



Executive Secretariat

Dr Abdou Tenkouano, the new Executive Director of CORAF/WECARD officially took office

Dr Abdou Tenkouano, the new Executive Director of CORAF/WECARD officially took office at the head of the Executive Secretariat of West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF / WECARD) in the presence of representatives of Technical and Development Partners of the institution. The official ceremony of transfer of power between Dr Paco SEREME, outgoing Executive Director and Dr. Abdou Tenkouano, incoming Executive Director, was held on April 29 2016 at the headquarters of the Executive Secretariat of CORAF/WECARD in Dakar Senegal.



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Handshake between Dr Abdou Tenkouano incoming Executive Director of CORAF / WECARD and Dr Paco SEREME outgoing Executive Director of CORAF / WECARD in the presence of Dr Alioune FALL, Chairman of the GB



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Dr Abdou Tenkouano, the new Executive Director of CORAF / WECARD

Burkinabe national, Dr Abdou Tenkouano was recruited on December 17, 2015 during the 20th ordinary session of the Board of the institution at the conclusion of an international recruitment process based on a call for applications in accordance with the statutes of the Institution. The new Executive Director intends to continue the work of his predecessor by making CORAF/WECARD become a reference institution in the area of the coordination of agricultural research and development with beneficiaries and partners.

«CORAF/WECARD will continue to be the champion of scientific innovation tailored to the needs of small family farms in a market

spirit and a value-chain dynamic whose purpose is to ensure everyone a better quality of life,» said Dr Abdou Tenkouano. His term will thus be placed under the sign of regional cooperation, increased pooling of resources and the strengthening of public-private partnerships.

«Dr. Tenkouano taking over an institution with strong foundations.

CORAF was able to confirm its vital role in the transformation of agriculture in its areas of operation. It managed successfully the implementation of all its programs through the collaboration of all its partners, «said Dr Paco SEREME, outgoing Executive Director.

On behalf of the Technical and Development Partners, Mrs. Shirley KORE reasserted the support of

these organizations to CORAF/WECARD. «The impact of CORAF/WECARD in the sub-region is undeniable and it is our duty to accompany it on its mission in favor of agricultural research and poverty alleviation,» she said.

Let's recall that Dr. Abdou Tenkouano is holding a PhD in genetics from the University of Texas A & M, in the US, and has extensive experience in managing multidisciplinary teams in various parts of Africa for international research centers.

Before coming into office at CORAF/WECARD, Dr. Tenkouano was the Regional Director for Africa of the Global Horticulture Research Centre (AVRDC).

Support for agricultural research and development

The UE discovers the results of the Project Amprolait

In the framework of the follow-up EU-funded research and development projects, Joaquín González-Ducay, EU Ambassador to Senegal and Dr. Paco Sérémé, Executive Director of CORAF visited two dairy farms in Kaolack region and discussed with stakeholders and partners of the innovation platform of the support project for the sustainable improvements in productivity and competitiveness of bovine dairy sector in West and Central Africa (AMPROLAIT). This 24-hour visit enabled to measure the project's impact in terms of income increase and poverty alleviation for the rural communities. The visit took place on 17 - 18 March 2016 in Dakar at Kaolack.

The two delegations from the EU and CORAF discussed with Theophile SARR, a farmer running a semi-intensive type dairy farm in Sibassor. There is also an improvement in the nutritional status of the entire family of the farmer and of consumers. The project enabled him improve his income after 4 years by selling milk, with a profit shifting from 2000 f per day to 5000 f per day .

The second visited farmer was Biram FALL modern farmer at Medina neighborhood (Kaolack). The project enabled him improve milk production and thus improve his income. This is an example much appreciated by the EU Ambassador, as this farmer was an immigrant in Italy. He came back to invest in husbandry.

Joaquín González-Ducay welcomed the main achievements of the project, adding that «these initiatives should be leveraged to reduce immigration. Valid people immigrate outside Africa whereas entrepreneurship allows hope for Africa. I encourage young people to stay in Africa because their future is here. « CORAF delegation led by the Executive Director Dr Paco Sérémé, welcomed EU initiative to come and see the achievements of the projects EU has been supporting since 2011. He expressed the hope that «the results achieved be shared with a larger number of recipients for a real transformation of agriculture in West and Central Africa. « Before the visit to Kaolack, EU



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Visit of the EU Ambassador Joaquín González-Ducay at Kaolack under AMPROLAIT Project (MDTF)

delegation had a working session with CORAF leaders who shared the overall results of the projects benefiting of EU funding. Aspects of financial and technical governance were shared with the EU Ambassador to Senegal. That was on March 17, 2016.

