



# WAAPP REGIONAL e-NEWSLETTER

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**No. 03, October - November 2017**

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WAAPP is a program to transform West African agriculture by boosting productivity and sustainability, reducing hunger and improving nutrition, creating jobs and supporting collaboration across borders. The West and Central Africa Council for Agricultural Research and Development, CORAF implements the program. In 2016, WAAPP was rated WAAPP awarded as second best project funded by the World Bank in Africa.



## HYBRID SEEDS FOR WEST AFRICA



The World-Bank-funded West Africa Agriculture Productivity Program (WAAPP) has made considerable progress since its creation in 2008.

But the extent to which its food system-improvement technologies and crop varieties have been scaled-up in West and Central Africa is still far from commensurate to the agriculture transformation ambition of both regions

A recent working visit to some Chinese Provinces and businesses enabled the WAAPP delegation to familiarize themselves with relatively advanced technologies. Some of which meet the needs of producers in West Africa.

Made up of regional and country coordinators of the WAAPP, players from the private sector, civil society, and farmer groups, the delegation explored partnership opportunities with Chinese private sector operators.

Overall, the goal of the trip was to enter formal agreements for the production and marketing of hybrid seeds and the mechanization of agriculture.

In total, the WAAPP delegation met eight businesses involved in the production of agriculture equipment, fertilizers, hybrid seeds, and phytosanitary products. All these companies expressed the desire to reach a formal partnership with countries involved in the implementation of WAAPP as soon as this is possible.

In Hebei Province, the WAAPP delegation met officials of the Agriculture and Forestry Academy. They stated their willingness to facilitate the implementation of partnerships between Chinese institutions and businesses and those in WAAPP countries.

The Nonghaha Agricultural Machinery Manufacturing, a private company, indicated its readiness to set up a demonstration center for its agricultural machinery in West Africa.

It emerged from the visit that, Africa largest sub-regional research organization, the West, and Central Africa Council for Agriculture (CORAF) Research and Development will coordinate efforts towards establishing the official partnership. CORAF has been mandated.

## RESILIENCE PROJECT **LAUNCHED**



The Sahel region of West Africa is probably one of the most affected by the effects of climate change in Africa.

Building the resilience of communities requires both useful information and taking it to scale.

A project funded by the West and Central Africa Council for Agriculture Research and Development (CORAF) and implemented by the World Agroforest Center and other partners has been launched in Bamako, Mali on October 23, 2017.

The Capacitating Stakeholders in Using Climate Information for Enhanced Resilience in the Agricultural Sector in West Africa (CaSCIERA-WA) seeks to improve the resilience of the crop, livestock, trees, food security, and nutrition system from seasonal climate shocks.

Taking solutions to scale from farms to the country level is core to the project.

CaSCIERA-WA will provide relevant and accurate agro-hydro-climatic information services to key players in the West African region.

A three days workshop to build the capacities of the implementing partners has followed the launching.

Participants include core staff of CaSCIERA, implementing partners from national research institutions in Benin, Guinee, Niger, Mali and Togo, meteorological services, and other international programs focused on climate and agricultural research.

Taking regionally-adaptable solutions to scale is central to the delivery approach of CORAF. As the largest sub-regional research organization, CORAF works with research players in West and Central Africa to identify solutions to enable communities to adapt to the effects of climate change while ensuring food security.

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## OUAGA TO HOST **SCIENCE EVENT**



A major science and technology event to highlight research results to tackle the effects of climate change on natural resources in countries south of the Sahara will take place in Ouagadougou from December 4-8, 2017.

Organized by Burkina Faso's National Center for Scientific and Technological Research (CNRST), the five-day event will allow inventors, innovators, researchers and other players in the field to exchange and improve on research solutions meant to build the resilience of communities in the region.

Burkina Faso's national center of specialization on fruits and legumes has led regional efforts to design innovative technologies and new crop varieties to adapt to the effects of climate change. December's event will be an opportunity for the center's work to be presented to the public.

