a 2009 – 2013 strategic plan, for information and communication, is being drafted

The administrative officers, researchers and partners of the Senegalese Institute for Agricultural Research (ISRA) met to discuss and propose ideas for the drafting of the Institute's 2009-2013 strategic plans for scientific information and data processing systems. The workshop took place on 11th June at ISRA head office in Dakar.

Mrs Mariama Barry, the head of the information and extension unit and Mr Ousmane Mbodj, the head of the data processing unit, presented the activities that had been implemented in the field of information and data processing during the first 1998-2003 strategic plan.

These presentations aimed at facilitating the identification of the gaps between what had been anticipated and what has actually been implemented, and the inventory and the identification of new orientations and strategies.

This one-day workshop was to make participants aware of the importance of information and data processing for a research organisation like ISRA. It identified first pointed out structural problems before making real proposals for the 2009-2013 strategic plan that will deal with activities to meet ISRA's researchers and partners' needs in terms of information and data processing. □

AGRIS : the formulation document presented

The first version of the formulation document on the Integrated Information system for agricultural production, market and opportunities for exchanges in West Africa (AGRIS) was presented to agricultural partners and stakeholders, in 8th and 9th June

in Dakar, with a view to obtain proposals and suggestions.

AGRIS is defined as an integrated Information system for agricultural production, market and opportunities for sharing in West Africa. It is a joint initiative of ECOWAS, WAEMU and CILSS.

AGRIS aims to strengthen the food industry stakeholders' analysis and intervention capacity through a reference document. A consultant drafted the first version of this document.

The brief presentation of the main parts of the reference document raised a lot of interventions aiming at improving its contents.

Five groups (data analysis and management; standardization; the promotion of exchanges; communication, monitoring and evaluation) have been set so as to propose a final document before September 2009. These groups' members will meet at the end of July in Ibadan, at IITA headquarters in Nigeria, for a first consultative meeting. □



An overview of the experts convened to discuss the content of the AGRIS document.

WAAPP : Stakeholders and partners review activities

The restitution meeting of the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme (WAAPP) supervisory mission was held from 23rd to 24th June, 2009 in Abuja.

The World Bank-CORAF/WECARD's joint mission successively conducted review visits in Senegal, Mali and Ghana from 2nd to 17th to assess the activities implemented during the first half year of 2009.

The meeting represented an opportunity for all WAPP stakeholders and partners to be aware of what is going

on in each country in terms of activities and, above all, to list all the problems encountered in order to find appropriate solutions to them.

After the presentations of each of the three countries' coordinator and that of CORAF/WECARD, nine were selected and, for each of them, a report was drafted and recommendations made. These topics are concerned with technology transfer; the environmental impact study; the variety release system and intellectual property rights : the incentives for researchers and their status; competitive research; communication and information sharing; monitoring and evaluation, the preparations for the mid-term review and, finally, the fund disbursement issues. □

ECHO FROM HEADQUARTERS

World Bank- CORAF/-WECARD : the implementation of MDTF

A World Bank mission held working sessions in Dakar, from 1st to 17th June, 2009, with the Executive Secretariat of CORAF/WECARD, to review some Governance administrative and operational manuals and to agree on the actions and the activities that should lead to the implementation of the Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF). Matthew McMahon, Irene Bomani and Osva Romao, from the World Bank staff, and Melissa Brown, from FAO, discussed with Dr Paco Sérémé and senior staff of the Secretariat in order to identify the main actions that would facilitate the implementation of the MDTF.

Among the activities that had to be monitored and implemented in the first quarter of 2009, the two parties noticed with satisfaction that six activities out of the seven planned had been implemented. The last activity, dealing with document-sharing in preparation for the MDTF and the reports on institutional change activities, was in progress, and needed to be strengthened.

The World Bank mission reviewed the Competitive Fund manual, the programmes' manual, the procurement plan, the administration and finance management manual and made some recommendations that were to be addressed in order to improve them.

An action plan has been defined for the effective implementation of the MDTF in 2010 for funding the 2008-2013 Operational Plan.

Concerning this last point, the mission pointed out the necessity to draft rules on researchers' mobility under the authority of ECOWAS. The mission also visited Thiès where the Senegal's specialisation center is located.

ECHO TO COME

2nd July, 2009, Dakar. Working session between CORAF/WECARD and the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) on the issue of adaptation to climate change in Africa.

6th – 8th July 2009, Saly Portudal, Senegal. Regional workshop for the training of NARS trainers on institutional change.

6th - 8th July 2009, Ouagadougou. Official launch of the activities of the USAID's agents.

11th – 12th July 2009, Accra. Meeting of the Regional Agricultural Information and Learning System (RAILS).

13th – 17th July 2009, Accra. Second meeting of the Africa Chapter of the International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists (IAALD).

20th -25th July 2009, Cotonou, Benin. First technical mission in preparation for the 2010 General Assembly and for the 2nd West and Central Africa Agricultural Scientific Week. This mission will work with the Heads of the Benin's National Institute of Agricultural Research (INRAB).

29th July 2009, Dakar. Launching of the activities in the framework of the CORAF/WECARD RDV, an exchange and training platform for the media men and women on the issues of agricultural research and development in Africa.

WAAPP : review of 2009 mid-term activities

The West Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme (WAPP) and CORAF/WECARD third joint supervisory mission reviewed the activities conducted by CORAF/WECARD during the first half year of 2009 from 1st to 5th June at CORAF/WECARD headquarters.

The World Bank's delegation led by the Project Manager, Abdoulaye Touré, had fruitful exchanges with the Executive Director of CORAF/WECARD and the senior staff on the coordinating activities of the WAAPP conducted by the organisation.

This supervisory mission revealed that the activities planned for the first half-year are being well conducted. CORAF/WECARD information and support missions in Mali, Ghana and Senegal facilitated the harmonization of the understanding of the WAAPP and more ownership by stakeholders.

Some shortfalls were observed with regard to the recruitment of a procurement specialist and researchers' means of mobility.



The West and Central African Council
for Agricultural Research and Development's Monthly
Bulletin

Director of Publication

Simon Zok

Director of Edition

Paco Sérémé

Editor-in-Chief

Anatole Yékéminan Koné

Editing and Reading Committee

Julienne Kuisseu
Ernest Assah Asiedu

Layout

Ngor Sarr

On line publication

Gorgui Alioune Mbow

A French version is available

CORAF/WECARD, Po. Box 48 Dakar RP
CP 18523, Senegal
Phone: + 221 33 869 96 18
Fax: + 221 33 869 96 31
E-mails: paco.sereme@coraf.org
anatole.kone@coraf.org
Website: www.coraf.org

