

CORAF/WECARD MAJOR ACTIVITIES IN 2009 PRESENTED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



To all actors in the agricultural research and development domains in West and Central Africa, our best wishes for the year 2009.

The year 2008, which has just ended, was the year the Executive Secretary of our sub regional organization, CORAF/WECARD, a member of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) stepped up initiatives in reinforcing cooperation between all actors involved in agricultural research and development activities in West and Central Africa.

This has led to greater political recognition of our Association by the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and has laid a sound foundation on which the Operational Plan 2008-2013 will be successfully implemented.

With these significant results, I must emphasize that above all these were attributed to the smooth functioning of the bodies of our Association (characterized by the holding of the 8th General Assembly and the meetings of the Governing Board and the Scientific and Technical Committee, etc.) and the remarkable support of the Development Partners Group.

This means that strengthening or reinforcement and sustainability of such partnerships would contribute a lot to ensure the achievement of the objective of the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) under the leadership of NEPAD, from which the new Strategic Plan 2007-2016 of CORAF/WECARD stems.

Thus, during the year 2009, the Executive Secretary, for its part, has a challenge of continuing this fruitful partnership, through its actions of increasing mobilization of resources and greater involvement of various organs of institutional governance.

However, it is by the output of a combined effort of all (organs of governance and other partners) that we will make significant progress in achieving the core functions assigned to the Association: (i) capacity strengthening of NARS members, (ii) coordination of agricultural research for development and (iii) knowledge management and (iv) advocacy.

The awaited hope has come, with the implementation of the Change Management Programme developed to enhance the management of the Association, initiated at the end of the year 2008. Equally, hope has come that the operational plan will be financed, with the introduction of the Multi Donor Trust Fund scheduled for the first quarter of 2009.

On behalf of the staff of the Executive Secretary, it is my honour to wish all of you a Happy New Year (2009) and together we shall respond to the challenges of the scientific agricultural cooperation in our sub region, West and Central Africa.

Dr. Paco SEREME

Executive Director, CORAF/WECARD