The national center of specialization on fruits and legumes is supported by the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development through its flagship program, the West Africa Agriculture Productivity program.

## WOMEN SHINE IN **TECHNOLOGY ADOPTION**



More women accessed, adopted and used innovative technologies to improve agriculture productivity in West Africa during the period 2013-2016 than expected, according to the completion report of the just ended Multi-Donor Trust Fund Project (MDTF) of the Central and West Africa Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF).

“Their gains in the adoption of technologies and innovations have been impressive, with women getting closer to parity with men in these areas,” the report concludes.

Compared to the 2013 baseline during which the CORAF MDTF project started, data shows that women’s lot dramatically improved at the end of the project. Women nearly doubled their participation relative to their target. Specifically, close to 44,000 women were reached compared to a baseline of about 22,000 representing a 200 percent increase.

Overall, the project reached about 100.000 people in participating countries and communities against a target of 82.000 people.

“The resulting 123 percent achievement above the target was entirely due to the swelled number of women involved in the Innovation Platforms.”

Women represent about 70 percent of the active farming population in the West and Central African region, according to CORAF’s Gender policy. Addressing gender issues is an important part of all CORAF interventions. Since, the adoption of the policy in 2010, considerable progress has been made in addressing the concerns of women and girls in the access, adoption, and uptake of agricultural technologies and innovations in West and Central Africa



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## DRY CEREALS RESEARCH PICKS UP



Producing enough cereals to improve the livelihoods of the people of West Africa has been considerably hampered by climate change, land degradation, and average grain yield.

At one of West Africa's specialized centers focused on dry cereals, researchers are busy developing new technologies and varieties to tackle the challenges associated with scaling up production of cereals in the region.

To the center's credit, groundnut and cowpea have already found climate-smart options that are now helping farmers adapt to effects of climate change.

On a visit to Dakar recently to participate in the China Investing in Africa Forum, Dr. Juergen Voegelé, The World Bank Group's Senior Director of the Food and Agriculture Global Practice and other officials of the region stopped by in Thiès and Bambey to further understand how the center works. Central to their visit was also to learn lessons for potential replication in other areas of Africa and elsewhere in the world.

Set up as a research hub with specialization on dry cereals, this center brings together key players in the food and nutrition chain in Senegal and across West Africa to devise solutions that are adaptable to farmers and those involved in the agriculture sector.

"Climate change severely affects the farming chain in Senegal and West Africa. Since 2008 when the center was established, it has developed climate-smart technologies that are currently contributing to improving the livelihood of farmers," says Dr. Abdou Tenkouano, Executive Director of the West and Central Africa Council for Agriculture Research and Development (CORAF).

"It has also provided a platform for the exchange of useful information among all players in the food chain in Senegal and West Africa."

The West African Agriculture Productivity Program (WAAPP) is responsible for the implementation of this flagship program of the Economic Community of West African States. Funded by the World Bank, the program is technically coordinated by CORAF.

Overall, the WAAPP operates nine specialized centers in West Africa which are currently being upgraded into regional centers of excellence. Out of their work, about 200 technologies and innovations have been released, disseminated, and adopted to improve the food systems in West Africa.

More than 8 million people have benefitted directly from these interventions while about 45 million people more have been reached indirectly.

## NEW AGRIC PROGRAM IN CAMEROON



The West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF) was in Cameroon recently to support the country in setting up an ambitious new agriculture program.

Titled, the West African Agriculture Transformation Program (WAATP), this intervention seeks to scale up the use of new technologies and varieties to transform agriculture in West and Central Africa. The program targets youths, women, and girls amongst other critical players in the agriculture sector. It is set up to encourage young people into the agriculture value chain to limit the increasing migration out of Africa and help solve the challenging employment problems faced by most countries. Food and nutrition security is the expected development outcome of the program.

