



Leader de l'innovation agricole en Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre
Leading Agricultural Innovation in West and Central Africa

14th Ordinary Session of the CORAF General Assembly, COTONOU - BENIN

Report On The Status Of CORAF And The Implementation Of The Recommendations Of The 13th General Assembly

**REPORT
2021-2024**

**ÂNGELA MORENO
CORAF-PCA**

Phd. Engenharia dos biossistemas, Agrónoma

angela.moreno@inida.gov.cv

aveigamoreno@gmail.com

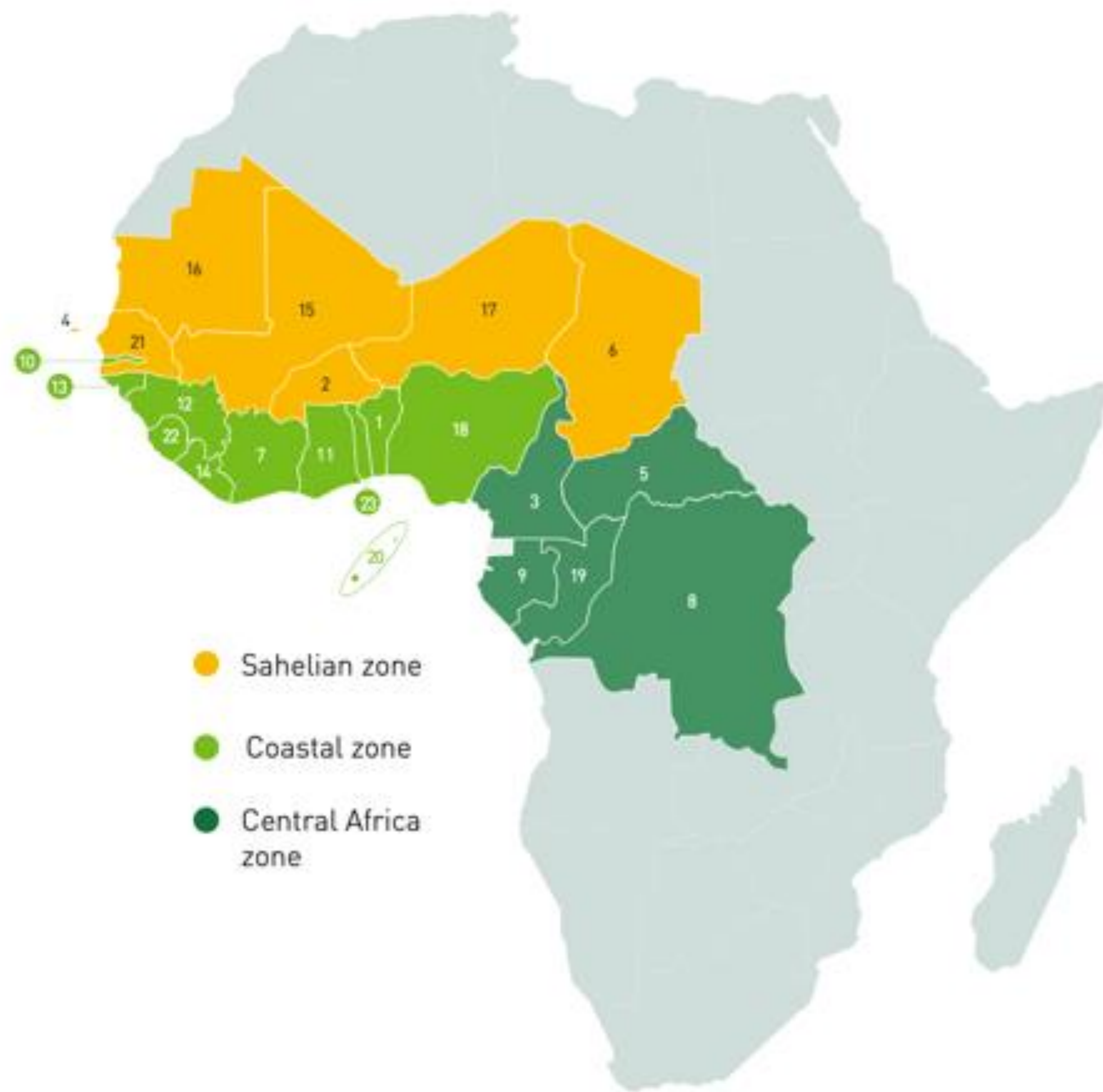


1.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

1. *My thanks to **God**, to whom we all owe the success of CORAF*
2. *My **family**,*
3. *Government of **Cabo Verde**,*
4. *Magma **General Assembly***
5. ***all the members of the AG***
6. *Chairmen of the **committees***
7. ***Partners, funders, donors***
8. *Former Executive Director, **Dr. Abdou TENKOUANO***
9. *To Dr. **Alioune FALL**,*
10. ***Vice-President***
11. *Members of the **Board of Directors***
12. *Mme Safou **ADAPARI**,*
13. ***All CORAF, staff's***
14. ***Distinguished personalities***

2. PREAMBLE: OUR MANDATE IN CONTEXT



Challenges: TODAY

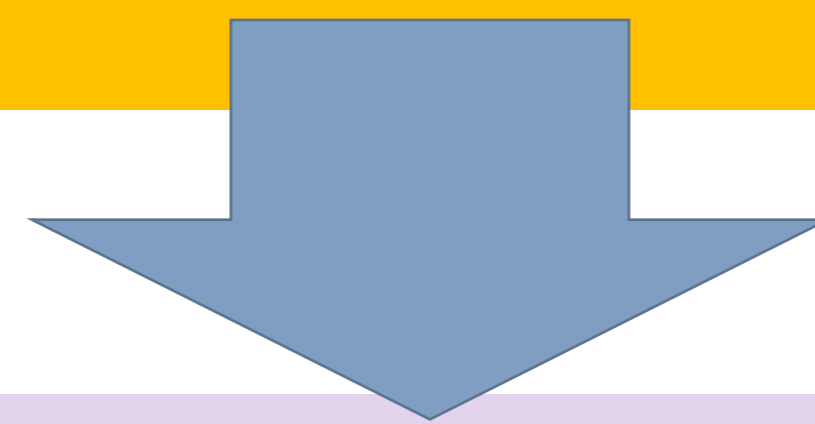
- I. The **rapid increase** in its population has confronted Africa with the **necessity of engaging** in a strong process of **sustainable economic growth**,
- II. **Agriculture will remain the leading source of employment** and income in Africa for decades to come,
- III. And Is vital to introduce **government policies** conducive to **inclusive agricultural growth**, drawing on the full range of market opportunities,
- IV. While a percentage of the **rural population** does **not engage in agricultural activity**, many **farmers reside in urban areas**, where farming is more intensive than in rural areas.

CORAF was born, with the aim of **developing coordinated and innovative approaches to sustainable food production**, using **science, technology** and **innovation**.

