

# this month

March - April 2020

Lisez en français

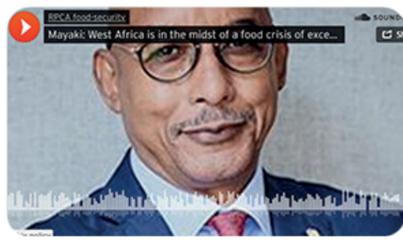
## LATEST NEWS



### West African & Sahel 2020 Food and Nutrition Outlook

The question at the moment is no longer whether West Africa would be further challenged with a food crisis. Rather, it is how quickly can the food actors act to mitigate the impacts of COVID to a region already suffering from the severe effects of climate, insecurity, and the fall armyworm. The leading actors, including CORAF, are coming together as never before for the interest of smallholders.

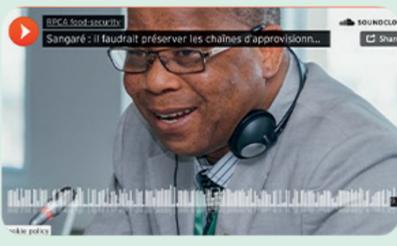
[Read more](#)



### "West Africa is in the midst of a food crisis of exceptional magnitude,"

"West Africa is in the midst of a food crisis of exceptional magnitude. We can't do business as usual," says Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, CEO of the African Union Development Agency. Speaking at a Regional Food Crisis Prevention Network online meeting in early April 2020, the Honorary President of the Sahel and West African Club mused: "Will we be able to adjust? How strong is our co-operation capacity?" Listen to his full interview, thanks to SWAC.

[Read more](#)



### "Ensure the Free Movement of Agricultural Products," ECOWAS Commissioner

Individual countries have adopted stringent measures in a bid to contain the Coronavirus with inadvertent consequences on the food supply chain. Speaking on April 2, 2020, at a virtual meeting of the Regional Food Crisis Prevention Network, His Excellency Sékou Sangaré, ECOWAS Commissioner for Agriculture said: "we must ensure the free movement of agricultural products and safeguard the smooth functioning of supply chains."

[Read more](#)



### What is CORAF Doing?

Like most actors of the West African food system, CORAF is significantly adjusting its programmatic priorities to address the effects of COVID-19. CORAF's intervention will comprise a digital system to garner, store, and disseminate critical seed related information on the availability of breeder, foundation, and certified seeds in each country. The intended beneficiaries are primarily vulnerable farmers and businesses.

[Read more](#)



### Ebola-era Lessons for Seed Delivery

Six years ago, Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone were severely hit by an unprecedented Ebola epidemic. In an amazing show of solidarity, actors mobilized to supply the critical seeds to affected communities and help avert a hunger crisis. As West Africa attempts to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on smallholders, the question is, what lessons can be drawn from the Ebola experience?

[Read more](#)



### West Africa Fertilizer Watch

Prolonged restrictions on the import and distribution of agricultural inputs could have a profound negative impact on food production. As a result, the International Fertilizer Development Center and partners in West Africa have set up the Fertilizer Watch to provide weekly updates on the spread of COVID-19, measures taken by governments, and logistical constraints that affect fertilizer flows.

[Read more](#)



### CORAF programs Affected by COVID-19

Overall, the Dakar-based Executive Secretariat of CORAF is in close contact with all its implementing partners to ensure the seamless continuity of its activities. However, while international travels are on hold, CORAF has suspended non-essential in-country travel to project sites for some of its projects. Check what programs are involved!

[Read more](#)



### Burkina Faso's Producers are Loving Four New Rice Varieties

At a moment when good news is hard to come by, researchers in Burkina Faso have put at the disposal of farmers four new rice varieties. The new varieties are revered by producers for their high yields, resistance to drought, and profitability. At the heart of the discovery is Dr. Valentin Edgard Traore of Burkina's National Institute for the Environment and Agricultural Research.

[Read more](#)

With Thanks to



Contributors

**Editors:**  
David Akana  
Fidélia Bohissou

**Editorial Advisers:**  
Dr. Abdou Tenkouano  
Dr. Abdulai Jalloh

**Design:**  
Jimmy  
Mandabrandja

PAIRED | WAAPP | MITA | WebTV | FRUIT FLIES