CORAF/WECARD in ten points

*Producers and End users at the Centre of Agricultural Research*
I. WHERE HAVE WE COME FROM?

Some historical references

It all began in March 1987 with a meeting between the directors of fifteen francophone agricultural research institutions of West and Central Africa and Madagascar and their colleagues from French agricultural research institutions namely, the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD), the French National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA) and the Office de recherche scientifique et technique d’Outre-Mer (ORSTOM) now Development Research Institute (IRD).

Together they formed the Conference of African and French leaders of agricultural research institutes (CORAF). The first Executive Secretary of CORAF was Bernard Bachelier and the headquarters of the conference based in Paris.
It was during the third Plenary of the institution, held in 1990, in Antananarivo, Madagascar, that the decision to transfer the Secretariat to Dakar, in Senegal, was taken.

Another decision, equally important, was taken during this third Plenary: to open CORAF to research institutions of English-speaking and Portuguese-speaking countries and to adopt the principle of regular scientific evaluation of scientific cooperation tools.

Lastly, CORAF adopted the charter of Associative Research Networks and Base-Centres and opened up to policy and decision makers, following a Conference of Ministers responsible for agricultural research in West and Central Africa.

In March 1992, the Conference was held in Dakar; the Ministers recognized CORAF as a sub-regional organization and approved its Strategic Plan.

Four years later, in 1996, the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture in West and Central Africa followed suit by recognizing it as the technical instrument of its research policy.

It was in 1995, that the research institutions of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Gambia, Sierra-Leone, Cape-Verde and Guinea Bissau joined CORAF.

Consequently, the institution became the Conference of Leaders of Agricultural Research in West and Central Africa.

In February 1997, in Bamako, Mali, together with two other sister sub-regional organizations of sub-Saharan Africa, it established the continental organization, Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA).

It was in 1999, that CORAF took on its present name: the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/WECARD). It has, among its highest authorities, Civil Society and Private Sector.
The 15-year Strategic Plan (1999-2014) of CORAF/WECARD adopted in 2000 was reviewed and amended in 2003.

Its revision was furthered and expanded during a process which began in November 2006 involving all the stakeholders of the Organization. The new strategy took account of the orientations of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) and the African Union (AU), the objectives of agricultural policies of the Regional Economic Communities and principles of the FARA-led Framework for African Agricultural Productivity (FAAP).
Economic and GIS Studies, followed by seven international workshops resulted in the development of a new Strategic Plan (2007-2016), and an operational Plan (2008-2013) for the first phase of implementation. Both plans were approved in May 2007, in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, by the special General Assembly of CORAF/WECARD, during the 20th anniversary celebration of the Organization.
II. CORAF/WECARD COOPERATION STRATEGY AND MECHANISMS

To complement its institutional mechanism, CORAF/WECARD made an innovative strategic choice ensuring a more general and global approach to its activities, rather than the development of technological instruments.

The programme approach, on which its strategy is based, is complemented by the networking tool, mainly comprising the Research Networks, regional centres of excellence and research poles.

The Regional Competitive Fund is used to fund research projects selected on a competitive basis. To produce results that meet social needs, it contributes to improving quality and ensures the promotion of excellence.

The eight research programmes developed and which are being implemented are:

– Livestock, Fisheries and Aquaculture Programme;
– Staple Crops Programme;
– Non-Staple Crops Programme;
– Natural Resource Management Programme;
– Biotechnology and Biosafety Programme;
– Policies, Markets and Trade Programme;
– Agricultural Knowledge Management Programme;
– Capacity building and Coordination Programme.
Livestock, Fisheries and Aquaculture Programme

Staple Crops Programme
Non-Staple Crops Programme

Natural Resource Management Programme
Biotechnology and Biosafety Programme

Policies, Markets and Trade Programme
CORAF/WECARD COOPERATION STRATEGY AND MECHANISMS

Agricultural Knowledge Management Programme

Capacity building and Coordination Programme
These eight programmes contribute to the achievement of the four results sought by CORAF/WECARD, namely:

1. Appropriate technologies and innovations developed;
2. Strategic decision-making, options for policy in institutions and markets developed;
3. Sub-regional agricultural research system strengthened and coordinated;
4. Demand for Agricultural knowledge from targeted groups facilitated and met;

Furthermore, CORAF/WECARD participates in several other initiatives and projects with its partners, including those resulting from FARA networking:

- Agricultural Research Innovation System for the Development of the Sub-Saharan Africa Challenge Programme in (SSA CP)
- Building the capacities of National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) in sub-Saharan Africa (SCARDA and BASIC)
- Dissemination of New Agricultural Technologies in Africa (DONATA)
- Regional Agricultural Information and Learning System (RAILS)
- Development of agricultural policies based on new emerging technologies (ABI).