3. INTRODUCTION

VISION - Sustainable reduction of poverty and food insecurity through agriculture-based economic growth and sustainable improvement of key aspects of the agricultural research system.

MISSION - The mission was to achieve a "sustainable improvement of productivity, competitiveness and agricultural markets in West and Central Africa.



Our commitment has been to make *CORAF the present and the future where the people and communities of West and Central Africa achieve food and nutrition security as well as economic, social and environmental prosperity.*

These are crucial questions that need answers:



What is the future for **farms** in West and Central Africa?



What **role** can they play in the region's development?



What African **farmers, private sector** and the **leaders** of their organizations can do?



What what kind of **agriculture research and development** we are doing?



*The issue of **feeding our region** has once again become crucial.*

To produce more and better to feed Africa's growing population.

To develop the human capital available on smallholder farms

**To make efforts to develop and promote sustainability,
both on the ground and in the economy as a whole.**



4. OBJECTIVES OF THIS REPORT



To highlights CORAF's efforts and the main actions undertaken by the Board of Directors and Executive Secretariat from +.. 2018 to 2024..+,

This Reports belongs: Bord of directors; Ex-Director Executive; Director Executive par interim; Secretariat Executive; Staffs and SNRA

Pursuing our goals



Innovation and transformation

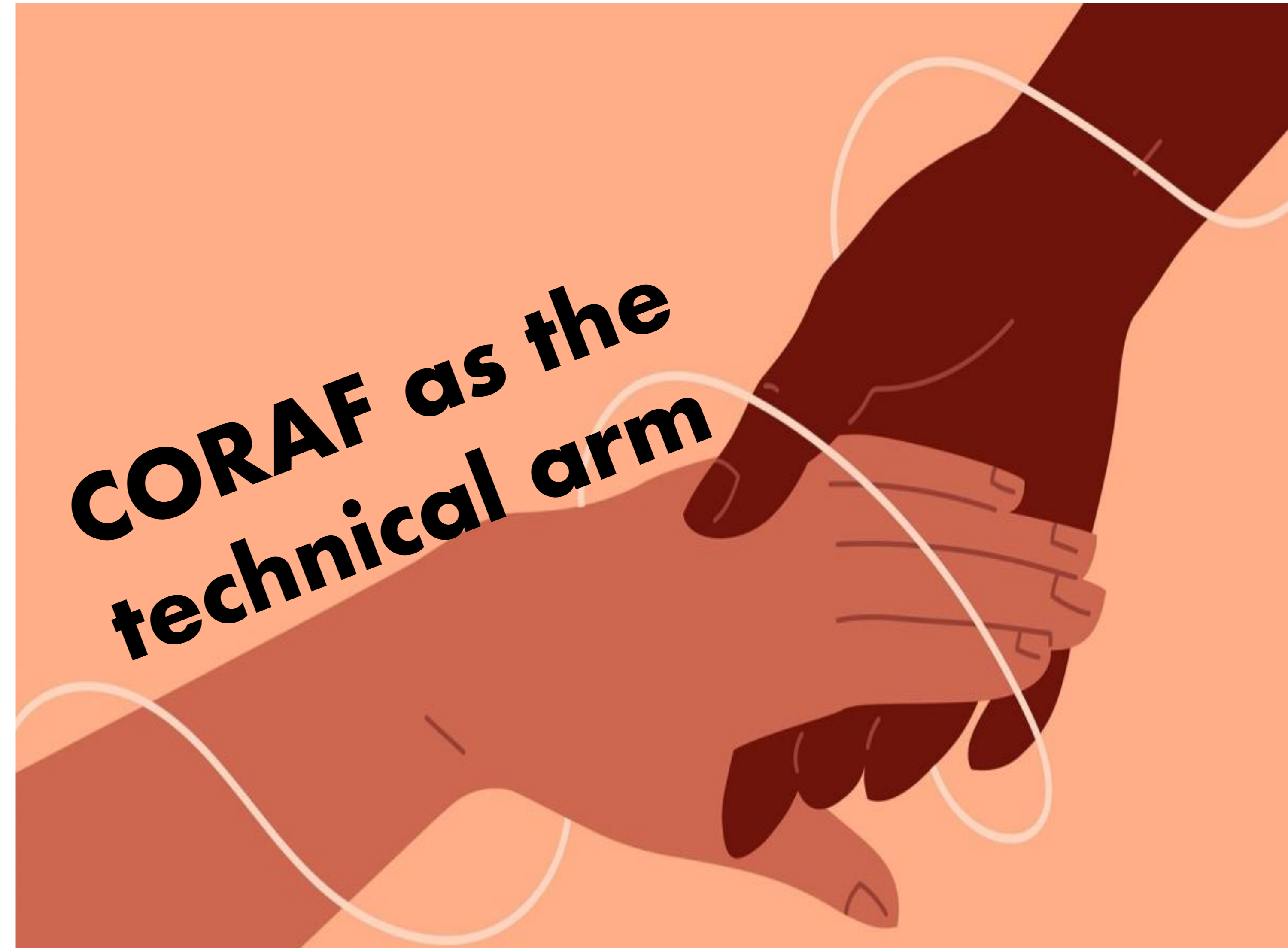
More sustainable support NARS

Strengthening the capacities of actors in the agricultural sector

5. CORAF, the technical arm AF

For this reason, CORAF is **the technical arm of** agricultural research and development policies of :

- **The Regional Economic Commissions (CECs)** for their within the framework of agreements signed with the **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)**, 21 December 2005),
- **The West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)**, 28 February 2006),
- **The Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC)**, 2006, 2028).



The collective solution can be achieved if

- **We change** the way we look at the potential of Africa's smallholders,
- All those, like CORAF, who have been working in research and science, **understand** the need to support them.

CORAF is motivated to make long-term commitments with:

- **Farmers, private sector, the leaders of their organizations** and
- **Policy makers**, to agricultural research and development in west and central Africa.

CORAF- Partnership

CORAF works in partnership with:

CORAF have taken a series and concrete measures.

to carry out and support research and development (R&D) - in several CORAF member Institutions.

1-(NARS) - National agricultural research systems

2-Research institutes

3-Universities

4-Other higher education establishments,

5-Farmers' groups

6-Civil society organizations

7-The private sector

8-Other entities involved in the provision of research services

9-Founders entities

10-Strategic partners

CORAF have been signed
Around 55 agreements with:

1- Research, development

2- Private sector actors

*and implemented for the period
2016-2023.*

Today, CORAF
position requires a
good policy for
managing
**partnerships of
interest to CORAF.**

6. OUR GOVERNANCE

Dr. Abdou TENKOUANO –ED- 2016-2024

In 2016, he found **CORAF in a critical situation**. Institutional - Audit Report, predicted the cessation of CORAF's operation within 18 to 24 months,

Reforms were not carried out at the triple level of governance, strategy and resource management.

