A FSRP Stakeholder Conference
Summary Report

organised by

in cooperation with
# Table of Contents

1) Introduction 3

2) Overview of Conference 4

   2.1) Agenda 4
   2.2) Participants 4

3) Day 1: Digital Advisory Services for Agriculture and Food Crisis Prevention & Management 5

   3.1) Presentations 5
       3.1.1) Presentation of FSRP 5
       3.1.2) Presentation of AICCRA 7
       3.1.3) Presentation of the FSRP Component 1: Digital Advisory Services for Agriculture and Food Crisis Prevention and Management 7
       3.1.4) Session 1: User Perspective 7
       3.1.5) Session 2: Public-Private Engagement to Strengthen Hydrological & Meteorological Services 7

   3.2) Results of Discussions 8
       3.2.1) Session 1 8
       3.2.2) Session 2 10

4) Day 2: Sustainability & Adaptive Capacity of the Food System’s Productive Base 13

   4.1) Presentations 13
       4.1.1) Overview of the FSRP Component 2: Sustainability & Adaptive Capacity of the Food System’s Productive Base 13
       4.1.2) Presentation on the Role of the Private Sector 14

   4.2) Results of Discussions 14

5) Day 3: Market Integration & Trade 18

   5.1) Presentations 18
   5.2) Results of Discussion 18

6) Day 4: Discussion of Cross-cutting Issues 21

   6.1) 2DI Session 21
   6.2) Joining Forces 22
   6.3) Collective Intelligence 22

7) Conclusion 24

   7.1) Presentation of the Key Insights 24
       7.1.1) FSRP Component 1 24
       7.1.2) FSRP Component 2 24
       7.1.3) FSRP Component 3 25

   7.2) Timeline & Next Steps 25

8) Annex 26
Table of charts

Chart 1: Share of participants from different sectors ................................................................. 4
Chart 2: Critical information services.......................................................................................... 8
Chart 3: Key factors for successful implementation of information services.......................... 9
Chart 4: West Africa current and emerging needs, and their solution....................................... 10
Chart 5: Critical partnerships....................................................................................................... 10
Chart 6: Opportunities with private sector engagement ............................................................... 11
Chart 7: Innovative ideas to be incorporated in the program ....................................................... 11
Chart 8: Consolidate regional agriculture research system: Status, Constraints & Solutions........ 13
Chart 9: Innovative technology dissemination: Status, Constraints & Solutions........................ 14
Chart 10: Soil, water and land management: Status, Constraints & Solutions.......................... 14
Chart 11: Digital Agriculture: Status, Constraints & Solutions.................................................. 15
Chart 12: Some solutions to facilitate intra-regional trade and close the gap between trade regulation and implementation .............................................................. 17
Chart 13: Some solutions for intra-regional agricultural value chain ......................................... 18

Table of figures

Figure 1: Intervention Logic of the FSRP...................................................................................... 6
Figure 2: Component structure of the FSRP ................................................................................ 6
Figure 3: Timeline indicating milestones of FSRP project preparation [to be updated in August before the report is send to participants] .......................................................... 22
1) Introduction

The four-day virtual stakeholder conference “Under the palaver tree: unpacking Food System Resilience in West Africa” took place from July 6-9, 2020 in the context of the project preparation of the upcoming Food System Resilience Program (FSRP). The FSRP is a regional flagship investment project led by ECOWAS, CILSS, CORAF, co-financed by the World Bank (WB).

Evoking the image of the palaver tree, the bilingual virtual stakeholder consultation offered an open space for participants from West African countries, regional bodies, development partners and representatives from the private sector, academia and the civil society to engage. The purpose of the event was to seek the participant’s feedback, ideas and proposals on how to tackle challenges of the West African Food System and
- to present the current early stage design of the FSRP;
- to identify regional priorities for the West African Food System that the FSRP could invest in;
- to discuss opportunities to improve early stage design of the FSRP and strengthen resilience in project design;
- to get to know each other, explore synergies and opportunities for collaboration with technical and financial partners;
- to harvest local expert knowledge on the specific vulnerability context of West African food systems informing the Blueprint report and identify gaps for future analytical work to be conducted under the WB Advisory Services Analytic (ASA) Regional Food System Resilience in West Africa: Regional Flagship Initiative.

