JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING 2021
Feed the Future EnGRAIS and PAIRED Projects

September 27 – 28, 2021
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<td>AC</td>
<td>Advisory Committee</td>
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<td>ACM</td>
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<td>AEZ</td>
<td>Agro-ecological Zones</td>
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<td>AfDB</td>
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<td>AIPs</td>
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<td>Agreement Officer’s Representative</td>
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<td>AR</td>
<td>Annual Report</td>
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<td>ASIWA</td>
<td>Alliance for Seed Industry in West Africa</td>
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<td>GAPs</td>
<td>Good Agricultural Practices</td>
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<tr>
<td>CILSS</td>
<td>Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel</td>
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<td>COP</td>
<td>Chief of Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>CORAF</td>
<td>West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>EBID</td>
<td>ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECOWAS</td>
<td>Economic Community of West African States</td>
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<tr>
<td>EnGRAIS</td>
<td>Feed the Future Enhancing Growth through Regional Agricultural Input Systems for West Africa</td>
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<td>FAW</td>
<td>Fall Army Worm</td>
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<td>FeSeRWAM</td>
<td>Fertilizer and Seed Recommendation for West Africa Map</td>
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<td>FY</td>
<td>Fiscal Year</td>
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<td>GB</td>
<td>Governing Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>IFDC</td>
<td>International Fertilizer Development Center</td>
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<td>IR</td>
<td>Intermediate Results</td>
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<td>IRTLs</td>
<td>Intermediate Result Team Leaders</td>
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<tr>
<td>MEL</td>
<td>Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOU</td>
<td>Memorandum of Understanding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSs</td>
<td>Member States</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAIREd</td>
<td>Partnership for Agricultural Research, Education and Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>RF</td>
<td>Results Framework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RFSPG</td>
<td>Regional Fertilizer Subsidy Program Guide</td>
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</table>
ROPPA  Network of farmers' Organizations and Agricultural Producers in West Africa
T&I  Technologies and Innovations
UEMOA  West Africa Economic and Monetary Union
USAID/WA  United States Agency for International Development/West Africa Regional Mission
WAFA  West Africa Fertilizer Association
WAFW  West Africa Fertilizer Watch
WP  Work Plan
1 Introduction

The Feed the Future Partnership for Agricultural Research, Education and Development (PAIRED) and Enhancing Growth through Regional Agricultural Inputs Systems (EnGRAIS) are two, five-year (2017-2022 and 2018-2023, respectively) projects funded by the United States Agency for International Development West Africa Regional Mission (USAID/WA) and implemented by the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF) and the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC), respectively.

EnGRAIS and PAIRED support the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), as well as regional fertilizer and seed professional associations including the newly established West Africa Fertilizer Association (WAFA) and the Alliance for Seed Industry in West Africa (ASIWA) and other relevant public and private sector organizations in the region to address critical issues that constrain the effective supply and use of agricultural inputs in West Africa.

EnGRAIS’s goal is to contribute to improved sustainable agricultural productivity and inclusive growth for West Africans through its strategic objective of sustainably increasing regional availability and use of appropriate and affordable fertilizers. PAIRED’s goal is to increase agricultural growth, food, and nutritional security, and reduce poverty in West Africa. The EnGRAIS program is expected to result in a strong, positive, and lasting change in improving farmers’ access to appropriate, affordable, and quality agricultural inputs, while PAIRED is expected to result in improved agri-input market and agricultural productivity in West Africa.

To achieve these project goals, objectives, and Intermediate Results (IRs), the Advisory Committee (AC) was established to support both EnGRAIS and PAIRED in the following areas:

- Advise the project management teams on the strategic vision, orientation, priorities and approaches at regional level;
- Suggest priority actions for project priorities, initiatives and activities during the upcoming Fiscal Year (FY);
- Assess the progress and success of implementation of activities for the previous FY against the plans and targets in the previous FY’s work plan; and
- Serve as a link to other regional programs and ongoing bilateral projects for the development of the fertilizer and seed sub-sectors.

1.1 2021 ACM

From 2020, both EnGRAIS and PAIRED projects agreed to start holding joint AC Meetings (ACM) to foster a closer working relationship for more effectiveness of project implementation. This year’s joint ACM was scheduled for September 27 – 28, 2021. The first day, September 27, was dedicated to presentations and discussions of FY 21 results of both projects, while the second day, September 28 2021, was used to discuss FY 22 planned activities for both projects.
1.2 Methodology and Key Participants

Methodology: As indicated above, the meeting focused on presentations of FY 21 results and FY 22 planned activities by four Intermediate Results Team Leads (IRTLs) and the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Specialist of EnGRAIS, and three IRTLs and Senior MEL Specialist of PAIRED. Discussions, comments, and recommendations followed presentations. It was expected that key suggestions and recommendations would be included in the final versions of the FY 21 Annual Reports (AR) and FY 22 Work Plans (WPs) of both projects to be submitted to USAID/WA and for project activity implementation.

Key participants included: Mr. Daniel Moore, Regional Mission Director, USAID/WA; Mr. Matthew Anderson, Regional Economic Growth Office (REGO) Director; Mr. Alain Sy Traore, ECOWAS Director of Agriculture and Rural Development; Dr. Amadou MBODJ, UEMOA Director of Agriculture; Dr Guiguigbaza-Kossigan DAYO representing the General Director of CILSS/INSAH; Dr. Oumou Camara, Regional Director, IFDC North and West Africa; Dr. Abdou Tenkouano, Executive Director of CORAF; Mr. Robin Wheeler, Chief of Party (COP) for EnGRAIS; Dr. Hippolyte Affognon, Project Coordinator for PAIRED; Dr Niéyidouba Lamien, Program Manager and Interim Director of Research and Innovation at CORAF; Mrs. Luisa Maria Kalmongo of UEMOA; Mr. Moussa Diabate, President of the West Africa Fertilizer Association (WAFA); Mr. Musa Sowe, Representative of the Network of Peasant Organizations and Agricultural Producers in West Africa (ROPPA); Mr Malick Niang, WAFA; Dr. Innocent MUSABYIMANA Head of TAAT Clearinghouse IITA/TAAT; Mr. Abdrahamane Dicko, Program and Policy Advisor, REGO, USAID/WA; Shirley Kore, Senior Advisor, REGO, USAID/WA; and Mr. Daniel Adotey, the USAID/WA Agreement Officer’s Representative (AOR) for EnGRAIS and PAIRED. All staff on both PAIRED and EnGRAIS projects also attended the meeting.

Facilitation: Dr. Amadou MBODJ (Day One) and Mrs. Luisa Maria Kalmongo (Day Two)

2 PROCEEDINGS

DAY ONE (September 27, 2021)

2.1 Opening Ceremony

Mr. Felix Deyegbe, Bilingual Communications Specialist of the EnGRAIS project, started the meeting at 9:00 am by acknowledging and welcoming all participants from various institutions and organizations. Before handing over to the Chair of the meeting, he invited project leaders of both EnGRAIS and PAIRED to introduce themselves and their teams. Mr. Robin Wheeler introduced himself and invited EnGRAIS team members to do same in turns, after which Dr. Hippolyte Affognon introduced himself and asked other PAIRED staff present to do same.
Financial and technical partners (USAID/WA, ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS, and IFDC) also introduced themselves.

Opening Remarks by Mr. Daniel Moore, USAID/WA Regional Mission Director

Beginning his opening remarks, the USAID/WA Regional Mission Director (RMD), Mr. Daniel Moore, acknowledged all regional organizations present, including UEMOA, ECOWAS, CILSS, IFDC, CORAF, representatives of the private sector, and producer organizations.

On behalf of USAID/WA, he commended the AC and its individual members for the strategic role they have played over the past three years in guiding the EnGRAIS and PAIRED projects, and thanked IFDC and CORAF as implementors of the two projects respectively.

The RMD mentioned how inadequate and inappropriate use of agricultural inputs, particularly seeds and fertilizer is greatly undermining efforts being made to increase agricultural production in West Africa. He spoke about the region’s fertilizer use which is still around 20kg/h far lower than the 50kg/h advocated by the Abuja summit of 2006. According to him, the rate of coverage of quality seed requirement in the region is still very low around 25%.

Mr. Moore identified some great milestones achieved by both EnGRAIS and PAIRED projects, under the guidance of this AC, in various areas, including:

- Implementation of the ECOWAS regulation on fertilizer quality control;
- Improvement in designs and administration of fertilizer subsidy programs in several counties in the region;
- Development of the private fertilizer seed sector;
- Development of the fertilizer and seed recommendations map for West Africa platform and its AIP which support the regional agriculture input strategy of ECOWAS; and
- PAIRED’s successful implementation and the harmonization of the regional regulation on seeds and seedlings in ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS Member States.

He commended the regional economic communities including ECOWAS, UMOA and CILSS and other regional partners for their continued cooperation with EnGRAIS and PAIRED projects that is improving regional availability and use of appropriate, affordable, and quality agricultural inputs for farmers across West Africa. His expectation is that these efforts will increase agricultural growth, food and nutritional security and reduce poverty across the region.

Mr. Moore informed the AC about a new partnership agreement he had signed with ECOWAS a month earlier to scale up ongoing efforts by ECOWAS to reduce trade barriers; harmonize sanitary and phytosanitary standards to conduct a knowledge management system; conduct effective joint reviews for informed national and regional decision; and finally, to broaden the financial base of the ECOWAS agriculture and food development fund.
According to him, through this new partnership with ECOWAS and ongoing partnerships with CORAF, CILSS, IFDC and the private sector associations in the region, the US government is advancing regional food security by helping families and individuals to meet their needs for a reliable source of quality food and sufficient resources to produce or purchase it.

He informed the AC that this effort supports regional stability and prosperity. Continuing with his remarks, the RMD indicated that by addressing the root causes of hunger, USAID is increasing economic opportunity and growth among vulnerable communities. He noted also that by relying on local and regional leadership, enabling innovation, and engaging in new public private partnerships, USAID is maximizing its impact.

According to him, this is how USAID approaches all its work to lift millions out of extreme poverty and pave the road for countries’ journeys to self-reliance. He said under Feed the Future, USAID has implemented programs to help West Africa citizens capitalize on the potentials of agriculture to drive economic growth and poverty reduction. Mr. Moore further said by supporting West Africa with tools and technologies such as high yielding seeds and improved fertilizers, USAID has helped thousands of farmers raise their incomes and begin their journey out of extreme poverty.

In addition, according to him, USAID has supported many countries in the region to make the critical reforms necessary for progress, such as reforming seeds and fertilizer regulations and policy and creating an environment conducive to private sector growth. The RMD took the opportunity to thank those who participated in the USAID/WA Regional Development Cooperation Strategy stakeholders meeting, which took place a week earlier.

That strategy, according to him, responds to the 21st century challenges that West Africa faces by delivering programmatic and support services across the sub region to USAID bilateral missions and US government clients. He assured the AC that USAID aims to increase inclusive, social, and economic development in a more resilient democratic and integrated West Africa. This, according to the RMD, will be done through strong collaboration with USAID bilateral and US government clients, and in working by, with, and through USAID regional and national local West Africa partners.

Before concluding his remarks, the RMD assured the AC that as a regional USAID mission, USAID/WA will continue to partner with the ECOWAS and other organizations, including private sector associations, in implementing USAID/WA’s new regional strategy. On behalf of the US government and USAID/WA, he finally thanked IFDC and CORAF for organizing and facilitating the 2021 ACM and hoped that outcomes of the meeting would allow for more strategic actions that would move agriculture forward across West Africa.

**Main Activities**

In the absence of any ECOWAS (President) representative to chair the meeting, Dr. Amadou MBODJ of UEMOA (Vid-President) took over as Chair, after Mr. Moore’s opening remarks. He welcomed participants and began proceedings.
In all, there were 20 presentations made during the 2021 ACM – 11 on the first day and nine on the second day.

### 2.2 Introductory Presentation by Mr. Wheeler (Chief of Party [COP] of EnGRAIS)

**Highlights**

The COP presented the overview of the EnGRAIS project as follows:

**EnGRAIS at a Glance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of Project</th>
<th>EnGRAIS Project for West Africa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Period</td>
<td>February 2018 – February 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>5 Years, Current Stage: 3.5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Budget</td>
<td>US$ 14 million (base funding plus $4 million expansion); US$ 8.5M for Senegal Dundel Suuf buy-in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donor(s)</td>
<td>USAID/WA and USAID/Senegal (&amp; potentially other bilateral missions across the region)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographic Scope</td>
<td>ECOWAS Region/Member States plus Mauritania and Chad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major Partners</td>
<td>ECOVAS, CORAF, WAFA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Predecessor Project</td>
<td>West Africa Fertilizer Program (WAFP, 2012-2017)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The COP presented other key partners not mentioned above. They include UEMOA, CILSS, AfricaFertilizer.org (AFO). The rest include AGRA, AFAP, and the Governments of Ghana and Senegal.