I have been President of CORAF since **2018**

We worked **together** during 6 grate years - **2018-2024**

The General Assembly

1^a first term: (**April 2018 to April 2021**) -12th ordinary session, April 2018 in Dakar, Senegal

2^a term: **April 2021 to April 2024.**

(2021 Virtual business meeting) and 2022 in N'Djamena, Chad

- Renew the Board of Directors and
- Maintain strong recommendations aimed at consolidating CORAF's performance

We are now witnessing the fourteenth (14th) ordinary session of the General Assembly
– **To end our Mandate** today, **April 17, 2024**, in Cotonou, Benin.

From 12th and 13th General Assembly

We are gathered this week to take a review of our work since our **last General Assembly in N'djamena, Chad, in 2022.**



Moving out of the comfort zone

**Change is difficult.
Movement
requires
courageous and
sustained efforts.**



**This movement
allows CORAF to
better respond the
regional and global
challenges.**

**This is what CORAF has been
doing since 2016 and 2018,**

The Board of Directors

•4 innovations were introduced in the realization of the GB sessions.



I-Relocation of the sessions, with **5 (five)** sessions of the Board of Directors, held outside the headquarters of CORAF:

- Two (2) times in **Cape Verde**
- One (1) time in **Ghana**
- One (1) time in **Mauritania** and
- One (1) time in **Chad**

1. Assumption of costs - by the SNRA of the host country.

2. Allowed the GB to better understand the **realities of the host country**;

3. Increased the visibility and influence of NARS and CORAF in the host country.



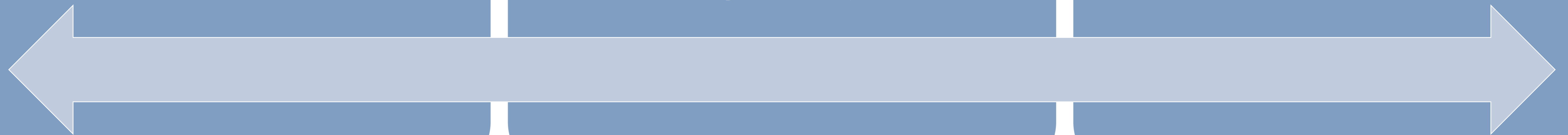
2- The second innovation is the holding of **paperless** sessions, with documents regularly submitted electronically.



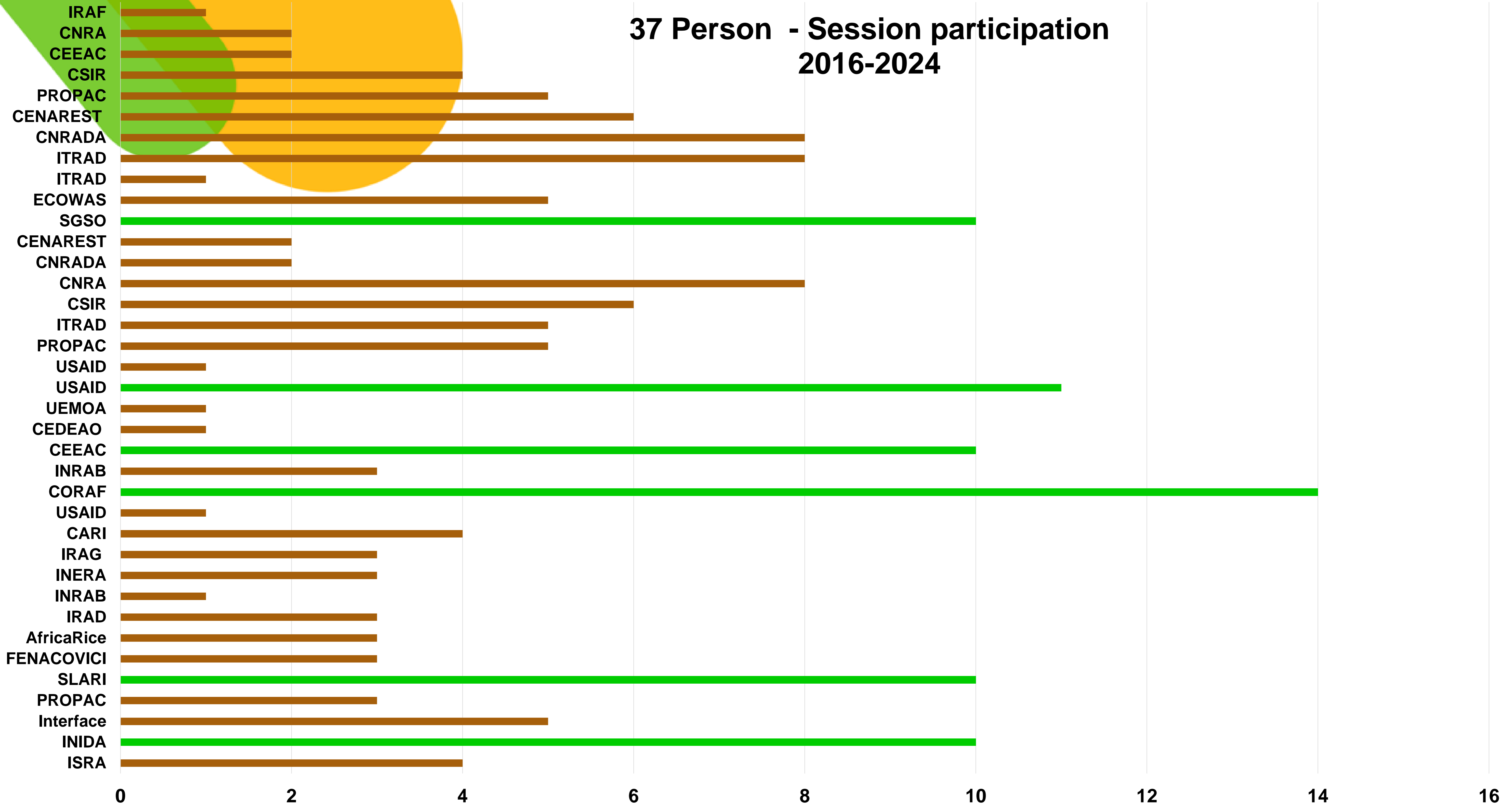
3- The third innovation is the **online approval** of the minutes of the GC sessions, in order to allow the SE (Executive Secretariat) to implement the decisions with legitimacy.



4- The last one, consists of the effective organization of **virtual sessions**.