The virtual conference, implemented with the videoconferencing software zoom, was highly interactive and participatory. Apart from presentations in the plenary, discussions were organized in separate virtual rooms in which between 6 and 15 participants were given the space to discuss, brainstorm and exchange. In each breakout session, a facilitator was present in order to guide the conversation and capture the results from the discussions using google slides.

This report summarizes both the plenary sessions of the conference and the results from the breakout sessions which will be used in the preparation of the FSRP. In order to examine the results from the discussion, the notes taken by breakout room facilitators on google slides were used and analyzed with the qualitative data analyzing software MaxQDA which allows to determine how often a certain issue was raised by participants. This report gives an overview of all topics that have been raised but cannot reflect the detailed statements of all experts. All specific comments and advice will anyways be used in the preparation of FSRP.

CILSS, CORAF, ECOWAS, the World Bank and the FAO would like to thank all participants for their excellent inputs.
2) Overview of Conference

2.1) Agenda

The conference was structured according to the three components of the FSRP (see below). Therefore the 4 days were dedicated to the following themes:

- Day 1: Agriculture and Food Crisis Prevention & Management, mainly organized by CILSS
- Day 2: Sustainability and Adaptive Capacity of the Food System's Productive Base, mainly organized by CORAF
- Day 3: Market Integration & Trade, mainly organized by ECOWAS
- Day 4: Cross-cutting themes & integration of results from the conference

The conference was facilitated by Ouishare, an organization that is specialized in enabling inclusive collaboration. Each day was started with a plenary session and short presentations. Alain Sy Traore, Director of Agriculture and Rural Development, ECOWAS, was the moderator. The focus of the conference were interactive breakout sessions in which participants discussed pre identified questions.

2.2) Participants

Over 500 stakeholders from West African countries, regional bodies, development partners and representatives from the private sector, academia and the civil society were invited to the stakeholder consultation conference. The event was oversubscribed and registration had to be closed once the maximum of 400 participants was reached. Participants from 34 countries registered, representing the following split across sectors.

*Chart 1: Share of participants from different sectors*
3) Day 1: Digital Advisory Services for Agriculture and Food Crisis Prevention & Management

3.1) Presentations

Day 1 started with welcome words by:

- Mr. Sekou SANGARE, Commissioner for Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources, ECOWAS
- Mr. Seyni HAMADOU, Agriculture and Food Security Director, UEMOA, on behalf of Mr. Jonas GBIAN, Commissioner for Agriculture, Water Resources and Environment, UEMOA
- Dr Djime ADOUM, Executive Secretary, CILSS
- Dr Abdou Tenkouano, Executive Director, CORAF
- El Hadj Adama Toure, Lead Agriculture Economist, World Bank

All speakers welcomed the great opportunity of the stakeholder consultation in order to define together how the West African food system can be enhanced.

3.1.1) Presentation of FSRP

Alain Sy Traore, El Hadj Adama Toure and Tobias Baedeker, Agriculture Economist, World Bank provided an overview of the envisioned design of the FSRP.

The overall objective of FSRP is to strengthen the resilience of the food system to shocks in West Africa. A holistic or systems-based approach is required because food insecurity is the result of bottlenecks along chains of interdependent system elements. The program’s proposed intervention logic is presented in Figure 2 below. The figure also shows the ways in which the three thematic pillars of the project:

- Agriculture and Food Crisis Prevention & Management
- Sustainability and Adaptive Capacity of the Food System’s Productive Base
- Market Integration and Trade

are mutually reinforcing. E.g. trade generates the market incentives farmers rely on to make the necessary investments to adopt new resilience strengthening technologies. Both farmers and traders require improved information to reduce risks and maintain the viability of their activities under intensifying climate change. Risk management and related farmer advisory services require quality and frequently updated data from traders to be effective, etc.
The FSRP has three components which have 2 sub-components each. Figure 2 provides an overview of the proposed component structure.