He presented the EnGRAIS Results Framework (RF), including the project goal, strategic objective, the four IRs, and the Organizational and Management Chart. He informed the AC that at the beginning of the FY, the project received $4 million from USAID/WA for an expansion of the project, including higher LOP targets. He spoke also about the impressive results of the Senegal Dundel suuf activity, an $8.5 million buy-in during FY 21. According to the COP, due to COVID-19 delays in field activities, Dundel suuf will need a 5-month no cost extension to complete its activities at the same time as EnGRAIS. He informed the AC about the possible follow-on project to EnGRAIS.

When the COP spoke about challenges and lessons learned, he mentioned the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on project field activities which limited face-to-face interactions and made travel logistically difficult and expensive. He emphasized the COVID-19 impact using the slow pace of joint activity implementation with WAFA members who were reluctant to work virtually, and the delay in AIP dissemination efforts.

On regional policy efforts, he said very little progress was made due to slow ECOWAS approval processes on the Regional Fertilizer Subsidy Program Guide/Directive and the WACoFeC. He,
however, noted that ECOWAS has committed to working on the documents by early FY22 (end of calendar year 2021). The final statement he made on challenges was the inability of the project to realize further project buy-ins, despite great efforts, because missions were not willing to fully commit/bring their own funds.

Before he ended his introductory presentation, he spoke about the objectives and structure of presentations of the meeting. According to the COP, the objectives of the ACM 2021 include presenting and discussing both project’s FY 21 results and FY 22 planned activities, and looking opportunities to strengthen collaboration between both projects.

### 2.3 Introductory Presentation by Dr. Hippolyte Affognon (Program Coordinator of PAIRED)

#### Highlights

Dr. Affognon made a very short introductory presentation which included an overview of the PAIRED project and went through the project RF.

### PAIRED at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of Project</th>
<th>Partnership for Agricultural Research, Education, and Development in West Africa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Period</td>
<td>Beginning with the effective date 20 June 2017 and ending 19 June 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>5 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Budget</td>
<td>US$ 15 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donor(s)</td>
<td>USAID/WA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographic Scope</td>
<td>Six countries in West Africa (Benin, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major Partners</td>
<td>IFDC, ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS, NCoS/RCoS/RCE, ASIWA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crops</td>
<td>Rice, Maize, Sorghum, and Millet</td>
</tr>
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He presented the goal of the project as “increased agricultural growth, food and nutrition security and reduced poverty in West Africa”, and the specific objective as “improved agri-input market and agricultural productivity in West Africa”. He then provided information on the project team and talked about key partners supporting the implementation of the project.
3 PRESENTATION OF FY 21 RESULTS

3.1 Presentation of EnGRAIS IR1 FY 21 Results by Mr. Patrice Annequin

Focus: Competitive, inclusive, private sector-led, regional fertilizer market strengthened.

Highlights

The fertilizer industry experienced an extreme adverse business environment because of the impact of COVID-19 on the general economic outlook and purchasing power. There have been sharp increases in fertilizer international prices and costs since December 2020.

WAFA experienced reduced fertilizer supplies across West Africa, hence reduced demand, just as other parts of the world and members focused on survival of their businesses within the unfavorable environment.

In June 2021, a joint EnGRAIS/WAFA/AFO meeting prioritized budgets and implementation of joint activities till end of project. Key areas considered were Management and Operations. WAFA was unable to hold a virtual Annual General Meeting to vote on suggested changes indicated in the 2020 Organizational Capacity Review.

The $1.6m “Locally led development” grant application to USAID is still pending. As a result of the EBID/WAFA offering, membership of the Association rose above 70 companies across the region.

EnGRAIS staff, WAFA members, and other key project partners participated in several conferences and forums, including the 2020 Argus Fertilizer Live Virtual Conference; Afriqom/AFA Africa Fertilizer Conference; Arab Fertilizer Association Annual Forum with average attendance of 350 stakeholders. The West Africa Fertilizer Forum was cancelled.

EnGRAIS presented cost build-up findings during conferences, but the extended cost build-up studies to Benin and Nigeria fertilizer trade corridors are ongoing. Currently, a prototype of an online Fertilizer Cost Simulator presented in Sept 2020 is in use, while its 2nd version is under development.

The tool supported Ghana’s Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA) to estimate the Planting for Food and Jobs 2021 pricing and provided pricing advice to the Government of Mali and other stakeholders in May 2020 during the Assises Nationales.

Africa.Fertilizer.org and the Development Gateway benefited from the Fertilizer Cost Simulator for the VIFAA Nigeria and Ghana dashboards.

EnGRAIS supported WAFA, ECOWAS and EBID to design and prepare a $150 million Pilot Fertilizer Project and worked on a $520 million line of credit ($80 million CAPEX, $420 million OPEX) which is still being discussed.
The West Africa Fertilizer Business Information Guide (WAFBIG, 2021 edition) was published, in partnership with AFO and WAFA.

Discussions

- When discussions started, Mr. Malick Niang told the AC that the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the regional fertilizer business in various ways making it impossible for WAFA to organize its annual conference in 2020 and carry out a series of other events.
- According to Mr. Niang, the ECOWAS Commissioner for Agriculture, Mr. Sékou Sangaré, supported the Association to initiate discussions and a program with EBID to finance the fertilizer sector to increase production and consumption capacity of fertilizers in West Africa, but the increase in prices of raw materials and finished products slowed down activities of WAFA and did not allow the Association to finalize the EBID discussions.
- Mr. Annequin suggested the following for the rest of 2021 and 2022 to address fertilizer sector challenges: 1) there is the need to understand the dynamics of the fertilizer markets and price structures to make good calculations and projections 2) governments need to allocate good budgets on subsidy programs or 3) revise subsidy rates or reallocate budgetary elements elsewhere than subsidies, to promote agricultural production.
- He told the AC that EnGRAIS will study the West Africa fertilizer sector dynamics in greater depth during FY 22 to continue to guide ECOWAS and UEMOA and specific countries to quickly adjust their decisions in the current situations that are changing very quickly.
- In terms of fertilizer price increases, he said that between August 2020 and 2021, prices of fertilizer products increased drastically. For instance, the price of urea has increased by 80%, DAP by 95%, Potash by 140%, NPK 15-15-15 by 80% and sea freight has tripled on all the routes serving the West African ports.
- According to Mr. Annequin, these price increases are making it increasingly difficult for local blending factories operating in West Africa to compete with imported blended fertilizer products.

3.2 Presentation of PAIRED IR 3 FY 21 Results by Dr. Yacouba Diallo

Focus: Use of Quality Agri-inputs in West Africa Increased

Highlights

- During the Fiscal Year 2021, PAIRED conducted strategic discussions and technical meetings with the executive steering committee of ASIWA to update its agenda and to engage ASIWA in strategic regional consultative meetings and policy and regulation paper as well as seed business tools developments and validations (Phyto-sanitary executive regulation, regional catalogue of plant varieties, seed demand forecasting and seed production planning tool etc.).
The PAIRED has supported the concept development and the organization of a consultative meeting on 3 June 2021 to launch the creation of the West Africa Seed Trade Association (WASTA). This online consultative and engagement meeting gathered 53 participants largely from the seed companies all committed to support the creation of the WASTA. A regional task force was set up to take the lead in developing the chart of the Association and organize the 1st general Assembly.

For seed business development, PAIRED has developed and largely disseminated a web-based Seed demand forecasting and seed production planning tool. This bilingual electronic platform enables seed businesses and Government agencies to better plan and organize the seed production pairing the market demand. The use of the tool will help to avoid shortages or overproduction of seed (http://www.coraf.org/seedforcasting)

At the national level, PAIRED has supported in its target countries the linkage of Seed companies in Mali (03); in Senegal (4 under the coordination of the national seed trade association); in Ghana (1) with research institutes for the dissemination and uptake of seed technologies (improve varieties) through the implementation of private-led demonstration plots and farmer field days. This partnership led to (i) business linkages between technology suppliers (early generation seed production of improved varieties) and (ii) to the information of farmers and potentials users of the existence and adopt of the improved varieties

For the Regional seed policy and regulations implementation, the PAIRED achieved milestones towards the updating and upgrading process of the regional electronic data base of new released varieties for the national and regional catalogue developments. The number of the priority crops in the database has evolved from 11 to 20 crops. PAIRED with the assistance of a pool of regional experts has developed the regional test guideline for multilocation trials for the values of cultivation and uses (CVU) for 15 field crops and the DUS (Distinctiveness, Uniformity and Stability) test guideline for African Eggplant (Jakatu) which does not exist in UPOV platform.

The PAIRED has supported ECOWAS and the Member States to develop and release the 2021 regional catalogue for plant varieties. This 3rd edition (2018-2021) of the catalogue comprised additional 176 new varieties released by 13 countries out of 17 countries of ECOWAS-CILSS countries. In addition, the programme has launched a call for the recruitment off a pool of consultants specialized in ICT who will support the development of the new electronic database for plant varieties including the 09 additional crops.

In collaboration with ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS/INSAH, the PAIRED has organized in country missions in Guinea Bissau (16-18 June 2021), Cabo Verde (21-23 June 2021), and Chad (6-8 July 2021) to sensitize national policy makers and stakeholders to fast track the implementation of the seed regulation in these countries and develop national action plan to strengthen the national seed sector. The national workshops were attended by 25 persons in Guinea Bissau, 27 persons in Cape Vert and 31 persons in Chad.

PAIRED has supported ECOWAS to finalize and validate the first “Regional Executive Regulation for Phytosanitary Control & Certification” which aims to prevent the introduction and spread of seed borne and seed transmitted pests and diseases in the
region”. The Validation process went through a regional convening in Abidjan (Ivory Coast) on 16-18 March 2021 gathering 29 participants including the representatives of the Member States, the officials of the ECOWAS, CILSS, and UEMOA - member States the RECs (ECOWAS, CILSS, UEMOA), the private sector and some resource persons.

- PAIRED supported the organization of the 6th Regional seed committee statutory meeting in Conakry (Guinea) from 28th to 30th June 2021. The Meeting was co-chaired by His excellency Mr. Sekou Sangare ECOWAS Commissioner for Agriculture, Natural Resources and Water and the Minister of Agriculture of Guinea M. Roger Patrick MILIMONO. The committee meeting gathered 47 participants from 16 countries and went through the implementation of the regional regulation by the member states. In addition, the meeting has officially adopted the 2021 edition of the regional seed catalogue and the Regional Executive Regulation for Phytosanitary Control & Certification”.

- PAIRED after assessing the technical capacity gap of stakeholders in the seed sector in the region has organized regional training session to build the capacity of seed sectors actors in regional including the training on DUS and VCU in Ouagadougou from 13 to 17th September 2021 benefitting to 28 persons from 13 Countries. The program has organized the 22-23-24 September 2021, an online training on “quality seed production and supply and seed business management in the context of West Africa”. The regional online training reached over 450 persons and covered six modules: (i) quality Seed production, Drying, Processing and Storage, (ii) Seed demand forecasting and production planning, (iii) Seed quality control and compliance with the regional seed certification schemes, (iv) Seed business management and marketing, (v) Fight against fake seeds within the Region using the Seed codex platform and Role of seed stakeholders, (vi) Plant variety protection and seed business empowerment.

- At the national level, Niger, Benin, and Ghana have respectively organized national training and sensitization and advocacy meetings on plant variety protection (PVP).

- During the Fiscal Year 2021 the following partnerships have been implemented between CORAF/PAIRED and different partners:
  - Renewing the MoU with AATF/TAAT to update the joint action plan to support the implementation of the regional seed regulation.
  - Signed letter of Agreement with FAO/regional Office in Senegal with financial support to conduct a meta-analysis of the seed sector in West Africa.
  - MoU drafted with CILSS/INSIAH to conduct Joint activities particularly in the upgrading of the electronic data of varieties and conduct in country missions in the Tchad, Cabo Verde and Guinea Bissau to fast track the implementation of the seed regulation in these countries. developed & MoU in progress.
  - The collaboration with TASAI focused on the updating of the country index including Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, and Ghana.
  - With the World Benchmarking Alliance – a Regional Access to seed index development has been developed in collaboration with CORAF/PAIRED and the regional index has been shared during the side event of the 7th Session of the UN
Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development and during the regional seed committee in Conakry (28-30 June 2021).

✓ With the African Intellectual Property Organization OAPI: CORAF/PARIED has participated in the regional training on plant variety protection PVP in Lomé -Togo (18-21 January 2021) and in the national sensitization meetings in Brazzaville (25-27 May 2021), Libreville (31 May – 2 June 2021), Niamey (25-27 August 2021) and Ndjamena (30 August – 1 Sept. 2021)

- PAIRED effected the renewal of the MoU with AATF/TAAT to support the implementation of the regional seed regulation.