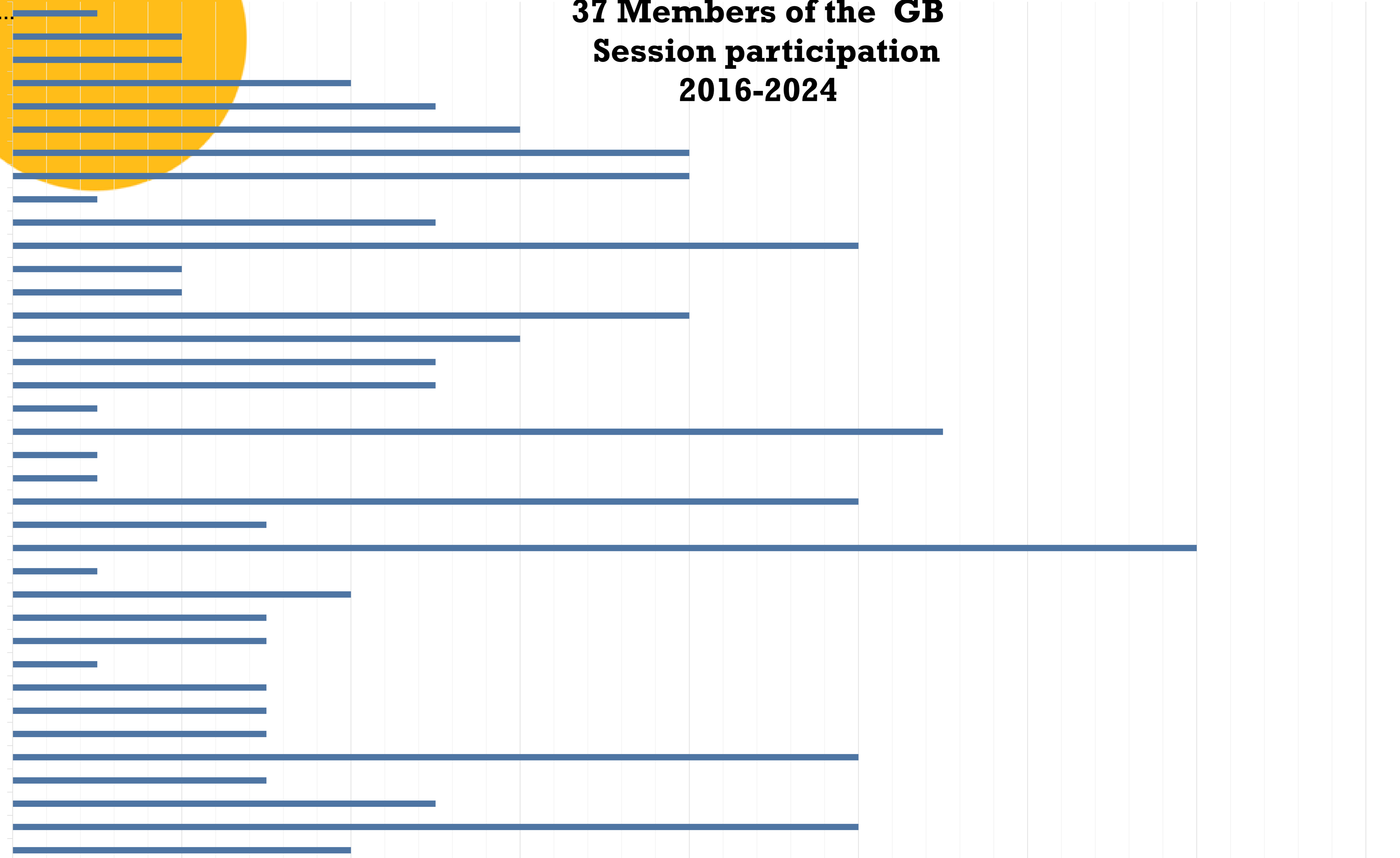
37 Person - Session participation 2016-2024



37 Members of the GB Session participation 2016-2024

Prof Jacques François...
Prof Abdourahamane SANGARE
M Mohammed ABAKAR
Prof Paul BOSU
M Ibrahima COULIBALY
Prof Alfred NGOMANDA
Dr Sidi Ely MENOUM
M Yassine DOUDOUA
Dr Oumar Chaïb HASSANTY
M Sekou SANGARE
Dr Blessed OKOLE
Prof Franck Daniel IDIATA
Dr Ahmed NAGHRA
Dr Yté WONGBE
Prof Victor AGYEMAN
Dr Koye DJONDANG
M. Nathanaël BUKA MUPUNGU
M Alex DEPREZ
M Abdrahamane DICKO
M. Dossolo DIARRA
M. Tchambakou AYASSOR
M Jean Claude MBASSI
Prof Patrice ADEGBOLA
Dr Abdou TENKOUANO
M Matthew UDZIELA
Dr Walter WILES
Dr Famoï BEAVOGUI
Prof Hamidou TRAORE
Prof David Yao ARODOKOUN
Dr Noé WOIN
Dr Samuel BRUCE - OLIVER
Mme Colette IRIE-LOU
Dr Alfred DIXON
Mme Elisabeth ATANGANA
Mme Gisèle D'ALMEIDA
Dr Angela MORENO
Dr Alioune FALL

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16



The Scientific and Technical Committee

During our mandate, we worked side-by-side with the Scientific and Technical Committee (STC), a **technical advisory structure** of the Council, composed of **12 (twelve) experts from 10 different countries** working as a Scientific and Technical arm of the Governing Board of CORAF.

The STC plays an important role in evaluating the programs, assessing MSC and PhD Students application for sponsorship as well as the activity reports of the Regional Centers of Excellence.



Research Leaders Forum - created IN 2022

Research Leaders Forum (CORAF FORUM) was created to be a framework for consultation that brought together all the heads of the national (and multinational) agricultural research institutions in the region to:

- **State of agricultural research**
- **Decide on emerging issues**
- **Produce guidelines to facilitate decision-making**

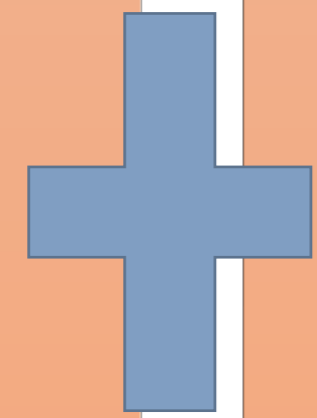
- The **first edition was held in Yaoundé** (Cameroon) in October 2022 and
- The **second in Praia** (Cape Verde) in October 2023.



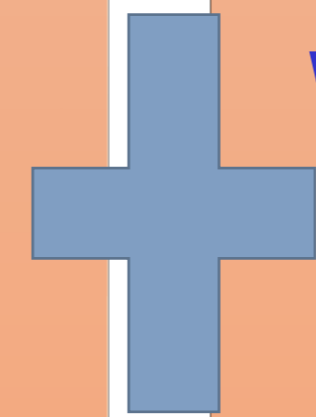
The union of the **CORAF FORUM**



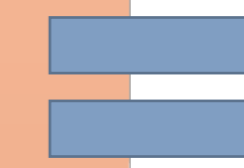
with the
Agricultural
Innovations and
Technologies
Market
(**MITA**)



and the
Symposium on
Scientific and
Technological
Research
(**SYMPO
CORAF**)



as part of an
**Annual
CORAF
Week**



can be a
**strong
media,
political and
economic
impact.**

The reforms have repositioned CORAF

The new institutional reforms have repositioned CORAF in West and Central Africa, and also at the international level.