All ECOWAS and CILSS Member Countries will benefit from the implementation of the regional subcomponents from Phase I onwards. The national level phasing was decided according to food security status, readiness and availability of IDA resources. The three phases are covering the following countries:

- Phase 1: Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Niger, Togo, Sierra Leone
- Phase 2: Benin, Cote d’Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Mauritania, Senegal
- Phase 3: Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria, Cape Verde
3.1.2) Presentation of AICCRA

Moreover, a short presentation of the Accelerating the impacts of CGIAR Climate Research in Africa program (AICCRA) was provided by Tobias Baedeker. It is a regional project under development in parallel to support CGIAR research for climate that aims at increasing access to resilience-enhancing knowledge, technologies, and decision-making tools.

3.1.3) Presentation of the FSRP Component 1: Digital Advisory Services for Agriculture and Food Crisis Prevention and Management

Dr Souleymane Ouedraogo, Director General, AGRHYMET Regional Centre, provided an overview presentation of the FSRP Component 1: Digital Advisory Services for Agriculture and Food Crisis Prevention and Management. The objectives of component 1 are the following:

- Main objective: Strengthen regional capacity to provide digital advisory services for agriculture and food crisis prevention and management and ensure their use in the decision-making process by farmers and the communities.
- Specific objectives: Upgrade regional food crisis prevention & monitoring systems and increase access to digital food security relevant information for decision makers and farmers at country level.

3.1.4) Session 1: User Perspective

The first breakout session on user perspective was introduced by two presentations. The first one was provided by Dr Abdou Ali, AGRHYMET Regional Centre, on the question “Who are current and potential future users for regional services?”. The second one was delivered by Amanda Lynch, Brown University, on “How to achieve successful user engagement”. The main insights of both presentations are listed below.

- The general needs are the provision of the most suitable information to users to better prevent and manage food insecurity crises, increase agricultural productivity, strengthen the resilience of populations and ecosystems.
- The users and their needs differ by level (national, regional, community), regional and national products/services. Efficient services need to consider the whole chain of stakeholders (from the primary services providers to the farmers).
- Successful engagement with users of hydromet services is a critical element of building food system resilience.
- Successful user engagement requires trust.

3.1.5) Session 2: Public-Private Engagement to Strengthen Hydrological & Meteorological Services

The second breakout session on critical aspects in providing hydromet and digital services was introduced with a presentation by Stefan Von Gruenigen, Consultant, World Bank, on Public Private Engagement. The main take-ways are summarized below:

- Hydromet services provide real-time weather, water, early warning, and climate information products to end users, based on weather, water and climate data.
- They create economic and social value through hydromet value chain linking production and service delivery.
- A Public Private Engagement (PPE) includes all forms of collaboration and interaction between the public and private sector and academia. A strong collaboration facilitates the delivery and production of hydromet services close to the user needs and the development of hydromet value chains.
- The PPE can help countries and institutions to embrace the rapidly growing and innovative private sector without jeopardizing the provision of essential public sector services, enhance efficiency (of service provision), grow the socio-economic value provided by the entire hydromet value chain, and response to the increasing demand for more elaborate meteorological and hydrological services.

3.2) Results of Discussions

Two breakout sessions were organized to address digital advisory services for agriculture and food crisis prevention and management. The first one focused on user perspectives by addressing the following two questions:

- **What information services are most critical for agriculture and food security in West Africa?**
- **What are the current and emerging needs of the region and how can these needs be best addressed?**

3.2.1) Session 1

Participants indicated **which type of information services for agriculture and food security they find most critical:**

- Firstly, production of good quality data and best agronomic practices, specifically information to farmers at all steps of the rainy season (before, beginning, middle and end), monitoring crops (using remote sensing for instance) at different stages, types of plants and practices for adverse weather conditions.
- Secondly, information on soil and water management such as: information on soil fertility, groundwater, water availability in time and space given climate variability is very high.
- Thirdly, climate information such as meteorological information before, during and after the rainy season, good seasonal forecast and information on rain variability during the season.
Lastly, information on pest and disease incidence; market information (price of input, expected demand of products); data on product quality standards and protocols; and information on socio-political crises, other risks and vulnerabilities.