3.3 Presentation of EnGRAIS IR 2 FY 21 Results by Dr. Youl Sansan

Focus: Develop and disseminate comprehensive input packages in cooperation with CORAF

Highlights

EnGRAIS developed additional 110 AIPs across the region, with Ghana having the highest number of 16, followed by Senegal (15) and Nigeria (14). The lowest number developed by a country (1) was in Guinea.

EnGRAIS updated (improved user interface and experience) the FeSeRWAM platform to serve stakeholders better.

The FeSeRWAM platform is an online interactive, GIS-based platform and a vehicle through which AIPs are delivered to targeted stakeholders.

The project trained 50 regional trainers and developed various products and tools including, a dissemination strategy document, country brochures, AIP booklets, training manuals, key messages, stakeholders database, and country stakeholder workplans, to support the dissemination of the FeSeRWAM and AIPs.

3.4 Presentation of PAIRED IR 2 Results by Dr. Caroline Sobgui

Focus: Innovative Scaling Framework for Agri-input T&Is Established in West Africa

Highlights

During the reporting period the PAIRED team has deployed in the field several activities to ensure that information on existing improved technologies in the region reach farmers. The scaling activities involved a mix of communication and awareness creation activities including training of
trainers, establishment and strengthening of multistakeholder partnerships, open field days and demonstration and dissemination plots.

Four new innovation platforms (Adidwan, Nkwayire, Nsoatre and Derma) were established in Ashanti region of Ghana during the FY21, bringing to a total number of 36 innovation platforms (6 at district level and 30 at community level) in the target 6 countries Benin, Mali, Senegal, Nigeria, Niger, and Ghana.

At least 28 innovation platforms are classified as effectively functional with an effective business plan: Benin (2), Nigeria (1), Ghana (25).

Complementary capacity strengthening of the IP has been initiated in PAIRED countries. These trainings aim at addressing identified IP challenges (governance, M&E, poor access to services and agri-inputs…); recruitment of consultants is completed for Mali, Ghana, Benin, Nigeria, and Niger. Trainings of IP facilitators have been conducted in Nigeria and continue in the other countries in September and will be finished in October.

To support the upscaling of improved technologies in West Africa, agreements were signed with private sectors including Faso Kaba a seed companies based in Mali and UNIS (Union Nationale des Professionnelles des Semences) in Senegal to support farmer awareness creation on existing agri-input packages and other agriculture innovations. Furthermore, in Ghana, CSIR-CRI Ghana is working with OCP (the leading global provider of phosphate and its derivatives) and SeedCo (The African Seed Company) to support the upscaling of agricultural technologies. These activities organized around establishment of demonstration and dissemination plots and organization of strategic communication aims to support the communication on Agri-input packages, raise awareness on the importance of using improved seed and optimal fertilizer.

Twenty-four dissemination plots were established (12 for maize and 12 for rice) and 57 Open field days were organized in Ghana to showcase of performance of improved varieties target by scaling activities. In Ghana, open field days organized by actors hosting innovation platforms and witnessed the participation of 681 farmers to showcase of improved varieties of rice and maize. During the open field days technical leaflets on optimal agriculture practices, integrated pest management and optimal use of fertilizer related to target crops were distributed to 589 participants. In Senegal, 40 dissemination plots (21 of millet, 12 of Sorghum and 7 on rice) have been established by ISRA and 17 (4 rice, millet 5 and sorghum 8) by UNIS a private seed company association. In Mali 440 (160 for maize, 120 for sorghum, 80 for rice and 80 for millet) dissemination plots have been established by Faso Kaba a private seed company in addition to the 108 established by IER (Institut d’Economie Rurale) (36 for sorghum, 37 for millet, 18 for maize and 17 for rice). The organization of open field days in Mali and Senegal to show case of the performance of varieties under dissemination are planned for the month of October in Senegal and Mali. In Benin 11 dissemination plots were established by Innovation Platform members to show case of potential of the best bet varieties of maize in Benin.
The direct beneficiaries reached by PAIRED are as follows: 259 direct beneficiaries (168 males and 91 females) in Benin and 1,554 direct beneficiaries in Mali (1,243 males and 311 females). The figures of other countries are under compilation.

In partnership with IFDC and National stakeholders, the updating of Fertilizer and Seed Recommendations online Map for West Africa (FeSeRWAM) database is ongoing. The updating is particularly focusing on the updating of the platform ergonomy by improving its UI/UX design according to the user feedback. The FeSeRWAM is made of database collected from Togo, Nigeria, Ghana, Mali, Côte d’Ivoire, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Benin.

The updating exercises of FeSeRWAM Database and agri-input packages was completed during the first semester of FY21 and increased the total number of agri-input packages validated from 35 to 68 for Nigeria, from 31 to 35 for Niger, from 92 to 98 for Senegal, and from 38 to 72 for Ghana. The total number of Agri-input packages at the end of FY21 is 510 for 11 countries including Niger (35), Nigeria (67), Ghana (72), Mali (50), Senegal (98), Burkina Faso (50), Togo (47), Benin (13), Guinea (2), Liberia (5) and Côte d’Ivoire (71).

To facilitate the dissemination and adoption of FeSeRWAM as decision making tools and agri-input packages, an integrated communication strategy of FeSeRWAM and agri-input packages jointly developed by IFDC and CORAF were validated in March 2021 and witnessed the participation of 98 stakeholders. The roadmap for the deployment of the strategy was also validated.

The first activity of this communication and marketing strategy was the organization of the regional training of trainers on the use of agri-input packages and FeSeRWAM organized in Abidjan during the second quarter of 2021, and which witnessed the participation 58 agriculture stakeholders (10 women). National plan for target countries (Mali, Benin, Togo, Ghana, Nigeria, Côte d’Ivoire, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Niger) to downscale the training of agriculture stakeholders are under development. Once national road map will be validated, capacity building of extension workers and farmers on the use of the agri-input packages and FeSeRWAM in their countries will be launched.

As regard to the management of emerging productivity risk, the focus over the reporting period has been the organization of a webinar planned for April 2021 on the operationalization of the regional framework to manage emerging productivity risk and the definition of the role of CORAF in biorisks and bio-security management. Regional training on FAW management is planned for the end of this year and will take place in Benin. In addition, a consultant has been recruited to help for the compilation of update information on FAW management. The training curricula will be available by end of September 2021 and the training of regional stakeholders is planned for October 2021.

To help farmers to cope with climate change and erratic rain fall, PAIRED has initiated the organization of trainings in collaboration with AGRHYMET and ICRAF on the capacity of regional stakeholders and farmers to use climatic information for decision making in agricultural production; 57 (8 women) agriculture stakeholders from 17 institutions in Mali, Ghana, Nigeria,
Benin, Niger, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire had participated to the regional training on participatory integrated use of climatic services for agriculture (PICS); plan to downscale the knowledge to farmers at village level are ongoing and will constitute the second stage of trainings.

Upgrading of the platform interface and the user experience was completed during the first quarter of FY21. Upgrading of the MITA information content is ongoing. Two online meetings and one face-to-face meeting were organized during the FY21 to present the new MITA 2.0 to country partners, and to train stakeholders in the effective use of the platform and get feedbacks about the new MITA 2.0 platform and draft the road map for the collective updating of the platform. This virtual meeting witnessed the participation of 75 agricultural stakeholders including 65 men and 10 women. In addition, a meeting was also held in Dakar with 20 stakeholders (15 men and 5 women) to train agriculture stakeholders on the use of MITA and the potential of virtual tools for agricultural transformation and development.

**Discussions after Presentations of Dr. Diallo, Dr. Youl, and Dr. Sobgui**

- In her initial comment, Ms. Luisa Kalmongo requested to know the basis on which the crops in the FeSeRWAM/AIP were chosen, knowing that there are other crops that are of economic and/or food security interest in the region.
- She suggested the need to develop a strategy to help sustain the FeSeRWAM platform after the ends of both the PAIRED and EnGRAIS projects.
- Mr. Abdrahamane Dicko spoke on the progress on the adoption and implementation of the seed policy regulation at the level of different countries. He noted that for the last seven or eight years, the challenge has always been with two or three countries (Mauritania, Cape Verde, and Sierra Leone). Despite all the support and training provided by CORAF, nothing has evolved, he told the AC and called for collectively efforts to resolve this issue.
- Speaking about the choice of crops for the FeSeRWAM and AIPs, Dr. Caroline Sobgui said the choices of crops for the FeSeRWAM platform were chosen for their importance to the countries in which the projects work, but that does not mean that there cannot be other crops that are important for the sub-region added to the FeSeRWAM/AIPs.
- Regarding training activities on the use of climate information, she said the projects will ensure that information is transferred to farmers and agricultural service advisors. This transfer will be done by the actors that have been trained at the regional level, namely, the agents of the Ministries of Agriculture, weather services, and national agricultural research systems.
- Dr. Sansan Youl informed the AC that the FeSeRWAM platform has great prospects, considering the current interest and enthusiasm it is generating among partners in various countries. He assured the AC the projects will take advantage of the interest and enthusiasm to engage all partners to use the platform. It is planned to train in-country focal persons to ensure that these various stakeholders take charge and own the platform.
- Speaking on sustainability, he said the FeSeRWAM platform will be hosted on the IFDC and CORAF websites to ensure its sustainability after PAIRED and EnGRAIS projects end. He explained further that various national partners across countries in the region will
continue working on the platform. In addition to that, according to him, the projects are training people to continue working on the platform, after the end of EnGRAIS and PAIRED.

- Dr. Diallo spoke on the significant progress made in the implementation of the regional seed regulation. According to him the questions to ask include whether the committee meets; whether the catalogs and varieties are being developed; and whether the quality of seeds has improved.
- Dr. Diallo informed the AC about a study CORAF conducted in June 2020, which showed a significant increase in seed production and cross-border trade figures between countries that did not do so a few years ago. According to him, nearly 10,000 tons of seed is produced and exported by four major countries (Mali, Nigeria, Burkina Faso. and Côte d'Ivoire).
- He mentioned how the seed regulation and its implementation have allowed some countries to develop the seed sector in terms of business creation. He cited examples of Liberia which now has private seed sector and Ghana where the private sector is allowed to produce first-generation seeds etc.
- Dr. Kossigan Dayo recalled how CILSS had worked a lot in the past with financing from USAID, but Mauritania was for a long time not a beneficiary, for various reasons. He admitted that Mauritania has not benefited enough from USAID funding, so CILSS is working as much as possible to find other funding sources to support Mauritania.
- Ms. Kalmongo noted that Mauritania’s challenges stem from it not being part of ECOWAS. It needed the cooperation agreement to allow it to get involved in the implementation of ECOWAS regulations. It was after 2018 that Mauritania really had a legal document that allowed it to align.

### 3.5 Presentation of EnGRAIS IR 3 FY 21 Results by Emmanuel Alognikou

**Focus:** Fertilizer policy and regulatory systems across West Africa improved and harmonized in accordance with ECOWAS guidance

**Highlights**

EnGRAIS packaged and/or disseminated information/data on subsidy programs in West Africa to facilitate decision-making and advocacy for fertilizer policy reforms.

The project held strategic consultations with ECOWAS and USAID/WA to fast-track endorsement of the draft Regional Fertilizer Subsidy Program Directive by ECOWAS, and its issuance to Member States.

With EnGRAIS support, a set of 13 principles and 36 actions in the Regional Fertilizer Subsidy Program Guide (RFSPG) are being applied or integrated into on-going plans for “smart” subsidy programs in countries.
EnGRAIS held strategic consultations with ECOWAS and USAID/WA on fast-tracking establishment of the WACoFeC and eligibility of Member States.

The project facilitated the establishment of NaCoFeCs in Niger and Sierra Leone, and adoption of a relevant decree in Guinea Bissau.

EnGRAIS completed rapid assessments/updates of fertilizer testing capacities in Ghana (Jul 2021) and Nigeria (Sep 2021), in addition to previous 5 countries (Burkina Faso, Cote d’Ivoire, Mali, Niger and Senegal) including 41 public and private laboratories assessed in these 7 countries.

The project finalized regional training manuals on fertilizer inspection and quality control for regulators and developed a customized version for Nigeria.

In partnership with WAFA, AGRA and AfDB/AFFM, EnGRAIS started the process of developing a document on fertilizer blending guidelines. Data was collected from four countries across the region. The first draft was delivered.

EnGRAIS reviewed the RFSPG, designed a flyer outlining the key guiding principles & actions of the RFSPG, expanded the West Africa Fertilizer Subsidy Program Matrix, and updated Smart Subsidy Guiding Principles’ Application Matrix.