CORAF- Building present

Establishment of the CORAF delegation in Central Africa

Strengthen CORAF's activities in the Central Africa region

Strengthen CORAF's activities in the Lusophone countries

CORAF in the different countries, taking into account the specificities of each country.

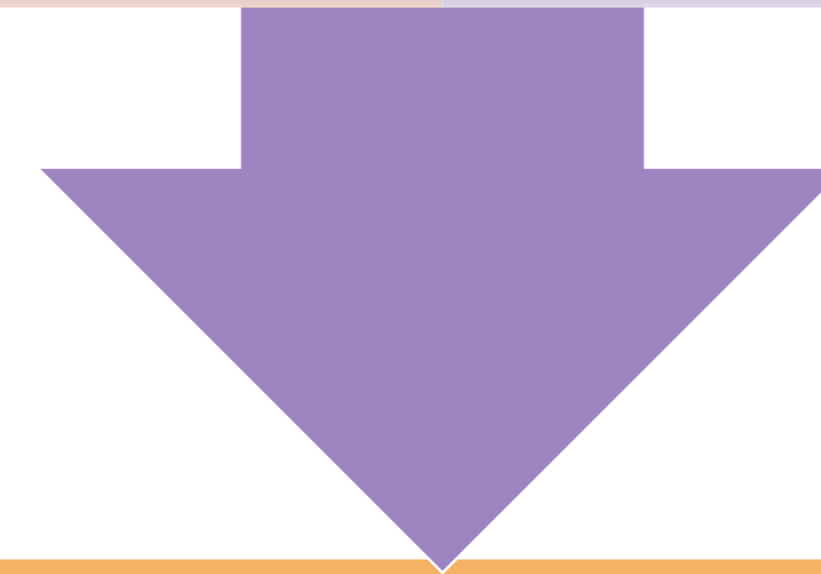


7. CORAF- Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan (SP) 2018-2027
is divided into two Operational Plans (OP):

OP 2018-2022

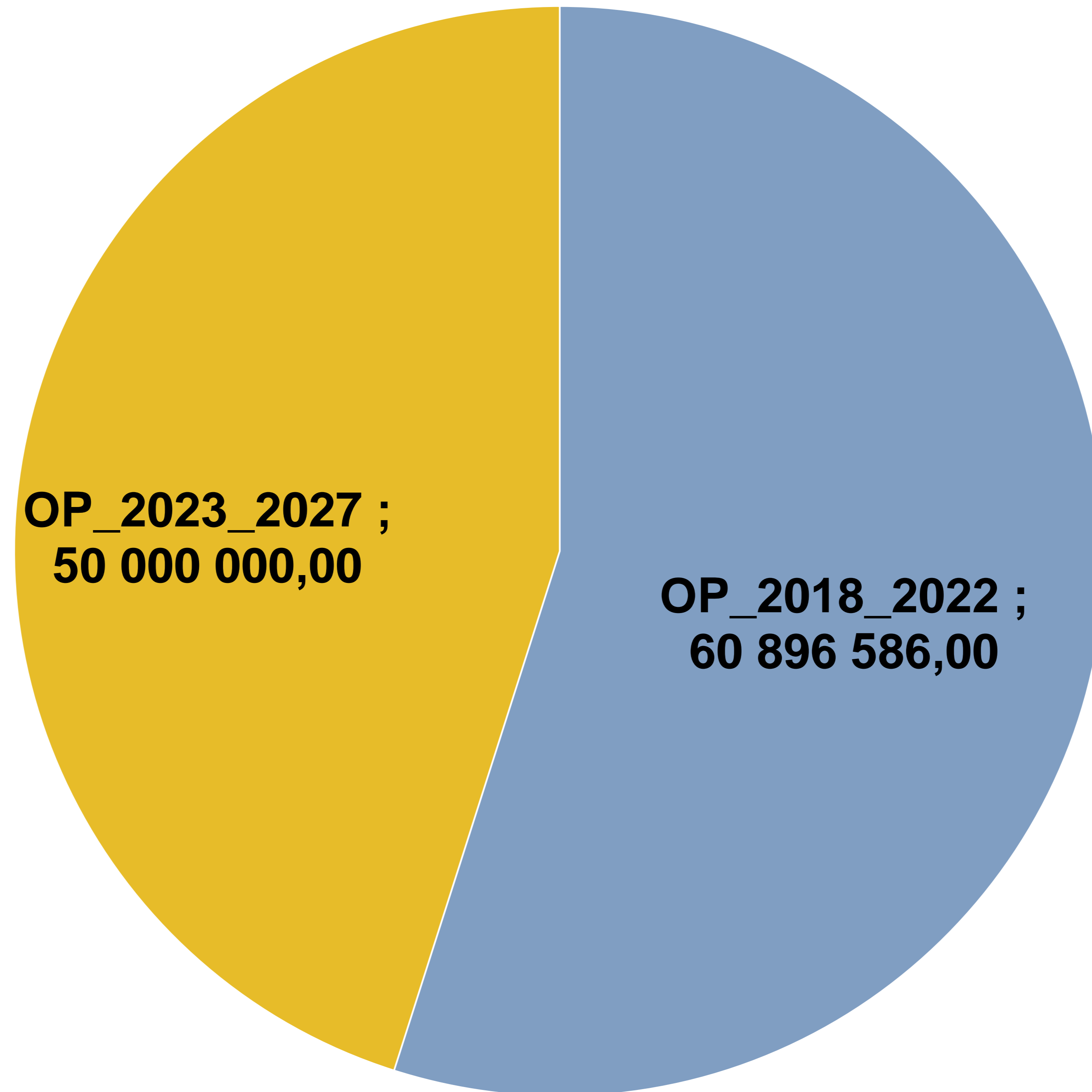
OP 2023-2027



The OP 2018-2022 budget was USD 60,896,586 and the OP 2023-2027 budget was approximately USD 50,000,000, or approximately USD 110,896,586 for the SP 2018-2027.

Resource mobilization or budget for the (\$ USA)

- **Is essential to make the Institution more financially stable.**
- The Institution's cash flow - thanks to the diversification of partnerships and the consequent support of new partners, such as:
 - a) Swiss Cooperation,**
 - b) The long-standing partner USAID,** which supported CORAF with the implementation of PAIRED that ended in December 2022.
 - c) Union European;**
 - d) Bank Mundial**
 - e) Others Banks**
 - d) Others partners etc**
- **Etc ... etc**



Resource mobilization for the SP 2018-2027

USD remains to complete the financing of the 2018-2027 OP.