For a successful implementation of critical information services some factors have to be taken into account. According to the chart 3 below, first of all, it is important to improve effective communication tools and systems, build capacity of actors across the information services ecosystem, understand user needs, strengthen public private and multi-sectoral partnerships, ensure effective and user-centric information dissemination and provide financial support. Therefore, building capacity of actors by organizing the private sector into networks and associations, creating links to national organizations and platforms, and strengthening partnerships is essential. The improvement of communication tools and services could be achieved through mixed channels for dissemination like television, radio; in addition to digital platforms, as well as the translation of information in simple and understandable language. An effective and user-centric information dissemination could be reached by modernizing AGRHYMET regional center data management, modeling and dissemination systems.

Chart 3: Key factors for successful implementation of information services

Answers to the question “What are the current and emerging needs of the region and how can these needs be best addressed?” revealed that the most important current and emerging needs are access to reliable information; but also an enabling environment favoring, amongst others, access to credit, agricultural insurance, input, and access to areas of production. Participants also mentioned the need for public private partnership, early warning systems, digital tools for all types of information through ICT to spread the information to farmers. Finally, innovation is needed, for example, for a proper identification of pests and diseases at an early stage. To handle these needs, it is necessary to strengthen research mostly on risk factors, good practices, and improving the existing systems such as ECOAGRIS. In addition, favored access to financial and technical support, strengthened dissemination services, quality standards, capacity building, private sector engagement and gender promotion are needed.
3.2.2) Session 2

The second breakout session aimed to identify critical aspects to be considered for FSRP through two questions:

- **What are critical partnerships to explore in this program and what are opportunities with private sector engagement?**
- **What are innovative ideas potentially to be incorporated in the program design?**

According to participants' responses shown in the chart 5, the **most critical partnerships to explore are partnerships**

- between public sector and financial institutions to favor financial support to smallholders through subsidies, insurance and access to credit.
- public private partnerships to favor and enhance services creation.
- between researchers and end users in order to collect and analyze data and provide good information to the end users.
- between international, regional, national and local organizations to cover the whole chain.

**Chart 5: Critical partnerships**
The inclusion of the private sector has to be promoted in each section of the project. Chart 6 shows opportunities named by participants:

**Chart 6: Opportunities with private sector engagement**

Indeed, according to some participants, farmers are already connected to digital products created by the private sector.

Following answers to the second question, the most important innovative idea to be included in the program is data and information capitalization. Indeed, around 21% of participants' answers were focused on this idea which should be implemented through the capitalization of existing satellite and field data and data harmonization in order to get reliable information. The second most often named idea is the creation of platforms and start-ups. One suggestion is to create and support some integrated platforms for agricultural advice with mobile phone operators and rural radios. Also, important aspects are the improvement of data collection mechanisms to ensure data quantity and quality, building actors capacity with training and sensitization of farmers, promotion of NGOs and synergies with extension services, and increased academia involvement. This program should also get feedback from end users and iterate based on that.
Chart 7: Innovative ideas to be incorporated in the program

Innovative ideas

- M&E systems: 3%
- Use past experiences: 4%
- Identify and analyze technologies: 7%
- Good legal framework: 7%
- Good practices dissemination: 7%
- Focus on end user needs: 11%
- Building capacity: 13%
- Data collection mechanism: 13%
- Platform creation: 15%
- Capitalize data and information: 21%

Share of responses
4) Day 2: Sustainability & Adaptive Capacity of the Food System’s Productive Base

Day 4 started with welcoming words from El Hadj Adama Toure and Dr. Abdou Tenkouano, Executive Director, CORAF. Alain-Sy Traore provided a quick review of the previous day.

4.1) Presentations

4.1.1) Overview of the FSRP Component 2: Sustainability & Adaptive Capacity of the Food System’s Productive Base

Dr Nieydouba Lamien, Program Manager, CORAF, provided an overview presentation of the FSRP Component 2: Sustainability & Adaptive Capacity of the Food System’s Productive Base which consists of two subcomponents:

- Sub-component 2.1: consolidation of agriculture innovation system
- Sub-component 2.2: strengthening food security through sustainable practices in targeted areas

In regards to sub-component 2.1, CORAF has identified the following areas of intervention:

- Complete process of up-grade of National Centers of Specialization (NCoS) to Regional Centers of Excellence (RCoE)
- Consolidate competitive grants scheme for regional sub-projects on technology generation and up-scaling
- Consolidate partnerships with CGIAR and networking of NCoS-RCoE
- New NCoS on: (i) mechanization, (ii) land and water management and (iii) bio risk management
- Deploy new Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) and Disruptive/Digital Agricultural Technologies
- Effective marketing of technologies
- Therefore, the FSRP will support: exchange visits, joint proposals development, joint research activities and trainings

In regards to sub-component 2.2, CORAF has identified the following areas of intervention:

- Improve soils’ fertility and water retention capacity
- Water mobilization and irrigation development
- Delivery of farm/community level CSA packages of technologies adapted to the local context
- Facilitate access to technologies

The delivery of farm/community level CSA packages of technologies adapted to the local context was already promoted under WAAPP. The FSRP will support:

- The mass production of technologies at affordable cost for youth and women
- The private sector to invest in the mass production of technologies
4.1.2) Presentation on the Role of the Private Sector

Birama Sidibe, entrepreneur, provided a presentation on the critical role of the private sector as an engine for development and growth. In order to promote private sector involvement within the context of FSRP the following issues should be tackled:

- Predictable policy environment has to be ensured
- Market and value chain infrastructure have to be provided
- Access to finance has to be ensured

4.2) Results of Discussions

During the breakout sessions the participants discussed the following 4 questions. Each participant was able to choose from question 1-4 which question he/she wanted to discuss. Question 5 (How can we better involve the private sector in the agricultural innovation system?) was addressed by all participants.

**Question 1: How can the progress achieved under WAAPP in strengthening the regional agriculture research system be consolidated?**

According to participant answers (Chart 8), the main constraint for consolidating regional agriculture research systems is the lack of research resources (22%). Another constraint concerns the fact that technologies are inaccessible or not adapted to end-users. Indeed, some participants indicated that exchanges of technologies are still limited between countries and there are roadblocks slowing cross-country adoption. As solutions: i) strengthening regional research systems & R4D implementation, ii) developing new technologies and innovative platforms and iii) enhancing private sector involvement were raised.

![Chart 8: Consolidate regional agriculture research system: Status, Constraints & Solutions](chart.png)
Question 2: How can the dissemination of innovative technologies coming out of the regional research system be improved? Are we doing enough to make R4D work?

Some main constraints around innovative technology dissemination improvement are the lack of demand-oriented research, the low level of private sector involvement and the poor linkage between research and end-users. In order to address these constraints, it is necessary to scale up technology dissemination through the use of ICT (e.g. radio and TV, social media) and informatics tools to reach end users on application/utilization of technologies; tailoring of technology by language and local information. Other solutions are strengthening private sector and build farmers organizations capacity.

Chart 9: Innovative technology dissemination: Status, Constraints & Solutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status &amp; constraints</th>
<th>Share of responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender considerations</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unclear linkages between national and regional level</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low levels of trade</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor linkage of farmers with research system</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulatory and policy hurdles</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of communication and access to information</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of implementation of regional policy</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor access to finance/inputs</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low level of private sector involvement</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of demand-oriented research</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor linkage between research and end-users</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Solutions</th>
<th>Share of responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Work in partnerships</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve regulatory and policy environment</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhance private sector involvement</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop new technologies and innovative platforms</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthen regional research system &amp; R4D implementation</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Questions 3: **How can farmers, pastoralists and herders be supported in improving water mobilization and use for irrigation, land management as well as soil fertility management across the region?**

The main constraints faced by farmers, pastoralists and herders in improving water mobilization and use for irrigation, land management and soil fertility across the region (Chart 10) are weakness of water and soil management capacity, poor technical capacity of water users in terms of optimal water use, water harvesting and poor coordination among different resource users. The following solutions were mentioned: i) increase access to information; ii) strengthen initiatives on water management through the promotion of small-scale approaches (e.g. solar water pumps benefitting women) that are accessible to poor, iii) farmer led irrigation schemes, iv) agroforestry; and v) the promotion of R4D on land and soil issues.

**Chart 10: Soil, water and land management: Status, Constraints & Solutions**
Question 4: How can the potential of digital agriculture be harnessed to improve extension coverage, on-farm decision-making & access to inputs?