Since 2011, EU has been funding CORAF/WECARD for an amount of more than 7 billion FCFA (11.475 million euros). To date, 17 research and development projects are implemented in 20 countries in West and Central Africa and regionally coordinated by CORAF / WECARD. The European Union (EU) supports

the CORAF/WECARD through the Multi Donor Trust Fund (MDTF). This is a funding mechanism facilitated by the World Bank, which aims to contribute to sustainable improvements in productivity, competitiveness and agricultural markets in West and Central Africa.

In Senegal, 7 projects are implemented in the areas of dairy production, peanut, cotton, tomato, vegetables, leaves, natural resources, non-timber forest products and capacity building. These projects cover the regions of Kaolack, Tambacounda, Saint Louis and Kaffrine.

Animal genetic resources movement in WA :

Harmonized regulatory framework to enhance food security

«The demand for meat production in 2013 amounted to 3.2 million tons and that of milk to 5.0 million tons. These demands are not met effectively and the area is still dependent on imports. As a solution, the use of animal biodiversity through the use of animal genetic resources may be considered as a sustainable means of increasing agricultural productivity and enhancing food and nutrition security of the populations in the sub region ». These are the main findings of the study entitled «Identification of proposals for the development of a regional regulatory framework for the circulation and use of animal genetic material in ECOWAS» conducted by CORAF/WECARD.



A Group photo of the workshop

From 5 to 6, April 2016, stakeholders whether national coordinators and /or focal points for animal genetic resources of ECOWAS, producers organizations and the private sector met in Dakar, Senegal to validate the technical and legal proposals of that study to develop a regional regulatory framework on the movement of animal genetic material in the ECOWAS region. CORAF /WECARD subregional focal point for the sustainable mana-

gement of animal genetic resources in West Africa is mandated by ECOWAS to conduct the study through its regional program WAAPP, given the urgent need to regulate the movement and use of animal materials.

«This animal genetic material can have an intra-regional origin or come from imports from other regions. In both cases, the movement and use of animal material must be supervised by a legislation so that to improve animal performance and

the protection of people and animals' health and life. «Said Dr. Alioune Fall, Chairman of CORAF/WECARD's Board.

Indeed, the recent trends in the farming systems of West African countries are characterized by the genetic dilution of local breeds, with the introduction of exotic animals or semen, in order to increase significantly the level of livestock production so that to meet demand. In addition, animal biodiversity is threa-

tened by climate change, wars and social conflicts and the persistence of animal diseases. Intensive farming systems are characterized by an increased use of improved animal genetic material (animal semen, embryos, performing animals). The use of efficient animal genetic material is therefore a necessary

condition for a rapid and sustained increase in animal production in West Africa. This animal genetic material can have an intra-regional origin or come from imports from other regions. In both cases, the movement and use of animal material must be superintended by a legislation so that to improve animal performance and

the protection of people and animals' health and life.

WAAPP coordinated by CORAF/WECARD aims among others to generate and disseminate proven technologies in agro-sylvo-pastoral priority sectors among which the livestock sectors (cattle-meat and milk).

Seed system in West Africa :

an electronic platform launched in Senegal

CORAF/WECARD has launched the platform Wasix.net (www.wasix.net), on March 24, 2016 in Dakar as part of the implementation of the West Africa Seed Program (WASP) and the West African Agricultural Productivity Program (WAAPP). This electronic platform on seeds in West Africa provides information on the stakeholders of this industry, on the mapping, markets, business surveillance space, companies and institutions.



Launching of the WASIX platform.

The new platform Wasix (www.wasix.net) as a single access point for the dissemination of useful information to stakeholders of the seed industry, it becomes easier to fill the information gap between stakeholders but especially to enable stakeholders of seed industry from different countries to benefit from an exchange framework for their activities. «The point therefore will be the dissemination of seed production forecast data, the real data on actual production and an economic policy analysis of seed situation, at national and sub-regional level.» says Mr Ernest Asiedu, representative of CORAF Executive Director.

The launching ceremony was attended by Ms. Mariétou Diawara, Coordinator of WAAPP Senegal, by the technical advisor and representative of the Minister of Agriculture Mr Modou Mboup, the president of Unis Mr Modou Thiam, the representative of the Executive Director of CORAF Mr Ernest Asiedu, the representatives of Seeds National Association from Senegal and by several guests. Earlier, the adviser and representative of the Ministry of Agriculture Modou Mboup welcomed the initiative of CORAF / WECARD to create the West Africa Information Exchange (WASIX) which is already a profitable system for private stakeholders to get information and make commercial transactions, but also a tool to help public decision in the sub region and throughout the world.