33 509 233,00

OP 2018-2022 financial year, creating an overshoot

16 490 767,00

May 31, 2023, - mobilized for the SP 2018-2027 implementation's

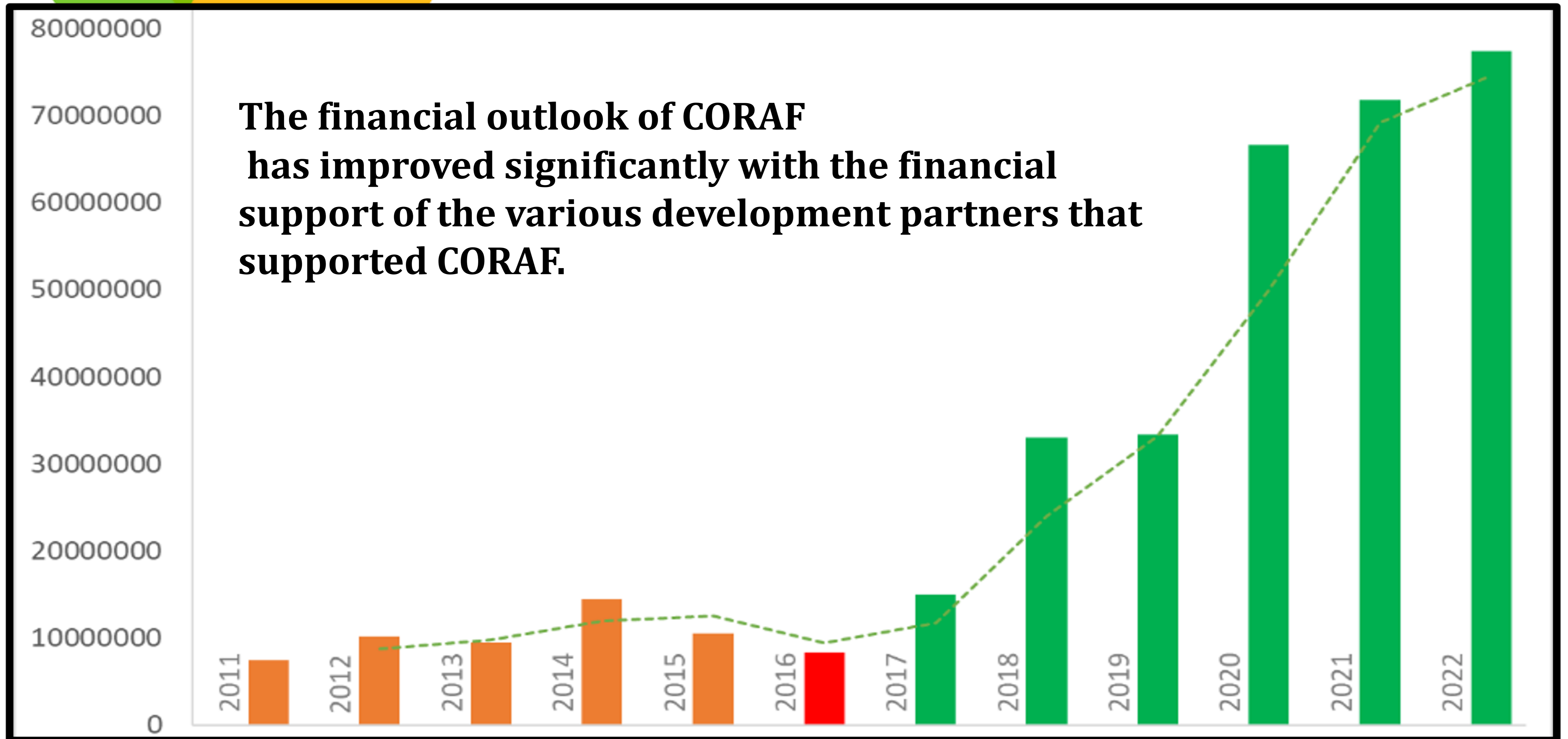
77 393 353,00

TOTAL for the implementation of the SP 2018-2027

110 896 586,00

0,00 50 000 000,00 100 000 000,00 150 000 000,00

8. The Financial outlook of CORAF



9- NARS Contribution

CORAF members' **unpaid bills amount** to **223,259,229 FCFA** as of October 31, 2023.

The Executive Secretariat regularly sends reminder letters to the institutions.... Establishment of a CORAF delegation in Central Africa

Contributions received for the 2023 financial year total
FCFA= 29,700,771 .

It is therefore necessary to **establish a mechanism for the effective recovery** of those contributions-

10. Actions Taken In Response To 13 GA Recommendations

Status of Implementation of the Recommendations of the 14th Regular Session of the General Assembly

10.1. Recommendations from the previous GA

10.2. Actions and responses to recommendations

10.3. Impact of actions.

10.1. 3 key areas for action to bring the recommendations to life

A- Mobilization
of financial
resources

B- Review of
documents

C- Strategic
positioning
and visibility
of CORAF

10.2. Recommendations, Actions and responses and Impact

RECOMMENDATIONS	TIME	RESPON SIBILITY	STATUS	ACTIONS	IMPACT
A- MOBILIZATION OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES					
<p>[AG13-1^ogroup] Call on CORAF Member Countries to Honor Their Financial Commitments by Paying Their Annual Dues</p>	<p>Immedi ate</p>	<p>PCA</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The SE works with the various DGs and directorates to ensure the regular payment of associate membership dues by the constituents.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Minister of Agriculture of the Central African Republic, promised to pay the dues of his members. 2. ROPFA has made an innovative proposal to clear arrears by May 2024 in three instalments. 3. Other members are encouraged to do the same. 4. increasing the number of Countries paying its conizations.

RECOMMENDATIONS	TIME	RESPON SIBILITY	STATUS	ACTIONS	IMPACT
A- MOBILIZATION OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES					
<p>[AG13-2^o group] Encourages CORAF to seek additional and innovative sources of financing</p> <p>(e.g., direct support from member countries, other regional institutions, the private sector etc)</p>	Immediate	CORAF	Ongoing	A framework for the development of country support programs has been prepared.	<p>The work we are doing with our member and the partners has been of great value in attracting and</p> <p>increasing funding for agricultural research and development in the most important CORAF countries</p>

RECOMMENDATIONS	TIME	RESPO NSIBILI TY	STATUS	ACTIONS	IMPACT
B- REVIEW OF DOCUMENTS					
<p>[GA13-3^ogroup] Orders the printing and distribution of the revised and approved documents to the members of the Board of Directors and their publication on the CORAF website before the end of April 2022</p>	April 2022	CORAF	Complete	<p>Governance documents were shared electronically with stakeholders</p> <p>(Bylaws to all CORAF members, Board documents to Directors only).</p>	<p>All Board members of the Board of Directors have the revised and approved documents.</p> <p>The document will be available in CORAF website at the end of Abril, after some amendment in this AG.</p>