The main constraints of digital agriculture implementation are: adverse market environment, limited technical capacity, poor access to finance and information, potential of digital agriculture underused, regulatory and policy challenges, and lack of human resources. Indeed, according to some participants, there is a low internet penetration and high connectivity costs which reduced access to information. In addition, small-farm size and low technical capacity and illiteracy of users restricts private sector interest in developing digital solutions. Some solutions suggested are to enhance private sector involvement, improve communication, strengthen regional research systems and R4D implementation, and improve regulatory and policy environment through for example a legal framework around digital services on national and regional levels.

Chart 11: Digital Agriculture: Status, Constraints & Solutions
5) Day 3: Market Integration & Trade

The Day 3 started with welcoming words from El Hadj Adama Toure and Alain-Sy Traore who also provided a quick review of the previous day.

5.1) Presentations

The objectives of FSRP component 3 are:
- to facilitate trade across key corridors and consolidate food reserve systems
- to support the development of strategic value chains

Hence, sub-component 3.1 should support the implementation of sound regional regulations and policies to strengthen the regional agricultural and food input and output markets. Activities will focus on
- removing barriers to intra-regional cross-border input and food trade,
- strengthen the relevant regional institutions (ECOWAS and UEMOA) responsible for providing leadership and coordination for the integration of regional markets and
- reinforce the regional and national food reserve management mechanisms.

Sub-component 3.2 should support the development of up to three value chains per participating country, focusing on backward and forward segments of priority staple crops and short cycle livestock value chains, with the potential for tangible positive impacts on regional food security. Specific activities would include:
- Preparation and implementation of Value Chain action plans
- Technical assistance (TA) and appropriate grant support
- Support critical investments to leverage private financing along the value chains

5.2) Results of Discussion

On Day 3, all participants discussed the same questions in two breakout sessions. While the first breakout session was focused on policy implementation, the second one addressed value chain development.

In the first breakout session, participants discussed the following question: “How can regional organizations (ECOWAS, CILSS, UEMOA) contribute to close the gap between trade regulation and its implementation, to coordinate and facilitate intra-regional trade?”.

Chart 12 presents the frequency of answers by participants. Hence, in order to close the gap between trade regulation and its implementation but also coordinate and facilitate intra-regional trade, first of all, it is important to capitalize the experience of UEMOA and ECOWAS and find a system for law application. This could be achieved through:
- a deeper diagnostic of the West African context,
- an update of regulation texts and law by taking into account the current situation,
- a review of the community legislation on approval of goods under the trade preferential regime (ETLS),
- favoring access to information.
Moreover, monitoring tools and sanction mechanisms, a functional integrated regional system for monitoring agricultural markets, and strengthening one-stop shops to facilitate intra-regional trade are important.

Furthermore, most of the participants emphasized the need to communicate, get access to information, and build capacity of stakeholders. This could be achieved through:

- using SIGMAT,
- strengthening statistics and data center,
- using ICT,
- documenting all texts in a platform.

Finally, the improvement of quality and norms standards and private sector involvement should be considered.

*Chart 12: Some solutions to facilitate intra-regional trade and close the gap between trade regulation and implementation*

In the second breakout session, participants discussed the following questions:

- “What can be done by FSRP at the national level to contribute to more efficient intra-regional agriculture value chains that include smallholders?"
- “How to promote value chain innovations (quality control, contracting, standards, food safety, traceability …)?”

According to the chart below, most of the participants agreed that for a sustainable value chain development, the region has to build actors capacity by investing in training, advocacy, good legal framework and sensitization on key components of an effective intra-regional value chain and structuring and professionalizing smallholders. In addition to building capacity, in this project, we need to identify entry points for innovations along the value chain. Specifically, focus on country technology advantages, identify the side streams of the value chain that could be valuable inputs for other value chains and make them more circular. Furthermore, around 18% of responses were on improving quality, norms, certification and contractualisation systems by strengthening accredited quality control laboratories, product traceability through cooperatives. Given that value chain promotion and development cannot be achieved without a market, other solutions are market and market information system promotion.
Chart 13: Some solutions for intra-regional agricultural value chain

