

WASP Regional Planning Workshop

Fiscal Year 2013

Dakar, Sénégal, 25-27 March, 2013

Workshop Conclusions, Recommendations and Roadmap

1. Context

The West Africa Seed Program (WASP) relies on the combined expertise of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR – IITA, ICRISAT and AfricaRice), the National Agricultural Research Systems, the universities, the national seed services, NGOs, Farmer Based Organization (ROPPA), local and national private seed organizations (ANASEB, UNPSB, SEEDPAG, ASSEMA, APPSN, SEEDAN, UNIS), enterprises, regional seed initiatives, Regional Economic Communities (CEDEAO and UEMOA), Inter-Governmental Organizations (CILSS), International Organizations and Enterprises (FAO), of the Private Sector (AFSTA, etc.) to achieve expected results.

From 25th to 27th March, stakeholders of the seed systems from West Africa met in Saly, Senegal with the objective to revise and validate the 2013 Annual Workplan and Budget (AWPB) for the implementation of activities under WASP. In total, sixty participants attended the workshop. Consultants from the Syngenta Foundation visited the workshop to interact with CORAF/WECARD staff and program stakeholders, including ECOWAS, FAO, USAID and national partners with, the aim of mapping up areas for collaborating with the Alliance for Seed Industry in West Africa (ASIWA). In addition, the Program Leader of Iowa State University - Centre for Seed Science and Technology participated in the workshop to explore areas of collaboration in capacity strengthening at Post Graduate and short term levels, geared towards the public and the private sector.

At the end of the workshop, the WASP concept had been understood by regional and national seed system stakeholders, which facilitated strong buy-in and ownership of the program. In addition, the draft 2013 Annual Work plan was revised and validated (with activities, sub-activities, responsibilities, targets, indicators/deliverables and indicative budgets).

Main issues emerging from the workshop included follow:

2. General Issues

The issues raised were diverse and cut across the entire seed value chain. Specifically, the issues touched on the delay in the development of a

communication strategy, the need to focus on the regional nature of the program, urgency for the alliance building and the establishment of the COASem/WASC. Additionally, the slow pace in the implementation of the ECOWAS seed regulation, insufficiency in the supply of quality breeder seeds, weak organizational, technical and agri-business capacities of the private sector, including the National Seed Trade Associations, were raised.

3. Recommendations

3.1. General

- ✦ There is a strong need to urgently develop and implement communication strategy for the WASP,
- ✦ Emphases must be laid on the regional nature of the program and focus on identifying and sharing regional best practices, as well as experiences,
- ✦ Actions must be accelerated in the environmental compliance processes to facilitate project implementation
- ✦ Actions must be accelerated to implement the 2013 workplan to achieve planned targets,

3.2. Alliance for Seed Industry for effective Coordination Sustained

- ✦ In the process of recruiting the consultant to develop the structure and the scope for building the alliance, the Terms of Reference must be shared with the relevant stakeholders for their inputs,
- ✦ A strong need was expressed to urgently establish and support the operations of the West Africa Seed Committee (COASem/WASC) in coordinating the national seed committees to ensure sustainability of the Alliance,

3.3. Implementation of the ECOWAS Seed Regulations Enhanced

- ✦ Quick actions must urgent need to implement the ECOWAS regulations, establish and strengthen national seed committees,

3.4. Supply of Quality Breeder Seeds Increased

More focus should be given to regional best practices in the supply of quality breeder seed (e.g. contractual agreements between the public and the private sector organizations),

The issue of certifying breeder seeds in ensuring conformity to the ECOWAS standards was raised,

Breeder seed production could be considered as a business, which calls for the need to expedite the processes of implementing the Plant Breeder's Rights,

3.5. Supply of Quality Foundation and Certified Seeds by the Private Sector Increased

The technical capacities of the Private Sector, particularly the Small and Medium Enterprises must be strengthened in best practices of seed production, processing, storage and marketing to supply quality foundation and certified seeds,

The agri-business capacity of the Private Sector must be strengthened to facilitate their access to capital, as well as the development of business plans, coaching and apprenticeship, joint-ventures, etc.,

The National Seed Trade Associations must be supported to develop and implement Action Plans in strengthening their organizational capacity,

4. Conclusions

At the end of the workshop, participants' understanding of the WASP concept, approaches and implementation modalities had been deepened. The draft 2013 Annual Work Plan and Budget was consultatively revised and validated. This is expected to facilitate strong buy-in and ownership of the program, and clear understanding of roles and responsibilities for smooth implementation of activities.

5. Roadmap

	Activity	Deadline	
1	Consolidate the revised Annual WorkPlan and Budget	4 th April	CORAF
2	Develop workshop report (French and English) and share with participants	4 th April	CORAF
3	Develop contracts with organizations	30 th April	CORAF
4	Request and Transfer of first funds to organizations	30 th May	Partner/CORAF
7	Missions to countries by the WASP Team for WASP/WAAPP Consultative meetings with national stakeholders	15 th April	CORAF-WASP
5	Implementing of activities (Capacity strengthening activities)	30 th April	Partners
6	Implementing of activities (Field activities after PERSUAP)	30 th May	Partners