



West Africa Seed Program

Alliance for Seed Industry in West Africa

Learning Event

A Concept Note

Accra, Ghana; June 13–14, 2017

In support of the implementation of Regional Harmonized Seed Regulation



PSAO/WASP



7, Avenue Bourguiba, BP 48- cp18523- Dakar SENEGAL
Tel 221 33 869 96 18 Fax 221 33 869 96 31. Email: secoraf@coraf.org

BACKGROUND

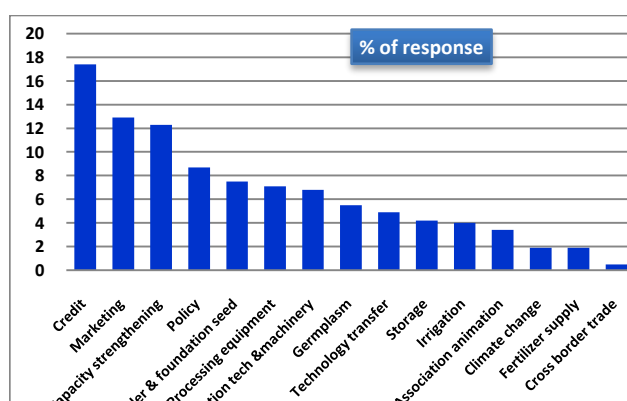
1. In June, 2014, Heads of States and Governments of the African Union (AU) reaffirmed, broadened and deepened their commitment to Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) under the Malabo Declaration:

- (i) “Commitment to accelerate Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods”;
- (ii) “Declaration on Nutrition Security for Inclusive Economic Growth and Sustainable Development in Africa.”

2. CORAF/WECARD’s new operational plan 2014-2018 therefore responds to the CAADP+10 and ECOWAP+10 objectives, with challenges relating to climate change, resilience, food, nutrition and health, youth employment, women empowerment, regional policy harmonization and trade.

3. The work of CORAF/WECARD is guided by the Agricultural Policies of ECOWAS (ECOWAP¹), UEMOA (PAU²), CILSS (CSSA³), ECCAS (PAC⁴) as well as the ECOWAS Regional Agricultural Investment Program (RAIP) and the National Agricultural Investment Programs (NAIP).

4. The seed sector is characterized by low supply of certified seeds by the private sector due to major bottlenecks, including weaknesses in the functions of the regional and national associations, low access to credit and equipment, under-developed seed markets, weak capacity of the SMEs, weak extension services, unfavorable policy environment, trade barriers, low access to breeder and foundation seeds, among others.



5. In view of the important role that quality seeds play in improving agricultural productivity, ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS initiated a process of inclusive sub-regional consultations. This process was concluded with the adoption of the so called “Regional Seed Regulation” on ‘Harmonization of Rules Governing Quality Control, Certification and Marketing of Plant Seeds & Seedlings in the ECOWAS-UEMOA-CILSS Region’. This harmonized Regulation has been adopted by each Organization according to its proper procedures, in 2006, by CILSS, in 2008, by ECOWAS, and in 2009, by UEMOA. Its main objective is to facilitate trade of seeds of standard quality amongst ECOWAS-UEMOA-CILSS countries, hence improving agricultural productivity.

¹ECOWAS Agricultural Policy

²Politique Agricole de l'UEMOA

³Cadre stratégique de sécurité alimentaire durable dans une perspective de lutte contre la pauvreté

⁴Politique agricole commune

6. Knowing the complexity of ensuring adequate supply of quality seeds to farmers in the region, ECOWAS confided to CORAF/WECARD, as his technical arm, the implementation of the West Africa Seed Program (WASP). In implementing the WASP, CORAF/WECARD adopted a consultative and inclusive approach to address the challenges confronting the regional seed sector. In this vein, CORAF/WECARD constituted a Consortium of stakeholders involved in the regional seed sector to steer the implementation of the aforementioned Program.

7. The WASP is currently being funded by the USAID, West Africa Mission, and also by the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Program (WAAPP) and the World Bank.

8. At the regional level, the program is steered through a Consortium comprising the ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS, Hub-Rural, the NARIs, regional CGIAR centres and assimilated (IITA, ICRISAT, AfricaRice, and AVRDC), AFSTA, ROPPA, Syngenta Foundation, FAO, AGRA, AfricaSeed, etc. All these key primary stakeholders have shown keen interest in working together with CORAF/WECARD, in addressing regional bottlenecks to increase the supply and use of quality seeds.

9. The objective of the Program is to increase the supply of quality seeds from 12% in 2012, to 25% in 2017, with special emphases on cereals. The Program stresses on the use of market-driven mechanisms to effectively promote the access to and use of high quality seeds, and to enable local seed companies, enterprises and farmers' based organizations (FBOs) to respond to the anticipated increases in demands for improved seeds. The geographical coverage is the 17 ECOWAS-UEMOA-CILSS countries, for seed policy, with specific focus on Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal, for all program activities.