### 3.6 Presentation of CORAF IR 1 FY 21 Results by Dr. Hippolyte Affognon on behalf of Ms. Nana Yaa Amoah

**Focus: CORAF’s Institutional Capacity Strengthened**

**Highlights**

In FY21, CORAF engaged a team of four consultants to conduct the mid-term evaluation of CORAF’s institutional transition strategy. The evaluation revealed that that CORAF’s Strategic (2018 – 2027) and Operational (2018 – 2022) Plans validated by the CORAF governing board, approved, and adopted by the 12th General Assembly in April 2018 are well aligned with the priorities of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs). However, despite efforts made by CORAF management to reduce the number of Executive Secretariat (ES) staff, the current staffing level remains well above the 20 recommended by the institutional reform. The assessment team noted that CORAF enhanced its monitoring/evaluation and learning system (MEAL) with a comprehensive M&E strategy, which provides accountability to donors and aligns with subregional, regional, and global policies and results frameworks.

The organization convened its 16th Ordinary Session of its Scientific and Technical Committee (STC) to consolidate efforts of STC members to effectively guide scientific excellence in line with CORAF’s new Strategic and Operational Plan.
The Board of CORAF organized the 4th Ordinary Session of its Executive Committee in December 2020 to review plans for the holding of the 13th Ordinary Session of the General Assembly (OSGA) in April 2021.

The 13th Ordinary Session of the CORAF General Assembly was convened in April 2021, in accordance with CORAF Statutes, was convened.

The CORAF team finalized the report on the evaluation of human resources and approval of its recommendations by the Board for its implementation.

CORAF hit record numbers on social media in terms of the constituents reached and the number of followers garnered in the past three years, and is currently adopting a more strategic approach on social media.

Trainings for project coordinators and accountants on financial management were organized. A total of 21 persons comprising 19 males and 03 females participated.

CORAF instituted a Quarterly Program Performance Review to increase implementation momentum and address challenges towards achieving its mandate.

CORAF developed an online web-based Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning system and Knowledge Management Platform to assist in the generation of data, codification, and sharing of data and information among stakeholders.

The organization established an impact assessment practitioners’ network composed of socioeconomists designated by leaders of West and Central Africa NARIs.

During FY21, CORAF established an organizational level system to review performance and implementation progress of programs. The concept is to ensure program managers and staff are informed on where CORAF is in terms of program implementation at the Secretariat and field levels as well as on the related budget expenditure. To do this, CORAF instituted a Quarterly Program Performance Review (QPPR) to increase implementation momentum and address challenges towards achieving its mandate. The QPPR is a tool for CORAF to critically reflect on its entire program and results delivery framework, share knowledge and promote learning across all donor programs as well as encourage discussions with the various staff. The team held its first review meeting in July 2021 and will hold subsequent meetings each quarter.

3.7 Presentation of EnGRAIS IR 4 FY 21 Results by Mr. Robin Wheeler

Focus: Mobilizing Commitment and harmonizing engagement from key stakeholders across West Africa supported by mission buy-ins

Highlights

EnGRAIS secured $4M EnGRAIS expansion.
The project continued to successfully implement Senegal Dundël Suuf buy-in.

EnGRAIS explored possibility of Mission buy-ins in Nigeria, Ghana, Niger, Sierra Leone and Liberia but was unsuccessful.

The project explored possibilities to secure cost share but failed.

**Discussions after Presentations of Mr. Alognikou, Dr. Affognon and Mr. Wheeler**

- Dr. Dayo raised the issue of the fertilizer markets getting flooded with organic fertilizers whose quality is still questionable, but chemical fertilizers are also becoming increasingly scarce due to prices increases.
- He indicated to the AC that the situation creates a challenge of quality of these fertilizers because they are not controlled. He demanded to know what the overall capacity of laboratories in the sub-region is to control the quality of fertilizers in the region.
- In response to Dr. Dayo’s comment, Mr. Emmanuel Alognikou said it has become important and necessary to take a special look at the organic fertilizer market, so initiatives are being put in place. He gave the example of Ghana where a guide is being developed to monitor the evolution of the organic fertilizer market in the country.
- Mr. Alognikou advised that if there should be any decision to broaden the scope of the current regulation on fertilizer quality control, it is important to look more closely at organic fertilizers.
- On EnGRAIS’s fertilizer reference laboratories assessment activities carried out across the region, he noted that the exercise went well and that laboratories that were evaluated have equipment that could be used to analyze fertilizers, though some equipments in some laboratories are obsolete, and need to be replaced.
- In terms of personnel, according to him, there are qualified personnel who need some specific upgrading on fertilizer analysis to be able to analyze fertilizers effectively, because they already have some experience on soils and plants analysis. In general, most laboratories have space for the work.
- In his comments, Mr. Traore informed the AC about the existence of a set of documents that require legal opinions but he admitted that colleagues from the legal department have been engaged in other equally important matters. In his opinion, the meeting has all the power and the right to make recommendations which will help the Commission address the issues adequately.

**3.8 Presentation of EnGRAIS MEL FY 21 Results by Mr. Christian Amedo**

**Focus: Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning of Project Activities Conducted**

**Highlights**
Number of AIPs developed by EnGRAIS and/or CORAF/WECARD by AEZ, because of USG assistance has jumped from 80 to 250 expansion target.

Value of new U.S. Government (USG) commitments and private sector (PS) investments has moved from $30 million to $61 million expansion target.

Number of stakeholders who have received information on key AIPs, by type of stakeholder moved from 29 to 230 expansion target.

Over 125% target was achieved on Indicator 1 - Volume (MT) of apparent fertilizer consumption in ECOWAS member countries target was achieved 126%.

Over 70% target was achieved on Indicator 2 - Average fertilizer price ratio of Urea between FOB and ECOWAS Member States’ retail prices.

3.9 Presentation of EnGRAIS Financial Statement by Mr. Wheeler

Highlights

Mr. Wheeler briefly presented the budget used by EnGRAIS during FY21. EnGRAIS used a total of $2,556,450 to implement FY21 activities, of which 1,924,468 was directly for development activities.

3.10 Presentation of CORAF FY 21 Performance Monitoring Update by Mr. Zinsou Ellenite Kpavode

Focus: Targets reviewed, gaps identified, and data provided for decision making, and remedial actions undertaken for improvement

Highlights

On Indicator 2.2.1. (Number of institutions that are promoting climate information or implementing risk-reducing actions to improve resilience to climate change), training on utilization of climate information has been conducted during the FY21. The indicator will be assessed in FY22.

On Indicator 1.2.1 (Percentage of Financial Audit Reports receiving satisfactory review), only one audit was conducted during the reporting period and was satisfactory. Two other audits are currently ongoing.

Data compilation is in progress for Indicator 3.2.1. (Ease in doing Agri-inputs business index in the region) and final data will be reported in the FY21 final annual report.

Out of a total budget of $15 million, budget spent to date is 7,277,684, and remaining budget is $7,722,317.
Discussions on EnGRAIS MEL Results, EnGRAIS Financial Statement, CORAF Performance Monitoring Update and Budget

- Mr. Daniel Adotey’s intervention focused on the analysis of fertilizer apparent consumption. He suggested to EnGRAIS that they establish a clear correlation between apparent consumption and yields/food security. According to him, it is not sufficient to stop at apparent consumption analysis. Mr. Traore reiterated this point.

- Mr. Traore also sought to know if IFDC has the capacity to provide the correlation. He mentioned the need to indicate exactly how many countries have been analyzed to know which countries are leading in the market. According to him, the apparent consumption indicators alone may not be giving a true picture.

- Mr. Traore asked the projects to start producing some documents on the products/technologies they have developed and made available to end-users, so that they have tangible deliverables concerning them.

- In his comments, Mr. Annequin informed the AC that most of the increases in fertilizer apparent consumption have been driven by cash crops. He explained that cash crops can be cocoa in one country and maize in another country. According to him, there is a lot of work to be done to get a good picture of the correlation between apparent consumption and yields.

- Dr. Youl indicated to the AC that country-level AIP brochures are being developed due to the enthusiasm being expressed by country-level actors for these products. Beyond the country level brochures, other products will be generated on the FeSeRWAM and AIPs to provide information and support the dissemination process.

- Dr. Dayo noted the need to consolidate the achievements of the two projects before they end.

**Closing Remarks for the Day**

**Dr. Dayo**

In his closing remarks, Dr. Dayo commended the two projects for the activities done and the results achieved despite challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. He reminded the meeting about the need to consolidate the results produced by both projects, as they are ending soon.

**Mrs. Kalmongo**

Ms. Kalmongo reiterated the issue of sustainability of the FeSeRWAM platform and the AIP tools, in her closing remarks. She spoke about the unsuccessful efforts on buy-ins and advised that lessons be learned from the experience to guide future efforts. She said that the concept being new in the region might be one of the reasons for its failure in securing buy-ins during FY 21.

**Mr. Traore**

Mr. Traore commended the two projects for the work done. According to him, the objectives set for the two programs have been disrupted by the pandemic. He encouraged both IFDC and CORAF to continue to provide leadership in the sector. In his opinion, the impacts of COVID-19 have not
been all negative. There have been positive implications as well because resources saved from holding virtual instead of face-to-face activities could be used to improve some technologies.

He advised the projects to consider effective use of digitalization in carrying out activities. There are activities that can be organized online to save resources. Currently virtual meetings are the order of the day, but some physical meetings may be done, in exceptional cases. It’s important to take advantage of the current situation.

He spoke also on the implementation of fertilizer and seed regulations. According to him, it is not only in the field of agriculture that some countries do not accept to follow technical regulations. Regarding the full scope of regional regulations, there are always some countries that do not accept to follow them, and this is not the fault of the associated project, nor the fault of ECOWAS.

He told the AC he could give the example of a series of regulations that have been adopted since 1977-78 when ECOWAS was born and yet some countries have not yet adopted them. He said at the regional community level, their task is to account for all the efforts made. When efforts are made to sensitize countries, provide them with tools and train them, the work is done. Projects/programs are supposed to be the extension of ECOWAS and UEMOA to push countries to effectively implement the regulatory provisions, whether on seeds, fertilizers or pesticides.

He suggested a collective effort to seek legal assistance to think specifically about these issues. This, according to him, will be useful for other regulatory efforts at the community level.

Speaking on the activities of the EnGRAIS project, he commended it for the ability to produce information and to mobilize stakeholders when faced with an unforeseen challenges, including organizing meetings to help organizations ensure fertilizer availability in the face of challenges related to the implementation of restrictions posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. These efforts are appreciated and encouraged by ECOWAS.

He commented also on the fundamentally important issue of research to ensure quality of fertilizer as well as seed and technology packages. He questioned how these efforts will be transferred to the private sector, and how they will help create employment opportunities with the companies that specialize in implementing them.

Speaking on the production of fertilizer blending guidelines by a consultant, Mr. Traore wondered why IFDC, with its capacity within the West Africa fertilizer space, could not perform the function of analyzing fertilizer laboratories for quality control, but had to engage a consultant from the United States to do that.

According to him, at the end of the analysis and the diagnosis of the laboratories, there is something to build on. He called on IFDC to assert its distinctive competence on this matter and promised that ECOWAS would seek support from USAID on this issue. He thinks support should be given to all countries to build their capacity to analyze and control the quality of fertilizers.

Having said that, Mr. Traore challenged IFDC to capitalize on this diagnostic analysis report from the laboratories assessment activities to leave a legacy that all stakeholders could use as a capacity
building program/tool for laboratories to use in inspecting, monitoring, and disseminating information on fertilizer quality. This, according to him, will help save farmers from losing resources on poor quality fertilizers.

Speaking about PAIRED, he suggested that the planned ASIWA annual meeting be a relaunch of the Association.

He called on stakeholders to not blame the inability of ASIWA to function on COVID-19 because with the changing situations, other digital means could have been used to keep the Association working. There is an urgent need to get together and share responsibilities, not only at CORAF and PAIRED level, to relaunch ASIWA.

Before ending his remarks, Mr. Traore spoke on the regional agri-inputs strategy (RAIS). He admitted that ECOWAS is deeply involved and is aware of some challenges. He promised the commitment of ECOWAS to ensure that in the next 6 months, important steps, including its adoption, will be taken towards the implementation of the RAIS. He commended the two project teams for the results achieved, and USAID for the funding, which is important for the two programs.

Dr. Tenkouano, Executive Director of CORAF

Dr. Tenkouano reminded the AC about the current very difficult circumstances in which activities are being carried out. He agreed with Mr. Traore that there are gaps in some project implementation efforts, but said it is not that projects who are unwilling to deliver. He cited CORAF as just an instrument that provides a service, and for the service to be delivered well, other factors come into play.

Mr. Abdrahamane Dicko, USAID

Mr. Dicko acknowledged the progress made by both projects, despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the new digital and virtual methods of working we have needed to adapt. Mr. Dicko emphasized the importance of stock taking on: 1) where the projects are now; 2) what needs to be integrated; 3) what needs to change; 4) what needs to be abandoned or readjusted; 5) and what other directions need to be taken for more efficiency in project activities and to ensure that objectives are achieved. There is the need to cope with COVID to identify what can be done virtually.

