13TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF CORAF
JANUARY 25-27, 2022, N'DJAMENA, CHAD,
COMMINIQUÉ

CORAF held its General Assembly (GA) from January 25 to 27, 2022 in N'Djamena, Chad. The GA brought together the Directors of the National Agricultural Research Institutes from the member National Agricultural Research Systems (NARSs); representatives of regional producer organizations; non-governmental organizations (NGOs); academia; the private sector; development partners; scientific and technical partners, as well as representatives of the Regional Economic Communities (ECCAS, CEMAC). Were also in attendance: members of the Board of Directors; members of the Scientific and Technical Committee (STC); the staff of the CORAF Executive Secretariat; and other staff from the host institution, the Chadian Institute of Agricultural Research for Development (ITRAD).

The General Assembly formally expresses its gratitude to General MAHAMAT IDRISSA DEBY ITNO, President of the Transitional Military Council (TMC), President of the Republic, Head of State of Chad for having offered acceptance to host the 13th Ordinary Session in N'Djamena, Chad. The General Assembly also extends its appreciation to the government and people of Chad for hosting the General Assembly twice in ten year, i.e. in 2012 and in 2022, demonstrating the strong commitment of the Government of Chad to support CORAF.

The participants of the General Assembly, representing West and Central African countries, hereby release this Communiqué on the strengthening of CORAF's activities in Central Africa to our member Governments, NARSs, technical and financial partners and other stakeholders.

**Conratulating** the Ministers of Agriculture of Chad, Niger, Central African Republic and Cabo Verde; and the representatives of the Ministers of Agriculture of Burkina Faso and Guinea;

**Further congratulating** the Director General of ITRAD, the Chairperson of the 13th Ordinary Session of the General Assembly, the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of FARA; the Chairperson of the Board of Directors and the Executive Director of CORAF as well as the regional and local organizing committees for the successful holding of the 13th Ordinary Session of the General Assembly of CORAF;

**Recognizing** the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the health system, food security and agricultural productivity of countries;

**Further recognizing** that the restrictions due to COVID-19 resulted in the 13th Ordinary Session of the General Assembly being held in two parts: the first part being held virtually in April 2021 and the second part in a hybrid (in-person and virtual) format from January 25 to 27, 2022;

**Appreciating** the robustness of the responses of Central and West African countries to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on agriculture, focusing, inter alia, on the supply of improved seeds; the acquisition of equipment and tools for farmers; the introduction
of sound phytosanitary measures; and capacity building across the wide range of participants in the agricultural value chain;

Acknowledging the financial support of CORAF’s technical and financial partners, notably USAID, the EU, IFAD, the World Bank, SDC and IDRC;

Appreciating the firm support to CORAF voiced by funding partners at the opening ceremony regarding CORAF’s flexibility in project implementation, which indicated that even during the COVID-19 pandemic period, the organization has been working hard to deliver on some of its project implementation targets;

Convinced that CORAF has had a significant impact in West Africa and believing that similar impact is needed in Central Africa;

Valuing CORAF’s efforts towards revitalizing the National Centers of Specialization (NCoSs) and the Regional Centers of Excellence (RCoEs) with respect to the implementation of cutting-edge scientific and technological areas relevant to national and regional priorities.

After cordial, transparent, interactive and exhaustive deliberations, the General Assembly makes the following recommendations and resolutions:

**Mobilization of financial resources**

Calls on CORAF member countries to fulfil their financial commitments by paying their annual dues.

Encourages CORAF to seek additional and innovative funding sources, including direct support from member countries; the African Development Bank (AfDB); other regional financial institutions; and the private sector.

**Review of documents by the General Assembly**

Approves the revised versions of the following governance documents:

i. CORAF’s Statutes

ii. Rules of Procedures of the Board of Directors

iii. CORAF’s Governance Manual

Orders the printing and the circulation of the approved CORAF’s revised documents to the members of the Board of Directors and their posting on the CORAF website by end of April 2022.

**Approval of strategic documents**

Approves the updated 2018-2027 Strategic Plan and the 2023-2027 Operational Plan.

**Extension of the term of office of the Board of Directors**

Endorses the decision of the April 2021 virtual meeting (Part 1 of the 13th Ordinary Session of the General Assembly) to extend the term of office of the members of the
current Board of Directors through to the beginning of the 14th Ordinary Session of the GA for the purpose of effective oversight of the governance reforms initiated by the Board of Directors.

**Strategic Positioning and VISIBILITY of CORAF**

Recommends that CORAF uses its strategic positioning to leverage the support from Central African countries to improve CORAF's visibility. In this regard, the Board and the Secretariat should step up their advocacy activities.

**Human Capacity Building in the Central African Region**

Recommends that member countries strengthen their collaboration with CORAF to implement a strong human capacity building program across the agricultural value chain in the region.

**Institutional Partnerships**

Recognizing that CEMAC and ECCAS have embarked on merger efforts, CORAF is to work closely with both organizations. To this end, CORAF should strengthen its collaboration with the African Union (AU) and other regional and international bodies to achieve its objectives and mandates.

**Place and venue of the next meeting**

The General Assembly duly noted the bid to hold its 14th ordinary session in Cotonou, Republic of Benin, in April 2024

**CONCLUSION**

The General Assembly is appreciative of the facilities and support provided by the government of Chad and the level of commitment of the regional and local organizing committees that contributed to the successful holding of the 13th Ordinary Session of the General Assembly. The high-level commitment of the participants in the General Assembly is also appreciated.

**Done in N'Djamena, Chad on January 27, 2022**