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The West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development has currently 22 NARS members from the following countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape-Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra-Leone and Togo.

These countries have a total area of over 11.5 million sq kilometres, with a population of over 318 million inhabitants, 70 % of which live on agriculture.
CORAF/WECARD Vision

From now to 2015, CORAF/WECARD’s vision is to contribute to sustainable reduction of poverty and food insecurity in West and Central Africa. This will be achieved through agricultural led economic growth, and improving agricultural research system of the sub-region.

CORAF/WECARD Mission

The mission is underlined by the determination to meet the socio-economic needs of the population in the sub-region. This is why CORAF/WECARD’s concern is to improve, in a sustainable way, agricultural productivity, competitiveness and markets.

CORAF/WECARD Objective

The general objective of CORAF/WECARD is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of small-scale producers and promote the agribusiness sector. For that reason, it puts the producers and end-users at the centre of research.
Organization of CORAF/WECARD

Four hierarchical bodies, namely, the General Assembly, the Governing Board, the Scientific and Technical Committee and the Executive Secretariat, see to the implementation of the vision and objective through Operational Units.

General Assembly

Naturally, the General Assembly (GA) is the supreme authority of the Association. Being sovereign with regard to all issues concerning the life of the Association, it is composed of representatives of its NARS members, regional and international institutions in the sub-region, intergovernmental organizations in the field of agriculture and regional economic communities of West and Central Africa, and development partners. Its mission includes among others:

- Approval and ratification of various agreements and policies.
operational plans, programmes, budgets and funding plans, audit reports,

– Study and approval of the report of the Governing Board which elects the Chairman, the Vice Chairman and other members or renews their mandate,

– Delegation to the Governing Board of its powers and prerogatives for an effective and efficient implementation of programmes that it has approved,

– Ratification of the appointment of the Executive Director on the recommendation of the Governing Board,

– Evaluation of the performance of the Governing Board through Ad Hoc committees

**Governing Board**

The implementation of these guidelines and decisions by the Executive Secretariat is controlled and monitored by the Governing Board (GB), chaired by the Chairman of CORAF/WECARD. To this end, its thirteen members, from the NARS —representatives of national research and training institutes, professional agricultural organizations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations — the Regional Economic Communities and development partners (observers) recommend a candidate to the GA for the post of executive Director, supervise the activities of the Executive Secretariat, examine and approve the annual programmes and budgets.

It is also part of their mandate to monitor the decisions of the GA, act on behalf of the GA on all matters requiring immediate attention, recommend for approval and ratification by the General Assembly, the programmes, budgets, financial reports, audit reports, and new memberships.

**Scientific and Technical Committee**
The Scientific and Technical Committee (STC), a consultative organ of the Governing Board, has twelve members, chosen on the basis of their personal merit, experience and reputation in the field of agricultural research for development and capacity strengthening. They are responsible for reviewing and advising the Governing Board on matters of scientific quality and the relevance of research proposals, assisting the Executive Secretariat in carrying out its functions of organizing and coordinating scientific meetings, assisting the Governing Board in the evaluation of scientific activities, monitoring and evaluation of all scientific cooperation activities including scientific publications.

**Executive Secretariat**

The Executive Secretariat (ES) is headed by the Executive Director of CORAF/WECARD assisted by senior management officers — Programme Director, Administrative and Finance Director, Information and Communication Manager — professional staff and support staff. The Executive Secretariat ensures the coordination and implementation of the Strategic Plan of CORAF/WECARD as approved by its General Assembly, including monitoring, evaluation, financial and administrative management, and carries out the decisions of the General Assembly. It provides the necessary support for the development, implementation and coordination of operational programmes and units, organizes audit of research programmes and projects, manages human and financial resources, and arranges statutory meetings. The Executive Secretariat serves as the focal point for development partners and other stakeholders of the Association, undertakes and coordinates the sharing and exchange of information between the member countries and institutions.