The first day ended at 5:00 pm.
The first activity of the day was a recap of the previous day’s activities which the Chairperson did with support from participants, but before that, Dr. Hippolyte Affognon requested to correct a mistake made the previous day when presenting the achievements of Component 1 of PAIRED. According to him, CORAF 2020 report was still a draft and will be finalized and released soon.

**Recap of Day One Key Discussions**

- Before the main agenda for the day, Ms. Luisa Kalmongo invited participants to do a recap of key discussions on their minds.
- Dr. Dayo recommended that all the good results of the projects be well-noted, well-documented and disseminated to all actors.
- He said as a result of COVID-19, digitalization should be well scaled up to support the organization of virtual meetings and other activities that require physical presence.
- Dr. Hippolyte Affagnon noted that CORAF has already undertaken some activities and accomplished several tasks, so that ASIWA can play its leadership role in the private seed sector in the sub-region just as WAFA is doing.
- Dr. Affognon further reminded the AC that a great deal of effort has been made on behalf of ECOWAS to develop and finalize the RAIS.
- According to him, a book containing all information has been produced, but the most important thing now is the implementation of the RAIS.
- He finally stated the need for ECOWAS to guide and support the implementation process of the strategy. For instance, ECOWAS should support the launching and adoption of the strategy at the country level, as well as implementation of the activities contained in the strategy.

**4.1 Presentation of EnGRAIS IR 1 Planned Activities for FY 22 by Mr. Annequin**

**Focus:** A Competitive, Inclusive, private sector-led Regional Fertilizer Market Strengthened

**Highlights**

Support WAFA to hold its Annual General Meeting in Q1, thus sticking to its constitutional obligations.

Support and contribute to setting up key WAFA technical committees and help turn its coordinating unit into a formal secretariat.
Train WAFA to develop revenue generating strategy and action plan, and support kick off of LED grant submitted in August 2020 for $1.6m, if awarded.

Support WAFA to hold WAFF in Q2 of FY22 and promote the Association to participate and speak in key national, West Africa and Africa events.
Complete updates and studies on remaining two trade corridors (Q1), and publish consolidated analysis of fertilizer cost build up for West Africa (Q2).

Complete the 2nd version of the online Fertilizer Cost Simulator in Q1/Q2. The project will design and broadcast scenarios using up-to-date data (prices and formulas from AIPs).

Carry out advocacy activities, with WAFA, on strategic logistic policies and investments through a regional forum.

Support WAFA to organize a high-level workshop with financial institutions present in the region with the backing of ECOWAS.

Support WAFA to hold meetings with EBID to review the state of their partnership and next steps for 2022 supplies.

### 4.2 Presentation of PAIRED IR 3 FY 22 Planned Activities by Dr. Diallo

**Focus: Use of Quality Agri-inputs in West Africa Increased**

**Highlights**

Support, in forms of expertise and logistics, to update and implement ASIWA action plan and its sustainability, by designing and proposing policy, investments, and market solutions etc.

Provide expertise and logistics supports to leading seed companies to join their efforts in creating the regional seed trade Association for West Africa.

Finalize the business model and advocacy paper for the enforcement of the Seed Sector Support funds.

Finalize the ‘smart’ seed subsidy model and advocate for its endorsement by ECOWAS.

Organize technical workshops to update the UEMOA procedure manual for Seed Import/export for all ECOWAS & CILSS Member States.

Support Regional Economic Communities and Member States to organize the annual meeting of the Regional Seed Committee.
Based on the MoU with CILSS, finalize the modernization of the regional database software for the development of the Regional Catalogue of Plant Species and Varieties.

Organize regional training programs on PVP for English speaking countries including Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and The Gambia to implement the Plant Variety Protection Law.

Organize one regional training of NPPO officers and leading seed company staffs on Quarantine Pest Management and the executive regulation for phytosanitary certification of seed.

Organize three national trainings on Seed Quality Control & Certification based on ECOWAS protocols.

**Discussions after Presentations of Mr. Annequin and Dr. Diallo**

- Mr. Affognon began discussions by reminding the AC that a request was made to USAID to consider a three-month extension for the PAIRED project to complete FY22. This, according to him, will enable PAIRED to accomplish all activities and end the project satisfactorily.
- When Dr. Musabyimana had his turn, he indicated the need to organize a thematic session between the Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) project and CORAF to discuss the different areas of collaboration to avoid duplication and promote complementarity.
- According to Dr. Musabyimana, to facilitate access to technologies, TAAT set up catalogues of technologies in different fields that will be available on a platform. He informed the AC that TAAT planned to organize a fair, October ending, with CORAF at which successful technologies will be showcased.
- Mr. Kouassi reminded the AC that ASIWA is not an association but a platform, which fits well with what is being set up in Ghana called the Fertilizer Platform for Ghana. He questioned how sustainable the ASIWA platform is? He also enquired if CORAF, as a secretariat, has a free hand to carry out operations that will impact the platform positively and ensured it receives funding.
- Speaking on the request to extend PAIRED by three months, Mr. Dicko informed the AC that these are contractual issues that include procedures and mechanisms that must be followed for that purpose. According to him, the issues have been discussed with CORAF, so USAID will do what was agreed on and provide its technical opinion. He said CORAF’s contract officials should lead the process and take care of it.
- Dr. Diallo noted to the AC that TAAT is very much involved in the implementation of the seed policy compact and indicated an agreement with TAAT that ends in October. According to him, TAAT has made significant contributions in assisting countries to adopt the implementation of the regulation. He informed the AC that many activities that are carried out in the region are often co-financed with TAAT resources. He gave the example of the last joint mission to Chad, Guinea Bissau, Cape Verde, etc., in the framework of documents such as the national lists of quarantine museums of some countries were done with TAAT resources.
Commenting on ASIWA, Dr. Diallo said the creation of ASIWA was to address the issue of actors working in isolation; with researchers and private sector actors working on their own, without any interconnection between them. According to him, ASIWA was to make sure that the seed sector, financial partners, and donors or even commercial financial institutions could find a framework for exchanges and sharing of information.

Dr. Diallo further informed the AC that the objective, at the conception, of ASIWA was to set up an alliance, not an Association. According to him ASIWA is not a project but a platform where stakeholders join when they have needs and are free to leave at any time. He said ASIWA is a platform that works based on themes.

### 4.3 Presentation of EnGRAIS IR 2 Planned Activities for FY 22 by Dr. Youl

**Highlights**

Validate 80 additional AIPs suitable for specific crops and AEZs in West Africa and carry out annual FeSeRWAM platform update exercise.

Sensitize and train major stakeholders (WAFA, ASIWA) and others to access and use the web-based FeSeRWAM through appropriate tutorials and tools.

Support organization and promotion of the marketing and dissemination of AIPs by the input industries, in collaboration with CORAF.

Carry out sensitization, marketing, and communication campaigns to fast-track the dissemination and use of AIPs at the country level.

Support country trainings on proper implementation of ISFM, using agro input packages in FeSeRWAM, for soil fertility maintenance and sustainable crop productivity.

Strengthen the capacity of the NARS and private sector to use innovative AIP-based technologies and better farming practices.

Facilitate evaluation and monitoring by NARIs, NARES, and quality control agencies of agro-input packages being distributed by the private sector to ensure they conform to recommendations.

Design tools to assess environmental mitigation measures related to AIP use across the region and develop a survey instrument to determine the number of farmers (end-users) adopting the AIPs.

### 4.4 Presentation of PAIRED IR 2 Planned Activities for FY 22 by Dr. Sobgui

**Focus: Innovative Scaling Framework for Agri-input Technologies and Innovations Established in West Africa**
Highlights

Upscale and disseminate seed, FeSERWAM, and agri-inputs among national stakeholders including extension services, private input companies and farmers.

Communicate and raise awareness of regional and national stakeholders on the use of agri-input packages and FeSeRWAM.

Build the capacity of national stakeholders (extension agents, lead farmers) on the use of weather and climatic information to improve agricultural production.

Organize a regional practitioners workshop on upscaling of agricultural technologies.

Develop communication materials to raise awareness about the MITA potential and upgrade the MITA contents.

Train national stakeholders on the control of the Fall Army Worm as a way of upscaling best practices regarding its control.

4.5 Presentation of EnGRAIS IR 3 Planned Activities for FY 22 by Mr. Alognikou

Focus: Fertilizer Policy and Regulatory Systems across West Africa Improved and Harmonized in Accordance with ECOWAS Guidelines

Highlights

Support and disseminate endorsed ECOWAS Fertilizer Subsidy Program Directive and associated materials across Member States through regional and national platforms, when approved.

Complete on-going studies on the application of “smart” guiding principles in the Regional Fertilizer Subsidy Program Guide, including those for AIPs as well as for fertilizer value chain efficiency.

Continue to work with ECOWAS, CILSS and respective national governments to facilitate the publication of Regulation C/REG.13/12/12 in the official gazettes of Nigeria and Mauritania.

Support establishment of the WACoFeC and facilitate organization of the launch and first statutory meeting.

Finalize the paperwork and supervise field activities to assess impacts of using poor quality fertilizers in 3 selected GFSS countries.

Validate/finalize and disseminate technical reports/training materials and use them to support enhanced capacities for quality fertilizer production, distribution, and control both at regional and national levels.
Provide advice and technical assistance to interested ECOWAS, UEMOA, and CILSS Member States to strengthen their fertilizer policy and regulatory environments and build capacities so that country systems will be consistent with the harmonized regional fertilizer policies and regulations.

**Discussions after Presentations of Dr. Youl, Dr. Sobgui, and Mr. Alognikou**

- In Dr. Dayo’s view, it is good that EnGRAIS IR 3 activities include capacity building programs for laboratories, but he questioned why the activities are based on only fertilizer quality control. He appreciated the fact that most activities and results of PAIRED and EnGRAIS will support and benefit the implementation of the integrated regional inputs strategy.
- Before his comments, Mr. Traore asked the following questions:
  - How are stakeholders going to ensure sustainability of the several products which are the results of EnGRAIS and PAIRED?
  - Are stakeholders going to continue to seek funding from external partners to support a fertilizer distribution organization (WAFA) in West Africa?
  - Can stakeholders confidently say WAFA can stand on its own, after the end of EnGRAIS and PAIRED?
  - What self-financing mechanism is in place for the sustainability of the FeSeRWAM platform?
  - Are there internal discussions on the sustainability issue within the IFDC and CORAF teams, and will the two organizations be able to sustain the platform if there is no support from USAID?
  - What is needed for the FeSeRWAM platform to continue to exist and function well?
  - There are many products and knowledge materials being generated. How do we share/disseminate them?
  - Despite the presence of some platforms, only a few people access them. Can stakeholders think together to set up mechanisms to share the knowledge that is generated, particularly by EnGRAIS and PAIRED projects?
- On laboratory assessments, according to the ECOWAS Director of Agriculture, it is good the project has already included it in its work plans. It is expected that a well-framed program will be planned for the reinforcement of the analytical capacities of the laboratories in ECOWAS Member States.
- Mr. Traore noted that it is important to take advantage of knowledge sharing and consider how all project products can be transformed into knowledge dissemination devices.
- According to him, organizing online conferences does not cost much, so it should be possible to put specific mechanisms in place and people who are interested in acquiring knowledge could be made to pay $10. For instance, if there are one million ECOWAS citizens participating in such an online platform to disseminate or acquire knowledge on fertilizers and technologies that have already been developed, it will generate a lot of resources.
• He questioned what donors like USAID are going to do to enable stakeholders to generate other resources to be able to manage ourselves.

• In his response to earlier comments, Mr. Alognikou informed the AC that the projects are thinking of a specific program for capacity building of reference laboratories. According to him, given the importance of this activity and the impact it will have on the implementation of the regulation itself, EnGRAIS believes that this is an opportunity to make it a specific program.

• Responding to the issue of activities being focused on only quality control, Mr. Alognikou said it does not mean there is nothing else to do besides quality control. As a technical arm, IFDC will be able to provide guidance for whatever direction the framework defines.

• Speaking on the issue of sustainability, Dr. Youl said sustainability requires resources to take care of hosting charges, updating and protecting the platform, etc. He expects stakeholders to collectively determine how to manage roles to ensure sustainability of the products.

• He informed the AC that even though EnGRAIS and PAIRED are currently discussing and devising ways of ensuring sustainability of the products, no clear solution has been found yet, beyond the fact that IFDC and CORAF will initially continue to host the FeSeRWAM after the end of their respective USAID-funded projects. He emphasized the need for all key stakeholders to distribute roles among themselves to guarantee the sustainability of the platform.

• Dr. Affognon questioned why in the EnGRAIS IR 2 presentation, Mr. Youl indicated the plan of the project to reach 250 AIPs, even though at least 500 packages have already been developed during the joint work of both projects.

• In response to Dr. Affognon’s question, Dr. Youl said there is no contradiction, because the 250 represent AIPs across the sub-region while the 500 plus double-count by including the same AIP for each country. The 250 are also EnGRAIS’s USAID LOP target.

• According to him, there are country brochures and booklets that are produced annually to make the 250 packages available to both regional and country-level actors.