A Participatory approach

Wasix electronic platform is an operationalization tool which aims to create synergy and complementarity in the national and regional seed industry. To allow stakeholders to take ownership of this platform, CORAF opted for a participatory approach in the implementation of this project.

In this context, stakeholders have benefited from capacity building during the workshop, which allowed producers to know how to make their information available on the platform and allow those who need this information to know how to collect this information, how to make purchase proposals and how to buy online...

Wasix is also accessible via mobile phone

The access to the platform is also free for any producer provided that he is officially recognized by the state. The platform is also accessible via mobile phone for those who

do not have access to the Internet in order to give them information and allow them to express their purchase or sale interest. A version of Wasix mobile application is also available on Android. This electronic platform aims to be a contribution to the development of the seed industry network in West Africa. Therefore, the representative of the Ministry of Agriculture invited the stakeholders to «animate Wasix regularly in order to share and benefit from knowledge and from concrete and practical know-how, and especially tailored to meet the objective of food security in the sub-region.»



Où trouver des semences de qualité et en quantité ?
www.wasix.net

Wasix.net, la plateforme électronique sur les semences pour augmenter et étendre les opportunités de commercialisation et les revenus des producteurs

- Wasix.net** vous renseigne sur les productions de semences dans toute la sous-région
- Wasix.net**, c'est simple : indiquez ce que vous recherchez et **wasix.net** vous dira où et à quel prix le trouver
- Wasix.net**, c'est pratique : manifestez vos intérêts, repérez les disponibilités en ligne et achetez auprès des producteurs agréés
- Wasix.net**, c'est utile : et un gain de temps
- Wasix.net**, c'est une plus-value : vendez et écoutez votre stock de semences grâce à **wasix.net**

Les bonnes adresses sous-régionales des semences sont sur **www.Wasix.net**

Retrouvez les producteurs de votre sous-région sur www.wasix.net

- Des informations sur les produits et marchés du secteur des semences,
- Une disponibilité et accessibilité des informations sur les semences agricoles
- Un espace de veille commerciale sur les semences
- Une mise en réseau des acteurs du système semencier
- Visibilité des entreprises et institutions semencières
- Une base de connaissances en matière de semences

Seed system in West Africa

the electronic platform of Benin launched on April 21

The Republic of Benin has officially launched on Thursday, April 21, 2016, the electronic platform on seeds in West Africa (www.wasix.net).

The official ceremony, dedicated to this event, was chaired Mr. Zourkaïnény ADAMOU, representing the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, in the presence of M. Glele Melon national representative of PSAO/WASP / ProCad (Support Framework Programme to Agricultural Diversification) and Mr Yacouba Diallo representative of the Executive Director of CORAF / WECARD.

This launching ceremony followed the capacity building session of national managers of focal points and of the platform, identified as such. These latter met the day before, at Infosec training center in Cotonou to become familiar with the use of the Platform, an appropriate instrument for disseminating information on seeds and the stakeholders of this industry.

Through the support of its sub regional programs embodied by WAAPP/PPAAO (West Africa Agricultural Productivity Program) and PSAO/WASP (West Africa Seed Program), CORAF / WECARD had actually anticipated the validation of the project; it was on May 2014 in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. On this occasion, the intention was clearly stated: «define a good seed policy» through an information system focused on the networking of stakeholders, a regulatory framework and a basic knowledge but also, to facilitate «certified seeds trade within the country and in the sub-region.» According to M. Diallo, this will help the option taken by his institution to improve and promote a sub-regional seed market which can thrive only through the establishment of a true seed industry.

More concretely, and that, before an audience of technical partners, scientific and administrative executives of all levels as well as public and private sectors representatives, M. Diallo explained that, by

its usability and flexibility, the platform thus facilitates the networking of producers, distributors, users and other stakeholders across the seed value chain; it reduces or fills the information gap between them, helps create a regional community on seeds practices, boosts seed trade in West Africa and beyond, and helps in decision making, both individuals and structures to improve productivity. Therefore, this is an important step in the establishment of the Alliance for the Seed Industry in West Africa (ASIWA)

According to Zourkaïnényla the platform 'www.wasix.net' also allows you to collect, analyze and communicate reliable data and information on the production, distribution, marketing of outstanding varieties seeds from priority plant species.

Through him, the audience learns that «Benin authorities have de-

cided with enthusiasm to support this initiative of development of seed industry.

Finally, this important tool is accessible via Internet,, mobile phone or secured smart phone, practical to communicate freely, easily and permits to initiate transactions, to generate a catalog of varieties and to participate in a discussion forum from a single access profile.