It is based in Dakar, under a Headquarters Agreement with the government of the Republic of Senegal, since 15 March 1997.
IV. IN WHAT SECTOR DO WE WORK AND WHY?

In February 2006, the main stakeholders involved in CORAF/WECARD activities, met to discuss the approaches and modalities for implementing its Strategic Plan for 1999-2014.

From this extensive consultation emerged the decision to adopt the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and the principles of the Framework for African Agricultural Productivity (FAAP). The procedure, adopted for review, revision and development permitted to identify the priority areas of research, develop a logical implementation framework and design an operational plan from 2008 to 2013. The objective was to respond in the best way to the challenges of the agricultural sector, on which the majority of West and Central African populations depend.

The 22 countries, covered by CORAF/WECARD, are among the poorest in the world. Out of a population of over 318 million, more than a third live below the poverty line. The majority of this population are rural folk. Seventy percent depend on agriculture for their livelihood and income. Over the last decade, the population has increased sharply, causing massive urbanization.

In this context, structural changes and increase in agricultural production are essential to improving economic growth and food security.

Agriculture contributes over 35% to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and accounts for more than 40% of exports. Sub-regional economic growth thus depends largely on the agricultural sector, but its productivity remains generally low. Of the 3.9% annual growth in GDP, recorded between 2000 and 2004, only 1.2% was from the agricultural sector.
The sub-region however has strong agricultural potential, distributed over different agro-ecological zones. This diversity and rapid population growth provides an opportunity to improve the productivity of agricultural systems and to increase the competitiveness of products and markets.

The sector, however, is also characterized by the predominance of small farms, depending largely on rain-fed production systems, natural soil fertility maintenance methods and limited access to markets.

The main food crops are roots and tubers, cereals, legumes, banana and plantain. The main industrial and export crops are coffee, palm oil, cocoa, rubber and cotton. The emerging crops are gaining importance, in terms of food security and generation of income from non-traditional export crops. Animal production comprises mainly cattle rearing followed by rearings of small ruminants mainly by small holders.
V. WHAT ARE THE CONSTRAINTS WE ARE FACING? AND HOW ARE WE GOING TO MEET THE CHALLENGES?

**Poverty.** In spite of considerable investments made in the agricultural sector, productivity and competitiveness remain low. They have had little impact on producer incomes. Chronic poverty is still endemic.

The challenge to achieve an annual growth of 6% from agricultural productivity in 2015 should improve the living conditions of populations that depend on agriculture.

**Food insecurity.** The agricultural policy of sub-regional economic communities has been focused primarily on increasing the availability of food and its accessibility to meet the needs of this population.

All things considered, the eradication of hunger and the achievement of food security remain a major challenge.
Biophysical constraints. Biophysical constraints hamper agricultural development: drought, depletion of nutrients, soil acidity and degradation, etc. Climate change, an additional danger, is threatening production systems that are already very vulnerable.

The challenge is thus to encourage holistic or global productivity measures, based on environmentally-friendly social practices and the sustainable management of natural resources.

Conflicts

Some countries in the sub-region are still in conflict or post-conflict situations, which have disastrous consequences on national agricultural
research systems. The challenge is to ensure proper revival of agricultural research using the appropriate measures.

**Inappropriate sub-regional agricultural policies.** The development strategies initiated and implemented by governments over the past twenty years were focused on national structural adjustment agricultural policies.

The emphasis however, was on financial gain from production systems rather than measures aimed at food security, rural employment and sub-regional market integration.

Agricultural policies, often defined without the participation of grassroots communities, were not only poorly set out in terms of macroeconomic policies, but also geared towards action plans, programmes and projects whose implementation depended largely on external financial assistance.

The challenge of sub-regional integration of agriculture into regional and international markets can be taken up by political advocacy on issues of importance.
This involves increased access of products to sub-regional and international markets, reduction of protective tariffs and subsidies granted by developed countries to their agriculture, and consideration of demands relating to intellectual property rights that are incompatible with the status of agriculture as a public good.
VI. HOW CRUCIAL IS THE COORDINATION OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH?

In the seventies and eighties, several governments set up research institutes and structures, in order to solve problems relating to food insecurity and low agricultural productivity.