• Mr. Alognikou asked if there will be a structure at the regional community level that could take charge of some sustainability initiatives, considering the current dynamics.

• Mr. Dicko in his submission noted that to ensure sustainability of the several tools and systems that have been produced and made available by EnGRAIS and PAIRED, there is the need to harmonize the many platforms, committees, and common forums which have also been produced by different programs. At the regional level, he said, there are different regional committees (seeds, fertilizers, pesticides), and ASIWA, which is a platform that does not have the same functioning, but which allows meetings with specific objectives.

• According to Mr. Dicko, in Dr. Diallo’s presentation, we could sense recommendations from the Abuja discussions in 2019 on the regional task force for piloting and follow-up on the implementation of the regional inputs strategy, which is necessary to set up, and the platform for coordination of the inputs which was experimented for two years.

• Mr. Dicko wondered if we should not be thinking about harmonizing and distributing roles and tasks to avoid having the same actors with the same roles on the same platforms with
the same topics, to make them useful tools for the region to promote sustainability and have visibility?

4.6 Presentation of PAIRED IR 1 Planned Activities for FY 22 by Dr. Affognon on behalf of Nana Yaa Amoah

Focus: CORAF’s Institutional Capacity Strengthened

Highlights

Organize 31st Ordinary Session of the Governing Board.

Conduct an evaluation of CORAF’s Innovation Platforms to document lessons on the IAR4D approach to better institutionalize IPs within the NARS.

Conduct NICRA adjustment evaluation to ensure that Indirect Costs remain within the cost recovery guidelines stipulated by its grant agreements.

Conduct an audit of the CORAF communications and marketing (brand, media, social media, audience, human capacity, and skills).

Draft a new 2022-2027 communications/outreach/resource mobilization strategy aligned with recommendations of the mid-term evaluation and priorities of the 2022-2027 Operational Plan.

Develop and update CORAF strategic outreach, business development, and resource mobilization materials.

Establish a regional M&E working group composed of at least 20 M&E experts from the NARS for an effective linkage between NARS M&E system and CORAF MEL hub at the Secretariat.

Organize a regional capacity building training in M&E with a focus on the CORAF core M&E tools targeting the regional M&E working group

Develop an integrated strategy to capture crossovers in ICT tools and platforms across the KM, communications, and MEAL functions.

Develop success stories of PAIRED interventions on the institutional strengthening of CORAF, access to quality seeds, and scaling of technologies.
4.7 Presentation of EnGRAIS IR 4 Planned Activities for FY 22 by Mr. Wheeler

Focus: Mobilizing Commitment and Harmonizing Engagements from Key Stakeholders across West Africa Supported by Mission Buy-ins

Highlights

Successfully complete 3rd year of implementation of Senegal Dundël Suuf project.

Explore cost share with other donors in several countries

Explore possibility of 5-year EnGRAIS follow-on project

Discussions after Presentations of Dr. Affognon and Mr. Wheeler

- Mr. Traore noted that there are some solutions that could sustainably allow CORAF to generate its own resources. He noted that CORAF could render several services outside of project execution but questioned if these services have been thought out strategically to bring in money, for example, through selling of publications. He repeated his call for stakeholders to think of mechanisms that would allow for resources to be generated.
- He cited the example of IFDC’s work which creates the environment that allows the private sector to intervene and benefit. He noted that when IFDC works on the development of fertilizer formulas, it should be possible for the private sector to provide financial support for the work they benefit from. Before he ended his submission, he questioned what the role of the private sector is in these activities, and suggested stakeholders start considering how these things should be managed.
- Responding on the need for CORAF to consider generating resources for its activities, Dr. Affognon informed the AC that the Executive Director of CORAF is in the process of developing a business plan to generate funds for the organization, but there is the need to think about other strategies to mobilize funds.
- Dr. Affognon admitted that the private sector is key to scale up CORAF’s technologies, but there is the need to put mechanisms in place to enable the private sector to participate in mobilizing resources for the organization.
- Dr. Affognon informed the AC that the private sector usually requests money to produce seeds, but the project does not have the sales mandate for seeds. PAIRED only manages to support them out with training, technologies etc. According to him, the private sector must take charge of all financial responsibilities because they earn money from project interventions in the field.
4.8 Presentation of EnGRAIS MEL Planned Activities for FY 22 by Mr. Amedo

**Highlights**

Monitor performance at the regional level to ensure data quality.

Collect data and report on quantitative and qualitative performance indicators.

Internally document processes leading to data quality on performance indicators.

Conduct Internal Data Quality Assessments with IR Team Leads.

Update MEL plan.

4.9 Presentation of EnGRAIS FY 22 Budget by Mr. Wheeler

**Highlight**

Mr. Wheeler presented the EnGRAIS FY22 Project Budget, which showed a total expected expenditure of $3,800,938.

4.10 Presentation on PAIRED MEL Planned Activities for FY 22 by Mr. Kpavode

**Highlights**

CORAF has set the basis for the establishment of a rigorous MEL as well as a joint AC to support strategic decisions making. Specific activities already implemented include development of the Performance Monitoring Plan, baseline data collection to inform the Key Performance Indicators, development of the automated M&E system as well as setting up a joint AC with EnGRAIS. Key activities planned for FY22 are described below.

Conduct a socio-economics follow-up survey: The baseline survey was conducted in each of the target countries during FY20 by the CORAF/PAIRED M&E officer in collaboration with the implementing partners of PAIRED followed by a follow-up survey conducted in FY21. During the FY22, a consultant will be recruited to conduct a socio-economic follow-up survey which will help track technologies adoption, challenges and lesson learned, and will provide information on some key performance indicators. The consultant will also consolidate the country as well as the regional reports and ensure that all achievements are captured.

Capacity building: Following the regional trainings organized, CORAF/PAIRED will continue supporting implementing partners with regard to M&E as well as data collection and management, particularly the use of the online CORAF M&E platform.
Conduct data quality assessment (DQA): In line with USAID’s protocols and standards, the M&E Specialist will conduct DQA to ascertain the quality of the data reported in the half-year and annual reports. CORAF will report on progress towards achieving the program indicator targets through quarterly and annual reports. The reporting formats will be aligned with the Feed the Future Monitoring Systems and include, comparisons of actual performance and targets, narratives with brief descriptions of accomplished activities for each reporting period, trend analysis, challenges encountered and coping strategies as well as evaluative statements on the critical assumptions of the interventions. The reports will also include planned activities for the next reporting period.

Conduct an external evaluation: The final evaluation of the PAIRED program is meant to be both a performance and a process evaluation. The evaluation will explore the extent to which the assumed causal pathways between the program’s outcome objectives and its activities are sound and whether activities yielded the intended outcomes. It seeks to identify bottlenecks and constraints and to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to take stock of accomplishments and lessons learned to date.

Discussion of Major Issues after Presentations of Mr. Amedo and Mr. Kpavode

- Dr. Dayo emphasized the need to ensure that, from one year to the other, data is generated on volumes of seeds produced from all the countries. He advised that if attention is not paid to this and countries from which we generate data keep changing from one year to the other, it will be difficult to appreciate the trends. He sought also to know if there are any planned close-out activities, or another ACM will be held before the end of the projects.
- The EnGRAIS CoP informed the AC about the no-cost extension of the Senegal Dundel Suuf buy-in’s LOP for five months, making its end of project the same as EnGRAIS’s. He further noted that FY22 is EnGRAIS’s last full year of operation.
- According to PAIRED’s project Coordinator the project has planned and budgeted for evaluation and impact studies of project implementation activities and a close-out meeting to present results at the end of the project. In this budget, we have also budgeted money to carry out an evaluation and impact studies.
- Contributing to the discussion on sustainability, Mr. Kouassi noted that whether it is for WAFA or for project products, it is true that there is financial sustainability, but it is also important to think about operational sustainability. According to him, WAFA has members who contribute dues, and the Association carries out activities, such as forums, that generate incomes, and has internal structures for fundraising, as shown in the 500-million-dollar facility with EBID. To him, where there seems to be a challenge is the operational sustainability.
- WAFA, according to him, is currently managed by the executive members who have their own businesses, operations, and priorities, and whose daily management of WAFA activities is not necessarily a priority, so the Association is trying to set up an executive committee, but that is also dragging a bit.
- Mr. Kouassi feels that mechanisms can be set up to raise funds, but the difficulty becomes on who specifically oversees raising these funds or ensuring the sustainability.
• Dr. Diallo made the point that often a lot of effort is put into trying to achieve sustainability on intermediate products. He thinks the question should be how to ensure sustainability of the effects or impact of the products rather than the sustainability of products or intermediate situations themselves.

• He added that if a platform is set up to disseminate information, as in the case of FeSeRWAM, the focus should be on how the techniques or technologies developed through research can be put into the hands of the end-users through existing systems.

• He suggested we count sustainability of the FeSeRWAM platform by the impacts it generates, through the transfer of knowledge or information into the existing agricultural extension system.

• Speaking on harmonizing platforms or products, Dr. Diallo noted the tendency to think of putting many platforms or tools together. To him, there are times when certain platforms have specific objectives and have been created to address a particular problem, so though the same stakeholders may be on such platforms, they are responding to different objectives or needs of the various platforms. He advised against bringing some platforms or tools together, because they have different objectives.

• Commenting on the FeSeRWAM platform discussion, Mr. Niang admitted that all current and yet-to-be-developed tools are for the benefit of the private sector and development institutions. According to him, the role of WAFA in this platform is to help disseminate all these technologies through its members.

• Speaking on the operations of WAFA, Mr. Niang informed the AC that though the Association suffered two years of difficulty due to COVID-19, it continues to hold its meetings, implement projects, and attract donors who are interested in supporting the Association. He expressed hope for a bright future.

• He told the AC that fertilizer tenders had resumed across the sub-region. He cited Mali where fertilizer tender quantities are currently much larger than last year. He said the situation is the same in Burkina Faso. Apart from Cote d’Ivoire which closed its tenders last year, quantities are generally increasing across the board. He said if everything goes as planned and with the activities being carried out with EBID, IFDC and others, things will get back on track.

• He also indicated the mechanisms being put in place by WAFA to support the effective functioning of the Association, including the resumption of forums. He reminded partners including ECOWAS, EBID, IFDC and USAID that the new mechanisms are aimed to address the Association’s challenges and make it autonomous.

The following were the key comments made by Mr. Moussa Diabate, President of WAFA:

• WAFA is doing well despite COVID-19 because it manages to hold meetings regularly, pay dues and currently has a treasury of nearly 300 million francs. All this was made possible firstly thanks to USAID and then to IFDC who have supported the Association since the beginning, to organize the largest agricultural forums in WA. Unfortunately, this was interrupted by COVID-19, but the Association will resume forums in the first quarter of calendar year 2022.
• Despite COVID-19, WAFA registered 17 new members in 2021, which means that more and more private sector actors believe in WAFA and rely on WAFA to solve several problems that confront them.

• The first challenge confronting WAFA is the issue of fertilizer quality. With the help of EnGRAIS, the Association has put mechanisms in place to promote quality and has worked with various ministries of agriculture to ensure that the problem of quality is considered WAFA’s priority.

• The second challenge is financing. The Association signed MoUs with UEMOA and ECOWAS to ensure WAFA is the arm of ECOWAS and UEMOA in terms of fertilizer and to make sure these regional organizations consider WAFA’s concerns. The EBID has raised 520 million dollars fund for WAFA, but this coincided with COVID-19 and then the bank came with a series of requirements that were difficult to meet.

• A meeting is planned for October 14 between the Director of the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development, the ECOWAS Commissioner for Agriculture, and the President of WAFA to examine all the challenges and ensure that WAFA can quickly mobilize the 520 million dollars as part the financing of its fertilizer purchases and investments.

• It is decided and agreed to be included in the constitution that from now on, no one can be a member of the Board if he/she is not up to date with payment of dues. WAFA will continue to solicit USAID and IFDC to support its activities.

• WAFA is in the process of gradually acquiring its autonomy to be able to function with its own resources. WAFA has set up an executive secretariat including a Communication Officer and a Coordinator. WAFA is ensuring that various committees work well with the guidance of IFDC.

• The COP of EnGRAIS reminded the AC about the project’s job being to facilitate and help stakeholders work together. According to the COP, WAFA has also helped to bring this together and make sure that the private sector is fully involved. The following are additional comments he made:

• IFDC has had a regional fertilizer subsidy program guide since May 2017 and EnGRAIS had a directive ready for publication since over a year ago. What is important now is that some countries and other partners are already using the guide. Let us imagine the kind of impact to be created if this guide now becomes an ECOWAS-issued guideline and how much more impact it will have and how sustainable it will be.