10. The Program achieved its objective through four axes: (i) building an Alliance for Seed Industry in West Africa (ASIWA), (ii) supporting the implementation of the regional harmonized seed legislation and regulatory framework, (iii) collaborating with the NARS and CGIAR seed units to produce and supply quality breeder seeds and new genetic materials, and (iv) strengthening the organizational, technical and agri-business capacities of the private sector, including FBOs, to ensure a regular supply, in sufficient quantity, of quality foundation and certified seeds at affordable prices.

11. The Program focuses on building effective sub-regional seed alliance and system aimed at addressing priority seed needs in the sub-region and in each country. This allows the ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS countries to share experiences across the sub-region and with other regions of the world, while minimizing duplication of efforts between programs and building synergies. The Program draws upon the combined expertise of the NARIs, CGIAR centres, National Seed Services vs Quality Control and Certification Agencies, NGOs, FBOs, ROPPA, AFSTA, National Seed Committees, Universities, Local and National Private Sector Organizations and Companies, National Seed Trade Associations (NSTAs), Seed initiatives, Seed Companies and Developing Partners.

12. The WASP Mid-Term Evaluation which was carried out between May and June 2016, identified several successes chalked under the WASP for up-scale and challenges encountered from which lessons have been drawn. Among the key successes were the models for: (i) the implementation of the harmonized regional seed regulation in the 17 ECOWAS-UEMOA-CILSS countries; with significant improvement to open the regional seed market; (ii) the use of a seed forecasting tool, which helped bridge the supply and demand gap for breeder, foundation and certified seeds; (iii) Private-Public Partnership which facilitated the supply of breeder seeds and the production of foundation seeds; (iv) seed business development that helped SMEs to improve their managerial skills, facilitated access to credit and increased supply of certified seeds; (v) regional resilience in seed regulation and trade – that facilitated the quick response in the supply of seeds to countries that were

affected by the Ebola Virus Disease, and (vi) Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning. These constitute an experience that needs to be shared more widely in fostering the growth of the regional input industry and mapping out areas for future investment and intervention.

13. The key challenges were: (i) weak capacity and low commitment of resources in enforcing seed regulation at the national and grass-root levels and across borders, (ii) low capacity for the production and marketing of various classes of seeds, (iii) low private sector investment and weak synergy among West Africa Seed Stakeholders, and (iv) inadequate collaboration between CORAF/WECARD and IFDC for the use of a holistic approach in promoting agri-input package, (v) insufficient connection between CORAF/WECARD-WASP and the ECOWAS Commission.

OBJECTIVE OF THE MEETING

14. To spur the growth of the regional seed industry by consolidating successes for up-scale, guided by past challenges and lessons.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

15. The expected outputs from the event are as follows:

- ✚ Commitment of Regional and National stakeholders to grow the seed industry increased;
- ✚ Best practices for the growth of the regional seed sector consolidated and shared for up-scale;
- ✚ Incentives and mechanisms to support Private Sector development and investment defined;
- ✚ Regional Seed Alliance strengthened to address seed sector constraints for sustainable growth;

METHODOLOGY AND APPROACH

16. The event will be held over a three-day period to demonstrate best practices and share experiences among a wider audience. It will address the issues described Section 15, all of which are very important for advancing the regional seed industry. Presentations and discussions will be made in the plenary, which would encourage sharing. Panel discussions will tend to address key bottlenecks in the seed sector. **Ghana Open Day** will help showcase the new agricultural technologies and innovations developed in the country and advances in seed industry development. Exhibition through video documentary, print and physical materials will help showcase the state of the seed industry in West Africa and other parts of the World and facilitate inter-regional collaboration. The Event will help develop key conclusions and actions for the future. Simultaneous translation in French and English will be provided.

17. Opportunities will be offered for the exhibition of documents (books, brochures, photos, fact sheets), posters and physical materials (seeds, fertilizers, tools, equipment, machinery), film/video, etc.

18. Meeting focus will be on:

- Sharing experiences in key areas such as the implementation of the ECOWAS-UEMOA-CILSS Seed Regulation; Business and Market Development Model; Women and Youth engagement; Financing;
- Visioning the outlook for the future of the seed industry in the region;

- Strengthening the Alliance for Seed Industry in West Africa (ASIWA) and enhancing synergy among regional seed sector stakeholders;
- Strong ownership of the seed industry by the Regional and National Stakeholders.
- The Learning Event will also provide an opportunity for Ghana's agricultural sector to showcase achievements.