However, most of the NARSs did not benefit from sustainable funding, due to low budgetary allocations, particularly operating expenses.

The challenge is thus to ensure proper coordination of the fragmented aid given to sub-regional agricultural research, harmonize research and direct it effectively so that it can have a better impact on the populations.

Figure 1: Net agricultural production per capita (source: IFPRI, 2006).
VII. HOW IS CORAF/WECARD RESPONDING TO THESE CHALLENGES FACING AGRICULTURE?

In response to the many challenges facing agriculture, the common agricultural policies of each of the Regional economic communities must seek to promote modernized and sustainable agricultural practices.

The major changes (see P.31) that the African Union and NEPAD’s new agricultural policy address are contained in the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme for (CAADP).

CORAF/WECARD has been involved in drawing up this programme as well as the Framework for African Agricultural Productivity (FAAP) which is the implementation instrument used by the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA).

It is in view of this dual role that CORAF/WECARD has taken some bold initiatives.

Statistics show that agriculture is regaining its position in the African economy with a growth rate of 2.7% in 2002 and 5.3% in 2004.

A 2006 study conducted by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) for CORAF/WECARD showed that West Africa’s net agricultural production per capita was improving after sharp losses in the eighties and nineties.

These findings could be attributed to the application of improved technologies, from the research stage to agricultural production as well as investment from governments and international donors.
These findings clearly indicate that research is producing an increasingly positive impact on agricultural growth in West and Central Africa.

Another IFPRI report has shown that agricultural growth has had a substantial impact on other sectors of the economy as the process was led by small scale farmers.

Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme for (CAADP)

The CAADP identified agriculture as the largest sub-sector for ensuring Africa’s rapid and sustainable economic growth.

The programme recommends an agriculture-led development, projected to achieve an annual average agricultural growth rate of 6% by 2015. It is also expected to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

This initiative was endorsed by Heads of State and Government and adopted by the RECs as the vision for restoring agricultural growth, food security and rural development in Africa.
Africa: Significant changes

Current or ongoing changes

Having defined the aims and objectives of CAADP, the African vision is yet to be attained.

FAAP has been drawn up as the implementation action plan of CAADP.

The mandate of the RECs has been strengthened and enhanced.

National economies have improved as a result of better governance and an increase in the price of raw materials.

Governments have, under the Maputo Declaration, renewed their commitment to support the agricultural sector by allocating 10% of their budgets to the sector.

Leaders at the two G8 summits, at Sea Island and Gleneagles, renewed their interest in Africa, trade relations with Brazil, China and India.

Seasonal cycles have reduced, owing to the devastating effect of climate change.

Globalization has had a general impact on the competitiveness of agriculture, especially small-scale farmers and livestock-breeders.

Rural-urban migration of the youth, increased promotion of gender issues, women and children breadwinners and a lack of care for persons living with AIDS have had a combined impact on agriculture.

Human and institutional capacity continue to decline due to low university attendance rates, emigration of the best agricultural professionals and unavailability of jobs, curtailed as a result of structural adjustment programmes.

Bird flu, a highly pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), has had dire consequences on African and world economies.
Africa: Changes in the pipeline

Intra-African trade will increase remarkably.

There will be high prevalence and incidence of animal diseases such as trypanosomiasis, bird flu and the Rift Valley fever.

Increased impact of climate change, coupled with the frequent unfavourable conditions will make local producers more vulnerable, thereby making their traditional know-how obsolete.

The need to feed an ever-growing population will result in increased pressure on land and water resources and accelerate land degradation.

Water will become an increasingly scarce commodity.

Further crude oil shortages will lead to increase in the price of fuel and petroleum by-products, thereby negatively affecting the cost of food production and international trade.

Production of bio-fuel will upset market parameters, to which producers must adjust.

The need to develop new crop varieties farming and livestock-breeding practices should respond to challenges posed by the market, climate change and emerging diseases.

The preservation and rational use of water resources and biodiversity will become more crucial, thereby drawing more attention to livestock-breeding which uses the largest proportion of land.

The continent will have to step up its responsibility to improve and preserve its main crops.

An increase in the population of Africans in the Diaspora will boost the food export market and hence, domestic investment in Africa.
CAADP has focused its investment activities on four pillars that are mutually interrelated and address issues on policy, institutional reform and capacity building.