• EnGRAIS has done everything possible at the regional and national levels to encourage different countries to issue the regulation and implement it at the national level. But if the West African Fertilizer Control Committee is not moving, a lot of what was created will be lost. At the same meeting last year, it was decided to establish the WACoFeC with the countries who had satisfied the requirements to be full members and other countries would be observers until they had completed the requirements. The this would have strongly encouraged Nigeria, the only member of ECOWAS not to have satisfied the requirement to publish the regional regulation in their national gazette to do so. However, since the
WACoFeC was not established and meetings initiated Nigeria has yet to see the urgency and has not published the regional regulation.

- At this point, Dr. Affognon noted that the expectations of stakeholders are not the same for seeds, pesticides, and fertilizers and the people who drive these different things are not the same. To be effective and efficient, he said, there is the need for each input to have a mechanism that allows people to do things well.
- He suggested a survey could be conducted so that the different groups could get together to share information and evolution of things to see what synergies could exist between the different groups for the right synergies to be built in the sub-region.

**Below are comments made by Mr. Traore:**

- Each regulatory system comes with a specific committee. When you take the seed regulation, the fertilizer regulation or the pesticide regulation, the committees are set up as extensions of the regulator. The seed committee continues to work to bring new regulatory devices that will allow legislators, thus ECOWAS and UEMOA, to develop complementary regulations as they go along.
- In the field of fertilizers, it is the same thing just as pesticides. With pesticides, it is even more specific and highly specialized, talking about the pesticide approval committee, and even with that, there is an extension of the institution that has the legislative mandate, for example, when actors are going to register pesticides and submit them to the regulator for him to make the decision to determine whether it is within the standards. They are all different and cannot be mixed.
- If there are strong Associations such as WAFA which has become a powerful instrument on fertilizers, certain products and technologies which are specific in this field can become tools of promotion of WAFA.
- According to him, it should be WAFA that should put itself forward to promote the technologies, scale them up, and disseminate them to its members, if these technologies or packages are directly oriented for their uses.

5  **CLOSING CEREMONY**

After discussions of major issues, the Chairperson thanked participants for the work done over the two days. She invited closing remarks from various speakers.

5.1  **Closing Remarks from CORAF by Dr. Abdou Tenkouano**

Dr. Tenkouano acknowledged the work done by the Chairperson and thanked representatives of regional institutions and organizations present. He thanked USAID for its support and partnership. He commended IFDC for the quality of results acquired within the framework of EnGRAIS and the collaboration established with CORAF for the implementation of PAIRED. According to him, the two institutions have worked to overcome challenges and have succeeded in achieving good results. He admitted, though, that there are some unfinished work to be accomplished.
Dr. Tenkouano suggested to the ECOWAS Director of Agriculture to consider the necessity to have expertise at the regional level for our various concerns, especially on laboratories analysis of fertilizer and other inputs in general. According to him, to ensure quality policy for agricultural inputs, there is the need to have instruments that allow stakeholders to measure the quality of inputs and to ensure that the various actors who put these products on the market, put products that correspond to the specifications on the envelopes. Very often that is not the case.

He used the ACM platform to call on ECOWAS, UEMOA, and CILSS to put in place an efficient monitoring policy to ensure that what arrives on the field is of high quality. He mentioned the frustration farmers go through after investing their limited resources and end up with products that do not correspond to what they have spent for. He noted that the regional input strategy offers solutions and called on regional decision makers for the adoption and implementation of the strategy.

### 5.2 Remarks from IFDC by Dr. Oumou Camara

In her closing remarks Dr. Camara mentioned the importance of consolidating results and ensuring sustainability of products. In her opinion, it is important for the FeSeRWAM platform and agri-input packages to have a follow-up so as not to lose their importance. Concerning the private sector, especially WAFA and ASIWA, she thinks much has been achieved. Dr. Camara told the AC that listening to Mr. Diabate’s comments, she thinks there is not much left to do for WAFA to stand without programs support.

Concerning fertilizer subsidy regulations, she cited the example of Niger’s fertilizer sector reforms, with the support of the PARSENE project which helped create two bodies, which really ensure quality control. These bodies are helping to set up the small subsidy team, and vouchers, to ensure quality control and to establish multi-stakeholder collaboration and consultation platforms in the country. She thinks the gains of such good practices could be considered in other countries.

She ended her comments with resource mobilization on the part of the two institutions. She thinks the joint EnGRAIS/PAIRED effort has begun the collaboration, which she thinks is a great opportunity for IFDC and CORAF to get together to compete for tenders in the sub-region.

### 5.3 Comments from USAID by Mr. Dicko Abdrahamane

Mr. Abdrahamane started his comments by thanking all participants, especially IFDC and CORAF which he commended for the quality presentation and work done. He reminded the two institutions about their partnership with USAID and assured them USAID is committed to continue working with them in that capacity. He noted that seed and fertilizer are two key sectors that are important in supporting the regional input strategy.

He informed the AC that USAID and CORAF have discussed and agreed that by the end of this program, which is nine months away, that a performance evaluation will be conducted on the
program to assess its results, by identifying the gaps and discussing how to consolidate the achievements and lay the groundwork for what could possibly be done as a support program for the region taking into account the new environment, new programs that are in the area and especially the priorities of the leaders of the region, and also according to the strategic and operational plan of CORAF.

He reiterated Dr. Camara's comments on reinforcing collaborations and agreed that it is important to reinforce the collaboration between IFDC and CORAF at the level of the region’s agricultural input sector. He advised stakeholders to continue reflecting on what has been done so far and see how to improve on them. Mr. Abdrahamane advised the regional stakeholders to operate in synergy and especially in total coherence with the priorities of the region, as USAID commits to support and strengthen collaborations for better results.

5.4 Remarks from ECOWAS by Mr. Alain Sy Traoré

Mr. Traore began his remarks by commending and thanking both Dr. Dayo and Mrs. Kalmongo for leading the 2021 ACM successfully, and thanked IFDC and CORAF for the results achieved. He commented on Dr. Camara’s earlier remarks regarding the collaboration between IFDC and CORAF that enabled the two organizations to work together on the two projects with separate contracts. He noted that the beginning was fraught with challenges as alluded to by the Executive Director of CORAF.

He noted that working together probably brings about optimization of resources. He thanked USAID for making this partnership happen and recounted how USAID partnerships started in the region with several programs including the West African Fertilizer Program, the West African Seed Program, etc., leading to the two organizations being reformulated to end up with EnGRAIS and PAIRED projects components.

According to him, the management of agricultural inputs will remain, for a very long time, a sector that will require public support. At the ECOWAS level, the dialogue will continue with USAID.

According to him, conclusions and recommendations proposed at the 2021 AC meeting will support mobilization and advocacy efforts. He identified the regional agricultural input strategy implementation as the next critical issue and said for a holistic approach purpose, it will be discussed with USAID. He admitted that ECOWAS will not be able to finance everything, but hopes the resources that USAID will be willing to develop and make available in the regional space will ensure that the unresolved issues of inputs can find support frameworks for American cooperation with West Africa.

He made a commitment, on behalf of the ECOWAS and UEMOA, to do everything possible to ensure they take up their share of responsibility, with the support of CILSS. He finally thanked everybody and declared the 2021 joint ACM closed at 4:00pm.
6 ANNEXES/Attachments
Annex 1 Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference
Advisory Committee (AC) of EnGRAIS and PAIRED Projects for West Africa
1 Introduction

In June 2017, the United States Agency for International Development for West Africa (USAID/WA) awarded US$ 15 Million to CORAF to facilitate the implementation of a five-year program named “Partnership for Agricultural Research, Education and Development (PAIRED)” in West and Central Africa. PAIRED is being implemented through three interdependent components namely: (i) Strengthening CORAF capacity for effective coordination of agricultural research and development, (ii) Establishing innovative scaling framework for Agri-input Technologies and Innovations (T&Is) in West Africa (WA) and (iii) Increasing the use of quality Agri-inputs in WA.

On February 19, 2018, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/West Africa Regional Mission (WA) signed a Cooperative Agreement with the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC) for the award of $10 million to implement the five-year (2018-2023), Feed the Future Enhancing Growth through Regional Agricultural Input Systems (EnGRAIS) Project for West Africa. In September 2019, the USAID Senegal Mission bought into EnGRAIS to support fertilizer and soil fertility activities in Senegal by providing $8 million for the three-year Dundël Suuf activity. In May 2020, they provided an additional $500,000 for COVID-19 response activities bringing the total Dundël Suuf resources to $8.5 million. Then on October 10, 2020, USAID/WA provided for an expansion of the EnGRAIS regional activity by increasing funding by an additional $4 million, bringing total regional project resources to $14 million and overall resources to $22.5 million.

EnGRAIS focuses on the overall goal of contributing to improved sustainable agricultural productivity and inclusive growth for West Africans. Through an analysis of the critical challenges and issues impacting sustainable agricultural productivity at the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) regional level, IFDC agreed with its partners that four key elements are necessary to meet EnGRAIS’s Strategic Objective (SO) of sustainably increasing regional availability and use of appropriate and affordable fertilizers. These are: (a) a competitive and efficient private sector-led supply system; (b) effective demand; (c) an enabling environment; and (d) harmonizing and supporting actions at the country level for fertilizer in coordination with other agricultural inputs.

Based on these elements, IFDC, in close consultation with USAID/WA and ECOWAS, developed EnGRAIS’s Results Framework (RF) to address the inadequate supply of, access to, and use of appropriate and affordable fertilizer by smallholder farmers across West Africa. EnGRAIS’s regional interventions will directly accomplish the following intermediate results (IRs):

- IR 1: Competitive, inclusive, private sector-led, regional fertilizer market strengthened;
- IR 2: Comprehensive input packages developed and disseminated in cooperation with CORAF (Conseil Ouest et Centre Africain pour la Recherche et le Développement Agricoles/West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development);
- IR 3: Fertilizer policy and regulatory systems across West Africa improved and harmonized in accordance with ECOWAS guidelines; and
- IR 4: Mobilizing commitment and harmonizing engagement from key stakeholders across West Africa supported by mission buy-ins.
Whereas the PAIRED program aims to primarily undertake systemic reforms that will improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and professionalism of CORAF to move the organization towards becoming a stellar instrument for regional coordination of agricultural research, and to put it on a path to financial stability and sustainability, PAIRED aims to support African-led regional institutions to address critical issues that constrain the effective supply and use of agricultural inputs in West Africa and is expected to result in strong, positive, and lasting change toward improving the availability of and farmers’ access to appropriate, affordable, and quality agricultural inputs.

The reforms of PAIRED will also result in a solid and resilient organization with a new strategic orientation capable of providing a high-quality, demand-led, core service package that derives its legitimacy and urgency from three interconnected realities: Firstly, CORAF will need to build its organizational capacity to deliver most efficiently and effectively on its vision, with robust operational and implementation systems. Secondly, CORAF needs to more effectively engage emerging actors (e.g., private sector and AR&D foundations) and facilitate the realization of public and private investments in specific value chains, and thirdly, to assure much needed adoption by smallholder farmers of T&Is, CORAF needs to innovatively work with governments and non-government partners, particularly IFDC, to support and advocate for mechanisms that can persuade the private sector to put in place systems that ensure sustained availability, delivery, and adoption of improved seed, fertilizers and other agri-inputs.

EnGRAIS on the hand is applying a multi-faceted approach, working throughout the fertilizer supply chain as a facilitator and enhancing strategic actors’ ability to improve the business environment and transition to a private sector-led fertilizer market that responds to an effective demand for productivity-enhancing inputs in West Africa. EnGRAIS is responding to ECOWAS’s overall objective to enable a regional policy environment for agricultural inputs, ensure access to quality agricultural inputs for West African farmers, and enhance regional agricultural input business capacity\(^1\) as well as responsive to the USAID/WA Development and Cooperation Strategy, the Feed the Future (FTF) Multi-Year Strategy to Improve Sustainable Agricultural Productivity and Increase Regional Trade in Key Agricultural Commodities.\(^2\) EnGRAIS’s objectives and activities complement the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program plus Ten Years (CAADP+10), the African Union *Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods*, and the ECOWAS Agricultural Policy +10. EnGRAIS has been designed and being implemented in close consultation and partnership with ECOWAS, CORAF, and the West Africa Fertilizer Association (WAFA) to ensure maximum program impact.

The present AC terms of reference (ToR) describes the two projects and the mode of operation of their AC. The main role of the AC is to guide the implementation of the programs for their entire duration by providing strategic direction while encouraging the development of linkages within the fertilizer and seed sub-sectors in West Africa. As a regional body, the AC is mandated to ensure that the activities of EnGRAIS and PAIRED are in line with the priorities and perspectives of the key stakeholders in the fertilizer and seed sub-sectors within the ECOWAS region, and consistent with the regional fertilizer and seed promotion strategies.