Solutions

- Enhance contractualisation systems
- Gender and youth promotion
- Regional and national relationship
- Improve and promote local production
- Increase VC
- Prioritize VC
- Reduce trade barriers and improve policies
- Improve and promote local production
- Improve norms and quality standards
- Investment and funding
- Innovation and regional champion
- Capacity-Building
- Market Information
- Improve and promote local production

Share of responses:
- Regional and national relationship: 3%
- Gender and youth promotion: 4%
- Enhance contractualisation systems: 4%
- Focus on consumer needs: 4%
- Prioritize VC: 5%
- Reduce trade barriers and improve policies: 5%
- Enhance certification systems: 6%
- Market promotion: 9%
- Market Information: 9%
- Investment and funding: 9%
- Improve norms and quality standards: 14%
- Innovation and regional champion: 18%
- Capacity-Building: 18%
6) Day 4: Discussion of Cross-cutting Issues

The fourth day of the conference was dedicated to cross-cutting issues. In the morning, participants were able to choose from three simultaneous sessions:
- 2DI Session
- Joining Force Session
- Collective Intelligence Session

For the afternoon, participants were invited to propose and hold breakout sessions in an “Open Space” on topics they feel have not been addressed (enough) throughout the conference yet.

6.1) 2DI Session

Introduction of the Two-Degree Initiative (2DI) Sahel Grand Challenge session and questions that would be discussed during the breakout sessions by Anthony Withbread (ICRISAT).

Presentation of the two-degree initiative for food and agriculture by Bruce Campbell, Program Director.

- We need to transform the food system for environmental, poverty and food security reasons.
- Due to climate change, farming as we know it now in West Africa will not be feasible in many places. There is a decline in growing season due to high climate vulnerability.
- To transform the food system, we have to transform the way we do research. Therefore, the CGIAR will put climate change at the Center of its future research strategy and the Two-degree initiative is an attempt to do R4D business unusual.
- In 2DI, researchers are going to address regional challenges focused on ambitious targets by working with delivery implementation and policy partners.
- The implementation strategy will be based on increasing access to climate smart innovations; enhancing climate information, advisories and services; supporting policy and institutional reforms for transformational change.

Presentation of climate change R4D in the CGIAR by Rebecca Carter PHD, World resources institute

- The Global Commission of Adaptation aims to elevate the political visibility of climate adaptation and encourage bold solutions such as smarter investments, new technologies and better planning to become more resilient to climate-related threats. It’s led by Ban Ki-moon, Bill Gates and Kristalina Georgieva and includes 34 commissioners. It’s currently in the second phase.
- One of the action tracks is food security and rural livelihoods precisely, increasing resilience to climate change for smallholder farmers in low-income countries.

Accelerating the Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research in Africa (AICCRA) presented by Robert Zougmore
- In a context of climate change and now COVID-19 pandemic which threatens food security in West Africa it is critical to build back better and build longer term resilience for countries.
- CGIAR strategic goals perfectly align with the World Bank’s Twin Goals.
- The AICCRA development objective is to increase access to resilience-enhancing knowledge, technologies, and decision-making tools.
- Specifically, the AICCRA project aims to find: strategic linkages and synergies between CGIAR partners, national and regional organizations, and regional centers of excellences; opportunities for cross-border and regional spillover and economies of scale; prospect to generate national and regional public goods with wider societal benefits; building on past and current World Bank programs in Africa; linkages with large-scale pipeline IDA projects and compliance with IDA policies in Africa.

6.2) Joining Forces

The Joining Forces Session was a collaborative session that used crowd intelligence to validate a mapping of existing initiatives, identify opportunities for collaboration and build on the legacy of previous programs. Its purpose was to answer the question "How can we create continuity and synergies between FSRP and other initiatives?"

6.3) Collective Intelligence

During the Collective Intelligence workshop the keys to accelerate projects by tapping into the contributions of partners and other agents of our ecosystems were explored.

Questions such as a) how society and our economies are transitioning towards a connected paradigm where collaboration dynamics provide better results than more traditional competition dynamics and b) how projects can be designed for participation were discussed. Moreover, the following four ingredients for collective intelligence in projects were elaborated: “openness” to invite participation, “informality” to build trust between contributors, “experimentation” to generate innovation, and finally “knowledge sharing” to gain scale.