The fourth pillar focuses on increasing the productivity of resources on which poor communities depend for their livelihood.

NEPAD has identified this as the most effective way of reducing poverty and ensuring food security. Its strategy therefore is to revitalize, extend and renew agricultural research in Africa.

NEPAD has also mandated FARA as lead agency in drawing up an implementation framework for the fourth pillar, with the RECs as focal points for coordinating and monitoring implementation of the entire CAADP initiative.

In line with this, CORAF/WECARD is implementing the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme (WAAPP) and the Central Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme (CAAPP).

With these programmes CORAF/WECARD seeks to carry out regular and sustainable production of appropriate technologies as well develop national systems tailored to the opportunities and challenges facing producers.

As part of its involvement in the implementation of agricultural policies CORAF/WECARD holds meetings with concerned stakeholders to draw up strategies that would ensure an agriculture-led growth (see box)
A clear, specific and realistic mandate

**CORAF/WECARD has a mandate to:**

Implement regional agricultural research policies drawn up by policy makers in countries with member institutions.

**CORAF/WECARD’s role under this mandate is to:**

– Promote cooperation, consultation and information sharing between member institutions and between these institutions and their partners;

– Define common research objectives and priorities at the sub-regional and regional levels;

– Serve as consultative body for research activities carried out by sub-regional, regional and international organizations in the sub-region;

– Draw up and ensure effective implementation of sub-regional research and development programmes with a view to adding value to national programmes.
The General Assembly held in Accra in 1998 decided to draw up a strategic action plan for 1999-2014.

The main objectives of this strategic plan were to identify priorities in sub-regional agricultural research cooperation and then set out a framework for negotiation and dialoguing among various agricultural and research development partners.

The strategic plan adopted in 2000 was reviewed and updated in 2003, after its third year of implementation.

An extensive review of the strategic plan was again conducted in 2006 on CORAF/WECARD’s core strategy, to address the new orientations of CAADP and FAAP.

The question is, how necessary was this second review? This was, simply because CORAF/WECARD had to focus attention on these two new initiatives as well as the emergence of new strategic relationships with the RECs.

Seven key issues were reviewed. The first was the fragmented assistance to agricultural research in Africa. There was the need to coordinate and harmonize these packages with the participation of the various stakeholders, especially the producers.
The second key issue was the links between the various pillars of CAADP and the need to focus on each of them rather than the fourth pillar alone.

The third issue was on FAAP which is supporting activities of CORAF/WECARD. This framework is therefore key in the improvement of national programmes because the existence of a strong NARS will help increase capacity to respond adequately to challenges facing the sub-region.

The fourth issue was on the overlapping roles of organizations and initiatives involving CORAF/WECARD member institutions. There is therefore the need to rationalize action plans for effective support in the sub-region.

The fifth issue was on the periods during and after armed conflict in most countries. Agricultural research and development are mostly affected in such periods of conflict and therefore require specific solutions.

The sixth issue was on funding and reduction of fragmented donor-assisted programmes. CORAF/WECARD must encourage development partners to provide substantial assistance to activities related to regional strategies and priorities which have been endorsed by stakeholders in the agricultural sector and to reduce the number of programmes they heavily fund.

The seventh and final issue was on partnerships with RECs. RECs and CORAF/WECARD need to put such partnerships to good use.

The two processes for revising the Strategic plan entailed, first identifying and categorizing priority research areas, and secondly, widely consulting agricultural sector stakeholders.
VIII. IDENTIFICATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF PRIORITY RESEARCH AREAS.

Prior to the planning process, CORAF/WECARD mandated IFPRI to conduct an economic and geographical analysis of priorities in the sub-region and of food security.

The findings of the survey highlighted and classified alternatives to investment opportunities in the sub-region.

**Consultation with stakeholders**

CORAF/WECARD organized seven consultation workshops to draw up its new Strategic Plan (See figure below). The workshops have mainly broadened understanding and ownership of the operational plan.
IX. WHAT IS OUR WORKING TOOL AND THE WAY FORWARD?

The 2007-2016 Strategic Plan. The strategic plan was drawn with the view of attaining an annual agricultural average growth rate of 6% by 2015.

The plan also took the principles and objectives of FARA, NEPAD and other regional organizations into consideration.

Clearly identified stages and processes

The Strategic Plan consolidates the coherent stages and processes integrated into a framework known as the Logical framework.