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1 ECOWAS 2025 Framework.  
2. Responsibilities

The AC is an advisory body for the implementation of the EnGRAIS and PAIRED projects, implemented by IFDC and CORAF, respectively, in cooperation with ECOWAS, the West African Fertilizer Association (WAFA), Alliance for Seed Industry in West Africa (ASIWA) and other regional institutions, including CILSS, UEMOA, and ROPPA. Therefore, IFDC and CORAF, and to a lesser extent its regional partners bear the ultimate responsibility for achieving the results of the two projects and thereby make decisions governing the management of the projects as approved by USAID/WA.

The AC shall counsel EnGRAIS and PAIRED on strategies and priorities in the sub-region such as the implementation of the ECOWAS regulations on fertilizer and seed quality control, the improvement of the administration of fertilizer subsidies and the development of the private sector within the fertilizer and seed industries. Therefore, it shall examine regional activities and advise thereon, while seeking synergies with strategies and priorities at national level. Its specific responsibilities are as follows:

- Advise the EnGRAIS and PAIRED management teams on the strategic vision, orientation, priorities, and approaches at regional and/or national level.
- Suggest priority actions for developing programs for EnGRAIS and PAIRED annual activities.
- Assess the progress of implementation of annual programs against EnGRAIS and PAIRED monitoring, evaluation, and learning plans; and
- Serve as a link between other regional programs and ongoing bilateral projects for the development of the fertilizer and seed sub-sectors.

3. Membership

3.1 Institutional composition

The functions and activities within the fertilizer and seed industries in West Africa are many and performed by several actors and economic operators from the public and private sectors as well as civil society. Although national market development strategies and opportunities are varied, they are all designed with a view to address the major constraints in the fertilizer and seed markets and effectively and sustainably matching supply and demand. For example, in 2006, in the wake of the Africa Fertilizer Summit, ECOWAS and UEMOA contributed immensely to addressing the constraints identified by putting in place a regional fertilizer promotion strategy. This strategy revolves around three complementary pillars: i) improving the business environment for the regional fertilizer market, ii) stimulating solvent demand for fertilizer and iii) stimulating fertilizer supply. At the same time, in order to facilitate the implementation of the regional strategy, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) have identified and/or supported the development of programmes and projects as well as regional or international implementing umbrella institutions that can contribute to resolving the fertilizer crisis in Africa. Since EnGRAIS and PAIRED aim to enhance the performance of both private and public sector actors in the fertilizer and seeds sub-sectors, respectively, it is appropriate for all regional stakeholders to be represented on the AC. The AC is made up of the representatives of the following member organisations:

1. Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
2. West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA)
3. Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS)
1. US Agency for International Development for West Africa (USAID/WA)
2. West Africa Fertilizer Association (WAFA)
3. Alliance for Seed Industry in West Africa (ASIWA)
4. Network of Farmers' and Agricultural Producers' Organisations of West Africa (ROPPA)
5. International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC)
6. West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF)

It is envisaged that the institutional composition of the AC will remain intact for the duration of EnGRAIS and PAIRED. If the need arises, the members of the AC, in consultation with the EnGRAIS and PAIRED management teams, could suggest adjustments in the institutional composition. This may concern also, observer institutions, considering the new input package approach being implemented jointly by EnGRAIS and PAIRED.

### 3.2 Selection of members
Each selected institution shall be represented on the AC by the highest official or their authorized representative. The ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions shall be represented by their Commissioners in charge of agriculture or their designated representative. CILSS shall be represented by its Executive Secretary or his designated representative.

### 3.3 Functions and mandates of members
Generally, the mandate of committee members is for the duration of the projects which is expected to be 2018-2023 for EnGRAIS and 2017 – 2022 for PAIRED. In the event a member permanently quits the AC, s/he shall be replaced by another representative from the same institution for the remaining duration of the mandate.

### 3.4 Status of members
In view of their competence and experience in the various intervention areas, observers may be invited for their contributions depending on the importance of the subject of each AC meeting. The AC will be governed by a three-member bureau: A Chair, a Vice-Chair, and a Rapporteur.

- **Chair**: the committee shall be chaired by the ECOWAS Commissioner in charge of agriculture, environment and water resources or his authorized representative who shall chair the meetings and ensure that members contribute during the meeting. In collaboration with EnGRAIS and PAIRED, the Chair shall ensure the production and distribution of the minutes of each meeting as well as the preparation of the agenda for future meetings.

- **Vice-chair**: the UEMOA Commissioner in charge of the Department of Food Security, Agriculture, Mines and Environment or his authorized representative shall be the Vice-chair of the Committee; s/he shall provide assistance to the Chair and will replace him/her when s/he is absent or otherwise engaged.

- **Rapporteur**: the COP of EnGRAIS and/or Program Manager of PAIRED or their authorized representatives shall serve as Secretaries to the Committee and perform the role of rapporteurs. They shall assist the Chair during advisory committee meetings (ACM), organize and logistically support the AC and draft minutes of the ACMs.

- **Ad hoc committees**: The AC may set up ad hoc sub-committees to specifically consider and dig into certain issues pertaining to proposed activities. Such ad hoc sub-committees can be set up upon mutual agreement between EnGRAIS and PAIRED projects and the AC.
4.0 Management of Meetings
Secretariat services shall be provided by EnGRAIS/PAIRED during meetings and they shall perform the following duties:

- Liaise with the Chair of the Committee on all relevant issues pertaining to the fertilizer and seed sub-sectors, notably those that fall under the three pillars of the ECOWAS regional fertilizer and seed promotion strategy.
- Liaise with the Chair to prepare draft agenda and meeting documents.
- Circulate all documents to committee members before every meeting.
- Organise logistics for meetings (e.g., prepare meeting rooms, travel documents, book hotels, take care of miscellaneous payments);
- Prepare minutes to be examined by the Chair and the COPs of EnGRAIS and PAIRED and circulate to committee members for final approval.
- Circulate the final and approved version of minutes to all AC members and other relevant institutions.

5.0 Procedures
The AC shall hold at least one ACM per year. The dates of these meetings shall be set in such a way that the AC can review and recommend actions on work plans and annual progress reports before they are approved by USAID/WA. However, extraordinary meetings may be convened when the need arises. Normal ACMs aim to assess annual priority programmes, the progress of activities and results achieved.

The ToR and budgets (if necessary) for functions assigned to ad hoc committees shall be developed by EnGRAIS/PAIRED management in consultation with the AC.

5.1 Decision making process
The role of the Chair is to facilitate meetings in a way that enables dialogue and discussion while seeking consensus and shared opinions. Members will then adopt the minutes as official documents reflecting the issues discussed.

5.2 Agenda and minutes
The agendas for ACMs shall be prepared by EnGRAIS and/or PAIRED management in coordination with the AC Chair and circulated to AC members at least a week before the meeting. Contributions to finalise the agenda shall be received from members before or at the beginning of each meeting.

The EnGRAIS and PAIRED management teams shall have the responsibility to take notes and draft the minutes before circulating to members. Members shall have two weeks to consider and approve the minutes. If there are substantial comments/needed revisions, the management team shall revise the minutes before circulation to all members. The EnGRAIS and PAIRED management teams also shall be responsible for the electronic distribution of the final approved version of the minutes to all members.

6 Dates of ACMs
EnGRAIS and PAIRED management shall agree with the Chair, Vice-Chair and CILSS on ACM dates, venues and formats and contact members to confirm their participation. Members who will
not be able to attend ACMs shall plan for replacement by other staff from their respective institutions.

7 Financial obligations

The cost of traveling (air tickets or other travel documents, per diems, accommodation, etc.) shall be the responsibility of member institutions when they participate in ACMs. As much as possible and to reduce cost, the AC meetings shall be organized on the fringes of other regional meetings. In exceptional cases, EnGRAIS and PAIRED may sponsor the participation of some AC members provided it is notified in advance.
### Annex 2 Agenda

**Draft Agenda**

**EnGRAIS/PAIRIED Joint 2021 Advisory Committee Meeting (ACM)**

**Date:** September 27-28, 2021

**Venue:** via Zoom from Abidjan, Abaja, Accra, Conom, Dakar, Ouagadougou, and Lomé.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day 1</th>
<th>Monday, September 27, 2021</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TIME</strong></td>
<td><strong>VIRTUAL PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION TOPIC</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:00 – 09:30</td>
<td>Introduction of Participants</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:30 – 09:45</td>
<td>Welcome Address and Objectives of the Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:45 – 09:50</td>
<td>Opening Remarks by OSARD/WA</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:50 – 10:20</td>
<td>EnGRAIS Overview and Structure of Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:20 – 10:40</td>
<td>PAIRED Overview and Structure of Presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:40 – 10:50</td>
<td>EnGRAIS FY21 Achievements for R51: Competitive, inclusive, private sector-led, regional fertilizer market strengthened</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:50 – 11:00</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 – 11:10</td>
<td>EnGRAIS FY21 R51 Achievements: Production and Use of Quality Agri-inputs increased in West (and Central Africa)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:10 – 11:40</td>
<td>PAIRED R51 Achievements: Questions/Answers</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:40 – 11:50</td>
<td>EnGRAIS FY21 Achievements for R52: Comprehensive input packages developed and disseminated in cooperation with CORAF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 – 12:30</td>
<td>PAIRED R51 Achievements: Questions/Answers</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30 – 12:40</td>
<td>EnGRAIS FY21 Achievements: Dissemination and Use of Proven TDRs in West (and Central Africa) scaled up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:40 – 12:50</td>
<td>PAIRED R51 Achievements: Questions/Answers</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:50 – 13:00</td>
<td>EnGRAIS FY21 Achievements for R50: Fertilizer policy and regulatory systems across West Africa improved and harmonized in accordance with ECOWAS guidance</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:00 – 13:15</td>
<td>EnGRAIS R51 Achievements: Questions/Answers</td>
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**Day 2**

**Tuesday, September 28, 2021**

**Presentation of FY22 Work Plan**

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<tr>
<th><strong>TIME</strong></th>
<th><strong>VIRTUAL PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION TOPIC</strong></th>
<th><strong>PRESENTER/LEAD</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>09:00 – 09:50</td>
<td>Recap of Day 1 Presentations</td>
<td>AC President</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:50 – 09:55</td>
<td>EnGRAIS FY22 R3 Work Plan</td>
<td>Patrick Anzangun, R3 Team Leader</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:55 – 10:10</td>
<td>Questions/Answers</td>
<td>AC Members</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:10 – 10:20</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:20 – 11:50</td>
<td>EnGRAIS FY22 R3 Work Plan</td>
<td>Youl Sangaré, R3 Team Leader</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:50 – 12:00</td>
<td>Questions/Answers</td>
<td>AC Members</td>
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<th>TIME</th>
<th>VIRTUAL PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION TOPIC</th>
<th>PRESENTER/LEAD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:00 – 12:30</td>
<td>PAIRED IR1 FY23 Work Plan</td>
<td>Mr. Nama Yax, 26/03/24, Consultant - Operations Manager/Senior Advisor to Executive Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30 – 12:50</td>
<td>Questions and Answers</td>
<td>AC Members</td>
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<td>12:50 – 13:50</td>
<td>EnGRAIS FY23 IR4 Work Plan</td>
<td>Robin Wheeler, IR4 Team Leader</td>
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<td>13:20 – 13:50</td>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:50 – 14:30</td>
<td>EnGRAIS FY23 Work Plan and Estimated Budget</td>
<td>Carl Arzado, MEL Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:30 – 14:50</td>
<td>Questions/Answers</td>
<td>AC members</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:50 – 15:15</td>
<td>PAIRED FY23 Work Plan and Estimated Budget</td>
<td>Zain Sarli, KPAVODE, MEL specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:10 – 15:30</td>
<td>Discussion of major issues by AC Decision Makers after presentation of FY21 Work Plan</td>
<td>AC High-Level Decision Makers and Project Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:30 – 15:50</td>
<td>Summary and Final Thoughts (Closing Remarks)</td>
<td>AC President, USAID, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:50 – 16</td>
<td>End of Day 2</td>
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</table>
### Annex 3 Participants List

**EngRAIS/PAIRED Joint 2021 Advisory Committee Meeting (ACM)**

**Date:** September 27-28, 2021; **Venues:** via Zoom from Abidjan, Abuja, Accra, Cotonou, Dakar, Ouagadougou, and Lomé.

**Participants List:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Age Category</th>
<th>Job Title</th>
<th>Institutions</th>
<th>Sector</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<td>36</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>Senegal</td>
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<td>Côte d'Ivoire</td>
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<td>Togo</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Senegal</td>
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<td>Christian Amado</td>
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<td>36</td>
<td>M&amp;E Specialist</td>
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<td>Zouma Elhete (SANVECY)</td>
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<td>40+</td>
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<td>Niger</td>
<td>Nite Kouamari</td>
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<td>Caroline Soli</td>
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<td>50+</td>
<td>Program and Policy Advisor</td>
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<td>35-44</td>
<td>Chief of Department</td>
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<td>Moussa Sandy</td>
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**Date:** September 27-28, 2021; **Venues:** via Zoom from Abidjan, Abuja, Accra, Cotonou, Dakar, Ouagadougou, and Lomé.