Date: June 13-14, 2017

Venue: Accra, Ghana

Participants: These will cover the range of stakeholders in the seed sector – policy institutions, plant breeding programs, regional organizations and seed initiatives, the private sector, farmer organizations, agricultural extension services, the banks, universities, development partners, etc. Thus, participants will include:





- ✚ Ministries of Agriculture in ECOWAS-UEMOA-CILSS Member States,
- ✚ Regional Organizations (ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions, CILSS Executive Secretariat and HUBRURAL)
- ✚ National Agricultural Research Institutions, including Universities (WACCI, KNUST, University of Thies, etc.) of the ECOWAS-UEMOA-CILSS region;
- ✚ Research and International Organizations - IITA, AfricaRice, ICRISAT, AVRDC, IFDC, FARA,;
- ✚ Private Sector: AFSTA, NSTAs, ROPPA and ROPPA National Platforms, Pioneer Hi-bred, Monsanto, Syngenta Foundation, FARM-France, ISTA, GNIS-France;
- ✚ Financial and Technical Partners: USAID WA Missions, World Bank, Africa Development Bank, FAO, BMGF, ECOBANK, AGRA, AfricaSeeds, Syngenta Foundation, ProFAB;
- ✚ CORAF/WECARD (including WAAPP and WASP).

Agenda

Annex 1: Draft Agenda for the WASP Learning Event, June 6-8 2017; Accra, Ghana

DAY 1

	Time	Activity	Responsible
Sections 1: Opening	0900-0930	Opening Ceremony	ECOWAS, UEAMO, CILSS USAID/AGRA/AfDB/FAO Minister of Agriculture
	0930-0945	Introduction of Participants	Facilitator
	0945-1000	Event Background, Objective and Expected Outcomes	CORAF/WECARD
	1000-1030	Group Photograph and Coffee Break	
Section 2 MTE	1030-1050	Outcomes from Mid-Term Evaluation	Consultants
	1050-1110	Discussion	
Section 3: Regional Seed Regulation and Seed Trade	1110-1130	Mechanism for the Implementation of a Regional Regulation: The Model of the ECOWAS-UEMOA-CILSS Seed Regulation	CORAF
	1130-1150	Regional Resilience: Seed Regulation and Trade: Successes, Challenges and Experiences of the Post-Ebola Seed Support Initiative.	CORAF
	1150-1250	Panel Discussion 1: Improving the Implementation of Agri-Input Regulations and Cross-Border Seed Trade	ECOWAS/UEMOA/CORAF/AGRA/IFDC/CILSS/FAO
	1250-1330	Development of Actions for the Future	Facilitator
	1330-1430	Lunch Break	
Section 3: Private Sector Development	1430-1450	The Seed Business Model: Strengthening the Private Sector (SMES and Companies)	Seed Agri-Business Specialist
	1450-	Tool for the Estimation Seed Demand and Bridging the Seed Supply-Demand	CORAF/WECARD

	1510	Gap/Public-Private Partnership: Experiences from Nigeria and Mali	
	1510-1610	Panel Discussion 2: Business Model and Estimation Seed Demand and Bridging the Seed Supply-Demand Gap/ Public-Private Partnership	AFSTA/NARS/ GCIAR/ROPPA/ CORAF/AGRA
	1610-1640	Coffee Break	
	1600-1730	Development of Actions for Section for the Future	Facilitator
DAY 2			
	0830-0845	Recap of Day 1 Proceedings	RAPPORTEUR
Section 4: Women and Youth	0845-0945	Panel Discussion 3: Women and Youth in Seed Business Expansion	FERDEP/FASOKABA/ CORAF/ECOWAS/AFSTA/ ROPPA
Section 5: Seed Sector Financing	0945-1045	Panel Discussion 4: Financing the Regional Seed Sector: Special Focus on Private Sector	ECOWAS/WB/AfDB/USAID /AGRA/CORAF/ AFSTA/ROPPA/ECOBANK
	1045-1115	Coffee Break	
Section 6: Exhibition	1115-1300	GhanaDay: Exhibitions and Visits	MOFA/WAAPP/CSIR/AGRA/ NASTAG/IFDC & National & International Stakeholders/CORAF
	1115-1230	Ghana Day: Film Shows <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Seed Systems (West Africa, East Africa, Asia, Europe, USA)  Electronic – Photo Galleries, Electronic Library 	
	1230-1330	Lunch Break	
	1330-1430	Ghana Day: Stands and Documentations <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Print – Brochures, Posters, Manuals, Fact Sheets, Success Stories,  Physical Materials – Seeds, Tools, Equipment, etc. 	
	1430-1500	Coffee Break	
Section 7:	1500-	Panel Discussion 5: Increased commitment by the International, Regional and National	ECOWAS/UEMOA/CILSS/ CORAF/AGRA/IFDC/CGIAR/AfDB/

	1600	Stakeholders and Private Sector	AFSTA/ROPPA
	1600-1630	Communication Approaches in seed system; demonstrate New www.wasix.net	Communication Expert
	1630-1700	General Conclusions & Closing Ceremony	ECOWAS/UEMOA/CILSS/ AGRA/FTP Minister of Agriculture