This logical framework defines the general as well as specific objectives of CORAF/WECARD in four outcomes.
The first outcome is the availability of appropriate technologies and innovations; the second is setting out decision-making strategies for policy makers, institutions and markets; the third is the improvement and coordination of agricultural research systems and the fourth is meeting the demand of target groups in agricultural technologies and innovations.

Implementation of the Strategic Plan is based on new principles.

**Programme approach.** Unlike the “Network approach”, this implementation strategy is based on a “programme approach” which ensures the participation and empowerment of the various stakeholders. This has resulted in many remarkable changes in institutional and organizational systems.

These four outcomes identified will be implemented with the execution of eight programmes on livestock, fisheries and aquaculture; staple crop; natural resource management; biotechnology and bio-safety; policies, market and trade; knowledge management, and capacity strengthening and coordination.

Each programme is managed by a programme manager who will report to the Executive Director of CORAF/WECARD. The Programme manager, among other things, draws up a five-year annual and medium-term strategic plan for the programme.

**Taking into account cross-cutting issues** is another component of these principles, which includes gender equality concerns, the AIDS pandemic and sustainable environmental protection, etc.

**Technical research** is yet another component of these principles. It is based on the concept of “innovative systems’ which place users at the heart of innovative practices and encourage learning and solution seeking through dialogue and sharing of ideas among all stakeholders.
Lastly, trade, policy and market research is also one of these principles. It meets the needs of policy makers and aims at creating an enabling environment for growth in the sub-region.

CORAF/WECARD has focused on three key activity areas, namely:

**Capacity Building**

NARS, institutions and partners will be supported in mobilizing their resources at specialization centres by creating and maintaining skills bases in the various areas, creating and sustaining enabling environments for quality, institutional building and skills development for the implementation of innovative agricultural systems.

**Coordination**

Coordination of NARS programmes is essential in avoiding duplication of efforts, creating synergies and ensuring optimal use of available resources. This role is carried out through direct participation in advocacy, forums and meetings and indirect participation in resource mobilization, information and dialogue.
Knowledge management

The knowledge management programme is aimed at disseminating information and converting such information into know-how for advocacy, coordination and practical learning.

In this regard, two five-year operational plans each showing the expected outcomes and resources needed, will facilitate the implementation of CORAF/WECARD’s Strategic Plan. The plans will be reviewed annually.

The monitoring-assessment mechanism, applied in all activities organized by CORAF/WECARD will, as much as possible, be harmonized with that of FARA.
CORAF/WECARD is a member of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA). FARA represents the Continent in the Global Forum of Agricultural Research (GFAR). The major Partners of CORAF/WECARD include:

**Regional Economic Communities**
- ECOWAS  Economic Community of West African States
- ECCAS  Economic Community of Central African States
- CEMAC  Central Africa Economic and Monetary Community
- UEMOA  West Africa Economic and Monetary Union

**Inter-Governmental Organizations**
- CILSS  Permanent inter-State committee for drought Control in the Sahel
- CMA-AOC  West and Central African Ministers of Agriculture Conference

**Financial Institution**
- EU  European Union
- SDC  Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
- MAE  Ministry of Foreign Affairs, France
- USAID  United State Agency for International Development
- DFID  Department for International Development
- WB  World Bank
- UNDP  United Nation Development Programme
- GTZ  Deustche Geshellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (German Technical Cooperation)
- IRDC  International Research Development Centre
- CIDA  Canadian International Development Agency
- IFAD  International Fund for Agriculture Development
- SIDA  Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
AFDB  African Development Bank
IFS  International Foundation for Science

Scientific Partners
Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) Centres
WARDA  West Africa Rice Development Association
ICARDA  International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas
ICRAF  International Centre for Research in Agro-Forestry
ICRISAT  International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics
IFPRI  International Food Policy Research Institute
IITA  International Institute for Tropical Agriculture
ILRI  International Livestock Research Institute
Bioversity international
IWMI  International Water Management Institute
WorldFish  WorldFish Center

Northern Advanced Research Institutes (ARI) comprise those of the European Consortium on Agricultural research under the Tropics (ECART) and the Universities

Technical Cooperation Institutions
FAO  United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
CTA  Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation
AATF  African Agricultural Technology Foundation
AVDRC  Word Vegetal Center
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