6.4) Open Space

The following topics were discussed during the open space session which were proposed and led by participants:
- Co-construction of solution for the FSRP: What are the most promising collaborative approaches?
- Agricultural resilience: role of agricultural advisory forums in meeting the challenge of access to services and inputs
- The impact of insecurity in the region on the implementation of the FSRP
- The sovereignty of the food system: resilience, the role of bio-agriculture and the promotion of domestic production
- The importance of alignment to Country/Regional Strategic Goals in Developing Research and Delivery Programs for Agricultural Transformation
- Resilience Attributes: Strengthening Resilience Design and Implementation
- Social sustainability: Ensuring social (and gender) inclusion, and mitigating and managing social risks
- Transforming food systems within water and energy boundaries
- Nutrition security and dietary diversification for improved health and more resilient food systems
- Demand-driven gender research and the potential of fish for gender empowerment
- Harnessing digital technology for building food systems resilience
- Youth and technology in agriculture
- Sustainable and inclusive access to agricultural input and technology; how to make sure no farmer is left behind while scaling technology
- One-health platform for climate-driven pests and diseases in West Africa: mainstreaming youth and women
7) Conclusion

7.1) Presentation of the Key Insights

During the closing ceremony of day 4, all regional organizations were invited to provide a short presentation on their main take-aways of the stakeholder consultation for the 3 components of the FSRP.

7.1.1) FSRP Component 1

Dr Abdou Ali presented the following main take-aways for FSRP component 1:
- Create early warning services for the entire value chains across time scales for proactive action
- Build trust of users in services and incorporate both indigenous knowledge and innovative ideas
- Strengthen link between service providers and end users, collaboration between meteorological experts and agriculture experts and services
- Use mixed channels for dissemination like analogue, television, radio in addition to digital platforms
- Enhance advisory services to farmers and pastoralists before, during and after season
- Consider the role of groundwater information
- Strengthen the entire ecosystems by also leveraging opportunities with public, private and academic engagements

7.1.2) FSRP Component 2

Dr Abdou Tenkouano presented the following core take-aways from the consultation for component 2 of the FSRP:
- Consolidation of regional agriculture research system
  - Develop a theory of change for technology development and scaling up, combining outreach strategy with technology development.
  - Promote private sector involvement, mutual benefit models between NARS and private sector
- Dissemination of innovative technologies
  - Use ICT and informatics tools to reach end user applications. Tailoring of technology by language and local information
  - Strengthen linkages between R&D + Private sector through incubation platforms as a channel from getting to product from research
- Soil Fertility Management / Land, Water
  - Promote small scale solutions that poor farmers can access
  - Create enabling environment private sector initiatives on organic fertilizers production
- Digital Agriculture
  - Development of regulatory framework through ECOWAS
  - Create enable environment to motivate private investment in development of digital solutions
7.1.3) FSRP Component 3

Alain Sy Traore presented the following points as main take-aways of the stakeholder consultation for component 3 of the FRSP:

- Facilitate trade across key corridors
- Improve capacity of member states to implement various regulations, policies and enhance effective communication to all actors.
- Empower the private sector and support marketing boards or market associations
- Establish accountability mechanisms
- Support to development of strategic value chains
- Support the structuring of national key agriculture value chains & the development of a good legal framework for their establishment
- Support the implementation of appropriate Grant system for business formalization
- Leverage private financing on investments along the value chains
- Capacity building of farmers’ organizations, private sector and public sector

7.2) Timeline & Next Steps

All results for the stakeholder consultation will be used in the further preparation of the FSRP. All stakeholders are furthermore invited to provide their comments and feedback on the FSRP Concept Note which outlines the current design of the program. It can be found here in English and here in French. The tentative timeline for the implementation of the FSRP is presented in Figure 4.

Figure 3: Timeline indicating milestones of FSRP project preparation
8) Annex

All materials from the stakeholder consultation are accessible through the links provided below:

- Presentation slides & harvesting slides used by breakout room facilitators to document discussion can be found here.
- Impressions of the conference video can be found here.
- All recordings of the stakeholder consultation can be found here.