RECOMMENDATIONS	TIME	RESPON SIBILITY	STATUS	ACTIONS	IMPACT	
C- STRATEGIC POSITIONING AND VISIBILITY OF CORAF						
[AG13-4^o group]						
a) That CORAF leverage its strategic positioning to mobilize the support of Central African countries in order to enhance CORAF's visibility ;	Immedi ate	CORAF	Ongoing	Training, communication, and marketing	<p>The SE organized a workshop in Bangui, Central African Republic, to revitalize the Central Africa Climate Change Alliance and took the opportunity to initiate the development of a proposal.</p> <p>This represents a total of five major events that have been organized in Central Africa in the last two years (two in Chad, one in Cameroon, one in the Central African Republic, one in the Democratic Republic of Congo).</p> <p>Communication (marketing) training, in general, was one of the pillars of CORAF's marketing strategy. The importance and visibility (notoriety) that CORAF enjoys today were due to the essential role of communication and training.</p>	
(b) Recommends that member countries (constituents of CORAF) strengthen their collaboration with CORAF to roll out a robust HR capacity building program across the agricultural value chain in the region; and	Immedi ate	CORAF	Ongoing			<p>In addition, a new funding opportunity has been materialized with the European Union on agroecology – It is planned to position the strategic coordination of this project in Central Africa.</p>
(c) Urges CORAF to work closely with ECCAS and CEMAC, and to strengthen its collaboration with the African Union and other key regional and international bodies in order to achieve its objectives and mandates	Immedi ate	CORAF	Ongoing			Preparing logistic and contact and mission for positioning the strategic Coordination in Central Africa.

RECOMMENDATIONS	TIME	RESPONSIBILITY	STATUS	ACTIONS	IMPACT
C- STRATEGIC POSITIONING AND VISIBILITY OF CORAF					
<p>[AG13-5^o group] Recommends that the 14th Ordinary Session of the CORAF General Assembly be held in Cotonou, Republic of Benin, in April 2024</p>	<p>Immediate</p>	<p>FROM</p>	<p>Complete</p>	<p>ES - Assessment mission to Benin in the first week of July 2023 for preparing AG.</p>	<p>Preparations are well underway, with the adoption of a mobilization plan and the dispatch of an ES assessment mission to Benin in the first week of July 2023.</p> <p>The result was perfect and the 14^oAG is running today in Cotonou.</p>

11. OTHERS IMPACTS

CORAF has increased its impact and presence in the region.

I

M

P

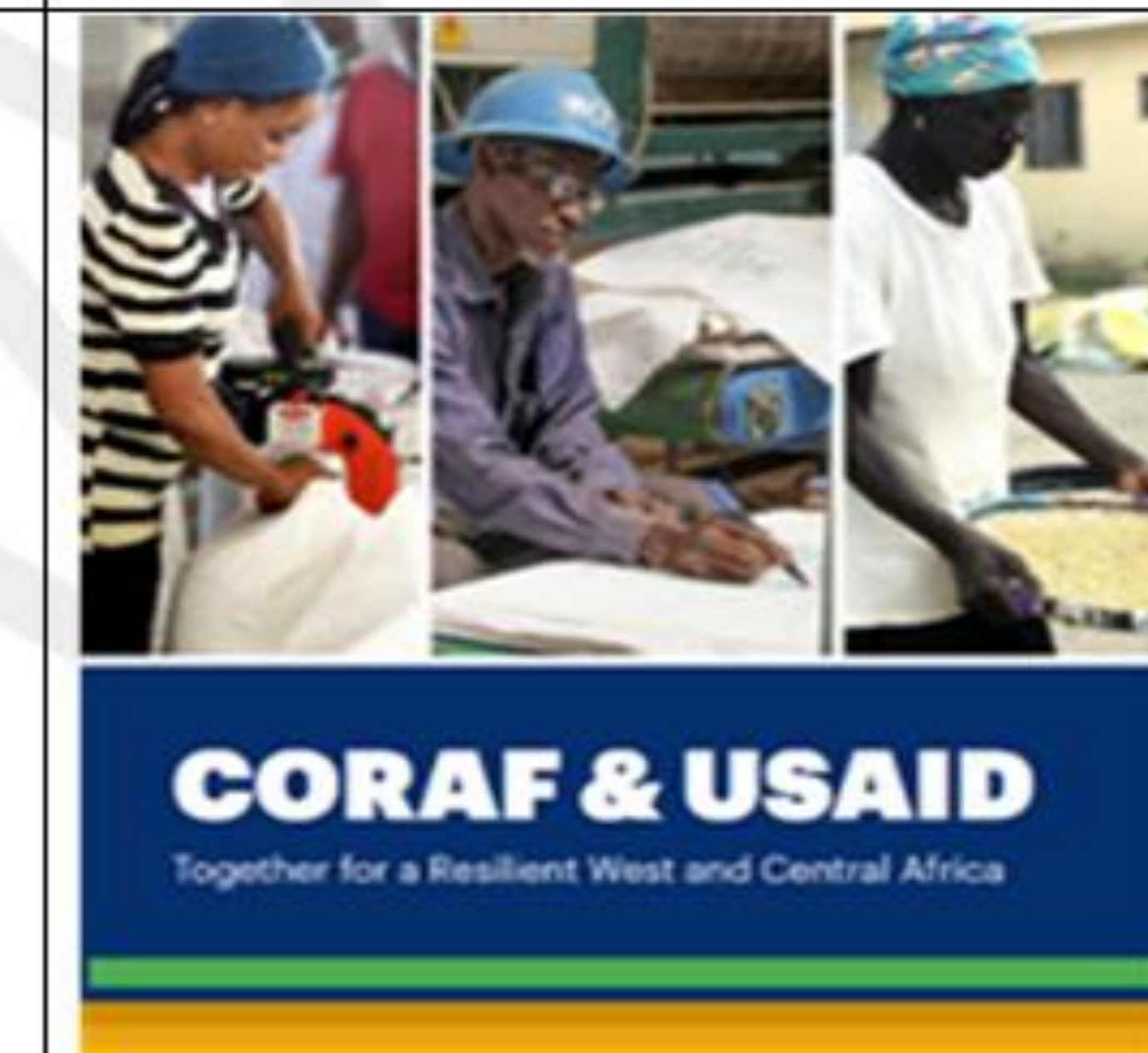
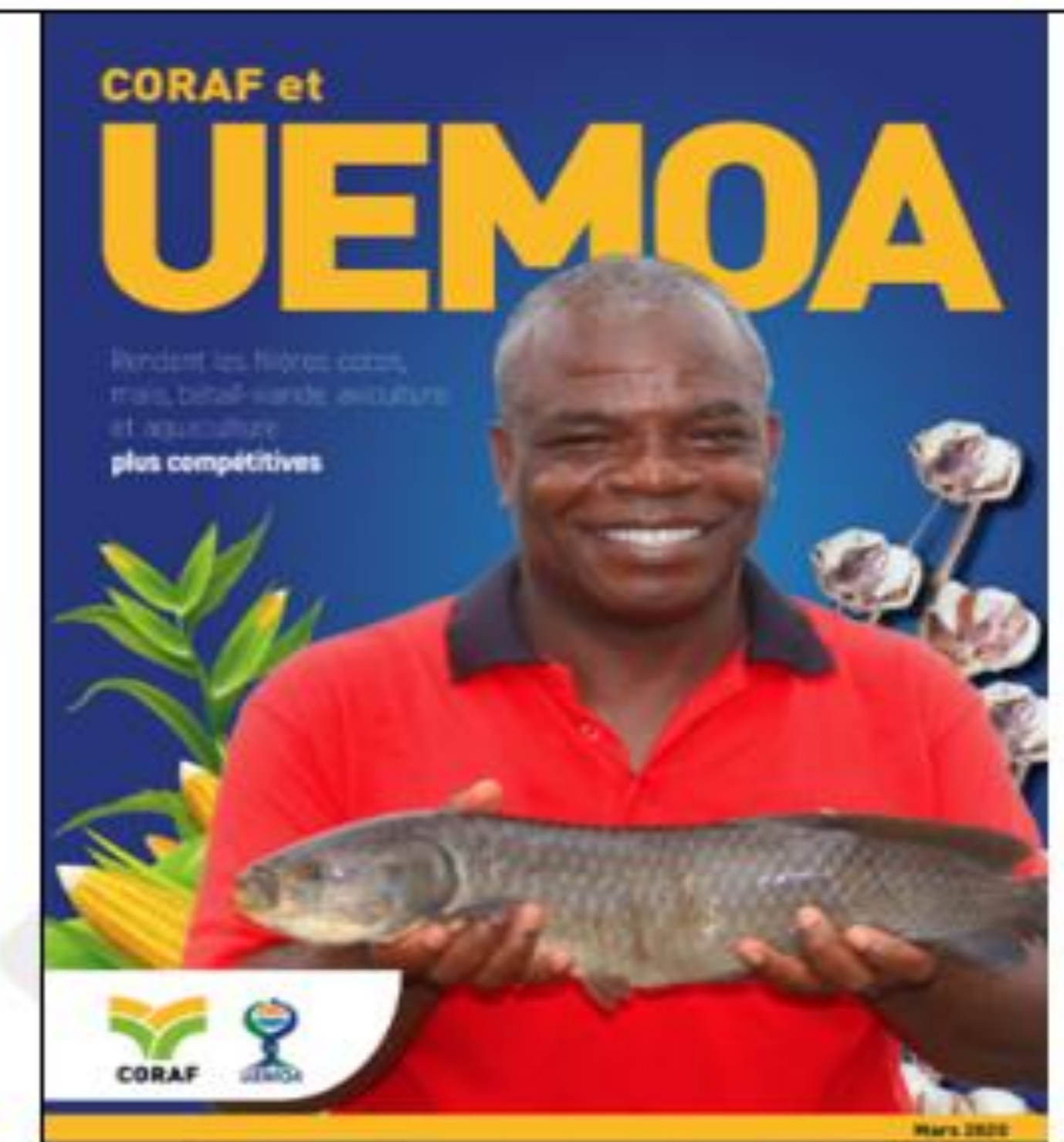
A