About 8 million people in 13 countries benefited from the first phase of the program called the West Africa Agriculture Productivity Program (WAAPP). About 47 million others were indirectly reached. WAAPP's primary focus has been the facilitation of the development, promotion, and uptake of critical technologies and crop varieties. Overall about 200 technologies were designed under the program and are today helping to scale up agriculture productivity in participating countries.

Encouraged by the results of the WAAPP, Cameroon and a few other countries have since sought to join the program

in order to improve agriculture and economic growth in their respective countries.

The recent support mission was intended to shed light on the functioning of the program in West and East Africa, share some best practices and identify constraints and possible solutions for the success of the program in Cameroon.

The World Bank funds the WAAPP. And CORAF provides technical support in its implementation in countries of the Economic Community of West African States.

Building on results of the first phase, the World Bank, participating countries and other players involved are now seeking to scale up results to transform agriculture in the both West and Central Africa.

At the recent support mission, stakeholders also reviewed how the program would collaborate with existing World Bank-supported programs in Cameroon. Discussions also included institutional arrangements required for the effective implementation of the program.

The World Bank Group Board of Directors is expected to meet in February 2018 during which the final funding decision will be made.



## STRENGTHENING RESULTS

Results specialists working on two critical agricultural productivity projects in West Africa met recently in the Ghanaian city of Kumasi to develop a shared understanding of the monitoring and evaluation procedure and to improve the data collection component of their interventions better.

The close to forty national coordinators and monitoring and evaluation experts are involved in two ongoing projects of the West and Central Africa Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF).

Ensuring a common and shared understanding of the data collection and reporting methods and tools of the project was one of the primary expectations of the training workshop.

“This objective was achieved. We went further to exchange and strengthen the results chain of both projects so that they better achieve their development outcomes,” says Patrice Leumeni, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist with the West Africa Agriculture Productivity Program (WAAPP).

The WAAPP funds both projects. This includes the fruit flies project whose primary goal is to improve the income of those involved in fruit and vegetable production.

Fruit flies represent a significant headache for mango and vegetable producers in West Africa. In recognition of the challenge, the Economic Community of the West African States and the West African Economic and the Monetary Union launched the regional plan to fight fruit flies in 2008.

In 2014, a five-year project to monitor and control fruit flies was launched. The European Union funds the project, and CORAF technically supports it. Eight countries were initially involved in the project. They include Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, and Senegal. Activities have recently been expanded to include Nigeria and Togo.

The second targets the increase of agriculture productivity through an integrated management of organic fertilizers in West Africa. This project is implemented in Burkina Faso, Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, and Senegal.

“The success of both projects does not only depend on ensuring better data collection but also facilitating learning by all players involved in the implementation,” says Patrice Leumeni.

“With the project teams now familiar with the tools and methods, we expect to see an improvement in this regard and potentially better performance of both projects.”

## WAAPP IN THE MEDIA

This last month, the WAAPP has attracted great interest in the media of the region

- Des producteurs vantent de nouvelles variétés de manioc venues du Ghana
- Le Programme de productivité agricole en Afrique de l'Ouest passe le grand oral au Sénégal
- Filière oignon : les productrices de ross-béthio vantent les avantages du magasin «RUUDU»
- La chèvre rousse s'adapte bien à l'environnement du Sénégal, selon un enseignant de l'ensa
- Des producteurs vantent de nouvelles variétés de manioc venues du Ghana
- Une mission du waapp et de la bm visite des rizières de Fatick et Kaolack
- Production de semences horticoles : La ferme de Sangalkam opérationnelle dans trois mois
- L'Isra expérimente une serre à Sessène pour lutter contre les contraintes en milieu agricole
- Diourbel : 50 millions de francs CFA pour des projets en aviculture et en embouche bovine et ovine
- Une agro-économiste salue la dimension régionale de la mise en œuvre du waapp
- Afrique de l'Ouest/ Banque Mondiale : Mise en œuvre d'un programme de productivité agricole
- Un expert salue la bonne mise en œuvre du waapp au Sénégal

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