In doing so, all the stakeholders are invited to master it in order to better promote their activities and facilitate access to quality seeds in sufficient quantity at the right time, in right places and at affordable prices for all.

Therefore, it only remained to immediately take action, and this was done with the demonstration on screen of the great possibilities of this computer instrument, well appreciated by various testimonies from the audience.

To view success stories videos,
Please click on the link below :
[www.youtube.com/user/coraf/
wecard](http://www.youtube.com/user/coraf/wecard)

Agricultural Productivity :

some stakeholders salute the performance of WAAPP

Senegal has returned to growth at the farm level with a rate of 10.5% ranks this country above the average growth rate of the Sahel countries with which it shares the West African Agricultural Productivity Programme (WAAPP), according to Youssoupha Diallo, Adviser at the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Equipment.

Senegal is on the right track in achieving its proposed food self-sufficiency in 2017, according to the Special Adviser to the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Equipment, Youssoupha Diallo. This is thanks, among others, to the West African Agricultural Productivity Programme (WAAPP), which «is doing a great job.» The country, which had a growth rate less than the demographic rate of 2.5%,

has returned to growth at the farm level. «We have moved today at a growth rate of 10.5%, a rate quite above the growth rate in the whole of the Sahel countries, but also to the objective that was set at the level of WAAPP. Senegal is about to double this growth rate, it is above the average growth rates of Sahel countries, «said Mr. Diallo. He explained that the WAAPP had set a development goal through growth

of at least 6% of African agriculture in West Africa. Varieties of quality seeds, efficient agricultural equipment and adequate agricultural policies have enabled these results.

These policies impact at least 25% in agricultural productivity, said the adviser, after a visit to Senegal exhibition stand yesterday within the 17th edition of the Fiera.

Agriculture International Show (SIAGRI):

The 6th edition kept all its promises

Held under the theme «mechanization of agriculture in Mali», the Agriculture International Show, held from 24 March to 03 April, was a space of exchange and agricultural business between agriculture, fisheries and livestock stakeholders. This 6th edition has kept all its promises according to the different opinions that we have collected from some exhibitors.

WAAPP Mali draws significant benefits from this participation. The SIAGRI has allowed the PPAO Mali to have high visibility. More than 500 visitors from various profiles including ministers, partners (EU, ADB, UN-Women), young graduates, retired persons converted into stakeholders of the rural sector and a large number of stakeholders in the agricultural sector (producers, processors and several people who

have already benefited from WAAPP support) were welcomed and informed about WAAPP.

The information on seeds was well appreciated considered as useful. Good businesses were made by the participants (about 800 kg of husked fonio and parboiled rice were sold by women from Zangaradougou and Mandela) and potential partnerships were identified.

Innovative agricultural technologies

Pour une transformation efficace des produits locaux

On this occasion, innovative agricultural technologies, more productive cereal seeds, production and processing equipment, processed products, cattle and poultry feed, vaccine against avian pox were presented to the media .

Aliou Ndiaye of the National Agricultural and Rural Advisory Agency (Ancar) presented a manual millet thresher which solves three problems at the same time. The objective is to reduce the losses due to the use of mortars and other threshing machines which were estimated at 15%. «The manual millet thresher helps to recover up to 95% of the seeds» adds his colleague Abdoulaye Sy. In addition there is the improvement of the quality of millet grains which were broken and mixed with stones.

The machine was designed taking into account the concerns of women in the area of Sine-Saloum, in Thiès region. The other advantage is the accessibility of the machine to small producers and the reduction in working time for women who save time in their activities. The latest version of the millet thresher would be eight times faster than the manual method. From the millet ear the new technology produces flour. Beneficiary from WAAPP aid, Faty Niane welcomed significant returns from her agricultural products pro-



Stand du PPAO SENEGAL

cessing. «We are able to store products from 6 months to one year and one can even» compete «in the international market, because products are quality products. Before, we put cassava only on rice or local couscous, but now we make attiéké with it ... We also make syrups, beverages from local fruits, tomato paste, «says this woman processor of fruits and vegetables.

PPAAO accompanies farmers with two fundings on rice production through the National Fund for Agricultural and Food Research

(FNRAA). The purpose is to disseminate outstanding varieties, to train farmers on good agricultural practices and to provide them with post-harvest tools. «We have doubled our yields this year, we have increase rates up to 130% on rice, thanks to a technology which is the system of intensive rice production. Before, we needed 40 kg for sowing 1 ha, but now with 10 kg of seeds we can sow 1 ha and have a higher yield, «says Abdoulaye Sy, field director at Ancar of the south groundnut basin.

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Pictures of the Ceremony



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