C

T

Action: Diffusion of agricultural technologies and innovations

- **Impacts of actions** – Significant achievements in terms of coordinating the **generation and diffusion of agricultural technologies and innovations**;
- **Digitalization has been a key project of our mandate**, and key achievements at institutional level.



Action: Transparency, integrity and accountability

- **Impacts of action:** God management of the resources, and also more development partners.

A word cloud on a dark blue background with the word "Accountability" in large white letters at the center. Surrounding it are various related terms in different colors and orientations, including: Values, Morals, LIABILITY, Honest, Ethics, Job, CARE, BUSINESS, Honesty, Accountable, CORE VALUES, PRIDE, OWNERSHIP, VIRTUOUS, ACTIONS, TRUST, Integrity, RESPONSIBILITY, Honorable, Diligence, ETHICAL, RESPONSIBLE, Blameworthiness, TRUST, Reliable, Commitment, Governance, STABILITY, MORAL, Function, and Responsibility.

Action: TRANSITION TO STABILITY -2018

- **Impacts of action:** Improvement of institutional service delivery, budgeting, decentralization and business processes.

Action: INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS – 2019-2020

- **Impacts of action:** The adequacy of human resources to CORAF's strategic objectives.

Action: STRATEGIC POSITIONING AND VISIBILITY – 2018-2024.

- **Impacts of action:** The implementation of the CORAF Strategic Plan 2018-2027 and its Action Plan 2018-2022 and the updated revision of the OP 2023-2027, have managed to place CORAF in a strategic position with its partners and beneficiaries - NARS, Private Sector, Gender, Youth, etc

Action: INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS – 2018-2024

- **Impacts of action:** Contributes to fundraising through the development of partnerships with new institutional donors, in our region and internationally.

Action: OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT – 2018-2024.

- **Impacts of action:** The institutional reform allowed the Executive Secretariat and the Board of Directors of CORAF to plan, organize and supervise all the activities involved in CORAF, at the headquarters and in several member countries, through an effective culture of storytelling existing in CORAF

Action: RESOURCE MOBILIZATION – 2016-2024

- **Impacts of action** : Partnership was been attracting and increasing funding for agricultural research and development in the most important CORAF countries.

Action: IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL PLANS – 2018-2027

- **Impacts of action:** Sustainability of CORAF and institutions of research and agricultural development.

Action: PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT, Gender, Youth and Social Equity – 2018-2024.

- **Impacts of action:** CORAF has developed a strategic and operational marketing plan it has been successful and focused on our partnership.

Action: TRAINING, COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING – 2018-2024.

- **Impacts of action:** Increase visibility (notoriety) that CORAF enjoys today was due to the essential role of communication and training.

12. Conclusion and recommendations

1. We are convinced that in the years to come, CORAF and its team **will continue to do their best to implement all the recommendations** that will come out of this General Assembly:
2. Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, **CORAF has firmly established itself as a much stronger and more powerful organization in our geographic and transactional space.**
3. Financing of the 2018-2022 Operational Plan completed - For example, **the financing of the 2018-2022 Operational Plan is completed, strong and diversified strategic partnerships have been established.**
4. In conclusion, **CORAF has made significant progress in its efforts to strengthen agricultural development in West and Central Africa,**
5. through its **strategic partnerships, diversification of funding sources and effective implementation of its strategic and operational plans.**

12. Conclusion and recommendations

However, challenges remain, particularly in:

- Resource management,
- Private sector involvement
- Social equity .
- Strengthen partnerships, diversify CORAF funding sources and
- Invest in innovative and inclusive initiatives – in agricultural sector that respond to the needs and challenges in our region.



MERCI

OBRIGADA

THANK YOU



- ÂNGELA MORENO
- PCA-CORAF
- *Phd. Engenharia dos biosistemas, Agrónoma*
- angela.moreno@inida.gov.cv
- 15-17/04/2024
- Benim Cotonou